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Speeding Car Rams Into Lorry in Vizag, Four Killed

Visakhapatnam, July 19 | TPN Bureau

A tragic road accident on the Pendurthi-Anandapur National Highway at Gandigundam in Visakhapatnam district claimed the lives of four persons and left another critically injured on Sunday. The accident occurred when a speeding car travelling towards Tekkali in Srikakulam district to attend an auspicious function rammed into a lorry that was reportedly moving ahead while attempting to overtake another vehicle. The car was completely damaged in the collision. The deceased were identified as Palgani Ramanjaneyulu (51), Shake Meeraavli (56), Bhavani Shankar (11), all residents of Inumella village in Ipur mandal of Palnadu district, and driver Srinu from Narasaraopet. They died on the spot due to the severity of the impact. Bhavani Chandrashekhar, who was travelling with them,



sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bheemili. He is working as a manager at Amulya Nursing Home in Narasaraopet. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Dy CM Pawan Kalyan, Minister Nara Lokesh, Government Chief Whip and Vinukonda MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu and Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu expressed deep shock over the accident. Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh spoke with Narasaraopet MLA Dr. Chadalavada Arvind Babu over the phone and enquired about the situation. They directed officials to

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“Jagan Government Ignored Economic Growth, Pushed AP Towards Financial Crisis”: Yanamala Ramakrishnudu

Former Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnudu has strongly criticised the previous YSRCP government, alleging that its policies between 2019 and 2024 affected Andhra Pradesh's economic growth, investor confidence and business environment. In an interview with K Kalyan Krishna Kumar, Ram akrishnudu spoke about the importance of Ease of Doing Business (EODB), the policies followed during the TDP government, the decline in rankings and the steps needed for economic revival. Q: You have been speaking about the importance of Ease of Doing Business (EODB). How do you assess the previous YSRCP government's approach towards it? Yanamala Ramakrishnudu: The Jagan government failed to follow the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and Econom-

ic Development Board (EDB) policies. Economic development and creating a business-friendly environment were never given priority. Instead of focusing on growth and investments, the government created financial chaos and destruction. Q: Andhra Pradesh had achieved a strong position in EODB rankings earlier. What steps were taken during the Naidu government? A: The N. Chandrababu Naidu government implemented EODB policies even before bifurcation, after thoroughly studying the recommendations of the Government of India and the World Bank. After bifurcation, despite several challenges, Andhra Pradesh consistently remained among the top states in EODB rankings during the 2014-19 period. These policies helped promote



industrial development and attract major investments. Q: What happened to these policies after the change of government in 2019? A: The approach followed by Chandrababu Naidu's government after bifurcation was based on World Bank recommendations and kept Andhra

Pradesh in the leading position. However, after Jagan Mohan Reddy became Chief Minister, these policies were completely ignored. The government showed no interest in continuing investor-friendly reforms. Q: YSRCP has alleged that the decline in Andhra Pradesh's EODB position was due to the failure of the government. How do you respond to this claim? A: According to the recent NITI Aayog report, Andhra Pradesh slipped to the 8th position in EODB. This decline happened because of the hostile approach towards investors during the YSRCP regime. The industrial and service sectors, which had recorded positive growth earlier, suffered setbacks. Instead of Ease of Doing Business, the state witnessed



OPS Employees Thank Alliance Govt for Pension Restoration

Visakhapatnam, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Employees who benefited from the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) organised a meeting of gratitude in Visakhapatnam on Sunday, thanking Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling their long-pending demand. Around 15,000 employees and their family members from North Andhra districts attended the programme at the Swarna Bharati Indoor Stadium. Legislative Council Government Whip Dr. Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao said North Andhra employees had set an example by expressing gratitude for

welfare measures. Employees under AP DSC Forum, Noble Teachers Association, PRTU and APTF performed 'Palabhishekam' to Chandrababu Naidu's portrait as a mark of appreciation. TDP State President and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao, Visakhapatnam East MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, Visakhapatnam North MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju, and Graduate MLCs Alapati Raja, Kancharla Srikanth and Perabathula Rajasekhara attended the event. Dr. Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao said the Alliance government ensured financial security for 11,000 employee families through OPS

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AP Aims to Become Global Wedding Destination: Minister Durgesh

Amaravati, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh is aiming to emerge as an international wedding destination by promoting its natural beauty, heritage locations and tourism potential, Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh said during his visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan. Minister Durgesh participated in the International Wedding and Tourism Conclave (IWTC) held at Virasat Heritage Restaurant, Kukas, Jaipur, where he met leading wedding planners, event organisers and tourism industry



representatives. He explained the investment opportunities, government incentives and favourable conditions available for developing wedding tourism projects in Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, Durgesh inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh tourism stall along

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PV Sindhu Wins Historic Japan Open Title

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau:

Indian badminton star P.V. Sindhu created history by becoming the first Indian to win the Japan Open Super 750 title after defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in the women's singles final in Tokyo on Sunday. Sindhu dominated the three-time world champion with aggressive play, powerful smashes and precise drop shots throughout the 50-minute match. The victory marked Sindhu's first Japan Open title, her maiden Super 750 crown and her first major international title since winning the World Championship in 2019. With the win, she improved her head-to-head



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CID Files Chargesheet in Jethwani Case

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh CID has filed a chargesheet in the case involving Mumbai actress Kadambari Jethwani, bringing a new twist to one of the state's high-profile cases. According to the chargesheet, CID alleged that Jethwani blackmailed YSRCP leader Kukkala Vidyasaagar using photographs related to their alleged close relationship. The investigation claimed



that Jethwani threatened to make the photographs public and allegedly extorted Rs. 1.32 crore from Vidyasaagar. CID stated that it had gathered documentary and other evidence to support the allegations and included

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SAAP Chairman Congratulates PV Sindhu on Japan Open Title

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

SAAP Chairman Ravi Naidu congratulated Indian badminton star P.V. Sindhu for winning the prestigious Japan Open Super-750 title held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium from July 15 to 20. He praised her remarkable performance and described her victory over Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the final as a proud moment for India.

Ravi Naidu said P.V. Sindhu created history by becoming the first Indian woman shuttler to win the Japan Open Super-750 title, bringing glory to the country and Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted her discipline, dedication and per-

severance as qualities that continue to inspire young athletes across India.

He said Sindhu's achievement reflects her consistent efforts and commitment towards excellence at the international level. Ravi Naidu expressed confidence that she would continue to achieve greater success in future tournaments and win more medals for the nation.

He wished P.V. Sindhu continued victories and said her accomplishments would motivate aspiring sportspersons to pursue their goals with determination. He added that her success has enhanced the reputation of Indian badminton on the global stage and brought pride to the entire country.



PTI Welfare Association Plans Statewide Agitation

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The AP Composite Education PTI Unity Welfare Association on Sunday announced plans to launch phase-wise protests to press for the resolution of long-pending issues faced by Physical Training Instructors (PTIs), contract, outsourcing and other employees.

Addressing a state-level meeting held at the Revenue Association Building in Vijayawada, State President Saikan Shivakumari Reddy and State General Secretary Shankar Rao said the association would organise protests at school, zonal, district and state levels to draw the government's attention to employees' demands. They called for unity among PTI associations and other employee unions to strengthen the movement.

The leaders alleged that de-

spite serving for 14 years, PTIs had not received job regularisation, job security or minimum time-scale benefits. They demanded implementation of ESI and EPF benefits, enhancement of the retirement age to 62 years and payment of gratuity to retiring employees. AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, the chief guest, extended full support to the association's agitation. AP JAC Amaravati General Secretary Palishetti Damodara Rao also assured support for future protest programmes.

Teachers' Association State General Secretary Gutta Srinivasa Rao, AP JAC Women's Wing General Secretary Ponnuuri Vijayalakshmi, State Vice-President Nagaraju, convenors Venkataramana and Kamesh, state committee members and district leaders attended the meeting.

Cloudy Weather, Light to Moderate Rain Likely in Several Districts

Amaravati, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Organisation has forecast cloudy skies across the state with mild to humid weather conditions in several areas on Monday (July 20). Managing Director Prakhari Jain said light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is likely at isolated places in Srikakulam, Manyam, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Bapatla, Prakasam, Nellore, Nandyal and Tirupati districts.

He added that light rain is also expected at a few places in the remaining districts of Andhra Pradesh. The organisation advised people to remain cautious as weather conditions

may change during the day.

Prakhari Jain urged the public not to take shelter under trees or near large hoardings during thunderstorms and heavy rain, as they may pose a risk. He also advised people to stay away from snapped or hanging electrical wires and immediately alert the concerned authorities if such incidents are noticed.

The Disaster Management Organisation appealed to residents to follow weather advisories and safety precautions to avoid accidents during adverse weather. People have also been advised to monitor official weather updates and cooperate with local authorities in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms.

YSRCP Promises Rs.1 Crore Aid for Fishermen Families

Visakhapatnam, July 19 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders on Sunday announced that the party would provide Rs.1 crore compensation to each family of the six fishermen who died in the Visakhapatnam fishing boat tragedy after returning to power. They also assured a new fishing boat for survivor Chinna, who lost his livelihood in the accident.

The announcement was made while distributing Rs.49 lakh in financial assistance to seven affected families, including Chinna, with Rs.7 lakh each through cheques signed by YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy from party funds.

The leaders alleged that the fishermen could have been saved if rescue operations had started immediately and criticised the coalition government for delaying the response. They questioned the absence of ministers from the victims' families and alleged that the government limited assistance to an ex gratia of Rs.10 lakh per family.

They recalled welfare schemes implemented during the previous YSRCP government, including enhanced oil subsidy, Matsyakara Bharosa and pension benefits for fishermen. The leaders said YSRCP would continue fighting for justice, dignity and rehabilitation of the affected families.

Sri Lanka Seeks Stronger Telugu Ties, Boost to Buddhist Tourism

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Sri Lankan Minister for Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, H. Sunil Senewi, assured full support for the welfare of the Telugu community in Sri Lanka and called for strengthening cultural and Buddhist tourism ties between the two countries during a meeting with Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad.

The meeting, held at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Telugu Congress, focused on the centuries-old historical and cultural links between Sri Lanka and Telugu-speaking people. During the hour-long interaction, representatives of the Telugu community in Sri Lanka expressed their desire to learn to read and write Telugu and sought support to preserve their linguistic and cultural identity. Mandali Buddha Prasad explained the historical contributions of Telugu rulers to Sri Lanka, stating that King Vijayabahu, who established the Sinhalese kingdom, had



Telugu roots. He also highlighted the Telugu connections of the sacred Tooth Relic tradition and the Nayakkar dynasty, including Queen Venkat Rangammal of Kandy. He urged the Sri Lankan government to recognise the Telugu community as distinct from the Tamil community and preserve Telugu heritage in the island nation.

Suravaram Pratap Reddy, Telugu University Vice-Chancellor Veludanda Nithyananda Rao and Registrar Kotla Hanumanth Rao expressed readiness to send Telugu teachers to Sri Lanka for short-term language training programmes,

subject to cooperation from the Sri Lankan government.

Journalists Chamathi Muralidhar and D.P. Anuradha shared their findings on Buddhist tourism, while Telangana Buddhavan Project Special Officer Mallepalli Lakshmaiah sought greater socio-economic support for Telugu-speaking people in Sri Lanka.

Calling it a "historic meeting," Minister Sunil Senewi said it would pave the way for expanding Buddhist tourism and strengthening cultural relations between Sri Lanka and the Telugu community, while assuring continued support for their progress and welfare.

Constable Coaching Begins Under Erranna Vidya Sankalp

Srikakulam, July 19 | TPN Bureau:

A 120-day free coaching programme for constable recruitment aspirants was launched on Sunday under the Erranna Vidya Sankalp initiative supported by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammoohan Naidu. The programme began with an orientation session in which the teaching faculty explained the training schedule and examination strategy to the selected candidates.

The coaching classes will be conducted at the Praja Sadan office near the city stadium. A district-wide screening test was held earlier, in which 606 candidates participated. Based on merit, 60 candidates were selected for the advanced coaching programme.

The selected candidates will receive daily classroom sessions, mock tests, performance



assessments and study material covering 11 subjects. Special physical training has also been included to help candidates prepare for the physical fitness tests required for constable recruitment. Expert faculty members will conduct the classes throughout the programme.

The Erranna Vidya Sankalp initiative has already been providing free coaching for examinations such as RRB Group D, Group B, DSC, Navodaya and other competitive entrance

tests. Extending the initiative to constable recruitment is aimed at helping unemployed youth secure government jobs without the burden of expensive private coaching.

Candidates expressed happiness over receiving quality training free of cost and thanked Kinjarapu Rammoohan Naidu for the initiative. Members of the teaching faculty, TNSF representatives and Erranna Vidya Sankalp organisers attended the inaugural programme.

AEE Applications Close Today

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The online application process for the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) recruitment notification issued by APCPDCL will close at 11:59 p.m. on July 20, according to APCPDCL CMD P. Pullareddy.

In a statement issued from the APCPDCL Corporate Office in Vijayawada, Pullareddy urged all eligible candidates who have not yet submitted their applications to complete the process well before the

deadline instead of waiting until the last minute. He advised applicants to make use of the remaining time and ensure that their online applications are submitted successfully.

The CMD also appealed to candidates to carefully read the official recruitment notification and verify that all required documents are uploaded correctly before the application window closes. He said incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline would not be considered.

Airports Doubled After 2014 Says Vishnuvardhan Reddy

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Senior BJP leader Vishnuvardhan Reddy said the country's aviation sector has witnessed significant growth after 2014, with the number of operational airports increasing substantially.

Highlighting the development, he said that before 2014 there were around 74 operational airports in India, while the number has now crossed 160. He credited the Central government's focus



on infrastructure development for the expansion of air connectivity across the country.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy welcomed the proposed visit of

Candidates were further advised to avoid last-minute technical issues by completing the registration and document upload process in advance. APCPDCL officials reiterated that applicants should thoroughly check the eligibility criteria, instructions and document requirements mentioned in the notification before final submission.

The corporation has requested aspiring candidates to utilise the opportunity and complete the application process within the stipulated time.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Andhra Pradesh on August 1 and said the inauguration of Bhogapuram International Airport would mark a new chapter in the state's development.

He said the airport project would improve air connectivity in the region, particularly making travel to and from Visakhapatnam more accessible. He described the upcoming inauguration as a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's progress and development.

Durgesh Congratulates National Film Award Winners

Amaravati, July 19 | TPN Bureau

State Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Sunday congratulated the winners of the 72nd National Film Awards and praised the Telugu film industry for winning nine national awards.

In a statement, Durgesh said Tollywood had once again brought pride to Telugu people by showcasing excellence on the national stage. He described the recognition received by Committee Kurrollu, produced by Niharika Konidela under the banners of Pink Elephant Pictures and Sri Radha Damodar Studios, as a remarkable achievement. He said the film's selection as the Best Feature Film by the jury reflected the strength of meaningful storytelling centred on friendship, family values and social themes.

The minister said Telugu cinema had earned recognition not



only for commercial success but also for its excellence in storytelling, direction, acting, technical expertise, costume design, make-up and production values. He noted that the national awards were a tribute to the creativity, dedication and hard work of Telugu filmmakers.

Durgesh extended his congratulations to all the actors, directors, producers and technical teams who contributed to the success of Telugu cinema. He expressed confidence that the industry would continue to achieve greater recognition at the national and international levels.

MEO-1 Issues Should Be Resolved: Association President

Amaravati, July 19 | TPN Bureau

MEO-1 Association AP State President Samala Simhachalam appealed to the Director of School Education to resolve the long-pending issues faced by Mandal Education Officers working in the Education Department.

Speaking to the media, Simhachalam said the state government had issued a clear job chart for MEO-1 and MEO-2 officers through GO MS No.89. However, he alleged that in several districts, District Education Officers were assigning duties be-

yond the prescribed responsibilities and making MEO-1 officers accountable for all issues during education department reviews. He said the absence of self-drawing powers for MEO-1 officers was creating administrative difficulties. Simhachalam also requested the government to provide vehicle facilities to MEO-1 officers, as they play a key role in supervising schools and monitoring educational activities.

He stated that the association had submitted a representation to the Director of School Education seeking appropriate measures to address these concerns.

Rammohan Naidu Condoles Venkat Rao's Death

Srikakulam, July 19 | TPN Bureau:

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu expressed grief over the demise of retired Tahsildar Dabbiru Venkat Rao of DCCB Colony, Sri-

kakulam, who passed away due to age-related health issues. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family and recalled Venkat Rao's long association with his late father, Errannaaidu, urging the family to remain strong during the difficult time.



Government Committed to Journalists' Welfare: Minister Narayana

Nellore, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana said the state government is committed to addressing the welfare issues of journalists and announced that a new accreditation system will be introduced soon. He was the chief guest at the Andhra Pradesh Media Federation (APMF) district general assembly held in Nellore on Sunday.

APMF district leaders, including Minister's Founder Dilli Babu Reddy, welcomed Narayana on the occasion. Speaking at the event, the Minister described media as the fourth pillar of democracy and said the government would extend support for the welfare of journalists.

Narayana said steps would be taken to provide a permanent solution to long-pending accreditation issues by bringing a transparent new system with the cooperation of all stakeholders. He also announced that the government would positively consider providing continuous cashless medical treatment under health schemes for journalists' families and allotment of houses or house sites to eligible journalists.

