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AP Strengthens Tiger Conservation Efforts, Focus On Nallamala

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

The state is emerging as a model state in tiger conservation with focused efforts to protect biodiversity, strengthen forest ecosystems and ensure the survival of endangered wildlife species. On International Tiger Day, the state highlighted the importance of protecting tigers as part of preserving forests, water resources and ecological balance.

The Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR), located in the Nallamala forest region, remains central to these conservation initiatives. Spread across 5,442.83 square kilometres, it is the largest tiger reserve in the country and provides habitat for tigers, leopards, bears, wild dogs, herbivores and other wildlife species.

Recent estimates recorded 68 tigers and 11 cubs in the NSTR-Sheshachalam region, reflecting the impact of con-



Key Conservation Measures

- Expansion of anti-poaching camps in NSTR from 89 to 150
- Use of drones, camera traps and modern surveillance systems

- Development of grasslands and strengthening of prey base
- Employment opportunities for around 800 tribal youth
- Protection of wildlife corridors and habitats

Deputy Chief Minister and Forest & Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan said, "The

Andhra Pradesh as a role model for the nation in tiger conservation." He said the state government is taking steps towards the revival of tiger populations in the Eastern Ghats and protection of wildlife habitats.

The state is also working on initiatives such as the reintroduction of gaur in Nallamala forests and introducing female tigers in the Papikonda forest region. Pawan Kalyan said, "Our goal is to ensure the roar of the tiger echoes forever in the Nallamala forests."

He stressed the importance of sustainable development, stating, "Sustainable progress is possible only when there is a balance between development and environmental conservation." He called upon officials, conservationists, scientists, tribal communities and citizens to work together to protect wildlife and preserve natural heritage.



Lok Sabha Passes Anti-Paper Leak Amendment Bill

New Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, aimed at strengthening measures against paper leaks and examination malpractices. The Bill was approved through a voice vote after a debate in which members from various political parties participated.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh, while replying to the debate, said the amendments would ensure stricter action against those involved in question paper leaks and organised unfair practices. The proposed changes seek faster investigations, special fast-track courts, and stronger penalties to protect the credibility of public examinations.

The Minister stated that 52 FIRs have been registered since the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means)

Act, 2024, came into force. He said the government acted promptly after incidents such as the NEET paper leak and brought the amendment to address emerging challenges in the examination system.

During the discussion, opposition members suggested amendments to the Bill, but they were rejected during voting. Dr. Jitendra Singh also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his concluding remarks, alleging that Gandhi lacked understanding of parliamentary procedures and governance issues.

The government said the legislation is aimed at ensuring fairness for genuine candidates appearing for competitive examinations conducted by bodies including UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Boards, banking recruitment agencies, and the National Testing Agency.Following the passage of the Bill, the Lok Sabha was adjourned until Thursday. **Full details P8**



AP Courts Taiwanese Investment In Electronics, Semiconductor Sectors

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu held discussions with a high-level delegation of Taiwanese companies to strengthen cooperation in investment, electronics, semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology sectors.

The delegation included representatives from Delta Electronics, BenQ, CTBC Bank, DI-MERCO, Masterhill, Nan Pao Resins, Ever-Clear Environmental Engineering, Sheng Huei Tech, Tech-Top Engineering, K.S. Terminals, Sandsun, Zilei Construction & Engineering and Cappella Sports.

During the meeting at the State Secretariat, Naidu showcased Andhra Pradesh's investor-friendly policies, strong logistics network and world-class infrastructure. He highlighted the state's focus on electronics,

semiconductors, IT and export-oriented industries, assuring policy stability, speedy clearances and proactive government support.The Taiwanese representatives shared their experience of operating in India and expressed interest in expanding their presence in Andhra Pradesh. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in manufacturing, technology and industrial development.

Later, Minister for HRD, IT, Electronics & Communications and RTGS Nara Lokesh held a separate interaction with the delegation, focusing on workforce development, skilling and educational collaboration. He emphasised the need to equip youth with industry-relevant skills to tap opportunities in Taiwan's manufacturing and technology sectors.Discussions covered electronics and **P3**

Gucchimi Elephant Camp Launched To Curb Human-Elephant Conflict

Parvathipuram Manyam, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest & Environment Pawan Kalyan virtually inaugurated the Gucchimi Kumki elephant camp in Seethanagaram mandal, aimed at addressing the long-standing human-elephant conflict in the region.Stating that public safety and wildlife conservation must go hand in hand, Pawan Kalyan said the initiative would help manage elephant movement using scien-



tific methods and modern technology, while protecting farmers' crops and human lives.District In-charge Minister and Agriculture Minister K Atchannaidu and Tribal Welfare Minister **P3**

Bhogapuram Airport Credit Row: Jagan Accuses Naidu of Taking Credit

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that the Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport project was completed due to the efforts of his government, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was attempting to take credit for the work.

In a post on social media platform X, Jagan Mohan Reddy said the airport would become a major milestone for the development of North Andhra and welcomed its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra



Modi. However, he accused Chandrababu Naidu of claiming credit without contributing to the project. Jagan stated that key processes, including the concession agreement with GMR in June 2020, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, site clearance, **P3**

Vizag Port's Marine Export Share Surges To Over 50%

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's growing export strength, the Union Government informed Parliament that the share of marine product exports through Visakhapatnam Port rose sharply from 29.67% in FY2024 (April 2023-March 2024, under the YSRCP government) to 50.87% in FY2025—an increase of over 21 percentage points within a year.The data was shared in response to a question raised by Lok Sabha MP Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy on July 21, underscoring Visakhapatnam Port's emergence as a leading marine export gateway in ndia.

The increase reflects renewed momentum under the TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh, with the port now handling more than half

of India's marine exports in FY2025. The government noted that the port maintained a strong share of 48.89% in FY2026 as well, indicating sustained performance.

The parliamentary reply highlighted that Visakhapatnam Port plays a key role under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Efforts to boost exports include participation in domestic and international exhibitions, promotion through the GeM ODOP Bazaar, buyer-seller meets and engagement with Indian Missions abroad to expand global market access.

The Centre further stated that Andhra Pradesh has identified 99 ODOP products across its 26 districts, reflecting its focus on promoting local industries and enhancing export potential through value-added products.



Media Key To Spreading Govt Schemes: Satya Kumar Yadav

Visakhapatnam, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Health, Family Welfare and Medical Education Satya Kumar Yadav said the media plays a vital role in taking government schemes to the people and strengthening democracy through accurate information dissemination.

He was speaking after inau-

gurating the one-day PIB VARTALAP media outreach workshop for district and rural journalists, organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Vijayawada Regional Office under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

The workshop was held as part of nationwide o **P3**

Pawan Kalyan Names Rare Plant Species Discovered In Eastern Ghats

Tirupati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest & Environment Pawan Kalyan has named a newly discovered rare plant species found in the Ubbalamadugu Waterfalls region of the Eastern Ghats in Tirupati district as Croton ubbalamadugensis.The plant, belonging to the Euphorbiaceae family, was identified during extensive botanical research in the Kambakam hills near Ubbalamadugu. It is noted for its distinct features, particularly its leaves that emit a pleasant fragrance. Principal Chief Conservator



of Forests P V Chalapathi Rao, along with his research team, discovered the **P3**

Lokesh Stresses Error-Free Job Notifications, 3,168 Posts In Phase-II

Undavalli, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh directed officials to ensure that recruitment notifications are issued flawlessly to avoid complications in the government job recruitment process.

A ministerial committee reviewing Job Calendar 2026 met at his residence in Undavalli, with several ministers attending virtually. Officials presented details of vacancies across departments through a presentation. The government plans to fill 10,060 posts in four phases.

The first phase, involving 1,523 faculty posts in universities, was notified on May 15. The second phase, covering 3,168 posts, was initially scheduled for August 15 but postponed due to technical issues related to Presidential Orders and representations from employee unions. It will now be released on September 15.

Lokesh instructed officials to issue notifications for the



third and fourth phases on October 15. While 2,388 posts will be filled in Phase-III, another 2,981 posts are planned in Phase-IV. He emphasised that recruitment should align with departmental requirements and the Chief Minister's directives.Of the Phase-II vacancies, 2,225 posts fall under the Home Department. A group of ministers suggested increasing the number of Group-1 posts beyond the current proposal. Lokesh directed that the entire recruitment process be completed on time and without controversy, and that a job calendar be released annually.

He added that details of total vacancies under the 2026 job calendar would be placed before the Cabinet on the 6th.

Ministers Vangalapudi Anitha, P Narayana, Kondapalli Srinivas and Kandula Durgesh, Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, Special Chief Secretary Shamsher Singh Rawat, State Level Police Recruitment Board Chairman Rajiv Kumar Meeana, Finance Secretary V Vinay Chand, APPSC Secretary P Ravi Subhash and Joint Secretary Gautam Allada attended the meeting.

AP Revises Building Rules to Boost Construction and Investments

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

The State government has notified major amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017, aimed at accelerating construction activity, improving Ease of Doing Business and promoting safe, sustainable urban development.The Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department issued



G.O.Ms.No.161 on Wednesday, introducing reforms including rationalised setbacks, phased fire clearances, flexible Transferable Development Rights

(TDR) provisions and simplified approval procedures.

The amendments follow De-regulation Cell guidelines, focusing on risk-based regulation, legal safeguards and efficient enforcement. Suggestions from the public, Urban Local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities were considered before finalising the rules.Municipal Administration and Urban **P3**

Naidu Never Goes Back On His Promises Says, Bhuvaneshwari

Shanthipuram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, said Chandrababu Naidu never backs down from promises made to people and is committed to fulfilling election assurances despite financial challenges.

During the third day of her visit to Kuppam constituency, Bhuvaneshwari visited Gangamma temple in Vasandadu and offered prayers. She also planted saplings along



with students at the local Zilla Parishad school and advised

them to develop the habit of planting trees.

Speaking to students, she said a sapling planted today grows into a tree that provides shade to many. She recalled that encouragement from Chandrababu Naidu gave her confidence to take up responsibilities at Heritage and move forward.

Later, Bhuvaneshwari interacted with women in Vasandadu and said the Chief Minister is constantly focused on public welfare. She said **P3**



Low-Price Rice Sales From August 1: Manohar Ensures Quality

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Nadendla Manohar directed officials to ensure wide publicity for the sale of rice at low prices across Andhra Pradesh from August 1 and maintain quality standards without compromise.

The Minister held a teleconference on Wednesday with District Joint Collectors, Rice Millers' Associations and Civil Supplies officials to review preparations. He said the initiative aims to provide financial relief to people and urged officials and millers to take steps for maximum public participation.

Manohar instructed officials to manage rice distribution by treating the state as a single unit. He said districts with fewer millers, including Visakhapatnam, should receive supplies from other areas to meet demand. A dedicated app has been developed to monitor sales, consumer purchases and feedback in real time. He directed Joint Collectors to



monitor demand, supervise distribution points and ensure Aadhaar details are recorded at counters to prevent diversion of rice. He also instructed officials to strengthen border surveillance in districts like Nellore to prevent illegal movement of paddy.

The Minister said millers must allocate 10% of their rice stocks for the programme, including BPT Steam and Raw rice varieties. He warned that any compromise in quality would not be tolerated.

Civil Supplies Department Commissioner Kannababu, Civil Supplies Corporation MD Dillirao, Director Nafur and State Rice Millers Association President Gummadi Venkateswara Rao participated in the teleconference.

UP Delegation Studies AP's Digital Agriculture Model

Mangalagiri, July 29 | TPN Bureau

A delegation from Uttar Pradesh led by Manoj Kumar Singh, former Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh and Chief Executive Officer of the State Transformation Commission, visited Andhra Pradesh to study digital agriculture initiatives.

Director of Agriculture Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon said the visit was part of an interstate knowledge exchange programme to understand technology-driven governance in agriculture. The delegation was received at the Agriculture Directorate, IHC Mangalagiri, by Budithi Rajasekhar, Ex-officio Special Chief Secretary, Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon.

Officials briefed the delegation on digital agriculture reforms and the APAIMS platform. A detailed presentation highlighted satellite-based crop monitoring, AI-powered farmer advisory services, and real-time



dashboards for decision-making.

The team also visited Rythu Seva Kendram at Pedakakani in Guntur district, where they interacted with farmers and observed field-level implementation of digital services.

Manoj Kumar Singh appreciated Andhra Pradesh's advanced agricultural technology ecosystem and said Uttar Pradesh, with over 2.3 crore farm families, is exploring similar models.

The delegation included World Bank representatives Ajit and Yogesh, Vassar Labs CEO Nikhilesh Kumar, Joint Directors of Agriculture Balasubramanyam and Nageswara Rao, along with other officials.

Rains Expected Across AP, Authorities Issue Alert

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

State Disaster Management Authority Managing Director Prakhari Jain said a deep depression over Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of North Odisha is likely to move across Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh in the next 24 hours, bringing cloudy weather and light to moderate rains with lightning in parts of Andhra Pradesh.

He warned that gusty winds of 40-50 kmph are likely across Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema during rainfall and advised people to remain cautious.

Moderate rains are expected on Thursday in parts of Polavaram, East Godavari and Eluru districts, while light to moderate rains are likely in several districts including Srikakulam, Manyam, Alluri, Kakina, Konaseema, Krishna, NTR, Guntur and Palnadu.

Recent heavy rainfall was recorded in Amalapuram (72.4 mm), Kankipadu (67.2 mm) and Penamaluru (64.6 mm). People were advised to avoid trees, hoardings and fallen power lines during storms. Fishermen using small boats were also asked to remain alert.



UP Official Visits AP RTGS Centre

Amaravati: Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer of the State Transformation Commission, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and former Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, visited the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) Command & Control Centre at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on Wednesday. RTGS CEO Prakhari Jain welcomed him and briefed him on the state's technology-driven governance initiatives, digital monitoring systems, and operational framework aimed at improving service delivery and real-time decision-making.

Jagan to Visit Srikakulam Tomorrow
Tadepalli : YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Srikakulam district on Thursday, July 30, to meet former Minister and YSRCP leader Dr. Seedir Appala Raju, who is lodged in Ampolu District Jail near Srikakulam. YS Jagan will leave Tadepalli at 9:00 AM, reach Visakhapatnam Airport and proceed to Ampolu District Jail. He is expected to meet Dr. Appala Raju during a prison meeting at around 2:00 PM and enquire about his well-being.

Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration Preparations Intensified

Vizianagaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Extensive arrangements are underway for the inauguration of Bhogapuram International Airport on August 1 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the government planning to make the event a historic occasion with around three lakh people expected to participate.

Ministers P. Narayana (Municipal Administration) and Gottipati Ravi Kumar (Energy) announced the arrangements during a media conference at the Telugu Desam Party district office in Vizianagaram on Wednesday.

Minister P. Narayana said a special committee of ministers has been formed to coordinate



the programme successfully. He stated that ministers are visiting constituencies across North Andhra and working with local leaders to mobilise people. Focus is being given to transportation, security and basic amenities.

Narayana said development works in Vizianagaram Municipal Corporation are being carried out with VMRDA funds. Road and drainage works worth 21 crore are underway, while efforts are being made to sanction

another 20 crore for city development. He added that Goa Governor Ashok Gajapati Raju has been invited, recalling his role in laying the foundation for the airport project as Union Minister. Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and other leaders would participate in the inauguration. He said officials are focusing on transport, traffic management and public facilities for visitors.

Ravi Kumar added that discussions were held with local representatives on regional issues and steps are being taken to address electricity-related problems in Vizianagaram.

BJP Begins Local Poll Preparations

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified preparations for the upcoming local body elections in Andhra Pradesh, treating the polls as a prestigious challenge. BJP State President PVN Madhav has constituted a special committee to strengthen the party organisation at the grassroots level and oversee election strategy, coordination and management.

The state has been divided into four zones — North Andhra, Godavari, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema — with responsibilities assigned to senior leaders. The committee will focus on



election planning, candidate selection, coordination with party cadres, booth-level strengthening and organisational activities.

The Special Committee members include State Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar, State General Secretary Nagothu Ramesh Naidu, MLA Eswara Rao Nadukuditi, State Vice President

Adari Anand Kumar, MLC and former State President Somu Veeraj, State Vice President Garapati Sitaramanjaneya Chowdary, RTC Regional Chairman Sannapureddy Suresh Reddy, State Chief Official Spokesperson Valluru Jayaprakash Narayana, MLA C. Adinarayana Reddy and MLA Dr. Podala Venkata Parthasarathi.

PVN Madhav said the committee would prepare and implement a comprehensive action plan in coordination with district, mandal and Shakti Kendra-level cadres. He directed members to focus on strengthening booth-level networks, mobilising party workers and ensuring effective election management.

APSCHE Conducts Design Thinking Workshop for Vice-Chancellors

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) and Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, under RUSA 2.0, commenced a two-day workshop on "Design Thinking in Higher Education for Vice-Chancellors of Andhra Pradesh" at Fortune Murali Park, Vijayawada, on Wednesday.

The workshop is being conducted under the guidance of APSCHE Chairman Prof. K. Madhu Murthy to equip university leaders with globally recognised Design Thinking methodologies to improve governance, teaching-learning processes, research, innovation, student engagement, and institutional development.



The first day featured sessions on Design Thinking Preview, Empathy Phase, and Define Phase, facilitated by Dr. Mohan Kancharla, Independent Advisor and internationally certified Design Thinking expert.

Vice-Chancellors from various universities were divided into five groups and worked on problem statements related to human resource management and institutional challenges. Leaders from specialised universities, including Health Sciences, Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary and Fisheries, participated in the experiential sessions.

APSCHE stated that the initiative aims to strengthen leadership capacity and promote innovation-driven governance in higher education institutions, aligning with NEP 2020 and the vision of future-ready universities.

CEDM Launched to Boost Minority Education

Mangalagiri, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Minority Welfare N.M.D. Farooq said the government aims to create strong education and employment opportunities for minority youth through focused initiatives. He inaugurated the Center for Educational Development of Minorities (CEDM) office at Vaddeswaram near Mangalagiri on Wednesday.

Farooq said CEDM will provide free coaching for competitive exams through both offline and online modes, following the guidance of Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh. He stressed that the government is prioritising minority education,



skill development, and employment to promote self-reliance.

He noted that minorities achieved 11.5 percent success in recent DSC results, with nearly 48 percent being women, reflecting progress in empowerment. He added that training programmes, including for Urdu teacher candidates, are being expanded.