He called upon journalists to uphold democratic values with honesty and social responsibility. Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, Commissioner Nandan, journalist union leaders Narasimhulu, Mallikarjuna, Venkata Narayana, Rafi and others participated.

ST students and 81 CWSN students. Among the awardees, 2,960 are girls, and 1,384 are boys.

Each selected student will receive a cash prize of Rs.20,000, along with a medal and appreciation certificate. The district-level events will be conducted under the chairmanship of District In-charge Ministers and Dis-

trict Collectors, with the participation of public representatives and other dignitaries.

Tamim Ansaria said arrangements have been completed and District Education Officers have been instructed to coordinate with students, parents and teachers for the successful conduct of the programme.

Bhogapuram International Airport: Opening a New Gateway for North Andhra



A region's development cannot be measured by roads alone. For a coastal economy, ports are vital. But in an increasingly interconnected global economy, international air connectivity has become equally important. It is in this context that Bhogapuram International Airport has emerged as one of the most significant infrastructure projects undertaken in North Andhra over the past decade. Spread across 2,203.26 acres, the airport is being developed at an estimated first-phase cost of ₹4,592 crore. According to official information from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the airport will feature a 3,800-metre runway and an initial annual passenger handling capacity of six million. Yet the importance of Bhogapuram cannot be measured simply by the length of its runway or the size of its terminal. Its long-term value will depend on the economic ecosystem that develops around it.

Beyond an Airport
Located in Vizianagaram district, the project represents far more than the construction of another airport. It has the potential to reshape the economic geography of North Andhra. For decades, much of



the region's economic activity has remained concentrated around Visakhapatnam. If developed strategically, Bhogapuram could help extend that growth corridor northward, creating new opportunities for Vizianagaram and Srikakulam while reducing the region's dependence on a single urban centre. Whether that transformation occurs, however, will depend on far more than aviation infrastructure. Will the airport attract fresh domestic and international investment? Can it strengthen tourism across North Andhra? Will it encourage the expansion of logistics, warehousing, hospitality, export-oriented industries, and high-value services? These are the questions that will ultimately determine the project's success.

Infrastructure Creates Opportunity—Not Growth by Itself

History offers an important lesson. Airports do not automatically generate economic development. They create the conditions in which development can occur. Real growth follows only when transport infrastructure is supported by

industrial investment, business-friendly policies, skilled human resources, efficient logistics, and integrated urban planning. Bhogapuram should therefore be viewed as an enabling platform rather than an end in itself. Its true value will emerge only if complementary infrastructure develops alongside it. Road connectivity, industrial parks, logistics hubs, urban expansion, and investment promotion must advance simultaneously if the airport is to become a genuine engine of regional growth.

A Connected Development Ecosystem

For that reason, Bhogapuram cannot be evaluated as an isolated project. Its economic significance lies in its integration with a wider network of infrastructure across North Andhra. The airport's full potential will depend on its connectivity with the Visakhapatnam Port, the proposed Mulapeta (Bhavanapadu) Port, the expanding national highway network, the railway system, industrial corridors, and emerging manufacturing clusters. Only when these assets function together can they cre-

ate an integrated logistics ecosystem capable of attracting large-scale investment and supporting sustained economic growth. In this sense, Bhogapuram is not the destination of North Andhra's development journey—it is a critical connecting hub.

A Region Expanding Its Development Base

North Andhra's development story has steadily evolved over the past several decades. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant marked the beginning of the region's industrial era. Large-scale irrigation projects strengthened its agricultural economy and improved water security. Now, projects such as Bhogapuram International Airport point towards a third phase—one focused on global connectivity, investment, and integration with international markets. This evolution suggests that North Andhra's future no longer depends on a single flagship project. Instead, its development is increasingly being shaped by a network of complementary infrastructure spanning industry, agriculture, transportation, logistics, and urban development. Understanding this interconnected system is essential to understanding the region's future.

Looking Beyond the Land

Yet North Andhra possesses another strategic advantage that extends beyond its land-based infrastructure. Its greatest long-term economic opportunity also lies at sea. With one

of India's most significant natural harbours at Visakhapatnam, the emerging Mulapeta (Bhavanapadu) Port, the Government of India's Sagarmala Programme, and growing prospects for a modern maritime economy, the region is uniquely positioned to become a major coastal economic hub. How effectively these maritime assets are integrated with airports, highways, railways, and industrial corridors will play a decisive role in determining North Andhra's future competitiveness. That is where the next chapter of this development audit begins.

Coming Next
Ports, the Blue Economy, and North Andhra's Maritime Future

How are Visakhapatnam Port and the upcoming Mulapeta Port expected to reshape the regional economy? What role can the Sagarmala Programme play in unlocking North Andhra's coastal potential? Can ports, logistics, fisheries, shipbuilding, exports, and coastal industries together create a new engine of economic growth? The next article in the Andhra Pradesh Development Audit (2014–2026) will examine these questions through official data, project implementation, investment patterns, and measurable outcomes—moving beyond political narratives to assess the realities of development on the ground.

OPS Employees Thank Alliance Govt for Pension Restoration

continued

implementation. He alleged that employees faced difficulties between 2019 and 2024 over DA payments and medical bill reimbursements. He credited Chandrababu Naidu with extending OPS, family pension and gratuity benefits to employees appointed after the 2004 recruitment notification due to technical reasons. Palla Srinivasa Rao highlighted the role of employees in governance, while

Vishnu Kumar Raju and Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu assured support for employee welfare. MLCs Alapati Raja, Kancharla Srikanth and Perabathula Rajasekhara said they would raise employee issues with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. Employee leaders M. Srinivasa Rao, Gopinath, R. Appala Raju, KL Prasad, Balaga Srinivas, Subba Reddy and Dr. B. Govinda Naidu participated.

AP Aims to Become Global Wedding Destination: Minister Durgesh

continued

with Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari and highlighted the state's unique tourism attractions.

The Minister said Andhra Pradesh offers diverse locations suitable for world-class weddings, including the beaches and hill resorts of Visakhapatnam, Suryalanka Beach, the scenic landscapes of Araku, the greenery of Konaseema and the forests of Maredumilli. He also highlighted Tirupati as an emerging destination for traditional weddings with international-standard hospitality facilities. Durgesh said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is giving

priority to tourism development with support from the Central Government. He said tourism has been accorded industry status and the Tourism Policy 2024-29 provides incentives for investors.

He assured wedding planners and investors of single-window clearances, infrastructure support and government assistance for tourism projects. He invited organisers to visit Andhra Pradesh for field assessments and explore investment opportunities. Ajay Jain, Special Chief Secretary, AP Tourism Department, along with hospitality industry leaders, investors, venue owners, travel partners and tourism stakeholders attended the conclave.

Jagan Congratulates Sindhu, Film Winners; Alleges Port 'Scam'

Tadepalli, July 19 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday congratulated badminton star P.V. Sindhu for her historic Japan Open triumph and extended his wishes to National Film Award winners from the Telugu States, while also launching a sharp attack on the State Government over the proposed disinvestment of the Ramayapatnam Port.

In a social media post, Jagan congratulated Sindhu on becoming the first Indian woman shuttler to win the Japan Open title, describing the achievement as a proud moment for the nation. He wished the Olympic medalist many more victories in her illustrious career.

He also congratulated artists and filmmakers from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana who won honours at the 72nd National Film Awards. Appreciating their talent and dedication, Jagan said their achievements had brought pride to Telugu cinema and elevated regional storytelling to the national stage.

In a separate post, the YSRC chief criticised the State

Government's proposed handling of the Ramayapatnam Port project, alleging that it was being converted into a "scam" in the name of development. He claimed that the previous YSRC government had completed key preparatory works, including land acquisition, statutory approvals, financial closure and EPC contracts for Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam and Mulapeta ports.

Jagan said the Ramayapatnam Port had attracted major investments, including BPCL's proposed refinery, Indosol Solar's manufacturing facility and JSW Steel's port-linked infrastructure projects, which he said would generate employment and boost State revenues.

Alleging financial irregularities, he claimed the government was offering the port to private entities despite investing ₹4,929 crore, while receiving only ₹1,500 crore upfront, resulting in a heavy financial burden on the State. He questioned the economic rationale behind the proposed arrangement and accused the government of causing losses to the public exchequer.

Manohar Reddy to Move SC on Assigned Lands Case

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Legal Cell President Manohar Reddy on Sunday said the party would challenge the High Court verdict in the Capital Assigned Lands case before the Supreme Court, stating that the judgment does not amount to a clean chit for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Addressing the media at the YSRC Central Office in Tadepalli, Manohar Reddy alleged that the case involved irregularities worth ₹4,400 crore concerning more than 1,100 acres of assigned lands belonging to poor SC, ST and BC farmers. He accused the yellow media of wrongly projecting the verdict as an acquittal. He claimed that the CID investigation had gathered evidence, including witness

statements, bank transaction details, digital records and financial trails. He alleged that the investigation revealed transactions involving ₹18.1 crore from Narayana Educational Institutions through intermediaries to assigned landowners. Manohar Reddy accused the government of weakening several cases after Chandrababu Naidu came to power and alleged that investigations into major cases were being diluted. He said the High Court examined only the preliminary aspects of the FIR and not the complete evidence collected during the investigation. Maintaining that only a full trial could establish the facts, he said YSRC would approach the Supreme Court and continue its legal fight on behalf of affected farmers

Ballagaruvu Promise Fulfilled With ₹1 Crore Tribal Development Works continued

The new Anganwadi building will help our children and mothers," said a tribal woman from Ballagaruvu village. Another villager from Velagapadu said, "Earlier, children had to attend programmes in temporary arrangements. A permanent building has given us confidence." A resident of Koraparthi added, "Drinking

water and road facilities have reduced our daily difficulties." Pawan Kalyan has repeatedly stressed that improving connectivity and basic amenities in tribal regions is among the government's priorities. During his Ballagaruvu visit, he highlighted the need to provide better roads and infrastructure to remote habitations and assured support for tribal development. The Deputy Chief

Minister said the Alliance government is committed to the comprehensive development of tribal areas and ensuring that government schemes reach remote communities effectively. The completion of these works marks a significant step towards improving living conditions in the three villages and reflects the government's focus on addressing basic infrastructure gaps in tribal regions.

Naidu Signals Strict Action Against Leaders Facing Public Anger

Ravi Podili

Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president N. Chandrababu Naidu appears to have initiated a major exercise to strengthen the party organisation and rein in leaders facing criticism over their conduct. After focusing primarily on governance, development initiatives and attracting investments following the alliance government's formation, Chandrababu is now turning his attention towards internal issues and party discipline. For over two years, Chandrababu concentrated on rebuilding the state administration, implementing development programmes and bringing investments to Andhra Pradesh. Though he remained involved in party activities, there were concerns that the performance of individual leaders was not being closely monitored. Taking advantage of this situation, some leaders allegedly acted independently, while complaints against them did not result in immediate action. Meanwhile, YSRC president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been repeatedly targeting the alliance government and the TDP over various issues. YSRC leaders have continued their criticism, aiming to regain political ground ahead of the next elections. Against this backdrop, Chandrababu has reportedly decided to focus on strengthening the party and addressing internal challenges.

The Chief Minister has already indicated that surveys conducted by the party re-



vealed public dissatisfaction against some leaders. He made it clear that leaders facing negative feedback from people would not be given priority and warned that corrective measures would be taken wherever necessary. He also cautioned officials against improper functioning and said accountability would be ensured.

Chandrababu directed party leaders and public representatives to immediately focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level, particularly with the upcoming local body elections in mind. He announced plans to organise a special workshop for party representatives and activists to guide election strategy and public outreach.

Expressing concern over the emergence of factional politics in some constituencies, Chan-

drababu warned that strict action would be taken against those damaging the party's image. He stressed that all leaders would be treated equally and said public support would remain the key factor in deciding political responsibilities.

The TDP chief reportedly told leaders that positions cannot be secured through recommendations or lobbying and that only those working sincerely among people would receive recognition. He said he was receiving detailed survey reports on the performance of individual leaders and advised them to focus on improving public connect. With these developments, the TDP leadership is expected to intensify efforts to improve internal coordination, strengthen discipline and prepare the party for future electoral challenges.

continued

record against Akane Yamaguchi to 16-14.

Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer said Sindhu had made the entire nation proud with her outstanding performance and wished her many more successes. BC Welfare Minister S. Janardhan Reddy also congratulated Sindhu, describing her as a role model for young sportspersons and expressing hope that she would win many more international

titles for India. The achievement was widely celebrated across the country as another milestone in Indian badminton. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Sindhu on her historic achievement and wished her success in future international events, including the Olympics. Minister Nara Lokesh hailed the victory as a historic moment for Indian badminton and praised Sindhu for becoming the first Indian to lift the prestigious title.

CID Files Chargesheet in Jethwani Case

them in the chargesheet submitted before the court. The case had earlier attracted widespread political and administrative attention. Based on complaints filed by Jethwani, the state government had suspended three senior IPS officers over allegations of lapses in the investigation.

With the filing of the CID chargesheet, the investigation

has taken a fresh turn, presenting a version that alleges blackmail and financial extortion. The latest findings are expected to have legal and political implications as the case proceeds in court. Further developments will depend on the judicial process and the evidence examined during the trial.

Speeding Car Rams Into Lorry in Vizag, Four Killed

continued

provide the best possible medical treatment to Chandrashekhara.

Former minister Ganta Srinivas Rao personally monitored Chandrashekhara's health condition at the hospital and interacted with doctors regarding his treatment.

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha also expressed grief over the incident and spoke with Visakhapatnam district officials to gather details. She assured that the government would extend support to the families of those who lost their lives and ensure proper medical care for the injured.

Congress Launches Campaign Against Paper Leaks

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Sunday launched its "Chhatron Ki Goonj - Voice of Students" campaign, alleging that repeated examination paper leaks have undermined the future of millions of students and demanding stronger measures to ensure transparency in the examination system.

Addressing a press conference at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada, APCC Working President J.D. Seelam claimed that India had witnessed 152 examination paper leaks since 2014, affecting nearly 7.5 crore students and their families. He

alleged that the recurring leaks had eroded confidence in competitive examinations and called for strict action against those responsible.

Seelam urged the Centre to order a Supreme Court-monitored CBI probe into all paper leak cases, enact a stringent anti-paper leak law, provide compensation to affected students, conduct free re-examinations and fix accountability in the National Testing Agency (NTA).

He said the Congress, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, would continue its campaign to protect students' interests through protests and parliamentary interventions.

CPM Asks MPs to Safeguard State Interests

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

CPI(M) State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao on Sunday urged Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh to protect the state's interests during the upcoming Parliament session by raising public issues and seeking solutions to long-pending problems.

Speaking at a meeting held at Balotsav Bhavan in Vijayawada, Srinivasa Rao criticised both the TDP and YSRCP, alleging they had weakened the state's position by extending unconditional support to the Centre. He also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging that his policies had harmed students, and condemned the arrest of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk.

He expressed mining concern and pumped storage projects in



tribal areas of Alluri district, alleging violations of tribal rights and environmental laws. Srinivasa Rao demanded strict implementation of the 1/70 Act and the PESA Act and called for an end to corporate activities in forest regions.

He also criticised the rehabilitation process for families displaced by the proposed Mittal steel project in Anakapalle district and opposed long-term solar land lease agreements, demanding stronger legal safeguards, fair compensation for farmers and protection of democratic rights.

SC Boys' Hostel Students Receive Clothing and Essentials

Gannavaram, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Department Officer S.K. Nagul Bee on Sunday distributed essential clothing and other items to students at the Government Scheduled Caste Boys' Hostel in Gannavaram as part of the government's welfare programme.

The officer handed over rugs, sweaters and night dresses provided by the government to students residing in the hostel. Interacting with the students, Nagul Bee encouraged them to focus on their education and make effective use of the facilities provided by the government.

Deputy Sarpanch Paladugu Nani and Gannavaram Boys'



High School Head Teacher A. Sunil participated in the programme and urged students to attend classes regularly and excel in their studies.

Officials also distributed clothing to nearly 200 students staying in hostels at Davajigudem and Kanumolu under the Social Welfare Department.

Officials Prakash, Shobha, Dhanalakshmi and Jyoti were present during the distribution programme.

Red Cross Organises Tree Plantation Drive

Avanigadda, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Members of the Indian Red Cross Society organised a tree plantation drive on Sunday as part of the Avanigadda Clean and Green Programme to promote environmental protection. Avanigadda Press Club President Srinivasa Rao participated in the programme and stressed the need to protect and nurture plants to safeguard the environment.

He appreciated the Red Cross Society for taking up initiatives to improve environmental cleanliness and said voluntary participation in such programmes sets an example for the younger generation. He urged the public to take inspiration from the Clean and Green campaign and actively



contribute to environmental conservation.

APSRFC Depot Manager Hanumantha Rao, LIC official D.V. Rao, Kondaveeti Kishore, Health Officer Bandareddy Rajendra Kumar, retired Principal Bhogadi Subrahmanyeswara Rao, Jeevo Nagabhushana, Samarala Malli, Red Cross Chairman Garikapati Venkateswara Rao, Koduru Srinivasa Rao, Aadi Rammohan, Kommineni Uma Maheswara Rao and several social workers participated in the plantation drive.

Ex-Servicemen to Form State JAC to Address Issues

Amaravati, July 18 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of various ex-servicemen's organisations in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday decided to form a State-level Joint Action Committee (JAC) to address issues faced by former defence personnel.

The decision was taken at the Andhra Pradesh Ex-Servicemen Associations All-Party Conference held at the Freedom Fighters Building in Amaravati under the leadership of Govind Rao. Leaders discussed the need for a coordinated approach to resolve pending issues and ensure better coordination with government departments.

The meeting focused on welfare measures, protection of rights and preparing an action plan to achieve solutions to long-pending demands of ex-servicemen. Representatives from APRMSSS, NEXCC, ABPSSP, AIESLS DVO, ALEXBEF, Andhra Pradesh State Ex-Servicemen Rights Struggle Committee, Andhra Pradesh Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association and Ex-Sailors of the Indian Navy attended the conference, along with district and Mandal-level leaders.

The participants resolved to work collectively through the JAC to strengthen coordination and effectively address the concerns of ex-servicemen across the state.

World Ice Cream Day Brings Smiles at Benz Circle

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

World Ice Cream Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at the Fountain near Benz Circle in Vijayawada, where the

Suraksha Seva Foundation distributed free ice creams to around 2,000 people.

Traffic CI Venkatramana inaugurated the programme and appreciated the foundation for organising a public service ini-

Durga Temple Witnesses Massive Rush at Indrakeeladri

Indrakeeladri, July 20 | TPN Bureau

Indrakeeladri witnessed an unprecedented influx of devotees on Sunday as thousands thronged the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam to offer prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga during the Ashada festivities. With Sunday being a holiday, devotees arrived continuously through Ghat Road and Kanaka Durgamma Nagar from early morning, leading to heavy crowding across the temple premises.

Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Nayak personally supervised the arrangements, monitoring queue management, battery vehicle services, the protocol of office, the main temple and the Mahamandapam. As the crowd exceeded expectations, the temple administration gave priority to common devotees by suspending interval darshan from 9 a.m., cancelling all VIP darshan between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and converting all queue lines into free darshan lines. Paid darshan tickets were also sus-



pended from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to reduce waiting time.



mobile water units across the queue lines. The initiative received appreciation from pilgrims.

The Vijayawada Police Commissionerate deployed extensive security arrangements un-

der the supervision of DCP G. Ramakrishna, Vijayawada West ACP Durga Rao and One Town CI Guna Ram to regulate the crowd and ensure smooth movement. Free prasadam and anaprasadam were distributed throughout the day.

Dharmakarta Mandali Chairman Borra Radhakrishna and board members reviewed the arrangements. According to temple authorities, around 70,000 devotees had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga by 3.30 p.m. Temple DEO Kishore Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Ranga Rao, AEO Ramesh Babu, Gangadhar and other temple staff actively participated in managing the large number of devotees.

Leaders Remember Mudragada Padmanabham

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Political leaders and members of the Kapu community on Sunday paid tributes to former minister Mudragada Padmanabham, praising his lifelong efforts for the welfare and rights of the Kapu community. They also announced plans to install his statue on the Vijayawada riverfront in recognition of his contributions.

A memorial meeting was held at Sri Ram Function Hall in Gandhinagar under the leadership of senior political leader Akula Srinivas Kumar. Central MLA



Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao, former MLA Samineni Udayabhanu, Kapu community leaders, representatives of various Kapu organisations, fans of Mudragada Padmanabham and Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga, and a large number of youth attended the programme. Floral tributes were offered to Padmanabham.

Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Kalyanam Held During Ashada Festivities

Indrakeeladri, July 19 | TPN Bureau:

Thousands of devotees thronged the Indrakeeladri temple on Sunday as the celestial Kalyanam of Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy with Sri Valli and Devasena was performed on the occasion of Shashti amid Ashada festivities. The ceremony was conducted with Vedic rituals and chants by temple priests, with devotees participating in large numbers.

According to temple tradition, Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy was born to destroy the demon Tarakasura. Devotees believe worshipping the deity removes obstacles, mitigates the adverse effects of Rahu and Ketu, and brings prosperity, suitable marriages and blessings of children.

Board of Trustees Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi)



and Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Nayak participated in the Kalyanam, offered special prayers and supervised the arrangements.

The Ashada festivities also witnessed a heavy influx of women devotees. Temple authorities said the number of women pilgrims was nearly double that of the previous four days. Around 23,916 devotees in 57 groups offered prayers within three hours.

To ensure smooth darshan, the temple administration reserved the Rs.100 Bhavani Anugraha Darshan queue for group devo-



tees and permitted them in other queue lines as well. Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Nayak, Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) and board members personally monitored queue management. A digital coordination system linking the registration centre at Sri Kanaka Durgamma Nagar with the hilltop scanning point was also used to streamline crowd management. Devotees later received prasadam and blessings in a peaceful and devotional atmosphere.

Dalit Welfare Neglected, Alleges Sudhakar Babu

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau:

YSRCP leaders on Sunday accused the TDP-led coalition government of neglecting Dalit welfare and failing to ensure justice for affected families. Addressing a press conference, State SC Cell President and former MLA T.J.R. Sudhakar Babu said former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy met Kranthi Kumar's family on July 2, assured them of support and provided financial assistance of Rs. 10 lakh.

The cheque was handed over in the presence of NTR District President Devineni Avinash, former MP Nandigam Suresh, former MLA Malladi Vishnu, former MLA Monditoka Jagan Mohan Rao, State Working President Kommu Kanaka Rao, local corporator M.D. Rehan Naheed and other SC Cell leaders.

Sudhakar Babu alleged that the government had failed to deliver justice and welfare bene-



fits to the family and claimed that Dalits and Christians were facing discrimination.

Former MLA Monditoka Jagan Mohan Rao said Jagan Mohan Reddy's assistance was humanitarian and not politically motivated. Former MP Nandigam Suresh criticised the state's law and order situation, while Devineni Avinash, Kommu Kanaka Rao and Malladi Vishnu alleged increasing attacks on Dalits and political opponents. The leaders demanded justice for victims, protection of democratic rights and effective implementation of welfare measures for SC communities.

Vishnu Alleges Negligence in Diarrhoea Outbreak

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Former MLA Malladi Vishnu on Sunday blamed contaminated drinking water and poor sanitation for the diarrhoea outbreak in Giripuram. Accompanied by former corporator D. Anita, he visited the affected locality, interacted with residents and enquired about the condition of patients.

Vishnu said several people had been admitted to the government hospital with severe diarrhoea and alleged that the coalition government had neglected public health. He claimed households were receiving contaminated water with a bluish colour and foul smell despite repeated complaints from residents.

He questioned why canal water was being supplied if drink-



ing water was safe and alleged that officials acted only after the outbreak by setting up medical camps. He also criticised the lack of drain cleaning, particularly near the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium.

Vishnu urged the government to improve sanitation, ensure safe drinking water and provide better treatment to patients. He said YSRCP would continue to fight until the issue was resolved. Division President Ramesh, Aepuri Manohar, Vijayawada Central Education Department Suresh and other YSRCP leaders participated.

CM's Gudivada Visit Inspires Party Cadre: Venigandla Ramu

Gudivada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's recent visit to Gudivada had infused new energy into party workers and would inspire them until the next elections. Addressing a press conference at the TDP office, he said the Chief Minister appreciated the town's development and assured full support for future projects, including a special drinking water project for Nandiwada Mandal.

Ramu said Chandrababu praised the unity among party leaders and encouraged development-oriented governance. He added that the Chief Minister reviewed the progress made over the past two years and promised to sanction more public welfare projects. SWC Chairman Ravi Ven-



kateshwara Rao, Stadium Committee Vice Chairman Yalavarthi Srinivasa Rao, BJP leader Angadal Satish and Jana Sena leader Sandhu Pawan alleged that false propaganda was being spread by Sakshi Media and YSRCP social media over the Chief Minister's visit. They said the TDP, Jana Sena and BJP alliance would continue to work together and expressed confidence of a clean sweep in the local body elections.

Nandiwada Mandal TDP President Daneti Sanyasirao, Rural Mandal TDP President Vase Murali and other party leaders attended the press conference.

Last Date for APCPDCL AEE Posts is July 20

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

APCPDCL CMD P. Pullareddy has urged eligible candidates to submit their online applications for Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) posts before the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on July 20.

In a statement, Pullareddy said the online application process for the AEE recruitment notification would close at the

stipulated time and advised candidates not to wait until the last minute. He urged applicants to complete the registration process and upload all required documents within the deadline.

He also advised candidates to refer to the official notification for detailed eligibility information, the application process and document submission requirements.





Citizens Urged to Protect Constitutional Values

Eluru, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The inaugural introductory meeting of the Eluru chapter of "We the People of India" was held on Sunday at Sri Kasi Visweswara Kalyana Mandapam in RR Pet, with speakers highlighting the importance of safeguarding the Indian Constitution and upholding its democratic values.

The meeting was presided over by T. Rambabu, faculty member of C.R. Reddy Women's College, while chapter convener and senior advocate P.P. Sastry welcomed the guests.

Delivering a talk on "The Indian Constitution – Its Uniqueness," retired C.R. Reddy College faculty member Dr. B. Emmanuel described the Constitution as one of the finest in the world. He recalled that the Constituent Assembly, formed in December

1946, took two years, eleven months and eighteen days to draft the Constitution. Stressing that the Constitution faces several challenges today, he said every citizen has a responsibility to protect its principles.

Retired SPDBT Junior College Principal R.V.S.N. Murthy spoke on "Constitutional Values and Civil Society's Responsibility," urging citizens to uphold constitutional ideals and discharge their duties responsibly.

Addressing the gathering, P.P. Sastry said the organisation has established chapters in nearly 20 towns under the leadership of noted Marxist intellectual D.V.V.S. Varma. He appreciated the participation of lawyers, democrats, secularists and progressive thinkers. Senior advocate P.S. Chandu, Mohan Rao (Ramu) and other office-bearers also addressed the meeting.



Waterlogged Street Worries Burujupalli Residents

Giddalur, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Poleramma Street in Burujupalli village of Giddalur mandal have appealed to the authorities to take immediate steps to resolve the recurring problem of waterlogging, which turns the locality into a virtual pond during every rainy spell.

According to villagers, even a brief shower is enough to inundate the street, leaving knee-deep water that disrupts daily life and makes commuting extremely difficult. School students, daily wage workers and elderly residents, who rely on the road every day, are among the worst affected. Motorists also face considerable hardship while passing through the waterlogged stretch, increasing the

risk of accidents and damage to vehicles. Residents say the stagnant water has become a recurring problem every monsoon, causing inconvenience and raising concerns over sanitation and public health. Villagers alleged that they have repeatedly brought the issue to the notice of the concerned officials, but no permanent solution has been provided so far. They expressed disappointment over what they described as official apathy despite several representations.

The residents urged the local administration to take up drainage improvement works and repair the damaged road on a priority basis to prevent further water stagnation. They appealed to the authorities to respond immediately and provide lasting relief before the monsoon intensifies further.

Rythu Sangham Seeks Free Crop Insurance

Eluru, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham has demanded the implementation of a free crop insurance scheme, alleging that the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has failed to provide farmers with a sense of security during times of agricultural distress.

The demand was raised by the association's District Secretary, K. Srinivas, at a meeting of district leaders held on Sunday at the CITU district office in Eluru. The meeting was presided over by District President Katta Bhaskara Rao and focused on issues affecting farmers across the district.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said delayed rainfall caused by the El Niño effect had disrupted Kharif cultivation, leaving many farmers un-

able to begin sowing. With the deadline for paying crop insurance premiums approaching at the end of the month, he said farmers were in no position to bear the additional financial burden and urged the government to introduce free crop insurance similar to the previous State government's scheme.

He also appealed to the authorities to divert water from the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme to irrigate tail-end areas of the Krishna and Godavari deltas and prevent crop losses.

Srinivas further sought immediate measures to address the problems of oil palm, cocoa, horticulture and aquaculture farmers. District leaders Kona Srinivasa Rao, Boddurambabu and Veeravalli Bhaskara Rao attended the meeting.

COVID Cases Reported in Rajahmundry, Nellore and NTR Districts

Rajahmundry, July 19 | TPN Bureau

COVID-19 cases have been reported from different parts of Andhra Pradesh, with the first case being registered in Rajahmundry. A 21-year-old youth tested positive for coronavirus and is undergoing treatment at Rajahmundry District Hospital.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 cases reported in the state has reached 16. According to health officials, five patients are undergoing treatment at various hospitals, while four others are in home isolation. Three patients have recovered from the infection, while four COVID-related deaths have been reported so far.

Meanwhile, fresh cases were also detected in Nellore and NTR districts. A three-year-old boy from Nidiguntapalem village in Venkatachalam mandal of Nellore district tested positive after being taken to Puducherry



for cancer treatment by his family members on the 13th of this month. Doctors conducted a COVID test during treatment, following which the case was confirmed. The boy's parents and close relatives were tested, and all results were negative.

In NTR district, a 13-year-old girl from Rolupadi vil-

lage in Thiruvuru mandal tested positive while undergoing dialysis for kidney-related issues at GGH, Vijayawada. After developing fever, headache and body pains, doctors conducted an RT-PCR test and shifted her to an isolation ward. Her family members tested negative.

CPM Seeks Relief for Polavaram Oustees

Eluru, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The CPI(M) has urged the State Government to give top priority to the rehabilitation of Polavaram project displaced families, protect tribal lands and address the hardships faced by farmers due to the prevailing rainfall deficit.

Speaking at the CPM district committee meeting in Eluru on Sunday, State Secretariat member B. Balaram said only about 20 per cent of the rehabilitation work for Polavaram displaced persons had been completed and demanded immediate action to resolve all pending issues. The meeting, presided over by District Secretariat member Modiyam Nagamani, adopted resolutions on several public issues.

Balaram said while both the Centre and the State were announcing deadlines for com-



pleting the Polavaram project, the concerns of displaced families and farmers continued to be neglected. He insisted that tribal lands, LTR lands and disputed lands should not be included in the rehabilitation package and warned against any injustice to tribal communities.

He also expressed concern over the rainfall deficit, stating that delayed monsoon conditions had severely affected Kharif cultivation in Eluru

district. He demanded adequate irrigation water, compensation for crop losses and immediate measures to prevent drought-like conditions.

CPM District Secretary R. Lingaraju sought uninterrupted power supply, resolution of drinking water shortages, clearance of canal hyacinth to improve irrigation and early completion of pending housing and TIDCO projects. Several district leaders attended the meeting.

MLA Chanti Assures Swift Grievance Redressal

Eluru, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and District Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) on Sunday reaffirmed his commitment to resolving long-pending public issues and ensuring that people in the constituency receive prompt assistance.

At his camp office in Eluru, the MLA received representations from residents from different parts of the constituency and interacted with them to understand their grievances. He directed officials of the concerned departments over the phone to take immediate action on the issues brought to his notice and ensure their early resolution.

Speaking on the occasion, Badeti Chanti said the Alliance government has been giving priority to public welfare and development since assuming office. Along with creating essential



infrastructure, the government is working to resolve long-pending civic and administrative issues in a phased manner, he said.

The MLA stated that every representation submitted by the public is treated with seriousness and that officials are being instructed to address grievances without unnecessary delay. He assured people that his office would remain accessible to eve-

ryone and encouraged residents to approach him with any problem requiring official intervention.

Badeti Chanti said his objective is to provide permanent solutions to public issues rather than temporary measures. TDP leaders, party activists and local supporters were present during the grievance redressal programme held at the camp office.

MLA Balaramakrishna Inspects Korukonda Girls' Hostel

Rajahmundry, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna conducted a surprise inspection of the Social Welfare Girls' Hostel at Korukonda on Sunday and reviewed the facilities being provided to students, stressing the need for quality accommodation and effective hostel management.

During the visit, the MLA inspected various sections of the hostel and interacted with students to understand their concerns. He enquired about the quality of food, supply of nutritious meals, clothing, educational support, cleanliness, health services and overall discipline in the hostel. He also asked the students whether they were facing any difficulties and assured them that their grievances would be addressed.

Addressing the hostel staff and officials, Bathula Balaramakrishna said providing proper facilities to girls who stay away from their families



for education was a collective responsibility. Describing students as the future of the nation, he urged officials to perform their duties with sincerity and discipline.

The MLA warned that negligence in hostel management would not be tolerated and directed the authorities to rectify any deficiencies immediately. He cautioned that strict action would be taken against

those found responsible for lapses.

He also assured that the Alliance government would regularly review the requirements of welfare hostels and ensure that students receive all essential facilities, enabling them to pursue their education without inconvenience. Local leaders, hostel administrators and officials were present during the inspection.



Panchayat Raj Staff Meet on July 25

Vijayawada, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government Employees Association (APGEA), Panchayat Raj Department Wing, has announced intensified efforts to address the long-pending issues of employees working in the department. The decision was announced by the Association's State Chairman, Nagineni Srinivasa Rao, during the state executive committee meeting and the United Forum executive meeting held in Vijayawada on July 18 and 19.

The two-day meeting brought together district presidents, secretaries and representatives of the Government Employees Association from all 28 districts. The sessions were chaired by the Association's State President, K.R. Suryanarayana.

Addressing the gathering, Srinivasa Rao said the association was committed to working

collectively for the welfare of Panchayat Raj employees. He announced that a state-level conference of Panchayat Raj employees would be held on July 25 at the APGEA State Office in Vijayawada to discuss employee-related concerns and formulate a coordinated action plan.

He observed that the Panchayat Raj Department functions through several wings and offices across the State. To ensure that the concerns of employees from every section are addressed effectively, the association will hold consultations with representatives from all wings and work in a united manner to resolve their problems.