Advisor Mohammed Ahmed

Sharif said efforts are being made to help minorities secure at least 15 percent of government jobs. MLA MD Nazeer highlighted initiatives like APJ Abdul Kalam Videshi Vidya Deevana.

Minority Welfare Secretary Ch. Sridhar and CEDM Director K. Yaqoob Basha explained ongoing programmes and funding support.

The CEDM-AP mobile app was also launched. APSMFC Chairman Maulana Shaik Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqf Board Chairman Shaik Haji Abdul Aziz, Urdu Academy Chairman Shaik Farooq Shubli, Haj Committee Chairman Shaik Hassan Basha, Nagul Meera, and Y.S. Mukhtiyar attended.

West Godavari Must Lead Viksit Bharat Goals: Lanka Dinakar

Bhimavaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Chairman of the Twenty Points Programme Implementation (Viksit Bharat-Swarna Andhra) Lanka Dinakar directed officials to make West Godavari a model district by strengthening education, healthcare, drinking water, rural infrastructure and livelihood sectors.

Lanka Dinakar, along with District Collector Nagarani and Joint Collector Kalpa Sri, reviewed the implementation of Central and State government schemes at the West Godavari District Collectorate on Wednesday. He stressed achieving measurable outcomes under Viksit Bharat 2047 and



Swarna Andhra 2047.

Reviewing VB-G RAM G, he instructed officials to ensure transparency, create quality rural assets and prevent irregularities in employment guarantee works. He called for focus on groundwater recharge, Jalasiri works, village digitalisation, PM Gati Shakti projects and horticulture infrastructure.

In the health sector, Dinakar ap-

preciated the district's performance in institutional deliveries, anemia control and preventive healthcare. Officials informed that institutional deliveries reached 100 percent and the district recorded an Infant Mortality Rate of 6 against the State average of 18.

Reviewing education initiatives, he highlighted schemes such as Taliki Vandanam, Dokka Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme, PM POSHAN, PM SHRI and Mana Badi-Mana Bhavishyathu.

He also reviewed aquaculture development under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, where 619 units were sanctioned. Dinakar directed departments to implement schemes effectively and make West Godavari a leading district.

Government Committed to Farmers' Welfare, Says Minister Atchannaidu

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the Alliance government's priority is to protect farmers' interests and urged political leaders to avoid statements that create uncertainty among cultivators. He said constructive suggestions benefiting farmers would always be considered.

Addressing concerns of FCV tobacco farmers, Atchannaidu said the Central and State governments are jointly providing support of 188 crore for tobacco procurement. He stated that financial assistance of 20 per kg has been arranged for procurement of 94 million kg of tobacco.

The Minister said the government had supported tobacco farmers during earlier crises, including the 2014-15 price situation. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government failed to provide adequate assistance to farmers. He said the present government is working with the Tobacco Board, Central Government and traders to resolve issues arising from global market conditions.

Atchannaidu said Chief Min-



ister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is regularly reviewing farmers' concerns and issuing necessary directions. He advised YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to make statements that support farmers rather than create difficulties.

The Minister also urged farmers to complete Kharif crop insurance registration before the July 31 deadline. He said crop insurance protects against natural calamities, floods, drought and unexpected losses.

Farmers can register through the PMFBY Crop Insurance Farmer App, Common Service Centers, banks, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies and agriculture department officials. Atchannaidu directed officials to create awareness and ensure coverage of all eligible farmers.

Veerapandian Calls for Joint Action to Prevent Seasonal Diseases

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Medical and Health Department Secretary G. Veerapandian stressed the need for strong coordination among government departments to prevent seasonal diseases during the monsoon. He said early warnings about diseases such as malaria, dengue and illnesses caused by contaminated water and food must be acted upon immediately through joint efforts.

Addressing a virtual inter-departmental coordination meeting on Wednesday, Veerapandian said public health is not the responsibility of the Health Department alone and requires collective action from all concerned departments. Officials from Medical & Health, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Municipal Administration, Education, Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Rural Water Supply departments participated in the meeting.

He directed officials to maintain special vigilance in hostels, schools and tribal areas and respond immediately if even a single student falls ill. He instructed joint inspection teams to identify disease hotspots in ad-



vance. Veerapandian emphasized continuous monitoring of drinking water quality, regular testing of samples, chlorination and cleanliness of water tanks and pipelines. He also stressed that hostel students should be provided freshly cooked food at every meal.

The Secretary directed the Fisheries Department to identify water bodies for breeding Gambusia fish to control mosquito larvae. He also ordered the Animal Husbandry, Municipal Administration and Panchayat Raj departments to prepare an action plan for stray dog control and rabies prevention.

He instructed officials to ensure availability of anti-venom and rabies vaccines and timely treatment for snakebite victims at Primary Health Centres. He called for weekly coordination meetings at the PHC level and regular reviews at district level to monitor implementation.

Centres of Excellence for Quality Education Says, Minister Swamy

Visakhapatnam, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy said Centres of Excellence have been established in Ambedkar Gurukulams to provide corporate-standard education to underprivileged students.

The Minister conducted a surprise inspection at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulam Centre of Excellence at Kommandi, Madhurawada, Visakhapatnam, on Wednesday. He inspected facilities, interacted with students and addressed their concerns. After students raised a water supply issue, he spoke with GVMC Commissioner and ensured its resolution. He also directed officials to

improve sanitation.

Swamy said three new co-educational Centres of Excellence have been established at Meghadrigadda in Visakhapatnam district, Tadikonda in Guntur district and Kota in Tirupati district. These centres provide free residential coaching for JEE and NEET along with Intermediate education.

He said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is committed to supporting poor students in achieving higher positions.

Later, Swamy reviewed arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate Bhogapuram Airport and directed officials to ensure coordinated arrangements for transport, traffic, drinking water, medical services and security.

AP Seeks Sports Complex in Rayachoti

New Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Transport, Youth and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy has urged the Centre to support the development of international-standard sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh. During his visit to New Delhi, he met Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse and submitted a formal request.

In a letter, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy proposed the establishment of a sports complex in Rayachoti, Annamayya district, at an

estimated cost of 25 crore. The project includes hockey and football grounds with international standards, along with floodlights and spectator galleries.

He noted that Andhra Pradesh currently lacks a full-fledged international-standard football ground and highlighted that 24.90 acres of land have been identified for the project in Rayachoti.

The minister said the proposed complex would benefit youth in the region, promote sports development, and enable the hosting of national-level tournaments. He urged the Centre to grant administrative approval at the earliest.

Lokesh Challenges Jagan Over DSC Allegations

Adoni, July 29 | TPN Bureau

TDP National General Secretary and Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh challenged YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to participate in an open debate on the Mega DSC recruitment process, stating that the government conducted the examination transparently. Addressing the Adoni constituency TDP workers' meeting, Lokesh said allegations against DSC were baseless and asked Jagan to fix the date and time for a discussion.

Lokesh said he was not someone who failed Class 10 but a Stanford graduate, while questioning why Jagan sought a stay order if he genuinely wanted a CBI inquiry. He alleged that YSRCP was spreading misinformation and urged party workers to explain the facts to the public. He stated that the TDP had recruited around two lakh teachers in the past and recently completed the recruitment of 16,000 teachers despite legal challenges.

Highlighting development initiatives, Lokesh said the government was focusing on Mission Rayalaseema by bringing industries, improving irrigation facilities, and creating employment opportunities. He

Pawan Kalyan Names Rare Plant Species Discovered In Eastern Ghats

species. Scientific analysis confirmed that it has unique structural and reproductive characteristics, distinguishing it from closely related species such as Croton aromaticus. Pawan Kalyan named the species to reflect its ecological link to the Ubbalamadugu region, highlighting the significance of the Eastern Ghats as a biodiversity hotspot. Researchers have classified the plant as endangered due to its limited distribution and increasing

Bhogapuram Airport Credit Row: Jagan Accuses Naidu of Taking Credit

approvals, water and power supply arrangements, internal roads and other infrastructure works were completed during the previous YSRCP government. He claimed that his government spent around 1,200 crore towards land acquisition, rehabilitation, infrastructure facilities, alternative roads and power infrastructure. He said these efforts enabled the airport construction to progress despite challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jagan alleged that Chandrababu Naidu had only laid

Parthasarathy Accuses YSRCP of Neglecting North Andhra Development

Amaravati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations Kolu Parthasarathy on Tuesday said the alliance government was ensuring balanced development across regions from Tirupati to Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Ichchapuram, while accusing YSRCP of neglecting North Andhra during its five-year rule. Addressing a press conference, Parthasarathy alleged that the previous YSRCP government pushed North Andhra back by 10 to 20 years and focused on land issues instead of development. He claimed Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy treated the region as a real estate zone and alleged that thousands of acres, including assigned lands, were encroached upon by misusing GO-596. He said the YSRCP regime failed to create employment opportunities or control migration. In contrast, he credited N. Chandrababu Naidu with promoting IT growth in Visakhapatnam be-



claimed that projects such as Jonnagiri Gold Industry, Tata Solar and Drone City were being developed in Kurnool district, while industrial investments were returning after the alliance government assumed power.

Lokesh said the government was committed to fulfilling election promises despite financial challenges and mentioned welfare measures for party workers, including 5 lakh accident insurance and withdrawal of false cases filed against cadre.

He said continuity in governance was necessary for the state's development and appealed to alliance workers to work unitedly for three consecutive terms. Lokesh also reiterated his commitment to establishing a High Court Bench in Kurnool.

He assured that a Minority Residential School, ITI and

threats to its habitat.

The discovery underscores the rich biodiversity of the Eastern Ghats and the need for continued scientific exploration and conservation efforts. Officials said the initiative reflects the state government's commitment to protecting rare and endangered species and preserving natural heritage.

Forest officials emphasised that further studies and conservation measures would be undertaken to safeguard the newly identified species and its habitat.

the foundation stone before the 2019 elections and questioned the delay in developing road connectivity between Visakhapatnam city and Bhogapuram Airport.

He claimed that the proposed six-lane highway connecting the airport with Visakhapatnam had not progressed even after the alliance government came to power in the Centre and the state. Jagan Mohan Reddy asked Chandrababu Naidu to focus on completing pending works instead of claiming credit for projects initiated and developed by others.



tween 2014 and 2019. Highlighting infrastructure development, Parthasarathy said Bhogapuram greenfield airport would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1 and described it as a gateway to "Global Andhra". Built by GMR Group, the airport will support cargo operations of 25,000 metric tonnes annually and boost industry and exports. He added that projects worth 17,912 crore would be launched or dedicated during the Prime Minister's visit. The minister also mentioned upcoming initiatives such as an aviation university, skill development centre and a 2,388 crore semiconductor project in North Andhra.

Appi Reddy Seeks Electoral Roll Verification Across Andhra Pradesh

Tadepalli, July 29 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary and MLC Lella Appi Reddy urged the Election Commission of India (ECI) and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Andhra Pradesh, to take steps to protect the integrity of electoral rolls and ensure the "One Person, One Vote" principle. In separate letters, Appi Reddy sought comprehensive veri-

Naidu Never Goes Back On His Promises Says, Bhuvaneshwari

the alliance government is implementing schemes promised during elections, including financial assistance under the 'Thaliki Vandanam' scheme to support children's education. She said efforts are being made to bring major industries to Kuppam to gener-

AP Revises Building Rules to Boost Construction and Investments

Development Minister Pon-guru Narayana said the reforms would create a predictable environment for housing and construction sectors. "These amendments remove delays and create a predictable environment for housing and construction. Rationalised setbacks, instalment payments, phased fire clearances and flexible TDR provisions will boost investment while ensuring safety safeguards," he said. Under the revised rules, buildings measuring 24 metres or above, including still floors, will be classified as high-rise buildings. The rules recognise creches and public worship buildings, standardise building permission documents and require structural certification based on soil-bearing capacity for buildings above 10 metres. The government has allowed payment of

City-Level Infrastructure Impact Fee in six equal instalments over three years and introduced a framework for revalidation of expired building permissions. A key reform is the phased fire clearance mechanism for high-rise buildings. Initial permission can be granted up to 24 metres, while Fire NOC will be required before construction beyond that level, reducing delays while maintaining safety standards. The revised rules also mandate Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure in new commercial complexes, housing societies and residential townships with built-up areas of 5,000 square metres and above. Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, S. Suresh Kumar, said the revised framework promotes transparency and effective regulation. "The re-

fication of suspected duplicate and bogus votes across all 175 Assembly constituencies. Referring to Kuppam Assembly constituency, he said YSRCP had identified 36,388 suspected duplicate and multiple voter registrations, accounting for 16.03% of the electorate.

He requested an immediate inquiry and Action Taken Report on the representation submitted by YSRCP on July 21, 2026. Appi Reddy also sought

ate employment opportunities for youth. She added that Krishna river water was brought to Kuppam through the Handri-Neeva project, addressing the region's water problems. Bhuvaneshwari advised farmers to adopt crop diversification and reduce the use of chemical fertilisers. She said

vised rules adopt a transparent, risk-based approach, linking requirements to the size, height and risk profile of developments while focusing on key planning and safety issues," he said. He added that uniform implementation across Urban Local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities would improve certainty for citizens, architects, developers and investors. "Ease of Doing Business requires faster approvals, consistent decisions and accountability, supported by professional certification, digital processing and post-approval enforcement," Suresh Kumar said. The government stated that the reforms would reduce approval uncertainty, encourage responsible investment and support planned urban growth under the Swarna Andhra @2047 vision.

booth-wise and EPIC-wise verification across the State, while ensuring no genuine voter is removed without due process.

He further requested the CEO to provide ASDD lists to political parties before the draft electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), and called for inter-state verification of duplicate registrations using ERONET, EPIC data and other prescribed procedures.

Chandrababu Naidu is accelerating Polavaram project works with the aim of completing the project soon. She urged poor families to utilise the 'P4' initiative and encouraged women to become economically empowered. Later, she received representations from residents at her residence in Kada-

AP Courts Taiwanese Investment In Electronics, Semiconductor Sectors

semiconductor manufacturing, precision engineering, industrial automation and healthcare sectors. Key proposals included Mandarin language training, industry-aligned certifications, internships, student and faculty exchange programmes, joint research and job-readi-

Gucchimi Elephant Camp Launched To Curb Human-Elephant Conflict

Gummadi Sandhya Rani participated in the programme. Pawan Kalyan said incidents of elephants straying into villages, damaging crops and creating fear among residents have persisted in Parvathipuram Manyam district. He noted that Palakonda MLA Nimmaka Jayakrishna had brought the issue to his attention, prompting the government to establish the elephant holding area at Guccimi.

Recalling earlier success in Palamaner, he said trained Kumki elephants such as Jayanth and Abhimanyu had helped reduce fatalities by over

ness initiatives. The meetings marked a significant step in strengthening ties between Andhra Pradesh and Taiwanese industry, with both sides expressing confidence that enhanced collaboration would boost investment, manufacturing growth and employment opportunities in the state.

70% and minimise crop damage. He expressed confidence that similar results would be achieved in North Andhra.

He thanked the Government of Karnataka for sending four Kumki elephants, and acknowledged the support of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister Eshwar Khandre.

Parvathipuram MLA Bonela Vijay Chandra, Government Whip Toyaka Jagadeeswari, Principal Secretary Kantilal Dande, PCCF P V Chalapati Rao and other officials attended the event.

Media Key To Spreading Govt Schemes: Satya Kumar Yadav

utreach programmes marking 12 years of governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Journalists from across the district participated.

Addressing the gathering, Satya Kumar Yadav highlighted achievements of the Union Government over the past twelve years in sectors such as agriculture, rural development, infrastructure, healthcare, education, women empowerment, digital governance, financial inclusion and social welfare. He said these initiatives brought transformative changes in people's lives and laid a strong foundation for a developed India. Emphasising the role of journalists, he said district and rural media act as a bridge between the government and the public. He urged journal-

ists to disseminate accurate and factual information and create awareness about welfare schemes among beneficiaries.

PIB Vijayawada Director G Suresh Kumar said the bureau serves as a crucial link between the government and media by providing timely and authentic information on policies and programmes. Senior officials also addressed the session. Defence Public Relations Officer Sujeth Reddy spoke on communication in defence and national security. Additional Commissioner of Customs N Balaram highlighted trade facilitation, and South Coastal Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Balaji Kiran explained railway initiatives.

The programme concluded with an interactive session with journalists.

Agriculture and Horticulture: Value-Added Farming in the Land Once Defined by Drought



For decades, agriculture in Rayalaseema was synonymous with rain-fed farming. Today, however, the region is steadily moving towards a value-added agricultural economy, driven by improved water availability, the expansion of micro-irrigation, and changing crop patterns. Rayalaseema is now among the leading regions in Andhra Pradesh in the adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems. Across Anantapur, Chittoor and Kadapa districts, horticultural crops such as mango, banana, tomato, sweet lime, papaya and pomegranate have become the primary source of income for thousands of farming families. Anantapur and Chittoor have also emerged as major producers of mangoes and tomatoes at the national level. Crop diversification has encouraged farmers to focus not only on increasing production but also on improving market value. Cold storage facilities, food processing industries and export opportunities are further supporting this transition. Challenges such as climate change, price volatility and inadequate storage infrastructure still remain. However, if these issues are effectively addressed, Rayalaseema has the potential to evolve from a traditional food-producing region into a strong value-added agricul-



tural economy. In many ways, water has transformed not only the region's crops but also the mindset of its farmers.

With greater water availability, the spread of micro-irrigation and significant changes in farmers' crop choices, Rayalaseema is steadily moving towards high-value horticulture. Farmers who once depended on low-yield traditional crops are increasingly shifting to horticultural produce that offers better returns and stronger market demand. At present, horticultural crops are cultivated over approximately 841,000 hectares across the region. The Andhra Pradesh Government has set an ambitious target of expanding this area to 1.441 million hectares in the coming years. The erstwhile Anantapur district has the largest horticultural area in the state, followed by YSR Kadapa, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kurnool and Nandyal districts. Mangoes, sweet lime, tomatoes, bananas, papayas, pomegranates, vegetables and flowers are steadily reshaping the region's agricultural economy.

Rayalaseema has emerged as one of Andhra Pradesh's horticultural powerhouses. More than 80 per cent of the state's sweet lime production comes from the erstwhile Anantapur and YSR Kadapa districts. Likewise, the combined districts of Chittoor, Annamayya and Kadapa account for nearly 40 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's mango production. These figures demonstrate that Rayalaseema is no longer identified merely as a drought-prone region but as a major centre of horticultural production.