District office-bearers and executive committee members from across Andhra Pradesh participated in the meeting and expressed support for the proposed initiatives.



47 Suspicious Vehicles Seized in Police Drive

Bapatla, July 19 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla district police conducted extensive 'Cordon and Search' operations on Sunday, seizing 47 suspicious two-wheelers without valid documents as part of a special drive to curb crime and illegal activities.

The operations were carried out under the directions of District Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheswar, IPS, across the Chirala and Bapatla sub-divisions. Police said the initiative aimed to prevent crime, check the illegal transport and sale of ganja and strengthen surveillance on anti-social elements.

Under the supervision of Chirala DSP M.D. Moin, police teams searched every house in YSR Colony of Vadarevu village under Chirala Rural Police Station limits. During the operation, 17 suspicious two-wheelers without proper documentation

were seized.

In a parallel operation led by Bapatla DSP Chandramouli, police personnel conducted house-to-house searches at DM Palli under Bapatla Town Police Station limits and seized another 30 undocumented two-wheelers.

Police cautioned the public against purchasing vehicles offered at unusually low prices without verifying ownership documents, noting that such vehicles could be stolen or linked to criminal activities.

Officials said the district police are maintaining constant surveillance on persons involved in narcotics offences and appealed to citizens to report illegal activities, drug trafficking or suspicious movements through the nearest police station, Dial 112 or the District Police Control Room, assuring complete confidentiality of informants.

ACB Raids Adoni Sub-Registrar Office

Kurnool, July 19 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted a surprise raid at the Sub-Registrar Office in Adoni and seized 1,37,270 in unaccounted cash during an operation launched based on credible information regarding alleged corruption.

According to an ACB press note issued on Sunday, officials of the Kurnool Range carried out the raid at the Sub-Registrar Office at 5.40 p.m. on July 18. During the search, unaccounted cash amounting to 1,37,270 was found in the possession of employees, private staff attached to the office and a document writer.

The ACB seized the cash and stated that the source

and ownership of the money are being verified.

Officials also examined various records and documents allegedly relating to the receipt of bribes maintained at the office. Verification of the seized material is currently underway as part of the investigation.

The search operation concluded at 8 a.m. on July 19, the ACB said, adding that further action would be taken based on the outcome of the inquiry.

The ACB appealed to the public to report instances of corruption in government departments through the nearest ACB office, the toll-free helpline 1064, mobile number 9440440057, or by email. The bureau assured that the identity of complainants would be kept strictly confidential.



Birth of a Poet

You tell his name
the one whose birth didn't take place
At your sheer indifference
he went back
from the murmuring ghat of birth.
To give birth to whom
a woman was waiting forever
you tell his name

On whose door the words became bashful
visitors
whose secret partner on bed was
the words resembling the mermaid of
fairy-tales
You didn't peruse him.
At your boundless indifference he went
back
the one who keeps on looking for his
birthplace
jutting out his head through the window
of a train
you tell his name.

He hasn't been able to remember himself
Why did he come to the midst of topsy-
turvy of words
to cross out himself so much
why did he take to construct himself
beneath his blood?
He couldn't become a reflected image even
to give birth to whom there wasn't any
mirror
You tell his name who was not born
Had he been born
Him sitting on the river bank
would have been enticed away by the
waves of the sea!

If he had been born,
creepers would have climbed one of his
legs
that creeper which would have snatched
the lips of the wind
On the foot of his other leg he would have
worn
a single shoe made of stone so that
he could have trampled underfoot
the glasses dancing in guffaw.

When he remains asleep
the most awake he is
is with the dreams of that
bearded German.

To open the doors below the ground
Why didn't you let him be born?
Why didn't you let him be born?

He couldn't find out
a bush of words with no sound at all
You people have uprooted
all the quiescent bushes.

You tell his name who wasn't born at all
the one who wouldn't have expended
sense of justice by any means
Moving on alongside you
Descending on and on down the staircase
of your bosom
that eternally restless soul
If he had been born
he would have gone to sleep with the
gibbous moon
beneath the golden shower flowers

A cowed with cows
would have danced in glee at his birth
A woman would have been singing the
whole night rural idylls
He, who was not even born
would have walked along the footpath
by which the readers come and go,
Who would have woken up
the sleeping liquor
who would have woken up
the sleeping leverets
in the houses of the wee hours!

He touches and feels
the bones within his bones
He touches and feels
the flesh inside his flesh
and seeking finds
a soul constructed with language
A little soft time that dropped down from
history
threatens that tired soul
who wears ash colour attire.

He died even before his birth
the signs of his death like wails, that too,
You haven't been able to discern with eyes
Alas! haven't been able to discern.

On the banks of your sheer indifference
No poet is born here
No poet is born here!

Original:
Nilim Kumar
(Assam)

Translation:
Uttam Duorah

The Fire and the Veena:
Dasarathi's Immortal Journey

Varala Anand
Poet, Film Critic &
Recipient of Kendra
Sahitya Akademi Award for
Translation

A sentence is born in thought. Yet it endures only when it merges with life and finds its place in literature. Often, it is the shortest utterances that alter the course of history. A slogan begins in a single voice, but gradually it echoes through the hearts of the people. For a true slogan is never ordinary; it is a spark of fire. Once spoken, it has the power to illuminate the world. It touches one mind, awakens another, and eventually stirs millions. That is the moment when words become history.

Dasarathi's immortal declaration "My Telangana, a Veena studded with a million gems" is one such sentence. It is a line that affirmed the identity and spirit of Telangana. Dasarathi's poetry is a path strewn with fiery blossoms, a revolutionary voice, and the very soul-song of Telangana.

When rain falls upon the soil of Telangana, it is not only green shoots that emerge in the fields, words too sprout from the earth. Among the few great poets who breathed life into those words and transformed them into a people's voice, Dasarathi stands foremost.

Born on July 22, 1925, in Chin-naguduru of the then Warangal district, now part of Mahabubabad district, Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu acquired mastery over Telugu and Sanskrit at an early age. He actively participated in the struggle against the Nizam's autocratic rule and endured imprisonment. Those experiences infused his poetry with the spirit of rebellion and resistance.

Through works such as Agnidhara (Stream of Fire), Rudraveena, and Timiranto Samaram (War Against Darkness),

he championed social awakening, freedom, and human dignity. His collection Timiranto Samaram earned him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award. Later, he served as the Poet Laureate of Andhra Pradesh. Though he passed away on November 5, 1987, his name continues to resonate in Telugu literature like an enduring song of struggle.

Dasarathi spent much of his childhood and schooling in Madhira, in present-day Khammam district. From an early age, he possessed an intense poetic sensibility and an insatiable passion for literature. He immersed himself in the study of literary traditions across languages and became a scholar of Telugu, Sanskrit, English, and Urdu.

In the Hyderabad Liberation Movement, Dasarathi was not merely a poet; he was a soldier of freedom. The lines he wrote within prison walls seemed like birds yearning to fly beyond their confines. It was there that he realized poetry was not ornamentation but "the alphabet of fire." His Agnidhara became the heartbeat of its age. Every word questioned the oppression of the Nizam's regime, every line became the pulse of the downtrodden. Reading Dasarathi is not merely reading poetry; it is hearing the breath of history itself.

In Rudraveena, one encounters not only fire but also music. Its melodies flow gently across the landscape, like a breeze moving through fields. Here Dasarathi emerges not only as a poet of resistance but also as a deeply humane voice capable of touching the innermost recesses of the heart.

For Dasarathi, Telangana was never merely a geographical region. It was a wound, a pride, and



a song. His poetry carries the scent of a farmer's sweat, while his words burn with an unquenchable longing for freedom. That is why they continue to move readers even today.

Somewhere in Telangana, even now, Dasarathi's words are still being recited. He has not departed. He lives on like an undying flame in every Telangana heart.

His major poetry collections Agnidhara, Rudraveena, Timiranto Samaram, and Punar avam occupy a distinguished place in Telugu literature. He also introduced Telugu readers to the beauty of Urdu poetry through his celebrated translations of Mirza Ghalib's ghazals, published as Ghalib Geethalu (Songs of Ghalib). For a period, he served with All India Radio, enriching its lit-

erary and cultural programming.

Although his poetry was charged with powerful ideological conviction, Dasarathi revealed another facet of his genius when he entered the world of cinema. There, he wrote songs of remarkable tenderness and lyrical beauty. It is noteworthy that Atreya, already an established and celebrated lyricist, invited Dasarathi to write for the film Vagdanam. The song he penned, "Na Kanti Papalo Nilichipora, Nee Venta Lokalu Geluvanira" remains cherished even today for its sweetness and emotional depth.

Soon afterwards, his lively number "Khushi Khushiga Navvuthu" from Iddaru Mitralu became immensely popular. From

then on, his journey as a film lyricist gathered momentum. To many listeners, Dasarathi is remembered especially for his exquisite songs centred on the imagery of the veena. Producers often felt that if a song required the grace and resonance of a veena, only Dasarathi could write it.

Songs such as "Madilo Veenalu Mroge", "Nene Radhanoyi Gopala", and "Mrogindi Veena Pade Pade" became unforgettable classics. His mastery of melody was unmatched. Likewise, his playful and evocative "Godari Gattundi, Gattumeeda Chettundi" from Mooga Manasulu continues to enchant audiences decades after it was written.

His song "Ye Divilo Virisina Parijatamo" from Kanne Vayasu remains one of the most beloved romantic songs in Telugu cinema. Blending love, devotion, and longing with extraordinary grace, it has retained its charm across generations. To say that few songs have surpassed its beauty would hardly be an exaggeration.

At a time when literary giants such as Sri Sri, Arudra, Atreya, and C. Narayana Reddy dominated the cultural landscape, Dasarathi carved out a distinctive voice of his own. His declaration "I was born as Rama in the kingdom of Ravana, and I shall fight as Rama" stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice. It encapsulates the courage that defined him as a poet, a freedom fighter, and a humanist.

Dasarathi's legacy extends far beyond poetry and film lyrics. He remains a symbol of resistance, compassion, and cultural pride. His words continue to sing through the winds of Telangana, and his vision continues to inspire generations. Truly, the Telangana he celebrated still resonates like a veena studded with a million gems.

(Remembering Dasarathi Krishnamacharyulu on His Birth Anniversary July 22, 2026)

Ekalavya Colony Stories: A Voice of
Dignity Beyond the Shadows of the Past

Sudha Murali
Poet & Columnist
83096 22246

Why must the present identity of any community continue to be judged only through the wounds of its past? Why should generations be forced to carry the weight of historical neglect and social exclusion? These questions form the foundation of Ekalavya Colony Erukula Jeevana Gathalu (Life Stories of the Erukula People of Ekalavya Colony), a collection of eighteen stories written by Palamaneru Balaji and published by Perspectives Hyderabad. The book goes beyond portraying the lives of a marginalised community; it explores the deeper struggles for dignity, identity, and self-respect that lie beneath social realities.

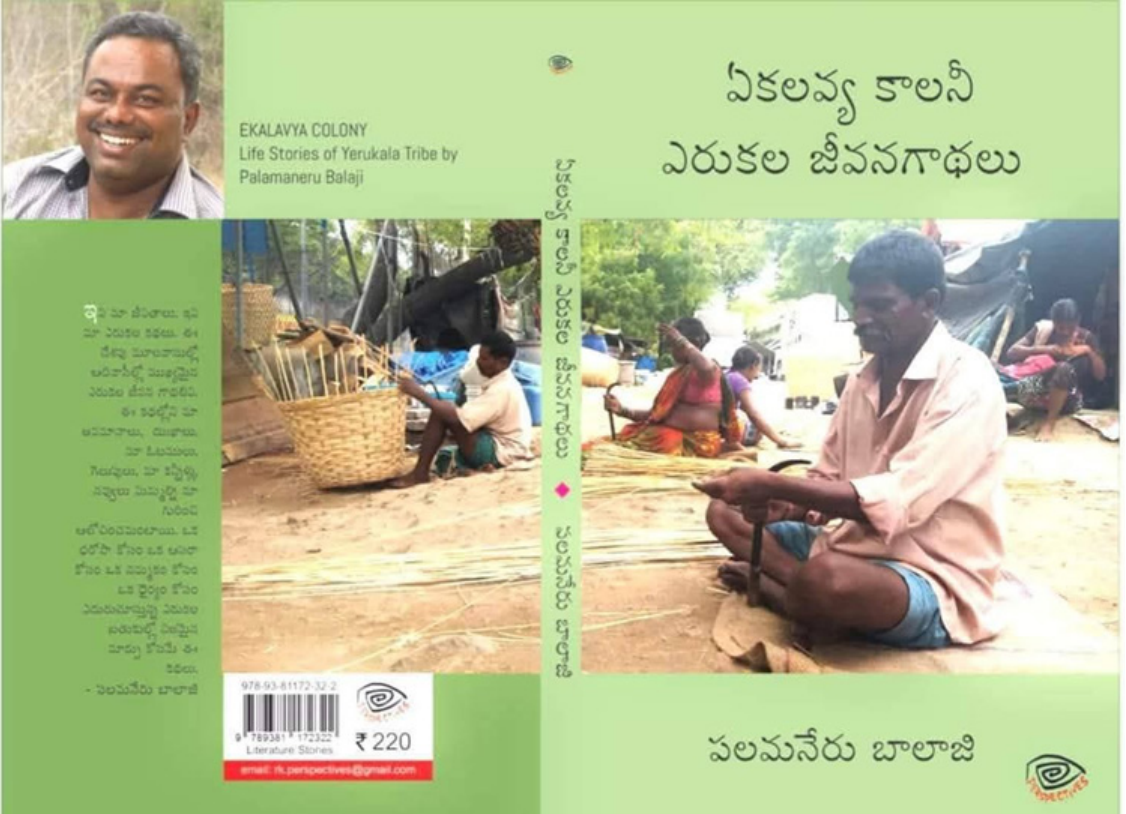
The very meaning of Eruka—awareness, understanding, and insight—creates a powerful contradiction in the lives of the Erukula community. A community that traditionally travelled from village to village offering predictions about others' futures was itself denied the opportunity to understand and shape its own destiny. Society failed to recognise their struggles and denied them the agency to decide their own path. This raises a painful question: can such denial be viewed merely as social injustice, or does it represent a deeper wound to human identity?

The stories in this collection emerge from that very anguish.

They reflect the experiences of people who have witnessed discrimination, hardship, and exclusion, yet continue to fight for dignity and recognition. Stories such as The Eleven-Month Farmhand's Tale, Aayamma—That's All! She is a Mother Teresa!, What is Our Fault, Sir?, Fear Nothing, Udukodu, Dharna, The Sound, Munidevara, Kabab Kapali, When Hunger Strikes, Red Soil, Rangoli Powder, Bamboos, The Target, The Attempt, In the Kingdom of Elephants..., and Ekalavya Colony present different shades of human struggle and resilience.

The word 'colony' in the title carries a meaning beyond a physical settlement. It represents social boundaries, invisible walls, and the divisions that determine who is accepted and who remains excluded. Through real-life incidents, characters, emotions, silences, and struggles, these stories bring before readers the questions that society often avoids confronting.

The characters in these stories do not simply represent social groups; they represent individuals searching for dignity within difficult circumstances. Their lives reflect the continuous struggle to preserve self-worth while facing challenges created by historical and social conditions. Each story reveals different human emotions—sacrifice for



loved ones, collective resistance, helplessness, courage, and the hope to survive against overwhelming odds.

One of the greatest strengths of the collection is its simple and restrained storytelling. The author does not depend on emotional exaggeration or slogans. Instead, social issues such as caste discrimination, abuse of authority, and economic inequality emerge naturally through the experiences of the characters. The stories do not focus only on suffering; they also highlight the dignity that grows from struggle

and the determination to protect one's identity.

The symbolism of Ekalavya adds deeper meaning to the collection. Like the legendary figure who continued his pursuit of excellence despite being denied formal acceptance, the characters in these stories continue their journey of self-creation despite social barriers. Their struggles represent the larger human desire for recognition, opportunity, and respect.

Literature may not immediately transform society, but it has the power to disturb comfortable

beliefs, question accepted systems, and awaken empathy. Ekalavya Colony Erukula Jeevana Gathalu serves as such a literary work. It is not merely a record of a colony's struggles; it is a reflection of humanity's continuing search for equality and dignity.

Understanding people requires more than knowing their present circumstances. It requires knowing their histories, struggles, and the experiences that shaped them. Only through such awareness can society move towards genuine compassion, equality, and humanity.

Centre Pushes Electric Cooking to Cut Costs, Boost Clean Energy

The Union Government has called upon States, including Telangana, to accelerate the adoption of electric cooking and electric mobility as key components of India's clean energy transition, stressing that the shift will reduce household cooking costs, strengthen energy security and support the country's Net Zero emissions target by 2070.

Addressing the National Workshop on Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) in Hyderabad, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Secretary Milind Deore said electric cooking and renewable energy consumption are strategic national priorities that can significantly reduce dependence on imported fuels while lowering consumer expenses.

He said India has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. As of June 30, 2026, the country had already achieved around 297.37 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity, accounting for nearly 59.5 per cent of the target.

"The immediate focus of our energy transition must be on expanding clean energy capacity and promoting clean, energy-efficient cooking technologies that benefit both households and society," Deore said.

Highlighting the importance of electric cooking, he pointed out that although India has achieved near-universal LPG access through flagship schemes such as the PM Ujjwa-

la Yojana, the country still imports nearly 60 per cent of its LPG requirement. This dependence exposes consumers and the economy to global price fluctuations and geopolitical uncertainties, particularly disruptions in West Asia.