Improved water management has been the driving force behind this transformation. Under the Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP), Rayalaseema leads the state in the adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation. Around 1.28 million hectares have already been brought under micro-irrigation, with Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts alone accounting for nearly 550,000 hectares. This is a clear example of how technology has enabled farmers to overcome water scarcity and improve productivity.

Tomato cultivation has become another major strength of Rayalaseema. According to estimates by the Department of Horticulture, the region contributes more than 60 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's total tomato production. The Madanapalle Tomato Market symbolises this horticultural success. Recognised as one of the largest tomato markets not only in South India but also in Asia, it handles between 1,000 and 2,500 tonnes of tomatoes every day during the peak season. Agricultural market estimates place its annual business turnover between 500 crore and 800 crore, depending on price fluctuations. More importantly, Madanapalle plays a significant role in determining tomato prices across southern India. Crop diversification has encouraged farmers to focus not only on production but also on market value. Fresh fruits and vegetables from Rayalaseema now reach markets across India as well as international export destinations. However, to fully unlock this potential, the region requires greater investment in food-processing industries, cold-chain infrastructure, warehouses and value-added manufacturing units. Such investments would help stabilise farm incomes while creating stronger rural value chains.

Despite these achievements, several challenges continue to affect the agricultural sector. Price fluctuations, inadequate storage facilities, limited processing

capacity and the growing impact of climate change remain significant concerns for farmers. Even so, there are clear signs that Rayalaseema's agriculture is evolving from a production-oriented system into a value-added agri-business economy. Farmers who once looked only to the skies for rainfall are now paying equal attention to market trends, export opportunities and value-added products. That represents the most significant transformation in Rayalaseema's agricultural landscape.

There is little doubt that farmers are steadily adapting to changing conditions and reshaping their livelihoods accordingly. However, while farmers are increasingly making decisions that improve their own incomes, there is still a need for greater policy guidance to help them view agriculture not merely as an individual livelihood but as an integral part of the nation's economic development.

As Rayalaseema continues to strengthen its value-added agricultural economy, another equally important question arises. Beyond agriculture, how are the region's abundant mineral resources and underground wealth contributing to its economic transformation? What role can mineral-based industries play in accelerating industrialisation and long-term growth? These questions will be explored in the next article as we examine the industrial potential of Rayalaseema and its contri-

CPM Condemns Police Action Against Student Protesters



Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

CPM staged a protest dharna at Mahanti Market on Besant Road, Vijayawada, condemning the Delhi Police raid on the CPM headquarters and alleged repression against student leaders.

Addressing the protest, CPM State Secretariat member Ch. Babu Rao and State Committee member Donepudi Kashinath alleged that the attempts to arrest student leader Aishe Ghosh and filing of cases against protesters were unlawful. They demanded immediate withdrawal

of false cases registered during the student movement.

The leaders criticised the Central Government for suppressing democratic protests and alleged that students were being treated like criminals for raising concerns over education policies. They said the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan was a victory for the movement and asserted that the struggle against issues in the education sector would continue.

CPM leaders Bhupathi Ramana Rao, Boyi Satyababu, P. Krishna and others participated in the protest.

Shakambari Utsavams Conclude on Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The three-day Shakambari Utsavams at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri concluded grandly on Wednesday with Maha Purnahuti on the occasion of Guru Purnima.

On the final day, Goddess Kanaka Durga appeared as Shakambari Devi, adorned with fruits, vegetables, leafy greens, and dry fruits, offering a divine experience to devotees. The temple premises were decorated with around 45 tonnes of vegetables, fruits, and dry fruits donated by farmers and devotees.

Sacred rituals were conducted under the guidance of Temple Sthanacharya V. Siva Prasada Sarma, Vedic committee members, scholars, and priests. The celebrations concluded with Maha Purnahuti, Kalashod-



vasana, Marjanam, and Prokshanam rituals. Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna and Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik said the festival was conducted praying for timely rains, agricultural prosperity, and public welfare.

EO Sheena Naik said around 2.5 lakh devotees had darshan during the three-day festival. The temple administration distributed Kadambam prasadam prepared from the offered vegetables. Temple trustees, priests, AEOs, and staff participated.

Student's Short Story Book Nachithe Malli Kalustanu Released

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

State Cultural and Creative Commission Chairperson P. Tejaswi said literature plays a vital role in shaping society and influencing generations. She was speaking after releasing Nachithe Malli Kalustanu, a short story collection authored by Ramavarapu Sravanthi, a B.Sc. student of P.B. Siddhartha Arts and Science College, at the college's webinar hall on Wednesday.

Tejaswi described the book as a reflection of creativity and compared literature to a time machine that connects ideas across generations. She highlighted the importance of reading habits, noting that global

figures like Bill Gates and Elon Musk attribute their success to extensive reading. She advised youth to reduce excessive social media usage and focus on innovation and knowledge-building.

Convener Nimmagadda Lalitha Prasad received the first copy of the book, congratulated the author, and presented a cash prize of 10,000. B.Sc. Chemistry student Bhuvanarsi reviewed the collection.

Principal Dr. Meka Ramesh, Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala, Librarian Dr. Vanisri, and author R. Sravanthi also addressed the gathering, appreciating the student's literary effort and encouraging young writers to pursue creative expression.

Reliable Data Key to Swarna Andhra @2047 Goals: Collector Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha stated that a comprehensive understanding of economic indicators like Gross Value Added (GVA) and Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) is essential for accelerating the district's economic development. He was speaking as the chief guest at a capacity-building training programme held at the PGRS meeting hall in the Vijayawada Collectorate on Wednesday.

The training focused on district economic development, GVA, GDDP, sector-wise growth, and collection and analysis of economic statistics at district and mandal levels. The Collector said Vijayawada district recorded a GDDP of around 1,05,135 crore during 2025-26 and stressed the importance of using reliable statistics for planning development programmes.

He instructed officials attending the programme to act as master trainers and create awareness about GVA, GNDP, GDDP and

GSDP among mandal-level officials, Panchayat Secretaries and 'Swarna Grama-Swarna Ward' staff. He said quality statistics would play a crucial role in achieving the 'Swarna Andhra @2047' vision. Dr. Lakshmisha highlighted the need to combine literacy with skill development to improve employment opportunities. He suggested promoting value-added agriculture, horticulture crops and expansion of the industrial and service sectors. He noted that the Vijayawada Utsav contributed nearly 150 crore additional GVA to the service sector.

B. Anupama, Joint Director of the Andhra Pradesh Department of Economics and Statistics, advised departments to submit accurate and timely statistical data and strengthen coordination. She said reliable statistics are the foundation for achieving Swarna Andhra @2047 goals.

Pahale India Foundation trainers J. Anil Kumar and Bellapu Ragini, Zonal Coordinator Yogesh Krishna, district analysts, mandal officials, CVAP unit members and Young Professionals participated.

Annamayya's Sankeertanas Gave Me Strength In Life: Venkaiah Naidu

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Vice President of India Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu said Annamacharya's Sankeertanas shaped the course and direction of his life, providing him mental peace, enthusiasm and strength to overcome challenges.

He was the chief guest at the 'Jagadguru Annamacharya' programme held at KBN College, Vijayawada, on Wednesday. The event was organised jointly by the State Department of Language and Culture, Kakaraparti Bhanarayana (KBN) College and Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini.

Venkaiah Naidu said he listens to Annamayya's devotional songs every day at 4:30 AM and urged youth to understand their deeper meaning and follow the values conveyed through them. He said a Guru is not only a teacher but anyone who provides direction in life, adding that a strong Guru-Shishya relationship helps build a better society.



Podapati Tejaswi, Chairperson of the State Creativity and Culture Commission, said the combination of music and literature preserved Annamayya's lyrical poetry. Padma Shri Dr. Sobha Raju described Annamayya's compositions as symbols of human values.

College Principal Dr. G. Krishnaveni said the programme aimed to promote moral values among students, while Secretary Dr. T. Srinivasu called Annamayya's Sankeertanas an invaluable heritage of Telugu literature.

Venkaiah Naidu released the book Padakavita Vasantham Annamayya, authored by Regulla Mallikarjuna Rao, Director of the Department of Culture. Around 300 students performed a mass rendition of Annamayya's Sankeertanas during the event.

Hindu High Schools Committee General Secretary Gopiseti Malayya, Administrative Officer Dr. V. Narayana Rao, Committee President Usirika Umamaheswara Rao and others participated. College Vice-Principal Dr. K. Ramakrishna coordinated the programme.

Ravindra Seeks Centre's Support For Machilipatnam Development

Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology, and Excise Kollu Ravindra held a series of meetings with Union Ministers in Delhi and sought Central Government support for developing Machilipatnam as a major tourism, infrastructure and sports hub.

Kollu Ravindra met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and discussed the need to strengthen road connectivity and infrastructure facilities in the Machilipatnam region. He highlighted the importance of improved connectivity in view of the upcoming Machilipatnam Greenfield Port, fishing harbour and tourism projects.

The Minister also met Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and discussed measures to promote tourism and preserve the historical and cultural heritage of Machilipatnam. He highlighted the region's rich maritime history, ancient monuments, temples,



handicrafts and coastal attractions, seeking support for its comprehensive development.

Later, Kollu Ravindra met Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and submitted a request seeking Central assistance under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme for developing Bandar Beach.

He stated that Machilipatnam, one of the ancient coastal towns on India's east coast, had a glorious maritime heritage dating back to the Satavahana era and served as a major trade centre during the Vijayanagara Empire.

The Minister proposed developing Manginapudi Beach into a sustainable tourism destination using around 153.05 acres of gov-

ernment land. The project includes an iconic landmark structure, public plaza, sailing club, adventure sports facilities, beachfront crafts bazaar, water entertainment park, tourist terminal, creek restoration for backwater tourism and supporting infrastructure.

He sought Central assistance of around 120.04 crore under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and stated that the project could attract private investment exceeding 643 crore through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Kollu Ravindra also met Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse and sought assistance under the Khelo India programme for an indoor stadium and swimming pool at Machilipatnam Gosangham. The proposed indoor stadium requires 17 crore and the swimming pool project requires 9 crore. He informed that necessary documents have already been submitted through the MDSD portal for consideration.

Bonda Uma Launches 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' Campaign

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao launched the "Intintiki Telugu Desam" door-to-door outreach programme in the 26th Division on Wednesday, marking the completion of two years of the Alliance government.

The programme was conducted as part of the "Two Years of Trust - Welfare and Development" campaign initiated by the Telugu Desam Party following the directions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Bonda Uma distributed pamphlets highlighting govern-

ment welfare and development schemes at the Alluri Sitarama Raju Bridge area in Chuttugunta.

Speaking on the occasion, Bonda Uma said the campaign is being held across all 175 constituencies to explain the government's achievements to people. He stated that the Alliance government fulfilled its promise by increasing social pensions from 3,000 to 4,000 soon after assuming office.

He highlighted schemes including Thalliki Vandanam, free gas cylinders for women, revival of Anna Canteens, and tailoring training centres. He said the upcoming Stree Nidhi scheme would provide 18,000 annually to eligible

women.

The MLA said development works worth 550 crore were taken up in Vijayawada Central, including roads, drains, drinking water facilities, community halls, health centres, and school buildings.

He also mentioned the 100 crore LC No. 316 flyover project with MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) and the proposed 85 crore 43 MLD raw water filtration plant at VAMBAY Colony.

Corporator Vallabhaneni Rajeshwari, Central Constituency Observer Bachula Bose, Division Presidents Thota Pandu and Vallabhaneni Satish, and party leaders participated.

Tourism Projects Must Reach Ground Level: Collector Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to speed up tourism projects in the district and ensure they move beyond the Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage to become accessible to the public. He said tourism development would significantly contribute to economic growth and employment generation.

Chairing the District Tourism Promotion Committee meeting at the District Collectorate, the Collector reviewed ongoing projects and instructed officials to complete the proposed AMC Entertainment project at Bhavani Island, estimated at 75 crore, by July 2027. The project will include destination wedding facilities, water sports, boating and a convention hall with a capacity of 500 people.

He directed officials to make arrangements for conducting 'Vijayawada Utsav' during Navaratri at Punnam Ghat, Ferry Ghat and Basava Punnaiah Sta-



dium. He also instructed officials to develop a special platform at Pavitra Sangham in Ibrahimpatnam as per Vedic committee recommendations for conducting 'Nadi Harathi'.

The Collector directed officials to improve facilities at Amaravati Boating Club, renovate C-Bar Disneyland and prepare proposals under the PRASAD scheme for temple development. He also instructed officials to develop Kondapalli Fort as an adventure tourism destination with trekking and rappelling facilities.

Later, Dr. G. Lakshmisha visited the 'Ignite Cell' at the Collectorate and inspected a sports equipment exhibition organised by the District Sports Development Department. He said sports promote physical fitness, mental well-being, confidence and leadership qualities. He advised employees and students to allocate time daily for sports. Officials including Regional Director of Tourism Y.V. Prasanna Lakshmi, District Tourism Officer A. Shilpa and others participated in the tourism meeting.

Balashowry Raises GST Issue on Postal Services

New Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry raised concerns in the Lok Sabha over the imposition of GST on postal services such as Speed Post, questioning the Central Government on the rationale behind taxing services widely used by the public.

Responding to the query, Union Minister of State for Communications Dr. Pemmasani Chandrababu Sekhar clarified that GST exemptions currently apply only to select services, including postcards, inland letters, book post, and ordinary postal envelopes weighing less than 10 grams. He added that life insurance services offered by the Department of Posts are also exempt, while services like Speed Post fall under the GST ambit.

Balashowry stressed that the Department of Posts provides af-



fordable services and urged the Centre to reduce the GST burden. He called for extending exemptions to services such as Speed Post to help the department compete with private courier firms.

The Central Government informed that the Department of Posts has submitted proposals to the CBIC seeking GST exemptions for Speed Post (EMS), international postal services, domestic book packets, registered newspapers, and letters up to 20 grams. Balashowry said the issue was raised to benefit the public and small businesses dependent on postal services.

Guru Purnima Celebrations Held Across West Constituency

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Guru Purnima celebrations were held on a grand scale across the West constituency on Wednesday with special prayers and Annadanam programmes at various Saibaba temples.

At the Sri Shirdi Saibaba Temple in Mahatma Gandhi Wholesale Commercial Complex, senior TDP leader Bommasani Subbarao and MLA of office secretary Prathipati Sridhar performed special prayers. Temple Development Committee members, including President Paruchuri Nagaswara Rao and Secretary Kasula Venkata Narayana, participated.

Celebrations were also organised at Cheruvu Center, Pur-



nanandampet and Kothapeta temples. United Krishna District Library Organization Chairman M.S. Baig, TDP leader Saripalli Radha Krishna, BJP In-charge for 35th Division Dr. Hanumantha Rao, former Corporator Mylavarapu Ratna Kumari Durgarao, Janasena leaders Ganji Pavan, Lingam Sivaprasad and others took part in the programmes. Devotees were provided food as part of the celebrations.

Bonda Uma Inaugurates Theorem Cafe

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao inaugurated the newly established 'Theorem Cafe' at SBI Colony in Mogalrajpuram on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Bonda Uma said Vijayawada is developing rapidly and welcomed the establishment of modern cafes that provide quality food and beverages in a pleasant atmosphere. He appreciated the management for introducing a new destination for coffee lovers, especially the youth.

The MLA inspected the cafe premises and enquired about the coffee preparation process. He advised the management to maintain quality, hygiene, and customer satisfaction while running the cafe.

Theorem Cafe has been designed to offer a peaceful ambience along with fresh flavours and modern coffee varieties. The proprietors, Atmuri Satyanarayana and Karumanchi Hineeth Sri-



sai, said their aim is to provide customers with quality service and a memorable experience. They informed that the cafe offers a range of coffees and mocktails prepared with modern flavours.

They said customer satisfaction remains their top priority and assured that special care would be taken in maintaining standards.

Bonda Uma stated that such establishments would add value to Vijayawada's growing urban lifestyle and provide better options for residents to spend quality time.

Several local dignitaries, businesspersons, friends of the proprietors, and well-wishers participated in the inauguration programme.

Crop Insurance Coverage for All Farmers: Collector Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, July 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to ensure crop insurance coverage for every farmer who has sown seeds and achieve 100% enrollment under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He stressed that coordinated efforts by all departments are essential for implementing welfare and development programmes effectively.

The Collector, along with Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya and district-level officials, reviewed progress through a video conference with RDOs, Tahsildars, MPDOs and field-level officials on Wednesday.

He instructed Mandal Agricultural Officers to prepare action plans for crop diversification and submit reports on farmers adopting diversified



crops. Officials were directed to ensure smooth fertilizer supply and conduct daily inspections of two to three fertilizer shops. Farmers were advised to use the Collectorate Unified Call Center helpline number 91549 70454 for grievances.

Dr. Lakshmisha also called for a large-scale plantation drive to increase green cover and achieve the 'Net Zero' goal. He directed officials to convert vacant spaces in schools, offices and gram panchayats into green zones and focus on flood preparedness and resolving 22A land applications.

Jana Sena Scores Historic Win in Andhra Paper Mill Union Elections

CH Raju

Rajamahendravaram: Jana Sena Party has registered a significant victory in the Andhra Paper Limited (Mill), Rajahmundry recognised workers' union elections, marking a major shift in the political dynamics among the industrial workforce in the Godavari region. The result has emerged as a setback for former Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja, who backed the YSRCP-affiliated INTUC union, while strengthening the position of sitting Rajanagaram MLA Bhattala Balaramakrishna.

In a closely fought contest reflecting the political rivalry be-



tween the former and current MLAs of Rajanagaram constituency, the Jana Sena-affiliated workers' union secured the top position with 258 votes. The YSRCP-affiliated union stood second with 228 votes, while the TDP-backed union finished third with 220 votes.

The election witnessed an impressive turnout, with 706 out of 711 eligible votes being polled, re-



cording 99.29 per cent participation. The high voting percentage highlighted the importance attached by workers to issues related to the paper mill's future, Provident Fund, wage agreements and workplace safety.

The victory is being seen as a major boost for Jana Sena's presence in the industrial sector. The union's focus on workers' issues,

safety concerns and local demands reportedly helped it gain support among employees of the long-established industrial unit.

The election also highlighted the "alliance yet competition" dynamic between Jana Sena and TDP. Though both parties are alliance partners in the state government, they contested separately in this workers' union election. Jana Sena's victory over TDP indicates its growing influence among the in-

dustrial workforce in Rajahmundry and surrounding areas.