According to the Centre, induction-based electric cooking offers several advantages, including smokeless operation, elimination of indoor air pollution, enhanced household safety, reduced dependence on imported LPG, improved energy efficiency and lower cooking costs. Studies indicate that induction cooking can reduce monthly household cooking expenses by 25 to 35 per cent compared to conventional LPG-based cooking.

To promote this transition, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, is implementing the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP). Under the initiative, induction cooktops are being distributed to households, educational institutions and Anganwadi centres to encourage wider adoption of clean cooking technologies.

The programme also seeks to create public awareness, improve consumer confidence in induction cooking, reduce dependence on imported LPG and LNG, and support India's broader clean energy objectives.

Deore appreciated EESL for its pioneering role in implementing

several national energy efficiency initiatives, including the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme, the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), smart metering projects, Demand Side Management programmes and decentralised solar systems. He said these initiatives have generated significant energy savings while advancing India's sustainable development goals.

The BEE Secretary also underlined the importance of the Renewable Consumption Obligation framework, which aims to ensure that the country's expanding renewable energy capacity is effectively consumed by industries, DISCOMs and other obligated entities. Under

the Energy Conservation Act, the Ministry of Power has notified a year-wise RCO trajectory, increasing renewable energy consumption targets from 29.91 per cent in 2024-25 to 43.33 per cent by 2029-30.

He noted that the revised RCO notification issued in September 2025 introduced provisions such as corporate-level compliance, Virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPAs), buyout mechanisms and exemptions for eligible waste heat recovery and cogeneration projects.

Calling for collective action, Deore urged governments, industries and consumers to support clean energy initiatives, stating that wider adoption of electric cooking and renewable energy would reduce im-



port dependence, improve affordability, enhance energy security and contribute significantly to India's long-term climate and sustainability goals.

NTA Warns Against Fake AI-Generated NEET OMR Sheets

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has issued a stern advisory to NEET-UG 2026 candidates and their parents, cautioning them against submitting fake or AI-generated OMR sheets while raising complaints over score discrepancies. The agency warned that anyone found using fabricated documents could face legal action.

The advisory comes after the NTA reviewed several representations from candidates who claimed that their declared NEET scores did not match their expectations. During the scrutiny process, officials found that many of the OMR sheets attached with these complaints were either manipulated or generated using artificial intelligence, prompting the agency to issue a public warning.

"NTA is closely monitoring and scrutinising all complaints. Students and parents are advised to submit only original OMR sheets for verification.



Any fake or AI-generated OMR may invite legal action against the complainant," the agency said.

The results of NEET-UG 2026 were announced on July 16, with nearly 11.21 lakh candidates qualifying the country's largest medical entrance examination.

This year's examination has remained under intense scrutiny following allegations of a paper leak during the original exam held on May 3. The NTA cancelled that examination on May 12 after concerns over irregularities surfaced. The Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) is currently probing the alleged leak and related issues.

Subsequently, the examination was reconducted on June 21 to ensure fairness and maintain the integrity of the admission process. In the wake of the controversy, the Central government also announced a major reform by deciding to shift NEET-UG from the traditional pen-and-paper format to a computer-based test (CBT) in future editions.

The move follows years of deliberations between the Union Ministries of Education and Health on modernising the examination process and

strengthening safeguards against malpractice.

NEET-UG is India's largest undergraduate entrance examination, attracting nearly 25 lakh applicants every year. The test serves as the gateway for admissions to MBBS, BDS, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and other undergraduate medical courses across the country.

The examination facilitates admission to around 1.08 lakh MBBS seats, including nearly 56,000 seats in government medical colleges and approximately 52,000 seats in private institutions.

With counselling set to begin soon, the NTA has urged candidates to rely only on official documents and authentic communication channels while seeking clarification on their results. The agency reiterated that strict verification procedures are being followed to protect the credibility of the examination and ensure that genuine grievances are addressed fairly.

Derek O'Brien Seeks All-Party Talks on Key Bills

Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting before introducing the proposed Delimitation Bill and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, arguing that both legislations require wider political consultation and consensus.

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, O'Brien expressed concern over reports suggesting that the Centre may introduce a Bill related to delimitation despite the proposal not featuring in the parliamentary bulletin listing the government's legislative business for the session. He alleged that the government had previously bypassed parliamentary conventions and cautioned against adopting a similar approach for legislation with far-reaching constitutional implications.

Describing delimitation as an issue that directly affects India's democratic framework, O'Brien said any move to redraw parliamentary constituencies must be undertaken transparently and after consultations with all political parties. He warned against what he termed "cloak-and-dagger tactics" in intro-



ducing such an important measure.

The TMC leader also voiced serious reservations over the proposed amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). According to him, the legislation could adversely affect educational and charitable institutions, particularly those serving economically weaker sections of society.

O'Brien claimed that nearly 54,000 educational institutions managed by the Christian community, catering to around six crore students from diverse backgrounds, may face difficulties if the proposed amendments are enacted. He further argued that internationally reputed charitable organisations involved in education, healthcare and social welfare could also be affected by stricter regulations.

Highlighting constitutional concerns, the TMC MP said the proposed legislation should not under-

mine the rights guaranteed under Articles 19 and 26 of the Constitution, which protect freedom of expression and the rights of religious denominations to manage their own affairs. Drawing parallels with the now-repealed farm laws, O'Brien cautioned the government against introducing major legislative changes without broad political engagement. He noted that the farm laws had eventually been withdrawn following widespread protests and urged the Centre not to repeat what he described as a similar legislative approach.

In his appeal, O'Brien called on the Prime Minister to initiate dialogue with leaders of all political parties before placing the proposed Bills before Parliament. He argued that issues affecting the country's democratic structure and civil society institutions should be discussed through consensus rather than unilateral decision-making.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament is expected to witness intense debate, with the Opposition likely to seek detailed discussions on the proposed legislations if they are introduced. The Centre has not yet officially responded to O'Brien's letter or clarified whether the two Bills will be taken up during the session.

Manipur Crackdown Nets ₹85 Crore Crystal Meth

Security forces have dealt a major blow to narcotics trafficking in Manipur by seizing 6.2 kg of high-grade crystal methamphetamine, valued at more than 85 crore in the international market, during a joint anti-drug operation. A suspected drug trafficker was arrested as authorities intensified efforts to dismantle interstate and cross-border smuggling networks operating in the region.

The operation was carried out jointly by personnel of the 164 Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), Koirengel, and the Imphal West district commando unit following specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of a large consignment of narcotics.

Police identified the arrested accused as Md Yusub, also known as Kaki and Jakir, aged 41, a resident of Imphal East district. Acting on credible information, security personnel launched the operation around 4 pm on Saturday and intercepted the suspect at Khuman Lampak in Imphal West



district.

During the search, officials recovered 6.2 kg of crystal methamphetamine from his possession. The seized drugs are estimated to be worth over 85 crore in the international illicit market, highlighting the scale of the trafficking operation.

Following the seizure, police registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Investigators are now working to trace the origin of the consignment, identify the intended recipients and uncover the

larger network involved in transporting and distributing the banned substance.

Officials believe the seizure could provide vital leads into organised drug syndicates that use Manipur as a transit route for narcotics smuggled across the India-Myanmar border. The northeastern state has increasingly emerged as a strategic corridor for trafficking synthetic drugs due to its proximity to the international border. In a separate operation on the same day, security forces achieved another success in Churachandpur district by

seizing approximately one kilogram of brown sugar concealed inside 81 soap cases. The narcotics were recovered from a Bolero vehicle bearing registration number MN01AS-9809 at Thingkangphai village.

The twin operations underscore the intensified crackdown launched by security agencies against drug trafficking networks operating in the region. Authorities have stepped up intelligence-based operations, vehicle checks and surveillance to intercept illegal consignments and disrupt organised criminal groups involved in the narcotics trade.

Police said investigations are continuing to identify other members of the syndicates and establish possible interstate and international links. Officials reiterated their commitment to combating drug trafficking, describing the latest seizures as a significant achievement in ongoing efforts to curb the flow of narcotics and strengthen security along the India-Myanmar border.

Supreme Court: Swear Words Alone Are Not Obscene

The Supreme Court has ruled that the mere use of swear words, profanities or vulgar language, however offensive or uncivil they may be, does not automatically amount to the offence of obscenity under Section 294 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The landmark judgment clarifies that abusive language alone is insufficient to attract criminal liability unless it meets the legal definition of obscenity.

A Bench comprising Sanjay Karol and Vipul M. Pandhori delivered the verdict while hearing an appeal filed by a Tamil Nadu man challenging his conviction under Section 294(b) of the IPC. The Court observed that for speech to qualify as obscene, it must be lascivious, appeal to prurient interests, or have the tendency to deprave and corrupt the minds of those exposed to it.

The Bench held that even if all the allegations made by the complainant were accepted as true, the language used by the accused could not be legally classified as obscene under the provisions of Section 294(b). It noted that offensive, abusive or uncivil expressions, by themselves, do not satisfy the legal re-



quirements needed to establish the offence.

The Court further pointed out that another essential ingredient of Section 294(b) is that the alleged obscene act or words must cause annoyance to others in a public place. In the present case, the judges observed that there was no evidence to show that anyone in a public place was annoyed by the alleged remarks, making the offence under the provision unsustainable.

The case stemmed from a property dispute between family members in Tamil Nadu in August 2017. According to the prosecution, the petitioner first argued with his brother-in-law over agricultural land and, two days later, became in-

involved in another altercation with the complainant's nephew regarding the same dispute. It was alleged that during the confrontation, the petitioner verbally abused the complainant using vulgar language and caste-based slurs.

The trial court had convicted the accused under Sections 294(b) (obscenity), 326 (grievous hurt) and 506(ii) (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, along with provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

While the Madras High Court later acquitted him of the charges under the SC/ST Act, it upheld his convictions under the IPC. The Supreme Court, however, has now clarified the scope of Section 294(b), emphasizing that offensive language alone cannot be treated as obscenity unless it fulfills the strict legal standards laid down in the law.

The ruling is expected to serve as an important precedent in distinguishing between vulgar expression and criminal obscenity, reinforcing the principle that not every offensive utterance constitutes a punishable offence under the IPC.

CID Busts Arms Racket, Woman Held in Bengal

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal has arrested a woman from North 24 Parganas district after recovering a large cache of illegal arms and ammunition, in what investigators believe is part of an interstate weapons smuggling network linked to Bihar's Munger district.

The accused, identified as Puja Biswas, was apprehended on Sunday while travelling in a vehicle from Naihati to Habra following a tip-off received by the CID. Acting swiftly on the intelligence, officials intercepted the vehicle and conducted a thorough search, leading to the seizure of a significant quantity of firearms and ammunition.

According to police, the recovered items included multiple firearms, around 200 rounds of live ammunition, 12 magazines, Rs 12,000 in cash and two mobile phones. Investigators also recovered a train ticket to Jamalpur in Bihar, strengthening suspicions that the weapons had been transported into West Bengal from Bihar.

Officials believe the accused had travelled by train from Bihar and alighted at Naihati before pro-



ceeding towards Habra, where she was allegedly planning to deliver the illegal consignment.

Preliminary investigations indicate that Biswas had been residing in a rented accommodation in the Habra area. Police records also revealed that she had previously been arrested in connection with a criminal case registered at Dattapukur police station, suggesting a possible history of involvement in illegal activities.

The CID suspects that the weapons were sourced from Munger, a district in Bihar long known for illegal firearm manufacturing and trafficking. Investigators believe the accused was acting as part of a larger interstate syndicate engaged in transporting and distributing illegal arms across state borders.

Police said the recovered firearms were likely intended for supply within the Habra region. The seized mobile phones are being examined for call records and digital evidence that could help identify other members of the suspected network and trace the movement of the weapons.

The investigation has now expanded to uncover the full extent of the alleged arms trafficking operation. CID officials are coordinating with law enforcement agencies in Bihar to determine the source of the weapons and identify suppliers operating from Munger.

Authorities believe the arrest could provide crucial leads in dismantling an organised interstate arms smuggling racket. Further raids and arrests are expected as investigators analyse the evidence collected during the operation.

The CID has reiterated its commitment to cracking down on illegal arms trafficking and ensuring that those involved in supplying weapons to criminal networks are brought to justice. The accused remains in custody, and further interrogation is underway to uncover the entire chain of the illegal arms trade.

Opposition Walks Out Over Rebel TMC MPs at All-Party Meet

The customary all-party meeting convened ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed high political drama on Sunday after opposition parties staged a symbolic walkout in protest against the invitation extended to rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) Members of Parliament. The protest underscored growing tensions over the status of the rebel lawmakers and the decisions taken by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla regarding their recognition and seating arrangements.

Leaders from several opposition parties briefly walked out of the meeting, accusing the government and the Lok Sabha Speaker of undermining parliamentary conventions by recognising the breakaway TMC faction. The opposition also objected to earlier decisions concerning rebel Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs, who were merged with the Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.



Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari said the opposition had collectively decided to register its protest against what it termed arbitrary decisions affecting the composition of political parties in the House. He maintained that the Speaker's actions regarding both the TMC rebels and Shiv Sena legislators had raised serious constitutional and procedural concerns. CPI(M) leader John Brittas described the invitation extended to the rebel TMC MPs as a "miscarriage of justice," arguing that the matter of their political status was yet to

be conclusively settled. According to opposition leaders, inviting the breakaway group to an official all-party meeting before a final decision on their recognition was inappropriate.

Despite the walkout, opposition leaders returned to the meeting after a brief interval and participated in the remaining proceedings, signalling their willingness to engage on the legislative agenda while continuing to oppose the Speaker's decisions. The controversy follows Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's invitation to Sudip Bandyopadhyay, leader of the re-

bel TMC faction, to attend the meeting. Rijiju noted that Bandyopadhyay and 19 other MPs had joined the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI), a relatively little-known political outfit.

On Saturday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla approved separate seating arrangements for the 20 rebel TMC MPs, distancing them from the parent Trinamool Congress benches. However, the Speaker has not yet taken a final decision on their request for formal recognition as members of the NCPI.

The Trinamool Congress has demanded the disqualification of the rebel MPs under anti-defection provisions, arguing that they continue to be bound by the party's mandate. The issue is expected to remain politically contentious during the Monsoon Session, with opposition parties likely to raise it repeatedly inside Parliament alongside debates on key legislative business.

Mamdani Weighs Legal Options Over Netanyahu Visit to New York

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has sparked fresh political and legal debate after confirming that his administration is examining whether any legal authority exists to detain Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he visits the United States later this year.

Netanyahu is expected to travel to New York in September to address the United Nations General Assembly. Speaking in an interview with The New York Times, Mamdani reiterated his belief that the Israeli leader should face international justice over the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

"I believe that Prime Minister Netanyahu belongs in The Hague," Mamdani said, referring to the Netherlands city that hosts the International Criminal Court (ICC). He described Netanyahu as a "war criminal" who has been charged by the ICC and said many people share that view because of the humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

However, the mayor acknowledged that it remains unclear whether he has the legal authority to direct the New York Police Department to arrest a visiting foreign head of government. Mamdani said his office is engaged in discussions with the city's Law Department to determine what legal powers, if any, are available.

"Whatever the law allows me to do in New York City, that's what we will do, but we won't be writing our own laws," he said.

The remarks revive a position Mamdani expressed during his mayoral campaign, when he said he would seek to honour the ICC arrest warrant issued against Netanyahu. The issue has since become a flashpoint in US political discourse, drawing criticism from Israeli officials.

Netanyahu dismissed the mayor's comments, saying he was unconcerned by the threat. During a radio interview, the Israeli Prime Minister accused Mamdani of supporting Hamas and criticised him for condemning Israel instead of militant groups responsible for attacks on Israeli civilians.

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, also criticised the mayor, accusing him of failing to adequately address rising antisemitism in New York City. Danon said Netanyahu would attend the UN General Assembly with pride and defend Israel's position before the international community.

Mamdani rejected those allegations, pointing to increased funding for New York City's hate-crime prevention efforts and reiterating his condemnation of the October 7 attacks. He argued that US policy toward Gaza has become a significant



issue for voters and maintained that Washington's approach to the conflict requires fundamental reassessment.

Beyond foreign policy, Mamdani also criticised President Donald Trump's immigration policies while supporting strong border security and pledged continued focus on improving economic conditions for working and middle-income New Yorkers struggling with rising living costs.

Doctors Raise Concerns Over Pentagon's Mandatory Testosterone Screening Plan

A new policy introduced by US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth requiring annual testosterone deficiency screening for military personnel aged 30 and above has sparked concern among medical experts, who argue that universal testing may lead to unnecessary treatment and potential health risks.

The Pentagon says the initiative aims to improve combat readiness by identifying hormone deficiencies that could affect physical performance. The annual screening will apply to active-duty personnel as well as reservists aged 30 years and older.

However, doctors have questioned the scientific basis for the policy. According to several medical specialists, there is little evidence to support routine testosterone screening for all service members based solely on age. Experts note that testosterone therapy should generally be reserved for individuals who have both clinically low hormone levels and symptoms such as reduced muscle mass, fatigue or diminished sex drive.

Most physicians consulted on the issue expressed surprise over the Pentagon's decision. They warned that prescribing testosterone without clear medical necessity could result in overtreatment and expose healthy individuals to avoidable side effects.