At the same time, YSRCP's second-place finish with 228 votes suggests that the party continues to retain a presence among labour groups despite losing power in the state. The result is expected to influence future workers' union elections across the Godavari districts and marks a new chapter in Jana Sena's expansion into the labour sector.

Key Election Highlights:

- Jana Sena workers' union: 258 votes (First place)
- YSRCP-affiliated INTUC: 228 votes (Second place)
- TDP-affiliated union: 220 votes (Third place)
- Total votes polled: 706 out of 711
- Polling percentage: 99.29%

Suddavagu Retaining Wall Works Begin, Says T.G. Bharat

Kurnool, July 29 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing T.G. Bharat Gupta said the government is fulfilling promises made to the public during the elections by taking up development works on priority. He stated that despite financial constraints, funds are being mobilised to execute important projects across the state.

On Wednesday, T.G. Bharat, along with Municipal Corporation Commissioner Challa Obulesu, laid the foundation stone for the construction of a retaining wall along Suddavagu near KC Canal, covering the 23rd and 24th wards of Kurnool city.

The Minister also inspected the spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI) bio-larvicide in the KC Canal and directed officials to intensify mosquito control measures.

Speaking on the occasion, Bharat said heavy rains had caused water flow from Suddavagu to overflow, affecting Sriram Nagar and Lakshmi Na-



gar areas and resulting in water entering residential houses. He said a permanent solution to the issue was promised during the elections and the government has now initiated works.

He said a 250-metre-long retaining wall is being constructed by the Water Resources Department at a cost of 2.50 crore. He thanked Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu for sanctioning the funds and said additional funds would be secured with the support of Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana to construct

a complete protective wall along the stream in phases.

Bharat credited the development initiatives in the city to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's leadership and said the government is working towards transforming Andhra Pradesh on the lines of Gujarat and Singapore.

Municipal Commissioner Challa Obulesu said the protective wall would regulate water flow during heavy rains and benefit residents. Officials from the Municipal Corporation and the Water Resources Department participated in the programme.

Munikudali Saptarishi Ghat Development Works Reviewed

Rajamahendravaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

With the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu approaching, the coalition government has intensified preparations to provide better facilities for devotees at the historic Saptarishi Ghat in Munikudali village of Sitanagaram Mandal, East Godavari district. Senior officials and public representatives conducted a field inspection to review ongoing development works and advance arrangements.

Bathula Venkata Lakshmi, wife of Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna, participated in the inspection as per the MLA's directions. She was accompanied by Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary Kantilal Dande, Panchayat Raj Commissioner Krishna Teja, East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, Joint Collector Megha Swaroop and officials



from various departments.

The visit began with special prayers at prominent temples in Munikudali. Later, the officials inspected Saptarishi Ghat and discussed infrastructure requirements to manage the expected rush of devotees during the Pushkaralu.

Bathula Venkata Lakshmi said that, following the vision of MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna, efforts are being made to transform Munikudali and Saptarishi Ghat into a major spiritual and tourism destination. She directed of-

ficials to ensure drinking water supply, temporary toilets, improved transport facilities and proper lighting arrangements for devotees.

She also stressed the need to strengthen safety measures at the ghats and beautify the surrounding areas. Officials inspected ongoing works, including streetlights, magic drains and cement roads, and instructed contractors to complete them within the stipulated timelines without compromising quality.

Officials said Munikudali would be developed into a well-planned spiritual and tourism hub through coordination between departments and alliance leaders. Officials from Panchayat Raj, Revenue, Drainage and Endowments departments, along with representatives of Jana Sena, Telugu Desam and BJP, participated in the inspection.

3,600-Foot Tricolour Flag Rally Creates World Record

Rajamahendravaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

A grand national flag rally featuring a 3,600-foot-long Tricolour was organised in Rajamahendravaram under the aegis of Vasavi Clubs International, creating a world record.

Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh attended the event as chief guest and inaugurated the rally. The procession began at Manyam Gardens on J.N. Road and passed through Anala Venkata Apparao Road and Happy Street before returning to Manyam Gardens, covering around 4.5 kilometres.

Kandula Durgesh personally participated in the rally by holding the giant national flag along with organisers. He expressed happiness over the historic dis-



play and said the city streets reflected the spirit of patriotism. He congratulated Vasavi Clubs International representatives for organising the unique event.

The rally witnessed participation from Vasavi Clubs International President Sidda Venkata Surya Prakash Rao, Executive Vice President Garlapati Sriniva-

sulu, organisation representatives Boda Veerajra, Erukulla Ramakrishna, Puvvada Narayana, Donthi Lakshminarayana Gupta and Boda Sai Suryaprakash.

A large number of Vasavi Club members, students and residents participated in the event, which showcased national pride and unity.

CMRF Cheques Worth 80.62 Lakh Distributed

Rajanagaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Rajanagaram constituency witnessed a major welfare initiative with Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques worth 80.62 lakh being distributed to 140 beneficiaries at a single event held at MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna's residence in Gadarada village of Korukonda Mandal on Wednesday.

MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna and Bathula Venkata Lakshmi, State Committee Coordinator for

Jana Sena Party's 'Naa Sena Kosam Naa Vonthu' initiative, handed over the cheques to beneficiaries suffering from various health issues. The programme brought relief to families facing financial difficulties due to medical expenses.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna said providing financial support to 140 families on a single platform was a significant milestone for the constituency. He said the Alliance government's objective is to stand by people during dif-

ficult times and provide support to those affected by illness and poverty.

He expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for their support towards public welfare initiatives. Beneficiaries thanked the government and the MLA for timely assistance.

Local Alliance leaders, activists, public representatives, beneficiaries and their family members participated in the programme.

AP Plans Buddhist Circuit to Promote Spiritual Tourism: Minister Durgesh



Nidadavolu, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The state is taking steps to develop Buddhist heritage sites and establish a dedicated 'Buddhist Circuit' in the state, Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said on Wednesday.

The Minister participated as the chief guest at the inauguration of 'Maitreya Buddha Vihar' at Undrajavaram in East Godavari district, the first such facility in the state, and offered prayers to Gautama Buddha. He also received blessings from Buddhist Dhamma leader Bhante Anayalo and Dr. Bodhagama Chandima Nayake Thero from Sri Lanka.

Kandula Durgesh said Undrajavaram in Nidadavole constituency holds spiritual significance as a place associated with Lord Buddha. He expressed hope that the Vihar would promote spiritual and moral values among youth and students. The Minister said the Tourism Department, under the guidance of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister

Pawan Kalyan, is working towards developing Buddhist destinations. He stated that measures would be taken in coordination with the Central and State governments to transform Maitreya Buddha Vihar into an internationally recognised tourist destination.

Durgesh said he had requested Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to establish a Buddhist Circuit in Andhra Pradesh on the lines of North India. The proposed circuit would connect major Buddhist sites including Thotlakonda, Bavikonda, Adurru, Undrajavaram, Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda and Ghantasala.

Highlighting Buddha's teachings of peace, tolerance and non-violence, the Minister said hatred can be overcome only through love. He recalled that leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar followed the path shown by Buddha.

He added that Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan could not attend the event due to Prime Minister's scheduled visit for the Bhogapuram Airport inauguration on August 1.

12 Pilot Projects Approved for Green Hydrogen Vehicles Nationwide

Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government is accelerating efforts to promote green hydrogen-based transportation in the country, with 12 pilot projects approved under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik informed the Lok Sabha.

The Minister gave the details in a written reply to a question raised by Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao regarding hydrogen-powered vehicles, transport corridors and hydrogen refuelling stations.

According to the reply, the approved pilot projects will introduce 70 hydrogen-powered vehicles on Indian roads, including 27 buses and 43 trucks. These vehicles comprise Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) and Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2 ICE) vehicles. The government is also establishing 16 Hydrogen Refuelling Stations (HRS) along 21 major transport



corridors across various states.

The projects have received financial support of 410.77 crore, of which 41.58 crore has already been released to implementing agencies for vehicle procurement, infrastructure development and setting up refuelling facilities.

MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao said the Union Minister also clarified that a monitoring mechanism has been established to assess vehicle performance, fuel efficiency, safety standards and utilisation patterns. Implementing agencies will submit regular reports, helping evaluate the feasibility of expanding green hydrogen mobility in the future.

He said the initiative would play a key role in promoting clean energy-based transport solutions across the country.

CPI Calls for Support to Statewide Padayatras

Eluru, July 29 | TPN Bureau

CPI Eluru District Secretary Mannava Krishna Chaitanya called upon people to make the party's statewide padayatras from August 6 to 15 and the 'Chalo Delhi' programme on September 1 a success. He unveiled posters for the programmes at Spurthi Bhavan, the CPI district office, on Wednesday.

Krishna Chaitanya criticised the BJP-led government at the Centre, alleging rising unemployment, inflation, inequality and social tensions. He also questioned the alliance government's 'Intintiki TDP' campaign and urged people to seek ac-

countability from leaders over unfulfilled promises.

He demanded completion of the Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme, rehabilitation facilities for Polavaram project-affected families and payment of pending compensation to farmers.

CPI District Assistant Secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao demanded measures to control prices, protect workers' rights, provide jobs, ensure MSP for crops, implement women's reservation and safeguard democracy.

CPI leaders Reddy Srinivas Dange, Torlapati Babu, Kurralla Varaprasad, Kolluri Sudharani, Mavuri Vijaya, Gorli Swathi and others participated.

Advanced Bariatric Care Offers New Hope Against Rising Obesity

Rajamahendravaram, July 29 | TPN Bureau:

Dr. Jaganmohan Reddy, senior expert in robotic and bariatric surgery at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech City, said obesity has emerged as a major health threat worldwide, with sedentary lifestyles and increased dependence on online food delivery contributing to its rapid spread.

He stated that one in three people in India is at risk of obesity-related health issues and warned that the condition could lead to serious complications such as heart disease, joint problems, respiratory dis-

orders, diabetes and fatty liver.

Dr. Jaganmohan Reddy explained that bariatric surgery is not a cosmetic procedure but a life-saving treatment for eligible patients with severe obesity and related health risks. He said metabolic surgeries can help control conditions like diabetes, fatty liver and infertility issues.

Under his guidance, Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech City, has achieved significant results in bariatric care. Team members G. Santhosh Kumar, S.V.V. Ramakrishna and Sai Kiran V are creating awareness about obesity management and advanced treatment options.

A farewell meeting was organised by the staff club of Government Degree College, Eluru, for Principal Dr. Gutta Giribabu, who was transferred from the college.

College Principal Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao presided over the programme and appreciated Dr. Giribabu's contributions to the institution's development. CPDC Secretary L. Venkateswara Rao and member Badeti Venkataramayya praised his efforts towards improv-



Eluru, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Farewell Held for Principal Who Secured 12.6 Crore Building Funds

Eluru, July 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector K. Vetrivelvi ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the death of a newborn at Eluru Government General Hospital on July 23 and assured strict action against those responsible.

The Collector, along with State Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnuvardhan, visited the hospital on Wednesday and met the bereaved family. The family alleged medical negligence behind the baby's death.

The Collector said case sheets and records would be examined

during the inquiry. She also inspected hospital wards, including the post-operative ward, and expressed displeasure over non-functional CCTV cameras and poor maintenance of bed sheets.

She directed officials to improve patient services, ensure punctuality among doctors and staff, and keep HODs available during OP hours. Dr. Vishnuvardhan said Dr. Anil from Vijayawada Government Hospital was appointed as the inquiry officer. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Shyamala and others participated.

ing student facilities.

Dr. Gutta Giribabu said that with support from donors and faculty members, he strengthened the college infrastructure. He highlighted securing 12.6 crore funds for a new college building as his major achievement and thanked MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah, the government, CPDC and faculty.

Faculty members, including K. Ramesh, V. Venkatrao, Dr. M. Rambabu, Dr. M. Vijayakumar, T.V.S. Padmavati and others, attended.



APSCPCR Chairman Calls For Child-Friendly District Status

Nellore, July 29 | TPN Bureau

APSCPCR Chairman Vetukuri AVS Suryanarayana Raju directed officials to work towards transforming Nellore into a ‘child-friendly district’ by ensuring comprehensive health, education and protection for every child.Addressing a child protection system review meeting at the Nellore Collectorate, he said the Commission’s priority is to strengthen child protection, development and educational progress. He urged departments to effectively implement the Right to Education Act and utilise government funds for children’s welfare. District Collector Himanshu Shukla said a special action

plan is being implemented to ensure child welfare across the district. He highlighted the role of ICDS, Health, Education, Police and Labour departments in safeguarding children from birth to 18 years. APSCPCR member KG Venkata Padmalatha directed officials to rectify deficiencies identified during field inspections and submit reports within 15 days.Officials reviewed measures related to child labour prevention, child marriages, POCSO Act implementation, rehabilitation and protection of vulnerable children. ICDS Project Director Hena Sujan, District Child Protection Officer Suresh and other officials participated.



Red Sanders Smuggler Gets Five-Year Jail Term

Tirupati: RSS ADJ Court Judge Narasimhamurthy sentenced red sanders smuggler Dorasami Elumalai to five years imprisonment and imposed a fine of 6 lakh for illegal transportation of red sanders.The Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) secured the conviction in Crime No.01/2019 registered after Elumalai was caught with red sanders logs in Nagapatla East Beat, Chamala Range, Tirupati Division Reserve Forest. RSASTF Head L. Subbarayudu, Task Force SP P. Srinivas and ASP J. Kulashekhar supervised the case proceedings. Special Public Prosecutor Aluguri Amara Narayana presented evidence before the court. The accused was later sent to Nellore Central Jail. SP Srinivas said the verdict would serve as a warning to smugglers targeting Seshachalam Reserve Forest.

TDP Leaders Highlight Welfare Schemes

Tirupati: Tirupati TDP In-charge JB Srinivas, Tirupati Parliamentary Constituency President Panabaka Lakshmi and Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav participated in the ‘Development and Welfare’ door-to-door campaign in the 26th Division on Wednesday.The leaders explained the welfare schemes and development initiatives of the Alliance government to residents. JB Srinivas said, as per Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu’s directions, the party is reaching out to every household and informing people about government programmes. He said beneficiaries of various schemes are present across the city.Cluster In-charge Puligoru Muralikrishna, Co-cluster In-charge Rajinikanth, Ward Presidents Bhaskar, Jalapothu Chandra, Sudhakar Reddy and Naga Pratap, Tatayyagunta Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav, RC Munikrishna, Manyam Srinivasulu, Singam Setty Subbaramayya and party activists participated.

Collector Directs Speedy Completion Of Pending Craft Village Works

Tirupati: District Collector Dr. S. Venkateswar directed officials to complete pending works of the Craft Village project on a war footing. He reviewed the progress at a meeting held at the District Collectorate on Wednesday.The Collector said funds were sanctioned with the support of the Government of India and DRDA for constructing three emporium blocks, three work sheds and a training classroom with restroom facilities. He stated that all three emporium blocks and the training classroom were completed, while one work shed was finished and two remained incomplete.He instructed R&B and DRDA officials to coordinate and complete the pending works at the earliest.DRDA PDs Shobhan Babu (Tirupati) and Sridevi (Chittoor), Assistant Director (Handicrafts) Satyamurthy, R&B EE Raja Naik and others participated.

Kola Anand Seeks Action To Restore Vyasashram Prestige

Srikalahasti: BJP State Vice President Kola Anand met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada and discussed the development and political situation of the Srikalahasti constituency. During the meeting, the Chief Minister enquired about the alleged corruption and irregularities at Yerpedu Vyasashram, a century-old institution established by Malayala Yathindrudu. Kola Anand informed the Chief Minister that the prestigious ashram had been facing issues due to alleged mismanagement and urged the government to take steps to restore its former glory. He sought measures to protect the heritage and reputation of the historic institution.

Jeeyangar’s Chaturmasya Deeksha Begins At Tirumala

Tirumala, July 29, TPN Bureau

The Chaturmasya Deeksha Sankalpam of Pedda Jeeyangar commenced at the Tirumala Sri-vari temple on Wednesday with traditional rituals and religious ceremonies.

The four-month observance holds special significance in the Sri Vaishnava tradition of Ramanjacharya. As part of the rituals, Kalasha Sthapana, Kalasha Puja, Vishvakshena Aradhana, Medini Puja and Mrut-sangrahanam were performed at the Jeeyangar Matham as per scriptural practices.

Later, Pedda Jeeyangar, accompanied by Chinna Jeeyangar and disciples, visited Swami Pushkarini and offered prayers to Varahswamy. They proceeded to the



Srivari temple with Mangala Vadyam, where TTD EO Muddada Ravichandra and temple officials accorded a traditional welcome.

After darshan, TTD presented Melchat vastram to Pedda Jeeyangar and Nooluchat vastram to

Chinna Jeeyangar. Later, the Jeeyangars felicitated TTD EO Muddada Ravichandra, Board member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, Temple Deputy EO Lokanatham and Peshkar Rama Krishna at the Jeeyar Mutt.

Convert Waste Into Wealth Says,Addl Commissioner

Chittoor, July 29 | TPN Bureau

State Panchayat Raj Additional Commissioner Sudhakar Rao directed officials to effectively implement Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 and ensure full utilisation of Solid Waste Processing Centers (SWPCs) in Gram Panchayats.

Reviewing sanitation measures with Zilla Parishad CEO Ravikumar Naidu and District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Sudhakar at the ZP meeting hall on Wednesday, Sudhakar Rao said scientific waste management is essential to protect public health and maintain clean



villages. He instructed officials to ensure segregation of wet and dry waste at household level, convert wet waste into vermicompost and sell dry waste through Swachh Rath. He suggested collecting cattle dung from farmers and processing it into compost to generate additional revenue. The Additional Commission-

er stressed the need to improve the income of Green Ambassadors and explore ways to provide them additional earnings up to 5,000. He also directed Swachh Rath operators to collect all 29 categories of dry waste with proper awareness.

ZP CEO Ravikumar Naidu said the government is prioritising village cleanliness and strengthening waste management systems through e-autos, Swachh Rath and awareness programmes. District Panchayat Officer Sudhakar said continuous training and initiatives like Swachh Patham helped Chittoor secure eighth position in state cleanliness rankings.

Amaravati Championship Trials Conclude In Tirupati

Tirupati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

The constituency-level sports competitions of Amaravati Championship 2026, organised by the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), concluded successfully in Tirupati district on July 29.

Competitions were conducted across Tirupati, Chandragiri, Gudur, Sullurpeta, Venkatagiri, Srikalahasti and Satyavedu constituencies, with participation

from 616 boys and 273 girls. Around 10,000 athletes, coaches, Physical Directors, PETs, sports association representatives, officials and sports enthusiasts participated in the events.