Among the most significant concerns is the impact on fertility. Medical experts caution that testosterone therapy can suppress the body's natural hormone production, potentially shrinking the testes and reducing sperm production. In some cases, normal fertility may not fully recover even after treatment is discontinued.

Doctors also pointed to other possible complications, including thickened blood, mood changes, abnormal heart rhythms and an increased risk of bone fractures. Although the US Food and Drug Administration recently revised certain warnings related to testosterone therapy, researchers continue to recommend cautious use based on individual medical evaluation.

Defence Secretary Hegseth cited "Operator Syndrome" as one reason for expanding screening. The condition has been observed among some special operations personnel exposed to prolonged physical and psychological stress. However, Dr. B. Christopher Frueh, who first identified the syndrome,



argued that these elite forces represent a small and unique group whose experiences should not be used to justify universal testing across the entire military.

Some specialists acknowledged that broader screening could help identify underlying health issues, including obesity or metabolic disorders, that contribute to low testosterone levels. They stressed, however, that any diagnosis should be followed by comprehensive medical evaluation rather than automatic hormone replacement therapy.

The Pentagon has not yet clarified how abnormal test results will be managed or whether the screening programme will apply equally to female service members.

The initiative is the latest in a series of health-related policy decisions under the Trump administration that have generated debate over their scientific justification, with medical experts urging policymakers to ensure future military health programmes remain guided by established clinical evidence.

without civilian casualties. Iran retaliated by targeting civilian infrastructure in Kuwait, including a power and water facility, prompting authorities there to urge residents to conserve electricity.

President Trump dismissed Iran's withdrawal from the agreement, saying he "couldn't care less" about Tehran's decision. At the same time, the European Union and Gulf nations appealed for restraint, urging Iran to ensure uninterrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and avoid further escalation.

Analysts believe the collapse of the memorandum has significantly increased regional uncertainty, with concerns growing that continued military exchanges could disrupt global energy supplies and draw additional countries into the conflict. Diplomatic efforts to restore dialogue now face a major setback as both sides continue to harden their positions.

Khamenei Warns US, Calls Trump Deal 'Worthless'

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has sharply escalated tensions with the United States, declaring that President Donald Trump's memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tehran is "worthless" and warning Washington that continued military action against Iran would invite "unforgettable lessons." His remarks come as renewed hostilities between the two countries entered their eighth consecutive day, raising fears of a wider regional conflict.

In a strongly worded statement, Khamenei accused the United States of repeatedly violating the agreement signed last month between the two nations. Referring to the US as the "Great Satan," he claimed the repeated breaches proved that Washington could not be trusted and that the US administration's commitments lacked credibility. He alleged that American aggression and intimidation had become cen-



tral to its foreign policy.

The latest exchange followed a deadly attack in Jordan, where Iranian missile and drone strikes reportedly killed two US service members and left another missing. Several others sustained injuries before being discharged from hospital. The United States responded by launching strikes targeting Iran's military infrastructure, particularly facilities linked to the Revolutionary Guard Corps and assets believed to threaten shipping through the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iran, meanwhile, announced that it had suspended its commitments under the memorandum, arguing that Washington had violated the agreement first by resuming attacks on Iranian territory. Tehran maintains that the deal, brokered by Qatar and Pakistan last month, effectively collapsed after the latest US military operations.

According to Iranian state media, US airstrikes in Hormozgan province killed three people and injured eight, while also damaging bridges and a road tunnel. A second round of strikes was reported later

also faces an additional charge of profiting from prostitution, along with multiple counts related to indecent images involving children and possession of extreme pornographic material.

Bedfordshire Police, which led the investigation, said authorities remain committed to pursuing justice in cases involving violence against women and girls while continuing to support victims throughout the legal process. The Tate brothers, who hold dual British and American citizenship, moved to Romania in 2016. In 2022, Romanian authorities arrested them on separate allegations of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The brothers denied those accusations, and the case later stalled due to legal and procedural challenges. They were subsequently permitted to leave Romania and travelled to Florida on a private aircraft last year.

Their attorney, Joseph McBride, strongly rejected the latest UK charges, describing them as defamatory and politically motivated. He argued that British authorities were attempting to undermine ongoing defamation

Andrew and Tristan Tate Arrested in US Over Fresh UK Sex Crime Charges



Influencer brothers Andrew Tate and Tristan Tate have been arrested in the United States as British authorities seek their extradition over a series of rape and human trafficking allegations, further escalating a legal battle that has already stretched across Romania, the United Kingdom and now the US.

The brothers were taken into custody in Miami by the US Marshals Service on Saturday following the execution of a sealed warrant. They are expected to appear before a federal court in Miami early next week as extradition proceedings move forward.

British prosecutors announced they are seeking the brothers' return to the UK to face charges linked to alleged offences committed between 2010 and 2017 in the region north of London where they were raised. According to the Crown Prosecution Service, the latest case includes 38 new charges involving four additional alleged victims. These are in addition to charges filed in 2025 relating to three other women. Both Andrew and Tristan Tate face allegations of rape and human trafficking. Andrew Tate

lawsuits filed by the brothers in the United States and expressed confidence that they would ultimately be cleared.

Andrew and Tristan Tate have consistently denied all allegations of abuse, trafficking and exploitation. They maintain that controversial statements made in public were either taken out of context or intended as satire.

Andrew Tate first gained public attention through the British reality television programme Big Brother in 2016 before being removed after a video emerged appearing to show him assaulting a woman. Since then, he has built a massive online following, particularly on X, while being permanently banned from platforms including YouTube, Instagram and TikTok for violating hate speech and harmful content policies.

The latest arrests mark another significant development in one of the highest-profile international criminal cases involving online influencers, with extradition proceedings expected to determine whether the brothers will be returned to the United Kingdom to stand trial.

Trump Shrugs Off Iran's Exit From Nuclear MoU

The conflict between the United States and Iran intensified further on Saturday as President Donald Trump dismissed Tehran's decision to abandon the interim memorandum of understanding (MoU), declaring that he "couldn't care less" about Iran walking away from the agreement. The latest developments come amid escalating military exchanges that have entered their eighth consecutive day, raising concerns over regional stability and global energy security.

Speaking in a phone interview with US broadcaster NewsNation, Trump reiterated that Washington's primary objective remains preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. He stressed that US military operations would continue until that objective is achieved, despite the collapse of diplomatic efforts initiated last month.

The MoU, signed in mid-June, was intended to reduce hostilities following months of conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran. However, disagreements over the management and security of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, coupled with re-



peated military confrontations, have effectively ended the agreement.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei formally announced that Tehran no longer considers itself bound by the understanding, accusing Washington of repeatedly violating its commitments. In a strongly worded statement, he described Trump's signature on the agreement as "meaningless" and blamed the United States for undermining diplomatic efforts through continued military strikes.

Hours after Iran's declaration, the Pentagon confirmed another round of airstrikes on Iranian targets. The latest operation marked the eighth consecutive night of US attacks and was launched in retaliation for an Iranian missile and drone strike in Jordan that killed two American service members and left another missing. According to US officials, the Jordan attack marked the first American combat deaths caused directly by Iranian forces since March.

The Pentagon said the fresh strikes targeted facilities linked to Iran's military infrastructure and Revolutionary Guard units be-

lieved to be responsible for recent attacks on US personnel. American military officials confirmed that the latest casualties have pushed total US combat fatalities in the conflict to 16, while more than 400 service members have been wounded since hostilities resumed.

The continuing conflict has heightened fears of broader instability across the Middle East, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil shipments. International observers warn that prolonged military action could disrupt energy supplies, intensify geopolitical tensions and further weaken prospects for renewed diplomacy.

With both Washington and Tehran adopting increasingly uncompromising positions, hopes for reviving negotiations appear to be fading. Analysts believe the collapse of the interim agreement has significantly increased the risk of a prolonged confrontation, leaving regional allies and the international community closely monitoring developments for signs of further escalation.

Benchmarks Extend Gains as Broader Markets End Two-Week Rally

Indian equity markets ended the week on a mixed note, with benchmark indices posting modest gains while broader markets witnessed profit booking, bringing an end to their two-week winning streak. Investors remained focused on the ongoing first-quarter earnings season, which continued to influence sector-specific movements.

The BSE Sensex gained 582.06 points (0.75%) during the week to close at 78,151.45, while the Nifty 50 advanced 127.40 points

(0.52%) to settle at 24,334.30. Despite the positive close for benchmark indices, broader market sentiment remained subdued. The Nifty Midcap 100 index declined 1 percent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 index slipped 0.6 percent, reflecting profit booking after recent gains.

The overall market, however, continued to create wealth for investors, with the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increasing by 90,807.15 crore during the week.

Among sectoral indices, Information Technology (IT) emerged as the strongest performer, with the Nifty IT index surging 4.3 percent following encouraging quarterly earnings from major technology companies. The Consumer Durables index rose 3 percent, while the Media index gained 2.5 percent. Banking stocks also supported the market, with the Private Bank index climbing 1.5 percent, and the Oil & Gas index adding 1 percent.

On the other hand, profit

booking weighed on several sectors. The Capital Markets index was the biggest loser, declining nearly 3 percent, followed by the Realty and Metal indices, which fell around 2 percent each. The India Defence index slipped 1.5 percent, while the FMCG index lost 1 percent.

Market experts believe the earnings season will remain the primary driver of investor sentiment in the coming weeks. Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research (Wealth Management) at Motilal Oswal Financial Ser-

vices, said Indian equities are expected to witness a gradual uptrend, supported by healthy first-quarter corporate earnings. He noted that company-specific and sector-specific performance is likely to dominate trading activity as investors assess financial results and management outlooks.

Analysts expect volatility to persist in the near term, but remain optimistic that sustained earnings growth, stable macroeconomic indicators, and continued institutional inflows



could provide support to the market despite intermittent profit booking in the broader segments.

Fed Likely to Hold Rates; Healthcare Offers Strong Investment Potential: Expert

The US Federal Reserve is widely expected to keep interest rates unchanged at its policy meeting scheduled for July 29, although the longer-term outlook suggests the possibility of rate hikes rather than cuts in 2026, according to Robin Arya, Founder and Managing Director of GoalFi.

In an interview with Moneycontrol, Arya said the current US federal funds rate of 3.50-3.75 percent remains appropriate, with inflation still hovering around 3.8 percent, well above the Federal Reserve's long-term target of 2 percent. Given the persistence of inflationary pressures, he believes the central bank is unlikely to begin easing monetary policy anytime soon.

Arya also cautioned that equity markets are likely to witness an extended period of volatility during the current quarter. He said investors should not attribute market fluctuations solely to geopolitical developments or crude oil prices, noting that sev-



eral domestic and global factors continue to influence investor sentiment.

Commenting on the ongoing corporate earnings season, Arya observed that June quarter results have been distorted by weakness in commodity-linked sectors, particularly oil and gas. As a result, he said the September quarter could appear stronger on paper because of a favourable base effect, even if the underlying business environment does not improve significantly.

Among various sectors, Arya identified healthcare, hospitals, and diagnostic chains as offering the most attractive risk-reward opportunities in the current market environment. He believes these segments are well-positioned to benefit from structural demand and relatively stable earnings, making them suitable for investors seeking long-term growth.

On the broader market outlook, Arya said benchmark indices could continue their upward trajectory over the medium

term, although intermittent corrections are likely. He advised investors to remain cautious and avoid reacting to short-term market swings, particularly as geopolitical uncertainties and fluctuations in global crude oil prices continue to influence sentiment.

According to Arya, disciplined investing and a focus on fundamentally strong businesses remain the best strategy during periods of uncertainty. He stressed that sector-specific opportunities are likely to outperform the broader market, with stock selection becoming increasingly important as macroeconomic and global developments shape investor behaviour.

Market participants will closely monitor the upcoming US Federal Reserve meeting, global inflation trends, and the progress of the earnings season, all of which are expected to play a key role in determining the direction of financial markets in the weeks ahead.

Nifty Rally Encouraging, But Breakout Confirmation Still Awaited: SBI Securities

The sharp rally witnessed in the Indian stock market on Friday has boosted investor sentiment, but it is still too early to conclude that the Nifty 50 has achieved a decisive breakout, according to Sudeep Shah, Head of Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities.



Speaking to Moneycontrol, Shah said the benchmark index needs to sustain above key resistance levels before confirming the continuation of its upward trend. He identified 24,550 as the immediate hurdle, adding that a convincing close above this level could pave the way for the Nifty to advance towards 24,800 and eventually test the 25,000 mark.

On the downside, Shah said the 24,100-24,050 zone remains a critical support area. Holding above this range would keep the broader bullish structure intact, while any decisive breach could trigger renewed selling pressure and increase market volatility.

Although Friday's rally was encouraging, Shah advised investors to wait for confirmation before assuming that the market has entered a fresh breakout phase. He believes the coming week's trading sessions will be crucial in determining whether the recent momentum can be sustained and whether the index can move beyond the previous

swing highs of 24,500-24,600.

Apart from the benchmark index, Shah highlighted several stocks that have shown strong technical strength following Friday's rally. These include Kalyan Jewellers India, Tech Mahindra, Sona BLW Precision Forgings, Federal Bank, Bharat Forge, and Relaxo Footwears. According to him, these stocks have displayed favourable price patterns and improving momentum, making them worth tracking for potential trading opportunities.

Market experts expect technical indicators, quarterly corporate earnings, and global developments to continue influencing investor sentiment in the near term. Positive earnings surprises could provide further support to equities, while concerns over glob-

al interest rates, geopolitical tensions, and foreign institutional investor activity may keep volatility elevated.

Shah advised traders to remain disciplined and avoid chasing sharp rallies without confirmation. Instead, he recommended closely monitoring support and resistance levels while focusing on fundamentally strong stocks with positive technical setups.

With the earnings season gathering pace and domestic economic fundamentals remaining supportive, analysts believe the market retains a positive medium-term outlook. However, sustained buying above key resistance levels will be essential for the Nifty to establish a fresh upward trend and target the psychologically important 25,000 milestone.

Geopolitical Tensions, Fed Uncertainty Cloud Metals Outlook

Global commodity markets are expected to remain volatile in the coming week as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Gulf, uncertainty surrounding US monetary policy, and disruptions to international trade continue to weigh on investor sentiment.

A series of military exchanges in the Gulf region, the suspension of a key peace framework, and concerns over a second potential maritime chokepoint have heightened risks for energy and metal markets. The developments have created one of the most challenging environments for commodities since the conflict began.

On the macroeconomic front, softer-than-expected US inflation provided some relief. June consumer inflation eased



to 3.8 percent year-on-year from 4.2 percent in May, mainly due to a sharp decline in gasoline prices. Producer inflation also moderated, while retail sales remained resilient, indicating that the US economy continues to grow despite easing energy-driven inflation.

The US dollar ended the week below the 101 mark as markets anticipated that the

Federal Reserve would maintain a cautious approach. However, policymakers continued to signal that inflation remains a concern. Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh reiterated the central bank's commitment to price stability without indicating any imminent rate cuts, while officials from the Dallas and Kansas City Federal Reserve Banks pushed back

against expectations of monetary easing. According to CME FedWatch data, the probability of a September rate hike has risen to 53 percent.

Meanwhile, US consumer sentiment improved to a five-month high, supported by lower fuel prices, although analysts noted that the survey was conducted before the latest geopolitical escalation.

Looking ahead, market participants will closely monitor preliminary US Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data, the week's key scheduled economic release, for further clues on economic activity and demand for industrial metals. Analysts expect geopolitical developments and central bank commentary to remain the primary drivers of commodity prices in the near term.

Valuation Matters More Than Early Entry, Investors Told



The growing popularity of investing in unlisted companies before their initial public offerings (IPOs) has attracted thousands of investors seeking early gains. However, recent IPOs have highlighted a crucial lesson: buying shares early does not necessarily mean buying them at the right price.

Investment experts caution that valuation—not timing—is the most important factor in generating long-term returns. While investors often rush to acquire shares of high-profile companies before they are listed, inflated prices in the unlisted market can lead to losses even before trading begins on stock exchanges.

Recent IPOs have illustrated this trend. Shares of HDB Financial Services were traded in the unlisted market between 1,000 and 1,300 during much of 2024 and even touched around 1,525 amid heightened investor enthusiasm. However, the company's IPO price band was eventually fixed at 700-

740, significantly below the prevailing unlisted market price. A similar pattern was seen with Tata Capital, whose unlisted shares traded between 700 and 1,125, while its IPO was priced at only 310-326. Likewise, the SBI Funds Management IPO was launched at a price more than 30 percent lower than its unlisted market valuation.

According to market observers, these price differences were not due to deterioration in the companies' business performance or deliberate underpricing of IPOs. Instead, they reflected excessive optimism in the unlisted market, where prices had surged far beyond levels justified by the companies' underlying fundamentals.

Experts say these cases underline an important investment principle that applies across all markets. Investors often mistake popularity and excitement for genuine value, leading them to pay excessive prices for otherwise strong

businesses.

Financial analysts emphasize that a good company does not automatically become a good investment if purchased at an unrealistic valuation. Overpaying for quality businesses can significantly reduce long-term returns, while disciplined investing based on fair valuation offers better wealth creation opportunities.

They advise investors to evaluate a company's earnings potential, growth prospects, financial health, and valuation metrics instead of relying solely on market hype or expectations of listing gains. Patience and careful price assessment, they say, remain the cornerstones of successful investing.

As India's unlisted market continues to expand, experts believe investors should focus less on gaining early access to companies and more on determining whether the price they are paying accurately reflects the company's true worth.