District Sports Development Officer N. Sashidhar said winners at the constituency level must participate in district-level competitions and selection trials. He informed that district-level events will be held in Tirupati from August 9 to 12 in disciplines

including athletics, volleyball, yoga, kho-kho, badminton, weightlifting, kabaddi, hockey, chess, archery, basketball and boxing.

Sashidhar urged selected athletes to attend the district-level competitions and qualify for state-level events. Quality meals were provided to participants under the supervision of the District Sports Development Authority through the government’s Mid-Day Meal scheme.

Somireddy Highlights Government Achievements During Outreach

Podalakur, July 29 | TPN Bureau

MLA Somireddy conducted a door-to-door campaign at Agachalapuram in Podalakur as part of the “Two Years of Trust – Development and Welfare” programme. He interacted with residents, explained the development and welfare initiatives implemented by the Alliance

government over the past two years, and received feedback on local issues.

Somireddy said the Telugu Desam Party has always supported teachers and highlighted the government’s DSC recruitment, PRC implementation and increments for employees. He recalled that a 43% PRC was provided during Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu’s ten-

ure in 2014 and accused the previous YSRCP government of neglecting employees’ demands.

He also criticised former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy for remarks against Nara Lokesh, stating that Lokesh has built a strong identity through education and IT sector initiatives. Alliance leaders and party activists participated in the programme.

Collector Siri Directs Nutritious Meals in Govt Schools

Kurnool, July 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri directed officials to ensure quality education, improved infrastructure, hygiene and nutritious food in government schools across Kurnool district. She also stressed the need for strict security measures for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

The Collector reviewed school performance, mid-day meals, sanitation, educational standards and digital services through a Webex meeting with Deputy DEOs, Mandal Educational Officers (MEOs) and headmasters on Wednesday.

Dr. Siri instructed officials to provide mid-day meals strictly according to the government menu and verify the manufacturing and expiry dates of ‘Chikki’ packets before distribution. She empha-



sised maintaining cleanliness in toilets, kitchens, classrooms and drinking water facilities, and sharing photographs with parents to improve confidence in government schools.

She directed teachers to complete the syllabus with conceptual understanding and effectively implement the government’s 100-day educational goals. Officials were asked to ensure that children from migrant families utilise seasonal hostels and continue their education without interruption.

The Collector instructed officials to increase the usage of the

‘LEAP’ app among students, parents and teachers and achieve 100% adoption. She also asked schools to update details accurately and submit reports.

Dr. Siri appreciated Kodumur Government School, MPP School in Pathikonda and AP Model School in Maddikera for their performance and urged other schools to follow their example.

Later, the Collector inspected the EVM godown at the Collectorate and directed officials to maintain round-the-clock surveillance. She reviewed CCTV monitoring, security arrangements and entry-exit registers, instructing officials to ensure there was no negligence in EVM protection.

DEO Sudhakar, Election Department Superintendent Murali, Deputy DEOs, MEOs and headmasters participated in the programmes.

Garuda Awards Competitions From August 3

Tirupati, July 29 | TPN Bureau:

TTD Chief PRO Ravi announced that the national-level Venkateswara Natya Kala Parishat 2026 Garuda Awards competitions will be held from August 3 to 12 at Mahati Kalakshetram, Tirupati, under the aegis of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishat.

Addressing a press conference at Tirupati Press Club on Wednesday, Ravi said performances

would begin at 10 AM. The competitions include mythological verse plays, short plays, children’s plays, social dramas, mono-acting, devotional and light music categories.

Chinnangari Ramana said the Parishat resumed activities after a six-year gap due to the pandemic and other reasons. With the support of Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu, former MLA Mannuru Sugunamma and former TTD Deputy Executive Officers, a new committee was formed. TTD Ex-

ecutive Officer Muddada Ravichandra provided financial assistance.He said around 700 artists from both Telugu states would be provided free food and accommodation. Bangaru Garuda awards and cash prizes will be presented to winners.

Committee members Kothapalli Munirathnam, Maddham Gajendra, Sambola Harinath, Gopal Rao, Kalathur Bhaskar Reddy, Nandamuni Reddy, Achari, Mallikarjunayya and Kodandapani participated.

Ramachandrapuram To Become Model Of Development: MLA Prashanthi

Buchireddypalem, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy said Ramachandrapuram would be transformed into a model of development with welfare and infrastructure initiatives worth 2.18 crore taken up during the alliance government’s two-year tenure.

Participating in the ‘Two Years of Trust – Development and Welfare’ door-to-door campaign at Ward 20 of Ramachandrapuram, she distributed pamphlets on government schemes and interacted with residents to understand their Prashanthi Reddy said the alliance government fulfilled election promises, including increased social pensions, Talliki Vandanam, Stree Shakti, Annadatha Sukhibhava, Matsyakarula Sevalo and Auto Sevalo schemes. She said the Mega DSC provided jobs to 16,000 youths and criticised YSRCP for



questioning the recruitment process after allegedly failing to conduct DSC during its tenure.

She said development works in Ramachandrapuram included CC roads, drains, electricity infrastructure, drinking water connections and welfare assistance. She assured completion of pending school works and announced plans for a playground and water plant through CSR funds.

The MLA also ordered an inquiry into 399 vacant houses in Jagananna Colony and announced infrastructure development works for Bombay-Buchi road at an estimated cost of 14 crore.

SP Honours Meritorious Students From Police Families

Tirupati, July 28 | TPN Bureau

District SP L. Subbarayudu said discipline, hard work and proper guidance are key to achieving success while encouraging children of police families to pursue their goals. He presented merit scholarships and certificates to talented students during a programme held at the District Police Office.

Congratulating students and parents, Subbarayudu said parents are the first role models for children, and their discipline, dedication and values influence their personality. He advised students to identify their strengths, work with confidence and aim for higher achievements.

He said children from police families have brought pride to their parents and the department by excelling in IIT, JEE, MBBS, engineering and higher studies abroad. He appreciated nine families where two children each received merit scholarships.

Scholarships were presented to students in various categories, including 26 SSC students, 18 Inter-



mediate students, two JEE Advanced candidates, one JEE Mains candidate, one EAPCET candidate and students pursuing B.Tech, MBBS, MCA, M.Tech, B.Sc, BCA, BPT and B.Pharmacy courses.The SP assured that the Police Welfare Department would extend support to eligible students who could not complete applications due to technical issues by considering their academic performance.

He urged students to treat the achievement as the beginning of a successful journey and set higher goals. Additional SPs Ravi Manohara Achari (Law & Order), I. Ramakrishna (Tirumala), Srinivasa Rao (Armed Reserve), AO Suresh Kumar, DSPs, police officials, welfare staff, students and parents participated.

Traffic Signals Installed At 11 Tirupati Junctions

Tirupati, July 29 | TPN Bureau

MLA Arani Srinivasulu inaugurated a new traffic signalling system at M.S. Subbulakshmi Circle in Tirupati on Wednesday. The system, developed under the Smart City project at a cost of 2.5 crore, aims to improve traffic management and road safety.

Arani Srinivasulu said traffic signals are now operational at 11 major circles in the city and urged motorists, particularly two-wheeler riders, auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers to follow traffic rules to prevent accidents.

He said the system is connected

to the Command and Control Centre, enabling automatic generation of challans for signal violations.

The event was attended by TDP in-charge JB Srinivasulu, DSPs Kondiah and Bhaktavatsalam, Corporation Deputy Commissioner Amarayya, SE Shyam Sundar, Smart City EE Ravi, municipal engineers Tulasi and Gomathi, Green and Beautification Corporation Chairperson Sugunamma, State Yadava Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, Nai Brahmana Corporation Chairman Rudrakoti Sadashivam and others.

Sudha Reddy Highlights Development Works In Sai Nagar Panchayat

Chandragiri, July 29 | TPN Bureau

Local women accorded a warm welcome to Pulivarthi Sudha Reddy during the third day of the ‘Two Years of Trust – Development and Welfare’ door-to-door campaign held at Sai Nagar Panchayat in Tirupati Rural Mandal.

Participating in the campaign, Sudha Reddy explained the development and welfare schemes implemented by the state government during the past two years and interacted with residents to

know the status of scheme delivery and local issues.

She said development works worth 30 lakh for CC roads, 10 lakh for panchayat building repairs and drainage, and 11 lakh for water tank improvements were taken up in Sai Nagar Panchayat.

Sudha Reddy assured residents that proposals for drainage and CC road works in remaining areas have been submitted to the state government and the works would begin after approval.

Alliance leaders and activists participated in the programme.

APSPDCL Introduces UPI Payments For Electricity Bills

Tirupati, July 29 | TPN Bureau: Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) has introduced direct electricity bill payments through UPI apps to make services faster and more convenient for consumers.

APSPDCL said consumers can now pay bills through platforms such as PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay and Amazon Pay, apart from existing options including the official website, mobile app, Dynamic QR Code and WhatsApp Governance (Mana Mitra).

The company is promoting digital payments across Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Steps are also being taken to increase digital transactions at Electricity Revenue Offices and gradually reduce cash-based collections.

APSPDCL Chairman & Managing Director Siva Sankar Lotheti said the initiative aims to achieve 100% digital payments and advised consumers to avoid fraudulent links and fake apps while making online transactions.

Editorial

The World Must Prepare For A Bigger Crisis

The world appears to be moving from one crisis to another without finding any lasting solution. Instead of witnessing peace and stability, nations are facing growing uncertainty as conflicts continue to spread across different regions. The developments over the past few months indicate that the global situation is becoming more dangerous with each passing day.

The policies and decisions of U.S. President Donald Trump have once again become a subject of global debate. The conflict in the Gulf region, which initially intensified with Israel's military operations and later witnessed the direct involvement of the United States, has turned into a prolonged and unpredictable confrontation. Every time peace talks begin, the international community hopes that the violence will finally come to an end. Unfortunately, those hopes are repeatedly shattered by fresh attacks and renewed hostilities.

The recent military actions involving Israel and Lebanon, along with the latest attacks connected to the wider regional conflict, have only strengthened the belief that peace remains a distant dream. Instead of moving toward negotiations, the concerned nations continue to exchange military strikes, pushing the region closer to a larger war.

The consequences of such conflicts are not limited to the countries directly involved. Wars disrupt global trade, increase energy prices, weaken financial markets, and create economic uncertainty across the world. Inflation, unemployment, and shortages of essential commodities are likely to affect millions of ordinary people who have no role in these conflicts. History has repeatedly shown that while political leaders make decisions, it is the common citizen who bears the greatest burden.

The world cannot afford to ignore these warning signs. Global leaders must give priority to diplomacy over military action and work sincerely toward lasting peace. At the same time, governments and people should remain alert and prepare for the possibility of a deeper global economic and humanitarian crisis if the present situation continues unchecked.

Editor

Bhogapuram: The Gateway to Development, the Sky Gateway for North Andhra

Chennu Pediraju



Senior Journalist

The inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 August is expected to provide fresh momentum to the economic, industrial, and tourism sectors of North Andhra Pradesh. If the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has long served as the industrial gateway to North Andhra, the Bhogapuram International Airport has the potential to become the region's gateway to the skies and a catalyst for its future development.

After nearly three decades of planning and discussions, this Greenfield international airport has finally become a reality. Its inauguration marks not only a significant milestone in the aviation history of North Andhra but also a major step forward in the region's economic development. More than just an airport, Bhogapuram is expected to become a new gateway connecting North Andhra more efficiently with global markets.

The uniqueness of Bhogapuram lies not merely in its scale but in its long-term vision. The project has been developed across 2,703 acres, with 2,203 acres dedicated to airport infrastructure and another 500 acres earmarked for an Aviation Hub. Designed to support the growth of the aerospace and defence sectors, the hub also includes land reserved for an Aviation University and an EduCity. This vision positions Bhogapuram not merely as a transportation facility but as a future centre for education, research, innovation, and skill development.

The airport's architectural design is equally distinctive. The terminal has been modelled in the shape of a "Flying Fish," reflecting the maritime heritage of the Bay of Bengal. Traditional Telugu rangavalli (rangoli) patterns have been incorporated into the ceiling design, blending local cultural identity with modern architecture. From the very first phase, the airport has been equipped with an integrated terminal capable of handling both domestic and international passengers.

One of Bhogapuram's greatest strengths is its 3,800-metre runway, capable of accommodating wide-body international aircraft such as the Boeing 777, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, and Airbus A330. The airport has initially been designed to handle six million passengers annually, with a master plan to expand capacity to 40 million passengers in the future.

A dedicated cargo terminal with an annual handling capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes further enhances the airport's economic significance. This facility will enable North Andhra's exports—including seafood, pharmaceuticals, horticultural produce, and value-added agricultural products—to reach international markets more quickly and efficiently. As export volumes increase, the region is expected to witness greater commercial activity and higher foreign exchange earnings.

The impact of an international airport extends far beyond aircraft operations. Airports stimulate the development of hotels, logistics companies, warehouses, travel services, commercial centres, and supporting infrastructure. Consequently, they generate not only direct employment in aviation but also substantial indirect job opportunities across construction, transportation, tourism, hospitality, and small businesses.

Bhogapuram Airport has been developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model by the GMR Group at an estimated cost of 4,727 crore. The Andhra Pradesh Government has invested over 1,583 crore in land acquisition and supporting infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water supply. Completing such a large-scale project within 31 months is itself a notable achievement.

However, an airport's success depends not only on its infrastructure but also on the connectivity that supports it. Projects such as the National Highway-16 linkage, the Trumpet Interchange, and the Visakhapatnam-Bhogapuram Coastal Beach Road are expected to significantly improve accessibility. If a future



Metro Rail connection is realised, connectivity between Visakhapatnam city, Bheemunipatnam, and Bhogapuram will become even stronger. Once Bhogapuram becomes operational, commercial passenger flights currently operating from the INS Dega Civil Enclave in Visakhapatnam will be shifted to the new airport.

Some concerns have been expressed that the operationalisation of Bhogapuram may reduce the importance of Visakhapatnam Airport. However, these concerns are largely misplaced. INS Dega is a strategic air base of the Indian Navy, and defence operations will continue there. The relocation primarily concerns civilian commercial flight operations.

Building an airport, however, is only the first step towards development. Its long-term success will depend on the establishment of industries around it, the operationalisation of the Aviation Hub, expansion of international flight services, growth in cargo

operations, and the attraction of investments that generate employment.

The true success of Bhogapuram cannot be measured simply by the number of flights it handles. It should instead be evaluated by the volume of investment it attracts, the increase in trade it facilitates, the employment it creates, the foreign exchange it generates, and the extent to which it strengthens North Andhra's industrial competitiveness.

On 1 August, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate not merely an international airport but a new gateway connecting North Andhra more closely with the world. Whether Bhogapuram truly becomes an "Address for Development" and the "Sky Gateway of North Andhra" will not be determined by the number of aircraft taking off from its runway, but by the investments, opportunities, employment, and sustainable economic growth that those flights ultimately bring to the region.

Friendship - Promoting Peace, Solidarity, and Understanding between Cultures

Prof Madhusudhan Reddy Burra



Education Expert

A Friend Is...
"Someone who stands with us through differences, shares our journey, and makes the world feel more connected."
Friendship plays a crucial role in promoting trust, empathy, and mutual respect among people. Celebrating "International Friendship Day" annually since 2011 on 30 July highlights the value of relationships by overcoming misunderstandings, reducing conflicts, and building more inclusive societies.

2026 Theme
"Friendship – Promoting Peace, Unity, Sacrifice, Solidarity, and Understanding Between Cultures"

This day, established by UNO, encourages the power of camaraderie, understanding, friendship bonding, and promoting harmony and goodwill. It also encourages people of all

ages and backgrounds to foster friendships and bridge cultural divides. The theme of International Friendship Day-2026 revolves around the "Friendship - Promoting Peace, Unity, Sacrifice, Solidarity, and Understanding between Cultures". National Friendship Day is also observed on the first Sunday of August, ie., 02 August 2026, in some countries.

True Friendships are a Life-line of Our Life

It is a time to appreciate old friends, make new friends, and reflect on the positive impact friendships have on our lives and societies. True friendships encourage peace, happiness, harmony, and unity. Sometimes friends are as important as family members, even more than them at times. We are in a tough world full of misunderstandings, miscommunications,

lack of trust, discrimination, and cultural divide. To overcome these challenges, a true friend is essential to lead a peaceful life amidst hurdles in the journey of life. Even though they have differences, they are tied with pure friendship. They agree to disagree.

Our World Expands with New Friends

Our classmates and neighbourhood pals expanded the world with us. Together we shared experiences and made plans for the future. Paths diverge, and new friends find a place in our social experience. Our world expands and our culture changes. With each new friend, we expand our views. Their experiences contribute to new meaning in our lives. Through friendships, we grow and broaden our horizons. Eventually, the world becomes smaller and more connected. On this day, let's contact our friends, meet them, share their memories, appreciate our friends, mail a card, send wishes through social media, and send them friendship bands/cards.



DSC Controversy: Between Political Battle And Aspirants' Future

Ravi Podili



Senior Journalist

The controversy over the Mega DSC recruitment process in Andhra Pradesh has moved beyond a debate on examinations and entered the political arena, raising a key question — is the DSC issue being pursued in the interest of job aspirants or has it become another tool in the political battle between the ruling party and opposition?

In a democracy, raising allegations is the right of the opposition, while responding transparently is the responsibility of the government. However, when political narratives overshadow facts and allegations replace evidence, it is unemployed youth who suffer the most. Turning every issue into a political confrontation weakens public confidence in governance.

Government recruitment is a matter of credibility for any administration. When doubts arise over a process like DSC, which affects the future of lakhs of aspirants, the government has a responsibility to address concerns clearly. At the same time, allegations without evidence can create confusion among candidates preparing for jobs.

The DSC issue in Andhra Pradesh has increasingly become a political controversy rather than a discussion focused on recruitment. Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been questioning the examination process, alleging irregularities and demanding a detailed inquiry, including a CBI probe if required.

The government has reject-

ed these allegations. Education Department Principal Secretary Kona Sasidhar, along with Commissioner of School Education and other officials, has explained various aspects of the recruitment process. Officials have maintained that the examinations were conducted transparently and that there is no evidence supporting the allegations.

Despite these explanations, the controversy continues, with the opposition raising fresh doubts over the government's clarifications. As a result, the DSC issue has shifted from an administrative matter to a political contest.

Education Minister Nara Lokesh intensified the debate by challenging Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to participate in an open discussion if he had genuine concerns. Though Jagan Mohan Reddy did not directly respond, YSRCP leaders, including former ministers Perini Nani and R.K. Roja, criti-

cised Lokesh's remarks and continued questioning the government's stand.

The recent controversy involving the Union Education Minister also added to the political debate. Jagan Mohan Reddy referred to the issue through social media and argued that accountability should also apply to the State Education Minister over the DSC controversy. Lokesh responded by reiterating his challenge for an open debate.

The larger question remains whether the allegations are politically motivated or genuinely aimed at protecting job aspirants. If irregularities occurred, the opposition must establish them with evidence. If allegations are incorrect, the government must provide complete technical details and remove doubts among candidates.

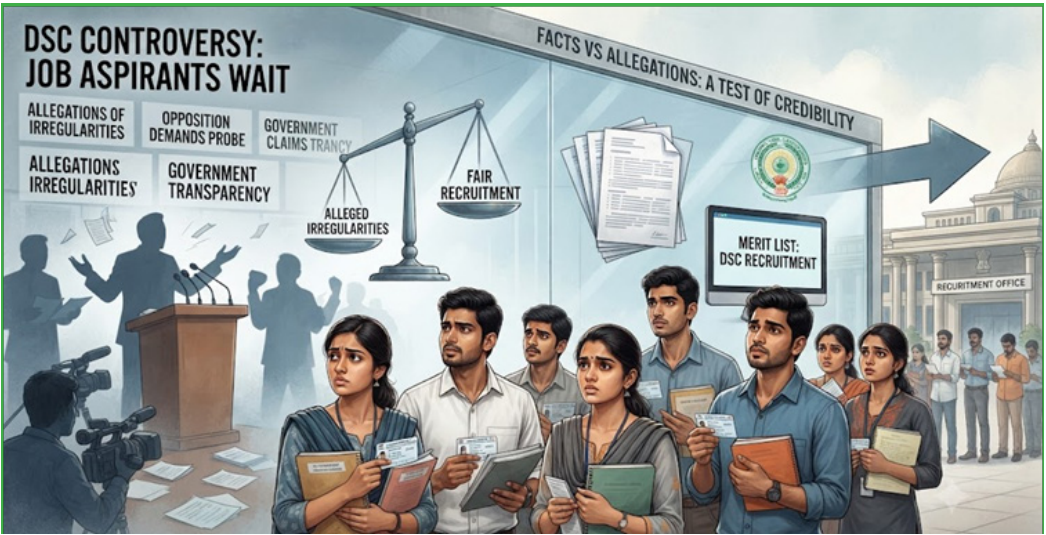
Simply stating that the recruitment process was transparent may not be enough when public trust is at stake. Confidence in recruitment systems is essential, and doubts over fairness can affect the credibility of government employment processes.

Political criticism is part of democracy, but turning every

issue into an electoral weapon risks sidelining public concerns. While political observers believe the opposition may continue raising the issue until elections, the government is also responding to every criticism.

The biggest concern remains unemployed youth who have invested years preparing for government jobs. For them, fairness and certainty matter more than political arguments. If allegations are proven true, those responsible must face action. If they are baseless, they should be rejected through facts and evidence. Since doubts persist despite repeated explanations, measures such as an independent review by technical experts or releasing a detailed white paper on the examination process could help restore confidence.

Ultimately, the DSC controversy is not merely a political battle between the ruling party and opposition. It is a test of the government's credibility and the opposition's responsibility. Elections may decide political outcomes, but the truth must prevail because the future of lakhs of young aspirants depends on it.



Lok Sabha Clears Bill To Tighten Paper Leak Punishment

The Lok Sabha has passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, aimed at strengthening measures against paper leaks and unfair practices in government recruitment and competitive examinations. The legislation proposes stricter punishment for those involved in leaking question papers, organised cheating networks and other examination-related malpractices.

The move comes amid growing concerns over repeated paper leak incidents affecting major competitive exams across the country. The government said the amendment is intended to protect the interests of millions of students and ensure greater transparency and credibility in the examination system.

Under the proposed changes, individuals and organisations involved in organised cheating or paper leak activities could face tougher penalties, including higher fines and longer imprisonment. The law seeks to target not just individual offenders but also organ-



ised groups that profit from examination fraud.

During the discussion in Parliament, the government highlighted the need for stronger legal provisions to prevent manipulation of recruitment processes. Ministers said paper leaks not only affect students' careers but also damage public confidence in institutions conducting examinations.

The amendment also focuses on improving coordination between investigation agencies and examination authorities to ensure quick action against those responsible. Officials believe stricter laws will act as a deterrent

against criminal networks involved in leaking question papers.

Opposition members raised concerns over the implementation of the law and demanded greater accountability from examination authorities. They stressed that preventing leaks requires not only strict punishment but also improvements in examination security systems and administrative procedures.

The bill is expected to strengthen the existing legal framework by addressing loopholes and introducing more effective mechanisms to deal with examination fraud. It comes at a time when student protests and public anger over irregularities in competitive exams have increased across several states.

With the passage of the amendment, the government aims to send a strong message that malpractice in public examinations will not be tolerated. The legislation is being seen as a major step toward ensuring fairness, transparency and equal opportunities for students appearing for competitive examinations.

Rajya Sabha Clears Bill Protecting Vande Mataram

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to make insulting or disrespecting the national song "Vande Mataram" a criminal offence. The bill was passed through a voice vote amid protests by opposition members in the House.

The legislation aims to provide Vande Mataram the same statutory protection currently available to the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. The amendment extends legal safeguards against intentional acts of disrespect or obstruction related to the national song.

According to the provisions of the bill, actions such as deliberately preventing the singing of Vande Mataram or causing disruption during its rendition could attract legal action. The existing law provides punishment for offences related to disre-



specting national symbols, including imprisonment, fines, or both.

The government said the move is aimed at preserving the dignity and respect associated with national symbols and strengthening the emotional connection of citizens with the country's history and freedom struggle. Supporters highlighted the role of Vande Mataram in India's independence movement and said it deserves greater legal recognition.

During the debate, ruling party members argued that the national song has inspired generations of In-

dians and played a significant role during the freedom movement. They said the amendment would ensure that the song receives protection similar to other symbols of national honour.

Opposition parties, however, raised concerns over the timing and scope of the legislation. Some members questioned whether criminal provisions were the right approach and argued that issues related to national symbols should be handled with sensitivity while respecting democratic freedoms.

The bill's passage marks a significant step toward granting Vande Mataram a stronger legal status. It will now move through the remaining legislative process before becoming law.

The government believes the amendment will reinforce respect for national symbols, while critics continue to debate its implications for freedom of expression and individual rights.

Supreme Court Closes Coal Case Against Manmohan Singh

The Supreme Court has closed the criminal case against former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in the coal block allocation matter, accepting the closure report submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The decision brings an end to a long-running legal battle connected to one of India's biggest political controversies.

The case was related to alleged irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks during the period when Dr Manmohan Singh was serving as Prime Minister and also holding charge of the Coal Ministry. The allegations had triggered a major political debate and led to investigations into the allocation process.

The CBI, after examining the matter, concluded that there was no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by Dr Manmohan Singh or other individuals named in the case. Based on the investigation findings, the agency submitted a closure report, which has now been accepted by the Supreme Court.

The coal allocation controversy had remained a significant issue in Indian politics for years. Opposition parties had accused the then UPA government of causing losses through an improper allocation system, while the government had defended the process and denied allegations of corruption.

Dr Manmohan Singh had consistently maintained that



there was no wrongdoing in the decisions taken during his tenure. His legal team had argued that the allocation decisions were taken according to government procedures and that there was no evidence of any criminal intent.

The Supreme Court's decision provides legal closure to the case involving the former Prime Minister, who passed away in December 2024. The development has renewed political discussions over the coal block allocation controversy and the investigations that followed it.

The ruling also marks the conclusion of a high-profile legal chapter involving one of India's most respected economists and former Prime Ministers, whose tenure was associated with major economic reforms as well as political challenges.

The closure of the case brings an end to years of legal proceedings and debate surrounding the coal allocation issue, while highlighting the importance of due process in matters involving public officials and policy decisions.

Vigilance Raids 41 Locations In Tamil Nadu TASMAL Case

Tamil Nadu's Vigilance and Anti-Corruption officials have conducted searches at 41 locations linked to a former state minister and others in connection with alleged irregularities involving the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAL). The raids are part of an ongoing investigation into alleged malpractice in the state-run liquor distribution system.

The searches were carried out at multiple locations as investigators examined allegations related to financial irregularities, tender processes and possible misuse of official positions. The probe is focused on suspected violations connected to the functioning of TASMAL and individuals associated with the former minister.

TASMAL, which controls the retail sale of liquor in Tamil Nadu, has faced allegations of irregularities in areas such as procurement, transportation, tenders and excess charges at outlets. Earlier investigations into the matter had looked into claims of financial misconduct and alleged improper practices involving officials and private entities.

Officials involved in the latest searches examined documents and other materials as part of the investigation. The authorities are expected to analyse the collected information to determine whether there was any violation of laws or in-



volvement of individuals in alleged malpractice.

The case has become a major political issue in Tamil Nadu, with opposition parties targeting the ruling establishment over alleged corruption in the liquor sector. The government, however, has maintained that investigations should proceed according to law and that allegations must be established through evidence.

The TASMAL-related controversy has previously witnessed multiple agency actions over allegations of corruption and financial irregularities linked to the corporation. These investigations have brought renewed attention to transparency and accountability in Tamil Nadu's liquor administration system.

The latest vigilance raids mark another significant development in the case. Further action will depend on the findings of the investigation and the evidence gathered during the searches.

Amit Shah Rejects Rahul's Firing Order Allegation

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations that he authorised the use of force against students during the CJP protest, saying that such decisions cannot be taken by a minister and are governed by legal procedures.

The controversy erupted after Rahul Gandhi accused the government of using excessive force against students protesting over the alleged NEET paper leak issue. Rahul questioned whether the Home Minister had approved the use of measures such as pellet guns and other forms of force against protesters.

Responding to the allegations, the government said that police action was carried out according to established rules and that only authorised officers, including a magistrate, can permit the use of certain forms of force in such situations. Officials also



denied claims that firearms were used against protesters.

The issue has intensified political tensions between the ruling party and the opposition. Congress leaders have demanded accountability over the police response, while the government has accused the opposition of making misleading claims for political reasons.

The protests, organised over concerns linked to examination irregularities and paper leaks, have become a major political issue. The Supreme Court has also intervened in matters related to the protests, directing authorities to follow legal procedures while ensuring that the

rights of students are protected.

The government has maintained that maintaining law and order during protests is the responsibility of local authorities and that security personnel act within legal guidelines. Opposition leaders, however, continue to demand an independent investigation into allegations of excessive force.

The political face-off between Rahul Gandhi and Amit Shah has added another dimension to the ongoing debate over student protests, examination reforms and the government's handling of public demonstrations.

As the issue continues, both sides are defending their positions, with the government stressing the importance of maintaining public order and the opposition demanding greater transparency and accountability in dealing with student concerns.

Nadda Defends Parliament Normalcy Amid Police Row

Union Minister JP Nadda has said that the situation in Parliament and around the Monsoon Session remains normal, rejecting allegations that recent developments, including the police action related to the arrest attempt of student leader Aishe Ghosh, indicate any disruption of democratic functioning.

Nadda, who is the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, said that parliamentary proceedings are continuing as per established norms and that the government remains committed to ensuring smooth functioning of the House. His remarks came amid political tensions between the ruling party and opposition over protests and law-and-order issues.

The controversy erupted after Delhi Police personnel reportedly reached the CPI(M) headquarters in New Delhi in connection with a case involving Aishe Ghosh, a former JNU Students' Union president and SFI leader.



The CPI(M) alleged that police personnel attempted to enter its office to arrest her, calling the move a violation of democratic norms.

The incident triggered criticism from opposition parties, who questioned the manner in which police action was carried out and accused the government of targeting political opponents. The CPI(M) demanded accountability and alleged that the action reflected growing pressure on dissenting voices.

The ruling side, however, maintained that law enforcement agencies are acting according to

legal procedures and that no political motive should be attached to ongoing investigations. Government leaders have argued that legal cases must be handled through due process irrespective of an individual's political background. The issue comes amid an already heated Monsoon Session of Parliament, where opposition protests over various matters have created disruptions inside and outside the House. Demonstrations linked to examination issues and other political demands have also led to increased security arrangements around Parliament.

With both sides maintaining their positions, the latest controversy has added another layer to the ongoing political confrontation between the government and opposition. While the ruling party stresses rule of law and institutional procedures, opposition parties continue to raise concerns over the handling of protests and political dissent.

Kerala Cabinet Clears Digital Reforms To Track Every Rupee

The Kerala Cabinet has approved a set of major administrative reforms aimed at accelerating digital governance, improving transparency and ensuring better monitoring of government spending. The reforms focus on using technology to streamline decision-making, reduce delays and make financial transactions more accountable.

The proposed measures are designed to create a more efficient governance system where government processes, financial approvals and public services can be tracked digitally. The initiative aims to ensure that every stage of public expenditure is recorded and monitored, reducing chances of irregularities and improving accountability.

As part of the reforms, the government plans to strengthen digital platforms across departments and integrate technology into administrative functions. The move is expected to improve coordination between departments, speed up file movement and help officials take faster decisions based on real-time information.

The Kerala government has already implemented several digital initiatives aimed at transforming public service delivery. Online citizen services, digital records and e-governance systems have been introduced



to reduce paperwork and make government services more accessible to people. Officials said the latest reforms will focus on financial transparency by improving tracking mechanisms for government funds. The objective is to create a system where the movement of money through various schemes and projects can be monitored more effectively. The Cabinet's decision comes as governments across India are increasingly adopting digital tools to improve governance and reduce administrative hurdles. Kerala has been among the states pushing technology-driven reforms, with several departments already shifting towards online platforms and digital workflows.

The reforms are expected to benefit both government employees and citizens by reducing delays, simplifying procedures and improving access to services. The state government believes that greater use of technology will bring more transparency and efficiency to public administration.

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Rahul Targets RSS, Shah; Centre Demands Apology

A political showdown erupted in Parliament after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a debate, drawing a strong response from the ruling side.

Rahul Gandhi accused the RSS of influencing key institutions, particularly the education system, and alleged that ideological control was affecting the functioning of important national bodies. He also criticised the government's handling of student protests linked to alleged examination irregularities and questioned the accountability of senior ministers.

The Congress leader targeted Amit Shah over the police action during student protests, alleging that excessive force was used against demonstrators. Rahul demanded accountability from the government and raised concerns over the treatment of young protesters.

The ruling party strongly objected to Rahul Gandhi's remarks and demanded an apology, accusing him of making serious allegations without proper evidence. Government leaders defended the actions of security agencies, stating that authorities acted according to legal procedures while main-



taining law and order.

The remarks against the RSS also triggered a political clash, with BJP leaders rejecting the allegations and arguing that individuals associated with different ideologies have the right to hold public positions in a democracy. They accused Rahul Gandhi of targeting organisations for political reasons.

The heated exchange added to the ongoing tensions between the ruling party and opposition over issues including education reforms, examination security and student concerns. The opposition has been demanding greater transparency and accountability, while the government has maintained that it is committed to protecting students' interests.

The latest confrontation highlights the deep political divide between the Congress and the BJP, with Parliament once again becoming the centre stage for a wider debate over governance, institutions and ideological influence in the country.



Delhi Police Acts Against Abusive Posts During CJP Protest

The Delhi Police has issued notices to social media platforms over allegedly abusive and objectionable posts targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the recent CJP protest in the national capital. The police action comes after several posts, videos and comments surfaced online during and after the demonstrations.

According to officials, the police's social media monitoring teams identified content that allegedly contained offensive remarks against the Prime Minister and other senior leaders. Notices were sent to platforms including X seeking the removal of such posts, with authorities stating that several flagged posts had already been taken down.

The action followed protests organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) over issues linked to examination irregularities and student concerns. During the protests, authorities monitored online activity, including videos, comments and posts that they claimed could impact public order.

Police officials said the exercise was part of an ongoing investigation into online content

related to the protests. They maintained that action was being taken against posts that violated legal provisions and crossed the limits of acceptable online expression.

The move has triggered a debate over the balance between preventing abusive content and protecting freedom of expression. While authorities argue that social media platforms must act against unlawful and inflammatory material, critics have raised concerns over possible restrictions on political speech and criticism of public figures.

The controversy comes amid heightened political tensions surrounding the CJP protests, with the government defending police action and opposition groups questioning the handling of demonstrations and online criticism.

As the investigation continues, Delhi Police is examining more social media content connected to the protests. The issue has once again brought focus on the growing role of digital platforms in political movements and the challenges of regulating online speech in a democracy.



13 Indian Sailors Trapped On Ship Amid Black Sea Attacks

Thirteen Indian sailors are reportedly stranded aboard a cargo vessel near Ukraine's Black Sea coast as repeated drone and missile attacks in the region have raised serious concerns over their safety. The sailors are currently on the vessel MV AMIRI, which is docked at the Chornomorsk port in Ukraine. The situation has triggered urgent appeals for evacuation and safety measures, with maritime organisations warning that the crew members are facing a dangerous environment due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The vessel reportedly has 15 crew members on board, including 13 Indian nationals. The Federation of Seafarers' Unions of India (FSUI) has urged authorities, ship owners and relevant agencies to take immediate steps to ensure the safe evacuation of the stranded sailors. The union described the situation as critical, citing repeated attacks and growing risks around the port area. The Indian Embassy in Ukraine is monitoring the situation and has been in contact with concerned authorities to ensure the safety of the Indian crew members. Officials are closely tracking developments amid



Sheikh Hasina Vows Return Despite Death Threats

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has vowed to return to her country despite facing serious threats, including the possibility of arrest, imprisonment and even death. Hasina said she remains determined to return and face the challenges ahead rather than stay away from Bangladesh. Hasina, who left Bangladesh following a political upheaval and has been staying in India, said she plans to come back despite the risks involved. She dismissed the allegations against her and described the legal actions taken against her as politically motivated. The former prime minister's return plans come at a time when Bangladesh is witnessing a tense political atmosphere. Authorities in Bangladesh have sought her extradition, while the issue has become a major diplomatic and legal matter between Dhaka and New Delhi. Hasina has maintained that she wants to return to Bangladesh and continue her political fight. She has defended her government's record and accused her opponents of at-

tempting to weaken her political organisation, the Awami League. The former leader's supporters argue that she should be allowed to return and participate in the country's political process, while her critics accuse her government of suppressing opposition voices and mishandling protests during her tenure. The extradition issue has added another layer of complexity to Bangladesh-India relations. Any decision regarding her return will involve legal considerations, diplomatic discussions and the broader political situation in Bangladesh. Hasina's announcement has triggered fresh debate over the future direction of Bangladesh politics. Her possible return could significantly impact the country's political landscape, especially as the Awami League attempts to regain its influence after the recent political turmoil. For now, Sheikh Hasina remains firm on her decision to return, saying she is prepared to face whatever consequences await her in Bangladesh.