South Korea Unveils Major Forex Reforms to Boost Won Trading

South Korea has announced sweeping reforms aimed at making its currency, the won, more accessible to foreign investors, marking one of the country's most significant steps toward liberalising its foreign exchange market and moving closer to full currency convertibility.

Under the new measures, announced jointly by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Bank of Korea, and financial regulators, foreign investors will be allowed to conduct unlimited won-denominated transactions through pre-registered overseas financial institutions from January 2027. The reforms will eliminate the existing requirement for foreign investors to open won accounts within South Korea before trading the currency.

The government said the initiative is designed to improve the efficiency of cross-border transactions, enhance market accessibility, and strengthen Seoul's position as an international financial hub.

As part of the reforms, transfers of won between foreign investors using the new system



will be exempt from advance reporting requirements for most capital transactions. The exemption, however, will not apply to domestic real estate transactions. Banks will only need to verify basic account information when processing such transactions, with the simplified verification system scheduled to begin in September.

To support the new framework, the Bank of Korea will introduce a 24-hour settlement network, allowing around-the-

clock processing of foreign exchange transactions. Pilot operations of the system will commence in September, while full implementation is planned for 2027.

Authorities also announced plans to support local branches of foreign banks by facilitating nighttime trading operations, ensuring smoother participation in global financial markets across different time zones.

In addition, the government intends to encourage a gradual

shift from non-deliverable forward (NDF) contracts to deliverable forward (DF) transactions. Incentive measures supporting this transition are expected to be announced in September. Officials believe the move will improve transparency, deepen liquidity in the domestic foreign exchange market, and reduce reliance on offshore trading mechanisms.

The reforms are part of South Korea's broader strategy to modernise its financial system and attract greater international investment. By simplifying regulations and expanding trading access, policymakers hope to increase global confidence in the won and strengthen its role in international finance.

Financial analysts view the measures as a milestone in South Korea's long-term efforts to integrate more closely with global capital markets. If successfully implemented, the reforms could significantly improve foreign participation in the country's financial markets while enhancing the competitiveness and global standing of the Korean won.

High Salary May Become a Lifestyle Trap, Sparks Online Debate

A viral social media video by career counsellor Mohit Talreja has triggered a widespread discussion on whether pursuing ever-higher salaries truly leads to a better life or simply traps professionals in an endless cycle of competition and lifestyle inflation.

In the Instagram video, Talreja argued that earning more than 2 lakh a month in India is sufficient for a comfortable lifestyle, but chasing significantly higher pay often comes at the cost of health, family, and personal well-being. Ac-

cording to him, professionals who constantly pursue bigger pay packages find themselves competing with individuals willing to sacrifice nearly everything for career advancement.

Talreja described this relentless pursuit as an "infinite rat race," saying that increasing income does not necessarily translate into greater freedom or happiness. Instead, he encouraged people to focus on maintaining good health, spending quality time with family, and developing skills



that allow them to earn independently rather than relying entirely on traditional employment.

He highlighted the importance of what he called "non-employable skills"—abilities that can generate income outside a conventional corporate job. Examples include content creation and other entrepreneurial or creative pursuits that are expected to remain valuable over the next decade. Building such skills, he said, can provide greater financial independence and flexibility in the long run. The video quickly gained traction on social media, drawing mixed reactions from viewers. While

many agreed that work-life balance should take priority over endless career ambitions, others argued that higher earnings create more opportunities, financial security, and freedom of choice.

One user commented that everyone's priorities differ and what seems sensible to one person may not suit another. Another praised the message as reflecting a healthy "growth mindset," while several users appreciated the reminder to balance professional success with per-

sonal well-being.

The discussion has reignited the broader debate over modern career aspirations, with many professionals reflecting on whether long-term success should be measured solely by salary or by the ability to lead a balanced and fulfilling life. As workplace expectations continue to evolve, Talreja's remarks have resonated with many who believe financial success should not come at the expense of health, relationships, and overall quality of life.

Indian Woman Urges Students Abroad to Chase Career Goals, Not Comfort Zones



An Indian woman living in the United States has sparked an online discussion by encouraging international students not to let temporary part-time jobs become permanent careers. Her message, shared through an Instagram video, has resonated with many students navigating life abroad while balancing education, finances, and career aspirations.

In the video, Sonami highlighted a common challenge faced by students pursuing higher education overseas. She said that while many arrive with ambitious dreams of building successful careers, they often become comfortable with part-time or entry-level jobs initially taken to support themselves during their studies.

According to her, these jobs are essential for managing everyday expenses such as rent, food, and tuition-related costs. However, the real concern arises when graduates remain in the same positions long after completing their education instead of seeking opportunities

aligned with their qualifications.

Sonami explained that financial stability, familiar routines, and supportive social circles can create a comfort zone that discourages people from taking professional risks. Although such stability offers security, she argued that it can also limit long-term career growth and prevent graduates from realizing the goals that motivated them to move abroad in the first place.

She encouraged international students to continue applying for corporate positions and professional roles related to the subjects they studied, even if the job search proves difficult. Persistence, she said, is key to finding meaningful employment, adding that consistent effort significantly improves the chances of securing a role that matches one's education and career ambitions.

Her advice also extended to aspiring entrepreneurs. Sonami urged those with business ideas not to abandon their entrepreneurial dreams simply because they had settled into a

comfortable routine. Instead, she advised them to keep learning, planning, and working steadily toward launching their ventures.

The video quickly gained attention on social media, with many users sharing their own experiences of balancing financial responsibilities with career aspirations. Several viewers agreed that temporary jobs should serve as stepping stones rather than final destinations, while others acknowledged that visa restrictions, economic conditions, and intense competition often make career transitions challenging.

The discussion has reignited conversations about the realities faced by international students after graduation, including employment pressures and the struggle to balance financial security with professional growth. Sonami concluded her message by emphasizing that meaningful success often requires stepping beyond familiar surroundings and remaining committed to long-term goals despite short-term challenges.

Mumbai Internship Offer Triggers Debate Over Rising Cost of Living

A Reddit post by a fresher who secured a 40,000-per-month internship in Mumbai has sparked a lively online discussion about the soaring cost of living in India's financial capital and the financial challenges faced by young professionals entering the workforce.

The user shared that after enduring what they described as one of the toughest job markets in recent years, they were thrilled to receive an internship offer in Mumbai. However, that excitement quickly gave way to concern after researching accommodation costs near the workplace in Lower Parel.

According to the post, finding a decent flat or paying guest accommodation within a reasonable commuting distance would cost nearly 30,000 a month. That would leave only 10,000 to cover food, transportation, utilities, and other daily expenses, making it nearly impossible to manage independently.

The fresher admitted they would likely need financial support from their parents every month just to continue with the internship. This led them to question whether accepting the opportunity was a worthwhile investment in their future or an unnecessary financial burden.

In the Reddit post, the user wondered whether it made



sense to spend personal money simply to gain work experience. At the same time, they acknowledged that breaking into the job market has become increasingly difficult and believed the internship could help build valuable skills, professional networks, and strengthen their résumé.

The post, titled "Got a 40,000 Mumbai internship after a brutal job hunt, but rent is draining me. Is it foolish to lose money just to get a foot in the door?", resonated with many users facing similar career dilemmas.

Social media users responded with a range of opinions. Some encouraged the fresher to view the internship as a long-term investment, arguing that gaining experience in a reputed company could open

doors to better-paying opportunities in the future. Others suggested looking for shared accommodation, staying farther from the office to reduce rent, or negotiating flexible work arrangements if possible.

Several users also highlighted the harsh realities of the current employment market. One commenter remarked that even securing a 25,000 job had become difficult, while another noted that getting "a foot in the door" is often the first step toward a successful career.

The discussion has reignited concerns over the widening gap between entry-level salaries and living expenses in major metropolitan cities, underscoring the financial pressures many fresh graduates face while pursuing career opportunities.

Vacation Layoff Story Sparks Debate on Workplace Ethics

A Reddit post by a 31-year-old professional has gone viral after he claimed he unexpectedly discovered he had been laid off while on vacation—not through an official notification, but by reading the automated reply from his own work email.

According to the post, the employee noticed that his out-of-office message had been altered without his knowledge. Instead of indicating he was on leave, the auto-reply reportedly informed senders that he was no longer employed with the company and directed them to contact his manager for assistance.

The man said he had received no prior warning that his position was at risk. He revealed that his manager had contacted him earlier during the trip, asking if he could join an urgent work call. Due to time zone differences and poor internet connectivity, he declined. His manager allegedly responded by



telling him to continue enjoying his vacation, giving no indication that his employment status had changed.

The employee expressed shock over the incident, noting that he had been promoted only a few months earlier and had consistently received positive feedback from colleagues and senior management. He also mentioned having a pleasant lunch with his boss shortly before leaving for the holiday, making the unexpected devel-

opment even more confusing.

Unsure of how to proceed, the man sought advice from Reddit users while still on vacation and before receiving any official communication from the company.

The post quickly attracted widespread attention, with many users expressing sympathy and criticizing the apparent lack of transparency in the company's handling of the situation. Several advised him to preserve evidence by taking

screenshots of the automated email and saving all employment-related communications.

Others encouraged him not to let the incident overshadow his holiday, suggesting he wait until returning home and receiving official confirmation before taking further action. Many commenters argued that informing an employee of a layoff in such an indirect manner reflected poor workplace communication and a lack of professionalism.

The viral story has reignited discussions about how organizations manage layoffs and employee relations. While workforce reductions have become increasingly common across industries, many social media users stressed that companies should ensure affected employees are informed directly, respectfully, and with empathy rather than leaving them to discover such life-changing news through automated systems.

Viral Video Highlights Soaring Noida Home Prices

A Noida-based content creator has sparked a widespread online discussion after breaking down the financial realities of purchasing a modest two-bedroom apartment in the city. His viral Instagram video highlights how rising property prices have pushed homeownership beyond the reach of many salaried professionals, particularly first-time buyers.

In the video, creator Rishi Shandilya examined the costs associated with buying what many describe as a "matchbox-sized" or "pigeonhole" 2BHK apartment in Greater Noida West. According to his estimates, such apartments are now priced between 75 lakh and 80 lakh despite their relatively compact size.

Shandilya explained that buyers would typically need to arrange a down payment of around 20 lakh to 25 lakh before becoming eligible for a home loan. For many middle-class families, accumulating such a large amount itself represents a significant financial challenge.



Based on the estimated property prices, he calculated that buyers would need to secure a home loan of approximately 55 lakh to 60 lakh. To qualify for such a loan, he estimated that applicants would generally require a monthly income of around 1 lakh to 1.2 lakh, depending on lending norms and financial obligations.

He further estimated that the monthly equated monthly instalment (EMI) on such a loan could range between 60,000 and 65,000. With such a substantial portion of monthly income going toward loan repayments,

many homebuyers would find it difficult to manage other essential expenses, including household costs, education, healthcare, and savings.

The video's caption reinforced the message that even relatively small apartments now command prices approaching 80 lakh, raising concerns over housing affordability in one of the National Capital Region's fastest-growing residential hubs.

The post quickly gained traction on social media, with many users agreeing that property prices in Noida have increased

sharply over the past few years. Several commenters expressed concern that homeownership has become increasingly difficult for middle-income professionals despite stable employment.

Others pointed to rising construction costs, infrastructure development, and growing demand as key factors driving property prices higher. Some users suggested exploring emerging suburbs or smaller cities where housing remains comparatively affordable, while others argued that better urban planning and increased housing supply are needed to improve affordability.

The discussion reflects broader concerns about the widening gap between incomes and real estate prices in major Indian cities. As residential property values continue to rise, aspiring homeowners are increasingly questioning whether owning a home remains an achievable goal or is gradually becoming a distant dream for the middle class.

Headless Robot Fights On in China's First Humanoid Combat Tournament

A dramatic moment at the world's first full-sized humanoid robot free-combat tournament has captured global attention after a robot continued fighting even after losing its head during a match. The incident, which took place at the Ultimate Robot Knock-out Legend (URKL) competition in Shenzhen, China, has gone viral on social media, showcasing the rapid advancements in humanoid robotics and artificial intelligence.

The tournament, organised by Chinese robotics company EngineAI, featured a contest between two of its T800 humanoid robots, named White Eagle and Matador. During the bout, White Eagle delivered a powerful high kick that struck Matador's head, partially dislodging it from its socket. Despite the severe damage, the robot continued throwing punches and kicks, astonishing spectators with its ability to remain operational.

As the fight progressed, Matador stumbled and fell forward, crushing its own damaged head beneath its body. It



attempted to stand up and continue the match, but the head detached completely, leaving the robot unable to regain balance. Officials eventually declared White Eagle the winner, after which the victorious robot celebrated with dance moves and victory poses before the damaged machine was removed from the arena.

The T800 humanoid robot, unveiled by EngineAI last year, draws inspiration from the iconic "Terminator" character.

The robot has been designed to perform advanced mixed martial arts-style movements, including punch combinations, spinning kicks, roundhouse kicks, and coordinated attack sequences. The competition aims to test not only physical durability but also sophisticated control systems and artificial intelligence.

URKL, or Ultimate Robot Knock-out Legend, is being promoted as the world's first humanoid robot free-combat

league. More than 200 teams from 10 countries initially registered for the tournament, with only 32 teams qualifying for the main competition following online selection rounds.

Although all participating teams use the EngineAI T800 as the standard platform, each team customises its robot with unique armour, software, and engineering modifications to enhance combat performance. Judges evaluate competitors on multiple parameters, including balance, motion control, perception, decision-making ability, power management, and structural strength.

According to Chinese media reports, the 2026 URKL season will continue through the remainder of the year, with qualifying rounds taking place between July and August before the championship finals later this year. The winning team will receive a championship belt along with prize money worth 10 million yuan (approximately 1.44 million US dollars), making it one of the most lucrative robotics competitions in the world.

Rathanvel Becomes India's 99th Grandmaster, Nation Eyes Historic Milestone

India moved a step closer to achieving a historic milestone in world chess as V.S. Rathanvel secured the country's 99th Grandmaster (GM) title after crossing the coveted 2500 Elo rating mark at the Guwahati Smart City International Open 2026.

The 25-year-old chess player from Coimbatore had completed the required three Grandmaster norms in 2022 but had been waiting nearly five years to attain the mandatory rating, making his journey to the prestigious title one of perseverance and

determination.

Speaking after his achievement, Rathanvel admitted that repeatedly falling short of the rating requirement had been mentally challenging. "I came very close on multiple occasions, and it became depressing because chess is a mental sport. You begin to doubt yourself, which affects your performance. Finally crossing the 2500 rating feels extremely satisfying," he said.

A bronze medallist at the World Youth Under-10 Championship, Rathanvel has long been regarded as one of In-



dia's strongest International Masters. He expressed confidence that earning the Grand-

master title would now allow him to compete with greater freedom.

"I can now play without constantly worrying about my rating. Being stress-free should help me perform even better," he added.

Rathanvel began playing chess at the age of six and received coaching from several renowned Grandmasters, including Vishnu Prasanna, Narayanan Srinath, Shyam Sundar, and Sundarrajan Kidambi. Although he holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he has chosen to pursue chess as a full-time profession. His parents run a wedding card printing business in Co-

imbatore, while Rathanvel currently trains independently, competes in European chess leagues, and coaches aspiring players through online platforms. He also honed his early skills at the Kovai Kids Chess Academy before steadily rising through India's competitive chess circuit.

Looking ahead, Rathanvel said his immediate goal is to receive invitations to stronger international tournaments and plans to finalise his tournament schedule by September.

Congratulating the newly

crowned Grandmaster, All India Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang described the achievement as a proud moment for Indian chess. He noted that India now stands just one Grandmaster away from reaching the landmark figure of 100 Grandmasters, a testament to the country's remarkable growth as a global chess powerhouse. Narang wished Rathanvel continued success and expressed hope that the milestone would pave the way for an even brighter international career.

India, England Pay Tribute to Sir Garry Sobers at Lord's



London, July 19: India and England players wore black armbands and observed a minute's silence before the start of the third and deciding ODI at Lord's on Sunday to pay tribute to legendary West Indies cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers, who passed away on Friday at the age of 89.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest all-rounders in cricket history, Sobers died just 11 days before his 90th birthday. His remarkable career and immense contribu-

tion to the sport have left an enduring legacy across the cricketing world.

The Indian team management confirmed the tribute in a social media post, stating that Team India was wearing black armbands in honour of the West Indies legend.

Players, match officials, and spectators at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground stood in silence before play began, paying their respects to the former West Indies captain, whose achievements continue to in-

spire generations of cricketers.

Adding to the occasion, former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh rang the iconic Lord's bell to signal the start of play in the series-deciding encounter between India and England.

The tribute reflected the deep respect Sir Garfield Sobers commanded across the global cricket fraternity for his extraordinary talent, sportsmanship, and lasting impact on the game.

Argentina Vow to Defend World Cup Crown



Defending champions Argentina have issued a bold statement ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 final, declaring that they are ready to fight for another historic triumph as they prepare to face Spain in Sunday's title clash.

The Argentine national team's official social media account shared an emotional video celebrating the squad's remarkable journey to the final, accompanied by a message reflecting the team's hunger for continued success. "Because we never settle for what we've achieved, here we go again. Let's go for it all, Argentina!" the post read, capturing the confidence and determination within Lionel Scaloni's squad.

The summit clash at the New York New Jersey Stadium will mark the first-ever FIFA World Cup final between the reigning Copa America champions and the reigning European champions, adding further significance to an already highly anticipated encounter.