US Senate Passes Russia Sanctions Bill; India Faces Tariff Risk

The US Senate has passed a bipartisan sanctions bill targeting Russia, a move that could have significant implications for countries importing large quantities of Russian energy, including India and China. The legislation authorises the US President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on imports from nations that continue to purchase substantial amounts of Russian oil and gas. The bill is aimed at increasing economic pressure on Russia over the ongoing Ukraine conflict by discouraging other countries from funding Moscow through energy purchases. Supporters of the legislation say restricting Russia's energy revenues is essential to weakening its ability to sustain the war. India, one of the world's largest buyers of discounted Russian crude oil, has emerged as one of the countries that could be affected if the legislation becomes law. China is also among the major energy importers named in discussions surrounding the bill. However, the proposed tariffs are not automatic. The legislation gives the US



President the authority to decide whether and when to impose them, while also allowing waivers under certain circumstances. The measure received strong bipartisan backing in the Senate, reflecting growing support in Washington for tougher action against Russia and its trading partners. However, the bill must still complete the remaining legislative process before it can become law and take effect. If implemented, the tariffs could have wide-ranging implications for global trade and energy markets. India has significantly increased its imports of Russian crude since the Ukraine conflict began, citing energy security and competitive pricing. Any US trade action could complicate economic and diplomatic relations between Washington and New Delhi while also affecting global oil supply chains. The Indian government has consistently maintained that its energy purchases are guided by national interests and the need to ensure affordable supplies for its growing economy. Meanwhile, international observers will closely watch the next steps in the US legislative process and any response from the White House regarding the implementation of the proposed sanctions.

Russia Charges Telegram Founder Durov Over Terror Claims



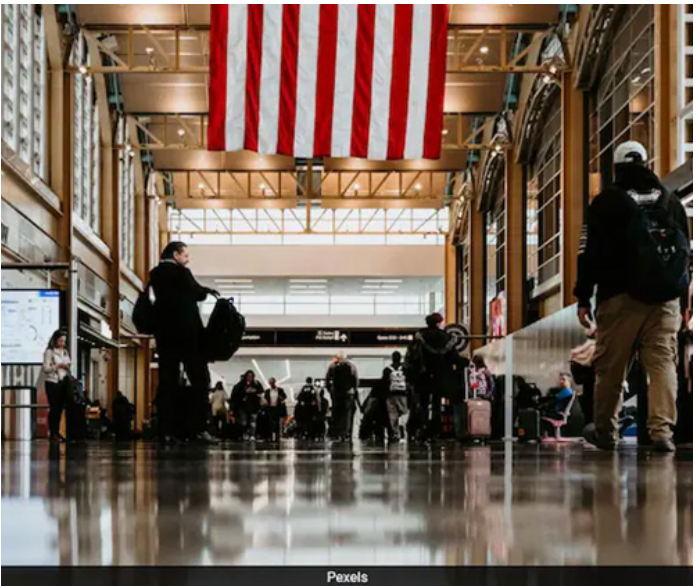
Russia has formally charged Telegram founder Pavel Durov with allegedly aiding terrorist activities, escalating the ongoing dispute between Moscow and the popular messaging platform's leadership. Russian authorities have also placed Durov on an international wanted list as part of the case. The charges were brought by Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), which accused Telegram of failing to remove content allegedly linked to Ukrainian intelligence operations and groups involved in sabotage and extremist activities. Authorities claim that certain Telegram channels and bots were used to coordinate illegal activities inside Russia. Russian officials have alleged that a Telegram chatbot was misused to recruit young people for violent activities. The FSB claims that several individuals were arrested in connection with such operations, while accusing the platform of not taking sufficient action against such content. Pavel Durov, who founded Telegram in 2013, has previously rejected similar allegations and maintained that the platform is committed to protecting user privacy while cooperating with

legal requests within its policies. He has described past accusations against him as attempts to pressure Telegram and restrict digital freedom. Telegram has become one of the world's most widely used messaging platforms, particularly known for its privacy features, large group channels and encrypted communication options. However, the app has also faced criticism from governments worldwide over concerns that some users exploit the platform for illegal activities. The latest move marks another major confrontation between Durov and Russian authorities. Telegram has had a complicated relationship with Moscow, including previous attempts by Russian regulators to restrict access to the platform over compliance issues. The case against Durov comes at a time when digital platforms have become a key battleground in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Both sides have used online platforms for communication, information sharing and public messaging, increasing government scrutiny of technology companies. The legal action against Durov could further intensify the debate over internet freedom, platform responsibility and government control of digital communication networks. As the investigation progresses, the future of Telegram's operations in Russia and Durov's legal position will remain closely watched.

Trump To Honour Teen Lifeguard For Heroic Rescue

US President Donald Trump has announced plans to honour a 16-year-old lifeguard who risked his life to save a young boy from powerful waves at Santa Cruz, California. The teenager's bravery during the dramatic ocean rescue has received widespread praise across the country. The incident took place at Seabright Beach, where a 10-year-old boy was suddenly swept into dangerous surf conditions by massive waves. As beachgoers watched helplessly, the teenage lifeguard rushed into the water and battled strong currents to reach the child. The rescue was captured on video, showing the lifeguard holding onto the child while being repeatedly hit by powerful waves. After a difficult struggle, he managed to bring the boy closer to shore with the help of another lifeguard and people nearby. The child was later examined and reunited safely with his family. Trump praised the teenager's courage and said he plans to invite the lifeguard and his family to the White House. He also announced his intention to recognise the young hero with a high civilian honour for his extraordinary act of bravery. The rescue has highlighted the risks faced by lifeguards who work in unpredictable ocean conditions. Experts have praised the teenager's calm decision-making and training, saying the rescue demonstrated exceptional courage and skill for someone so young. The dramatic incident also

drew attention to the dangers of strong surf and rip currents, which can quickly turn ordinary beach activities into life-threatening situations. Authorities have continued to warn visitors about ocean safety, especially during periods of extreme wave activity. The young lifeguard's actions have made him a symbol of courage and quick thinking. His willingness to enter dangerous waters to save another person's life has earned admiration from officials, rescue professionals and people across the United States. The proposed honour from the US President is expected to further spotlight the importance of recognising everyday heroes who step forward during moments of crisis. The dramatic incident also



New US Bill Could Ease Green Card Path For Indians

A new immigration bill introduced in the United States Congress could provide major relief for thousands of Indian professionals, especially H-1B visa holders, by creating a possible pathway to permanent residency and a US Green Card. The proposed legislation aims to update the country's immigration system and allow certain long-term immigrants who have lived in the US for several years to apply for lawful permanent residency. The proposal could benefit millions of immigrants, including skilled Indian workers who have been waiting for years due to lengthy Green Card backlogs. Indian nationals are among the largest groups affected by the current employment-based Green Card system. Many H-1B visa holders, particularly those working in the technology sector, face extremely long waiting periods due to country-based limits and high demand. The new proposal is being viewed as a possible solution to reduce uncertainty among these professionals and their families. Under the proposed changes, immigrants who have maintained continuous residence in the US for a specified period could become eligible to seek permanent residency. Supporters of the bill argue that long-

term residents who contribute significantly to the American economy should have a clearer and more stable immigration pathway. For Indian IT professionals, the development comes at a crucial time as immigration policies surrounding H-1B visas and Green Cards continue to remain a major concern. Issues such as visa restrictions, application rules and lengthy processing timelines have created uncertainty among foreign workers hoping to settle permanently in the United States. However, the bill is still in the proposal stage and must pass through the US legislative process before becoming law. Supporters believe the move could modernise the immigration system and provide relief to skilled professionals, while critics may raise concerns over its impact on domestic employment and immigration levels. If approved, the legislation could bring significant relief to thousands of Indian professionals who have spent years building careers in the United States while waiting for permanent residency opportunities. For many H-1B holders, the proposed reform could offer a more predictable route toward achieving their long-awaited American dream.



Khawaja Asif Sparks Row Over PoK Protest Remarks

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has triggered a major controversy after defending the government's action against protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), saying he considered the demonstrators as "enemies like India." Asif's remarks came amid widespread criticism over the handling of protests in PoK, where clashes between security forces and demonstrators reportedly resulted in multiple deaths and injuries. The protests were linked to demands raised by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), including political, economic and administrative reforms. Speaking about the government's response, Asif said the protesters were placed in the same category as Pakistan's external rival, India. His comments sparked sharp reactions, with critics accusing the government of treating internal dissent as a security threat rather than addressing public grievances. The protests in PoK have highlighted long-standing issues related to governance, unemployment, rising prices and demands for greater rights. Demonstrators have alleged

that local concerns have been ignored for years, while authorities have maintained that security measures were necessary to control unrest and maintain order. The controversy has intensified debate over Pakistan's approach toward political opposition and public protests in the region. Critics have raised concerns over the use of force against civilians and questioned the government's handling of dissent. The statement also drew attention in India, where officials have repeatedly criticised Pakistan over the situation in PoK and accused Islamabad of failing to address the concerns of people living in the region. Khawaja Asif's remarks come at a time when tensions over Kashmir remain a sensitive issue between India and Pakistan. The latest controversy has added another layer to the already complex political situation surrounding PoK. The incident has sparked fresh discussions about governance, civil liberties and the treatment of protesters, with observers closely watching how Pakistan's political leadership responds to growing criticism over the issue.



Adani Enterprises Posts Q1 Loss Despite Revenue Surge

Adani Enterprises Ltd. reported a consolidated net loss of 1,160 crore for the first quarter of FY27, compared with a net profit of 885 crore in the corresponding period last year. The loss was primarily due to a one-time settlement charge of 2,644 crore, which significantly impacted the company's bottom line despite strong operational growth.

Despite slipping into the red, the company's revenue from operations jumped 50% year-on-year to 32,924 crore, driven by robust performance across several business segments, particularly its rapidly expanding copper business. The sharp rise in revenue reflected continued growth in the company's diversified operations.

The one-time settlement expense overshadowed an otherwise healthy operating performance. Excluding the exceptional charge, the company maintained steady growth in its core businesses, although rising input costs and higher finance expenses also weighed on overall profitability.

The quarter witnessed a sharp increase in total expenses, which rose due to higher raw material costs, increased borrowing expenses and employee-related costs. The company also faced pressure from elevated global commodity prices, which affected operating margins.

Among its business verticals, the copper segment emerged as a major growth driver, contributing significantly to the increase in revenue. The airport business also delivered healthy growth during the quarter, supported by higher passenger traffic and improved operational performance. However, the coal trading business witnessed a decline, while the new energy division recorded a marginal dip in revenue.

The company stated that its diversified business model continues to provide long-term growth opportunities despite short-term financial challenges. It remains focused on expanding infrastructure, energy transition, airports, mining and manufacturing businesses while investing in future growth sectors.

Market analysts described the quarterly results as a mixed performance. While the one-time settlement charge pushed the company into a loss, the strong revenue growth highlighted the resilience of its underlying businesses. Investors are expected to closely monitor future quarters to assess whether operational momentum continues after the exceptional expense is absorbed.

With large-scale investments underway across multiple sectors, Adani Enterprises remains one of the country's most closely watched infrastructure conglomerates. Analysts believe that sustained execution across its core businesses and improving profitability in the coming quarters will be key factors influencing investor sentiment.

Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. surged 12.5% on Wednesday after the company reported a strong set of financial results for the first quarter of FY27. The rally reflected investor confidence following a healthy rise in profit and continued growth in the company's fertilizer business.

The company posted a 24% year-on-year increase in net profit, with profit rising to 393 crore during the April-June quarter. Revenue also witnessed robust growth, supported by strong demand for fertilizers and higher sales volumes across key product categories.

The strong earnings performance was driven by improved operational efficiency, better product realization and steady demand from the agriculture sector. Higher production and sales volumes, along with disciplined cost management, helped the company deliver healthy profitability despite fluctuations in raw material prices.

Following the earnings announcement, buying interest intensified, pushing the stock sharply higher during the trading session. Investors welcomed the company's ability to maintain earnings growth

Markets Rally Strong; Sensex Soars 889 Points

Indian benchmark equity indices extended their winning momentum on Wednesday, with the BSE Sensex surging 889 points and the Nifty 50 closing above the crucial 24,250 mark, supported by strong buying across information technology, banking and financial stocks. The rally reflected improving investor sentiment despite lingering global uncertainties.

The Sensex closed at 77,654.60, gaining 889 points (1.16%), while the Nifty 50 climbed 265 points (1.10%) to settle at 24,250.20. The benchmarks traded firmly throughout the session, with the Nifty briefly touching higher intraday levels before ending comfortably in positive territory.

Information technology stocks led the rally after encouraging quarterly earnings boosted confidence in the sector. Banking and financial shares also witnessed strong buying, while auto and several heavyweight stocks added to the positive momentum. The broader market joined the rally as well, with the Nifty Midcap 100 gaining 0.8% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 advancing 1.5%, indicating broad-based participation from investors.

Market experts attributed the sharp rise to a combination of strong corporate earnings, positive global cues and renewed optimism over India's economic outlook. Continued buying by institutional investors also helped strengthen market sentiment, outweighing concerns over rising crude oil prices linked to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

The rally also added significantly to investors' wealth, with the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increasing by nearly 4 lakh crore during the session. Analysts believe sustained earnings growth and resilient domestic fundamentals continue to support the market despite external risks.

Among sectoral indices, IT



SML Mahindra Hits Upper Circuit After M&M Deal

Shares of SML Mahindra surged 20%, hitting the upper circuit on Wednesday after Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) announced the sale of its Truck and Bus Division (MTBD) to SML Mahindra for 525 crore. The move was welcomed by investors, who viewed it as a major step towards strengthening the group's commercial vehicle business.

The transaction is aimed at consolidating Mahindra Group's truck and bus operations under a single listed entity. By bringing the businesses together, the company expects to improve operational efficiency, enhance product development and create a stronger presence in India's commercial vehicle segment.

The acquisition will be carried out through a slump sale, with SML Mahindra acquiring the entire Truck and Bus Division from Mahindra & Mahindra for a cash consideration of 525 crore, subject to customary working capital adjustments and regulatory approvals. The deal is expected to be completed by January 2027.

Following the announcement, investors rushed to buy SML Mahindra shares, pushing the stock to its daily upper circuit limit. Market participants believe the consolidation could create a more focused commercial vehicle business with improved scale and better growth opportunities.

Mahindra & Mahindra said the restructuring aligns with its long-term strategy of streamlining operations and unlocking value across its automotive businesses. Combining the truck and bus operations under SML Mahindra is also expected to improve decision-making, optimise manufacturing and strengthen competitiveness in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle market.

The Truck and Bus Division contributes a relatively small share to Mahindra & Mahindra's overall revenue but remains an important part of its commercial vehicle portfolio. By integrating it with SML Mahindra, the group aims to build a unified business capable of serving a wider range of customers across truck and bus segments.

Analysts believe the restructuring could help SML Mahindra expand its product portfolio, improve operational synergies and strengthen its position in the highly competitive commercial vehicle industry. Investors will now closely watch the completion of the transaction and the company's future growth strategy as the combined business takes shape.

Infosys Rallies 11% In Three Days; Analysts Cautious

Infosys shares extended their winning streak, climbing nearly 11% over the last three trading sessions as investors returned to information technology stocks amid a global shift away from high-risk artificial intelligence (AI) plays. The rally has made Infosys one of the top-performing large-cap IT stocks in recent days.

The broader IT sector has benefited from a global reassessment of AI-related investments. Concerns over rising spending on AI infrastructure and semiconductor companies have prompted investors to rotate funds into established IT services firms with stable earnings and attractive valuations. This trend has boosted stocks such as Infosys, TCS, HCLTech and Wipro.

The strong momentum has also been supported by improving global sentiment, renewed foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and expectations that demand for traditional IT services could remain resilient despite rapid advances in artificial intelligence.

However, market experts believe investors should avoid chasing the rally at current levels. Technical indicators suggest that Infosys has entered overbought territory after its sharp three-day surge, increasing the possibility of short-term profit booking or price consolidation.

Brokers remain positive on the company's long-term fundamentals, citing its strong client base, healthy deal pipeline and focus on digital transformation and AI-enabled services. However, they advise investors to wait for better entry levels rather than buying aggressively after the recent spike.

Analysts also point out that the company's future performance will depend on factors such as global economic conditions, discretionary technology spending by clients and management commentary in upcoming quarters. Any improvement in demand from key markets like the United States and Europe could provide additional support to the stock.

For existing investors, most analysts recommend holding the stock, as the long-term outlook remains constructive despite the possibility of near-term volatility. New investors are advised to wait for a correction before initiating fresh positions, while traders should closely monitor technical support and resistance levels.

The recent rally highlights renewed confidence in India's IT sector as investors rebalance their portfolios. While Infosys continues to enjoy strong long-term prospects, analysts believe disciplined investing and careful timing will be crucial after the stock's sharp upward move.



Paradeep Phosphates Jumps 12.5% On Strong Q1 Results

Cipla Gains After USFDA Nod For Generic Advair

Shares of Cipla Ltd. rose nearly 2.7% after the company received US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) approval for its generic Advair Diskus, a key respiratory medicine used to treat asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The approval has boosted investor confidence in the pharmaceutical major's growth prospects in the United States.

The approval covers all three dosage strengths of the generic inhaler, marking a significant milestone for Cipla. It is also the company's first dry powder inhaler approval from its US-based manufacturing network, highlighting its growing capabilities in complex respiratory products.

Brokerage firm Nomura described the approval as a positive development, saying it strengthens Cipla's execution track record in the highly regulated US pharmaceutical market. The brokerage believes the product could generate annual revenues of around \$30-40 million, providing an additional boost to the company's North American business.

According to industry estimates, the combined market for the branded and generic versions of Advair is valued at around \$941 million annually. While competition in the segment remains intense, analysts believe the approval gives Cipla an opportunity to strengthen its presence in the lucrative respiratory therapy market.