Argentina secured their

place in a seventh World Cup final after producing another dramatic comeback to defeat England 2-1 in the semifinals. Throughout the tournament, the South American giants have displayed remarkable resilience, repeatedly finding decisive goals in the closing stages of matches.

Scaloni's men enter the final riding an impressive 14-match winning streak, equalling the longest unbeaten run by a South American national team. They have also set a tournament record by scoring eight goals after the 85th minute, highlighting their ability to perform under pressure and fight until the final whistle.

Standing in their way is a formidable Spanish side that has built its campaign on defensive solidity. After beginning the tournament with a goalless draw against Cape Verde, Spain have won six consecutive matches, eliminating Austria, Portugal, Belgium and France on their way to the final.

Luis de la Fuente's team has conceded just one goal throughout the competition and became the first nation to register six clean sheets in a single men's FIFA World Cup edition. A victory on Sunday would not only hand Spain their second World Cup title but also extend their unbeaten run to 38 matches, setting a new record for a European men's national team.

History suggests the contest could be evenly balanced. Argentina and Spain have won six matches each in previous meetings, with two encounters ending in draws. Argentina claimed their only World Cup meeting 2-1 in 1966, while Spain recorded a commanding 6-1 victory in an international friendly in 2018.

With both teams carrying outstanding form, contrasting styles and championship ambitions, football fans around the world are eagerly awaiting what promises to be a memorable World Cup final between two of the sport's most accomplished nations.

Bellingham, Saka Script History as England Finish Third

England ended their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign on a high by defeating France 6-4 in a thrilling third-place playoff, with Jude Bellingham and Bukayo Saka creating history through record-breaking performances.

The high-scoring contest at Miami Stadium saw England claim the bronze medal after producing one of the most entertaining matches of the tournament. Bukayo Saka starred with a sensational hat-trick, while Jude Bellingham scored in stoppage time to become England's highest scorer in a single FIFA World Cup edition with seven goals, surpassing all previous national records.

Saka also entered the record books by becoming only the second England player after Sir Geoff Hurst to score a hat-trick in a World Cup knockout match. His third goal also marked the 300th goal of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

England dominated the opening half, racing to a stunning 4-0 lead through Declan Rice, Ezri Konsa and Saka's first two goals. France, however, staged a spirited comeback after the break. Kylian Mbappe struck twice, with Bradley Barcola adding another goal to reduce the deficit to 4-3 and put England under pressure.

Saka completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot in the closing stages to restore England's advantage before Ousmane Dembele pulled one back for France. Bellingham then sealed the dramatic victory with a stoppage-time goal.



Mbappe also achieved a major milestone by taking his FIFA World Cup tally to 22 goals, surpassing Lionel Messi's 21 to become the competition's all-time leading scorer. Despite the defeat, France winger Michael Ol-

ise registered his seventh assist of the tournament, setting a new World Cup record since 1966.

The defeat marked the end of Didier Deschamps' 14-year tenure as France coach, while England celebrated their best World

Cup finish outside home soil since winning the title in 1966. The memorable encounter will be remembered as one of the highest-scoring third-place playoff matches in World Cup history.

Duckett's Century Puts England in Command Against India

England tightened their grip on the third and deciding One-Day International against India after opener Ben Duckett's magnificent century laid the foundation for a commanding total, leaving the visitors searching for answers.

Duckett produced a brilliant innings of 141, dominating the Indian bowling attack with an array of elegant strokes and aggressive intent. His knock provided England with a flying start after captain Harry Brook won the toss and chose to bat first, putting India under pressure from the outset.

The left-handed opener combined fluency with composure, punishing loose deliveries and rotating the strike effectively. His partnership at the top ensured England maintained a healthy scoring rate while denying India early breakthroughs. Duckett's innings came to an end only after Prince Yadav dismissed him for 141, providing India with a much-needed breakthrough.

By the time Duckett departed, England had already built a formidable platform. Experienced batter Joe Root continued to anchor the innings, moving steadily towards his half-century while ensuring the momentum remained with the hosts. Captain Harry Brook then joined Root at the



crease, looking to accelerate during the final phase of the innings and push England towards a daunting total.

India's bowling attack struggled to contain England's aggressive batting display. The absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who was ruled out with a knee injury, was clearly felt as the visitors lacked their most experienced strike bowler. Washington Sundar was also unavailable for the series decider, forcing the team management to make adjustments to the playing XI.

Young pacer Prince Yadav

emerged as one of the few positives for India with his crucial wicket of Duckett. However, England's batsmen continued to dictate terms, keeping the scoreboard moving and maintaining pressure on the Indian bowlers.

Adding to India's woes, Jos Buttler launched a fierce counterattack after arriving at the crease. The former England captain immediately took on Gurnoor Brar, smashing a sequence of boundaries and a six to further strengthen England's position and keep the run rate climbing.

With Root providing stability and Brook and Buttler adding firepower, England looked well placed to post a massive total in the series-deciding encounter.

For India, skipper Shubman Gill now faces the challenge of restricting England in the closing overs before his batting unit attempts a difficult chase. With the series on the line, the visitors will need a strong finish with the ball followed by an exceptional batting effort if they are to overturn England's advantage and clinch the ODI series.

Bhagyashri Borse Rejects 'Iron Leg' Tag After Career Breakthrough

Actress Bhagyashri Borse has spoken candidly about the "Iron Leg" label that followed her during the early phase of her Telugu film career, saying the criticism never hurt her personally but left her questioning why actresses are often blamed for a film's failure. The actress, who recently tasted her first major commercial success with Lenin, starring Akhil Akkineni, shared her views in an interview with Variety India. Before the film's success, several of her earlier releases had failed at the box office, prompting sections of the media and social media users to brand her an "Iron Leg"—a term commonly used in the film industry to describe actors believed to bring bad luck to projects.

Reflecting on the criticism, Bhagyashri said she never took the label to heart because it lacked logic. She questioned why an actress should be held responsible for a film's commercial performance when many



crucial aspects of filmmaking remain beyond an actor's control. According to Bhagyashri, decisions involving the screenplay, script revisions, direction, editing, music, promotions, and release strategy are made collectively by the filmmaking

team. She argued that assigning blame to a single performer, particularly an actress, oversimplifies the complex process behind making a film. The actress also pointed out that several leading actresses in the industry have faced similar criticism during different phases

of their careers. She cited the examples of Taapsee Pannu, Shruti Haasan, and Sreeleela, noting that all three encountered negative labels and skepticism after experiencing setbacks but continued to work hard and eventually established successful careers.

Bhagyashri said their journeys demonstrate that temporary failures do not define an actor's talent or future. She emphasized that perseverance and choosing the right projects ultimately matter more than public perception. With Lenin emerging as a commercial success, Bhagyashri believes the narrative surrounding her career has already begun to change. She reiterated that cinema is a collaborative art form where success and failure should be shared by the entire team rather than attributed to a single individual. Industry observers note that the success of Lenin could mark a turning point in the actress's career, opening the door to more prominent roles in Telugu cinema. As she prepares for future projects, Bhagyashri appears determined to let her performances speak louder than labels, hoping audiences judge actors by their work rather than by superstitions or box-office trends.



Akhil Dedicates Lenin Success to Ram Charan

Actor Akhil Akkineni has dedicated the success of his latest film Lenin to actor Ram Charan, praising the Mega Power Star for inspiring young actors to take up meaningful, content-driven cinema. The heartfelt tribute came during a television appearance celebrating the film's successful run at the box office.

Released 10 days ago, Lenin has emerged as a significant milestone in Akhil's career, earning appreciation from audiences and critics alike. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, the film features Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead and has been widely praised for its engaging storyline and performances.

As part of the success celebrations, Akhil and Bhagyashri appeared on Zee Telugu's Drama Juniors Season 9. During the interaction with contestants and the audience, Akhil spoke about the influence senior actors have on the younger generation and singled out Ram Charan for special praise.

Referring to Ram Charan as his "brother," Akhil said the actor's willingness to completely immerse himself in challenging characters has become an inspiration for many aspiring performers. He noted that when an established superstar chooses performance-oriented roles instead of relying solely on commercial formulas, it encourages newcomers to believe in strong storytelling and content-driven films.

According to Akhil, such choices by leading actors create

ate confidence among younger artists to experiment with diverse roles and meaningful scripts. He emphasized that successful films backed by compelling narratives strengthen the industry by proving that audiences appreciate quality content alongside entertainment.

In an emotional moment on the show, Akhil dedicated the success of Lenin to Ram Charan, saying the achievement was inspired by the path the senior actor had helped create for the younger generation. His remarks were met with loud applause from the audience, reflecting the admiration shared by fans present at the event.

The gesture has since attracted attention on social media, with fans of both actors appreciating the camaraderie and mutual respect within the Telugu film industry. Many praised Akhil for acknowledging the influence of fellow actors and recognizing the importance of supporting meaningful cinema.

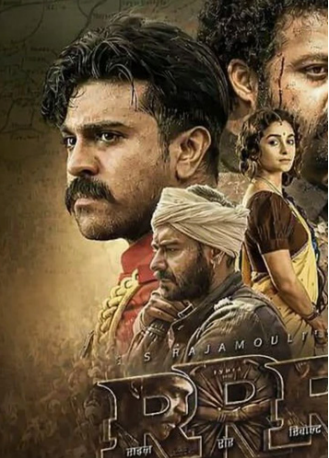
With Lenin turning into one of the biggest successes of his career, Akhil appears eager to continue choosing strong, story-driven projects. Industry observers believe the film has not only strengthened his position as a leading actor but also demonstrated his commitment to evolving as a performer. His tribute to Ram Charan has further highlighted the growing trend of collaboration, encouragement, and mutual appreciation among Telugu cinema's younger generation of stars.

Christopher Nolan Hails RRR, Celebrates Global Rise of Indian Cinema

Acclaimed Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan has praised director S.S. Rajamouli's blockbuster RRR, describing it as a landmark film that helped break barriers between international film industries and expanded the global reach of Indian cinema. Nolan, who is currently in India for the premiere of his latest film The Odyssey, made the remarks while responding to a question about the growing recognition of Indian filmmakers on the world stage. Speaking at the event, he observed that for decades, traditional film distribution systems kept different national cinemas confined to their respective markets, limiting their international visibility.



However, Nolan said the global film landscape has changed significantly in recent years, with audiences becoming more open to watching films from different countries and languages. He cited RRR as one of the finest examples of this transformation, pointing to its remarkable theatrical success in the United States.



According to Nolan, when a film manages to break into a major international market like the US, it creates new opportunities not only for its makers but also for filmmakers from around the world. Such success, he noted, encourages

wider acceptance of global cinema and helps audiences discover stories beyond Hollywood. Rajamouli's RRR, starring N.T. Rama Rao Jr. and Ram Charan, became a worldwide phenomenon following its release, earning critical acclaim and commercial success across several countries. The film gained further international recognition after its song Naatu Naatu won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, becoming the first Indian film song to receive the prestigious honour. Following Nolan's comments, the official RRR social media team shared a video clip of his remarks, expressing gratitude for his appreciation. In its message, the team wrote that hearing Christopher Nolan speak about Indian cinema and RRR was "a moment to cherish beyond

words" and thanked the celebrated filmmaker for his kind words. The video quickly went viral, drawing enthusiastic reactions from fans across the globe. Many described Nolan's praise as another proud milestone for Indian cinema, while others celebrated the growing international recognition being received by Indian filmmakers and actors. Film industry observers believe Nolan's remarks further highlight the changing dynamics of global filmmaking, where language is no longer considered a barrier to success. With films like RRR reaching audiences worldwide, Indian cinema continues to strengthen its presence on the international stage, opening doors for more regional stories to gain global appreciation and recognition.

Mythri Movie Makers Enters Horror Genre with '418'

Mythri Movie Makers, one of Telugu cinema's most successful production houses known for backing several blockbuster commercial entertainers, is set to explore a new cinematic territory with '418', its first-ever horror film. The makers have officially announced that the film will hit theatres on July 31, marking the banner's debut in the horror genre. Unlike its previous large-scale star-driven productions, 418 introduces a fresh cast led by social media personality and actress Preethi Pagadala, who earned recognition for her performance in Patang. She is joined by Charan Lakkaraju, Surya Raj, and several other emerging actors, reflecting the makers' focus on introducing new talent. The film is written and directed by Kirtan Nadagouda, while acclaimed filmmaker Prashanth Neel, known for directing blockbuster films, is presenting the project. His association has generated considerable curiosity among movie lovers and industry observers, raising expectations for the film despite its relatively low-profile promotional campaign. The release date announcement was made quietly, with the production house indicating that an extensive promotional campaign will begin in the coming days. Industry insiders believe the film's horror theme, combined with the backing of Mythri Movie Makers and Prashanth Neel, could attract significant audience attention. Technical aspects of the film also appear promising. Dinesh Divakaran has handled the cinematography, while Venky GG



has composed the music. The makers are expected to unveil the teaser, trailer, and other promotional content soon to build excitement ahead of the theatrical release. The Telugu film industry has witnessed a growing appetite for horror and supernatural thrillers in recent years, with several films in the genre finding commercial success. By venturing into horror, Mythri Movie Makers is expanding its production portfolio beyond

action entertainers, family dramas, and commercial blockbusters. With a fresh cast, a new director, and the creative backing of Prashanth Neel, 418 is expected to offer a different cinematic experience for Telugu audiences. As the countdown to its July 31 release begins, film enthusiasts are eagerly waiting to see how Mythri Movie Makers' maiden horror venture fares at the box office.

Ramayana 3D Trailer Likely Headed for Theatres Ahead of Digital Release

The excitement surrounding filmmaker Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious epic Ramayana continues to grow, with industry reports suggesting that audiences may soon get to experience the film's much-talked-about 3D trailer on the big screen before it arrives online. Buzz around the film intensified after an exclusive media and celebrity preview held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Those who attended praised the trailer's grand visuals, large-scale production values and immersive cinematic presentation. Among the biggest talking points was Kannada star Yash's powerful appearance as Ravana, which reportedly left a strong impression on viewers. The trailer is officially scheduled for digital release on July 24. However, speculation is mounting that the makers



are planning a special theatrical rollout in select 3D and IMAX screens across India before its online debut. Adding weight to these reports is the recent certification by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) of a dedicated four-minute promotional cut titled "Theatrical Trailer - Ramayana 3D." While the producers have not yet confirmed the plan, the certification has fuelled expectations that cine-

ma-goers will soon get the opportunity to witness the trailer in theatres. If implemented, the move would offer audiences an immersive preview of one of India's most anticipated mythological films and help build momentum ahead of its theatrical release. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana features a star-studded cast led by Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as

Sita and Yash as Ravana. The ensemble also includes Sunny Deol, Rakul Preet Singh, Kajal Aggarwal, Ravie Dubey and Kunal Kapoor in key roles. The film is being produced by Namit Malhotra's Prime Focus Studios in association with Monster Mind Creations, while Academy Award-winning visual effects company DNEG is handling the VFX. The makers have described it as the first Indian film shot specifically for the IMAX format, promising a large-scale cinematic experience. With the trailer already generating significant buzz and reports pointing to a theatrical 3D launch, anticipation for Ramayana has reached new heights. Fans are now eagerly awaiting an official announcement from the makers regarding the trailer's theatrical release as the countdown to the film's Diwali premiere begins.

Sai Pallavi Calls Playing Maa Sita a Divine Blessing in Ramayana

Actress Sai Pallavi has described portraying Maa Sita in the upcoming epic Ramayana as one of the most meaningful experiences of her career, saying such a role is a rare blessing for any actor. Speaking at the grand "Ramayana: Pratham Sankalp" event in New Delhi, the actress shared her emotional journey of preparing for the iconic character. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, Ramayana is one of the most anticipated Indian films of the year. The ambitious mythological drama stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Maa Sita and Yash as Ravana, with an ensemble cast featuring several leading actors from across the country. Addressing the audience, Sai Pallavi humbly apologised for her Hindi before expressing

gratitude for being entrusted with the role of Maa Sita. She said portraying the revered goddess is not an opportunity that actors can simply pursue but one that comes as a blessing. "It is not easy for actors to get a goddess role like Maa Sita," she said, adding that such a monumental story can only be brought to life by a team that dedicates its heart and soul to the project. She praised the filmmakers for their commitment to presenting a version of the Ramayana that future generations can look up to with pride. The actress thanked producer Namit Malhotra for placing his faith in her and giving her the opportunity to portray one of Indian mythology's most respected characters. She said the responsibility of playing Maa Sita inspired her to undergo a deeply personal and spiritual

preparation process. Sai Pallavi revealed that she regularly meditated during the filming process and prayed for Maa Sita to guide her performance. She explained that she consciously tried to keep her thoughts pure so that she could do justice to the character's grace, compassion and strength. Reflecting on the experience, the actress said the role transformed her personally as much as professionally. She noted that she learnt many valuable lessons while portraying Maa Sita and described the journey as both humbling and enriching. The "Ramayana: Pratham Sankalp" event generated tremendous excitement among fans, with the film's first visuals receiving widespread appreciation for their scale and grandeur. Expectations have continued to soar ahead of the release



of the film's trailer, while audiences eagerly await the epic's theatrical release. With Sai Pallavi's heartfelt remarks highlighting the emotional and spiritual significance of her role, anticipation surrounding Ramayana has reached even greater heights, making it one of the most eagerly awaited cinematic spectacles in Indian cinema.