The product received approval from Cipla's Fall River (InvaGen) facility in the United States after production was shifted from its Indore plant, which had previously faced regulatory scrutiny. The successful approval is viewed as an important step in rebuilding confidence in the company's manufacturing and regulatory compliance standards.

Market experts believe the approval reinforces Cipla's long-term strategy of expanding its portfolio of complex generic medicines in the US. The company has been investing heavily in respiratory therapies, which continue to be a key growth area for its international business.

Following the announcement, buying interest in the stock increased as investors welcomed the potential for additional revenue and stronger growth in overseas markets. Analysts remain optimistic about Cipla's long-term outlook, although they note that competition in the US generic drug market could limit the overall revenue opportunity.

With a strong pipeline of respiratory products and continued focus on innovation, Cipla is expected to remain one of India's leading pharmaceutical exporters. Investors will now closely monitor the commercial launch of the generic Advair product and its contribution to the company's earnings in the coming quarters.



SEBI Cancels Research Analysts Over Renewal Fee Default

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cancelled the registration certificates of 10 research analysts after they failed to pay the mandatory renewal fees required to keep their licences valid. The move is part of the market regulator's ongoing efforts to strengthen compliance and maintain the integrity of India's securities market.

Under the SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014, every registered research analyst must pay a renewal fee every five years to continue operating legally. SEBI found that the concerned entities had failed to comply with this requirement, resulting in their registrations becoming invalid.

According to the regulator, notices were issued to the research analysts before taking action, giving them an opportunity to respond. However, the required renewal fees were not paid, prompting SEBI to proceed with the cancellation of their registrations.

SEBI said the action was necessary to prevent the misuse of expired registration certificates and to safeguard the interests of investors. The regulator emphasized that only duly registered and compliant research analysts should be allowed to provide investment research and recommendations to the public.

Research analysts play an important role in the capital markets by offering stock recommendations and investment insights. Since many retail investors rely on such advice while making financial decisions, SEBI has been tightening regulatory oversight to ensure greater transparency, accountability and professional standards.

The latest action forms part of a broader compliance drive by the regulator against intermediaries that fail to meet statutory requirements. In recent months, SEBI has taken similar measures against investment advisers and other registered market participants for violations of regulatory norms.

Market experts believe the move reinforces SEBI's zero-tolerance approach toward non-compliance and sends a strong message that regulatory obligations cannot be ignored. They also advise investors to verify the registration status of research analysts and investment advisers before acting on any financial recommendations.

SEBI has consistently encouraged investors to seek advice only from registered professionals, as dealing with unregistered or non-compliant entities may expose them to financial risks. The regulator is expected to continue monitoring market intermediaries closely to ensure that all participants adhere to the prescribed rules and maintain high standards of governance and investor protection.



England Star Cherishes Final Battle Against Rohit

England fast bowler Gus Atkinson has revealed that facing Rohit Sharma during the recent India-England series was a special experience, admitting he was unsure if he would ever get another opportunity to bowl to the Indian batting great.

Speaking about Rohit's presence at the crease, Atkinson said the Indian opener has been one of the finest batters of his generation and competing against him was something he truly valued. He added that with discussions surrounding Rohit's future in international cricket, he wasn't certain he would get another chance to play against the Indian veteran.

The England pacer praised Rohit's calm approach and exceptional ability to dominate bowlers in all conditions. He described the contest as a memorable challenge and said every spell against a world-class batter like Rohit offers valuable learning for a young fast bowler.

Rohit, meanwhile, silenced critics during the ODI series with a magnificent century, reminding everyone why he remains one of the most dangerous white-ball batters in world



West Indies Players To Attend Sobers' State Funeral

Several members of the West Indies cricket team will travel to Barbados to attend the state funeral of Sir Garfield Sobers, one of the greatest all-rounders in cricket history, following their memorable Test victory over Pakistan.

The Barbados-based players, including Test captain Roston Chase and white-ball captain Shai Hope, are set to return home with support from the Barbados government to pay their final respects to the legendary cricketer.

The emotional visit comes just hours after the West Indies secured a dramatic 90-run victory over Pakistan in the opening Test. The win carried added significance as it came on what would have been Sir Garfield Sobers' 90th birthday, making the occasion even more special for the team.

Captain Roston Chase dedicated the victory to Sobers, saying the players were determined to honour the cricket icon with a memorable performance. He praised the team's commitment and described the triumph as a fitting tribute to one of the game's greatest legends.

Sir Garfield Sobers, widely regarded as one of the finest

all-rounders in cricket history, represented the West Indies with distinction for nearly two decades. His extraordinary achievements with both bat and ball, along with his inspirational leadership, made him one of the sport's most celebrated figures.

The state funeral at Kensington Oval is expected to be attended by former cricketers, government leaders, dignitaries and members of the cricketering fraternity from across the Caribbean, as they gather to celebrate Sobers' remarkable life and legacy.

The West Indies players' decision to attend the ceremony reflects the immense respect and admiration Sir Garfield Sobers continues to command across generations. His influence extends far beyond records and statistics, inspiring countless cricketers around the world.

As the team celebrates an important Test victory, it will also pause to bid farewell to a man whose contribution to West Indies cricket remains unmatched. The occasion is expected to be both a celebration of an iconic career and a heartfelt tribute to one of cricket's greatest ambassadors.

Gill Reclaims No. 1, Vaibhav Makes Giant Leap



Indian cricket received a major boost in the latest ICC Men's Player Rankings, with Shubman Gill reclaiming the No. 1 spot in the ODI batting rankings, while teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi registered one of the biggest jumps in the T20I rankings.

Gill returned to the top of the ODI batting charts after a string of consistent performances, overtaking his rivals to become the world's highest-ranked ODI batter once again. His return to the summit underlines his remarkable consistency and growing stature as one of the finest batters in international cricket.

The biggest talking point, however, was the stunning rise of 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who climbed 230

places in the ICC Men's T20I batting rankings to reach a career-best 48th position. The young left-hander earned the massive leap following his outstanding performances during India's T20I series against Zimbabwe, where he finished as one of the standout performers.

Sooryavanshi impressed with his fearless stroke play and consistency throughout the series, quickly establishing himself as one of India's brightest young talents. His rapid rise in the rankings reflects the impact he has made in only a handful of international appearances.

India also continued to enjoy a strong presence across the batting rankings, with several players occupying prominent positions in both ODI and T20I

formats. The latest rankings highlight the country's impressive batting depth and the emergence of a new generation of match-winners.

Gill's return to the No. 1 position is expected to further strengthen his reputation as India's premier white-ball batter, while Sooryavanshi's meteoric rise has added another exciting chapter to Indian cricket's future.

With major international tournaments on the horizon, both batters will look to build on their current form. Gill will aim to cement his place at the top of the ODI rankings, while Sooryavanshi will be eager to continue his remarkable progress and climb even higher in the T20I batting charts.

IPL Brand Value Nears ₹2 Lakh Crore Milestone



The Indian Premier League (IPL) has reached another historic milestone, with its overall business value climbing to over \$20.6 billion (nearly 2 lakh crore), reaffirming its position as the world's richest and most valuable T20 cricket league.

According to the latest brand valuation report, the IPL recorded more than 11% growth in business value over the past year. The league's standalone brand value also increased significantly, reflecting its growing commercial appeal, global fan base and strong revenue streams from broadcasting, sponsorships and franchise investments.

For the first time, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has emerged as the most valuable IPL franchise, with a brand valuation of \$312 million. The franchise's maiden IPL title and rapidly growing commercial presence played a major role in its rise to the top.

Mumbai Indians (MI) secured the second position, while Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) climbed to third place, overtaking Chennai Super Kings (CSK), which slipped to fourth in the latest brand rankings. The reshuffle reflects changing commercial dynamics and increasing investor interest in the league.

The report highlighted that IPL franchises are no longer viewed merely as cricket teams but as premium sports and entertainment brands with long-term business potential. Strong media rights deals, expanding digital engagement and rising sponsorship revenues have continued to drive franchise valuations higher. The league has also attracted significant global investment in recent months, with record-breaking ownership deals further boosting confidence in the IPL's commercial strength. Investors see the tournament as a high-value sporting asset with sustained growth potential. Industry experts believe the IPL has evolved into a year-round sports business rather than a seasonal cricket competition. Its ability to attract top players, massive television audiences and millions of digital viewers has made it one of the most successful sporting leagues in the world.

With franchise values continuing to rise and global interest growing rapidly, the IPL is expected to strengthen its position as a leading international sports property. Analysts believe continued expansion, innovation and commercial partnerships will drive even greater growth in the years ahead.

Neymar Confirms Retirement From International Football



Brazilian football superstar Neymar has officially announced his retirement from international football, bringing the curtain down on a remarkable career with the national team after Brazil's disappointing exit from the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

The 34-year-old forward said he no longer wanted to continue the battle with the national team, confirming that his journey in Brazil's famous yellow jersey had come to an end. His emotional announcement followed Brazil's Round of 16 defeat, a result that ended the country's hopes of lifting a sixth World Cup title.

Neymar leaves international football as Brazil's all-time leading goalscorer, having scored 80 goals in 130 appearances. Over a career spanning more than 16 years, he became one of the most influential players in Brazilian football history, known for his flair, creativity and match-winning ability.

He represented Brazil in four FIFA World Cups and won several major honours, including the 2013 FIFA Confederations

Cup and the Olympic gold medal at the 2016 Rio Games. Despite his individual brilliance, the FIFA World Cup title remained elusive throughout his international career.

In his farewell message, Neymar expressed gratitude for the opportunity to represent his country, saying he gave everything for the national team and was proud of everything he had achieved wearing the Brazil jersey.

Throughout his career, Neymar overcame numerous injury setbacks but continued to deliver memorable performances and inspire millions of fans around the world. His technical

brilliance, dazzling dribbling and eye for goal made him one of the defining footballers of his generation.

Although he has stepped away from international football, Neymar is expected to continue his club career with Santos, where he returned in an effort to revive his career after his spell abroad.

With Neymar's departure, Brazilian football enters a new era as the national team looks to build its future around a younger generation of players. His retirement marks the end of one of the most celebrated international careers in the history of the sport.



Ryan Ten Doeschate Returns To KKR After India Exit

Former India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has returned to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) setup, just days after stepping down from his role with the Indian men's cricket team. The three-time IPL champions have appointed the former Netherlands all-rounder as their Head of Cricket Strategy, marking another chapter in his long association with the Knight Riders franchise.

In his new role, Ten Doeschate will oversee cricket operations across the Knight Riders' global franchises. His responsibilities will include talent identification, player development, long-term planning and shaping the overall cricketing strategy for the group.

Ten Doeschate is no stranger to the Knight Riders family. He represented KKR as a player and was part of the franchise's IPL title-winning squads in 2012 and 2014. He later returned as a coach and played an important role in the team's 2024 IPL championship before joining the Indian national team's support staff.

His stint with Team India

came to an end following the completion of his contract, paving the way for a return to franchise cricket. The move is seen as a significant addition to KKR's management structure as the franchise looks to strengthen its long-term cricket operations across multiple leagues.

The appointment has been welcomed by KKR supporters, many of whom remember Ten Doeschate's valuable contributions both on and off the field. His familiarity with the franchise's culture and success in previous roles are expected to help him make an immediate impact.

With extensive experience as an international cricketer, coach and strategist, Ten Doeschate is expected to play a key role in identifying emerging talent, enhancing player performance and building a consistent cricketing philosophy across the Knight Riders network. His return further reinforces KKR's commitment to investing in experienced leadership as the franchise prepares for future challenges across global T20 competitions.



Australia Seeks Bigger Squads For 2027 World Cup

Defending champions Australia have urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to increase squad sizes for the 2027 ODI World Cup, arguing that the tournament's revamped format will place greater physical and strategic demands on teams.

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald believes the current 15-member squad may not be sufficient for a longer and more demanding competition. He has proposed expanding squad sizes to 17 players, allowing teams greater flexibility to cope with injuries, workload management and varying playing conditions.

The 2027 ODI World Cup, to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, will feature 14 teams, marking an expansion from the 10-team format used in the 2023 edition. The tournament will also return to a group-stage format followed by a Super Six round before the knockout stages, increasing the number of matches for teams that progress deep into the competition.

McDonald said larger squads would help teams rotate players more effectively and reduce the risk of being left short-handed if injuries occur during the tournament. He believes the expanded format requires greater squad depth than previous editions.

The Australian coach also pointed out that different venues and playing conditions across the three host nations could require teams to adapt their combinations more frequently. Having additional players available would provide selectors with greater tactical flexibility throughout the tournament.

Australia, the reigning ODI World Cup champions after their triumph in 2023, have already begun planning for the title defence. With the competition expected to be more demanding than before, the team believes that expanding squad sizes would benefit all participating nations and improve the overall quality of the tournament.

The ICC has not yet responded to Australia's proposal, and the final regulations for squad sizes are expected to be announced closer to the tournament. However, McDonald's suggestion has sparked discussion about player workload and the challenges teams could face under the new World Cup format.

‘Raaka’ May Become Two-Part Epic, SRK Cameo Rumoured

Allu Arjun's much-awaited film 'Raaka', directed by Atlee, is reportedly getting even bigger than initially planned. According to the latest industry buzz, the high-budget sci-fi action entertainer is now being celebrated as a two-part franchise, with the story expected to unfold across two timelines and two distinct worlds. However, the makers have not officially confirmed these reports.

The film has already generated massive excitement as it marks the first collaboration between Allu Arjun and blockbuster director Atlee. Featuring Deepika Padukone as the female lead, the project is said to be mounted on a lavish scale with cutting-edge visual effects and an ambitious cinematic vision. Reports suggest the production budget could touch 1,000 crore, making it one of the most expensive Indian films ever made.

According to reports, the story of 'Raaka' will be split between a tribal Puranic-Vedic era and a



modern-day setting, with both timelines eventually converging. The makers reportedly felt that a single film would not do justice to the scale and complexity of the narrative, leading to discussions about releasing it in two parts.

Adding to the excitement is speculation that Shah Rukh Khan may make a special cameo in the film. Reports claim the Bollywood superstar has agreed to appear in a brief but significant role because of his long-standing

association with director Atlee following the success of Jawan. The cameo is reportedly planned to be shot overseas, although no official announcement has been made.

Industry insiders believe such

a crossover between Allu Arjun and Shah Rukh Khan could become one of the biggest attractions of the film and further strengthen its pan-India appeal. Fans of both stars have already begun celebrating the possibility on social media, with discussions and fan-made posters going viral.

Despite the growing buzz, the production team has remained tight-lipped about the storyline, release strategy and the rumoured cameo. Until an official statement is issued, these developments remain speculative.

With an acclaimed director, a star-studded cast, a reported mega budget and a grand sci-fi concept, 'Raaka' has already emerged as one of the most anticipated Indian films currently in production. If the reports prove true, the combination of a two-part narrative and Shah Rukh Khan's special appearance could make it one of the biggest cinematic events in Indian cinema.



Prabhas Extends Support To ‘Srinivasa Mangapuram’ Team

Ahead of its theatrical release, Prabhas has extended his best wishes to the team of 'Srinivasa Mangapuram', giving the film a major boost with his public support. The pan-India star shared a heartfelt message on Instagram, congratulating the cast and crew and wishing them success.

In his message, Prabhas specially congratulated Rasha Thadani on making her Telugu debut and wished Jai Krishna Ghattamaneni a successful journey in the film industry. He also conveyed his best wishes to director Ajay Bhupathi, presenter Ashwini Dutt, and the entire team, expressing hope that the film becomes a grand success.

Srinivasa Mangapuram is particularly significant as it marks the acting debut of Jai Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of legendary actor Superstar Krishna and nephew of Mahesh Babu. The film also introduces Rasha Thadani to Telugu cinema, adding to the excitement surrounding its

release.

Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, the film is a love-action drama featuring Mohan Babu in a powerful antagonist's role. It is produced by P. Kiran, while G.V. Prakash Kumar has composed the music. The film has generated considerable buzz ahead of its release, thanks to its fresh lead pair, experienced supporting cast and strong promotional campaign. Prabhas' endorsement has further heightened expectations among movie lovers and fans, with many appreciating his gesture on social media.

With the backing of an experienced filmmaking team and the support of one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars, Srinivasa Mangapuram heads into theatres with strong positive momentum. Industry observers believe the film has the potential to attract audiences looking for a fresh romantic action entertainer, while all eyes will be on the performances of the debutants as they begin their cinematic journey.

Priyanka’s Telugu Dubbing? ‘Varanasi’ Producer Responds

Speculation surrounding Priyanka Chopra Jonas dubbing her own Telugu lines in SS Rajamouli's upcoming magnum opus 'Varanasi' has been put to rest—for now. The film's producer, K.L. Narayana, has clarified that no final decision has been taken regarding the actress's Telugu dubbing.

The rumours began after Priyanka reportedly revealed during a social media interaction that she had been practising Telugu for her role in the highly anticipated film. The statement sparked excitement among fans, with many believing that the actress would dub for herself in the Telugu version.



However, producer K.L. Narayana has said that it is still too early to make that call. According to him, the team has not yet decided who will dub for Priyanka, and the matter will be dis-

cussed only closer to the film's release.

He explained that while filming, Priyanka currently delivers her dialogues using a mix of English, Hindi and Telugu. Since

the movie is planned for release in multiple languages, the makers intend to evaluate the dubbing requirements at a later stage before taking a final decision. Varanasi marks Priyanka Chopra's return to Indian cinema after several years and also her first collaboration with superstar Mahesh Babu and director S.S. Rajamouli. The film features Mahesh Babu in the lead role, while Prithviraj Sukumaran plays another key character. The project is one of the most ambitious films currently under production in Indian cinema.

The film is progressing steadily, with major shooting schedules underway. Backed by a mas-

sive budget and mounted on a global scale, Varanasi is expected to combine action, adventure and mythological elements, making it one of the most eagerly awaited releases.

Meanwhile, Priyanka's efforts to learn Telugu have earned appreciation from fans, who believe that her willingness to embrace the language reflects her commitment to the role. Whether she eventually lends her own voice to the Telugu version remains uncertain, but the producer's clarification makes it clear that the decision will only be taken after production is completed and the team assesses the film's multilingual release strategy.

Yuvina Parthavi Introduced As Sampoorna In ‘AK47’

The promotional campaign for 'Aadarsha Kutumbam House No. 47 (AK47)' continues to build excitement with the introduction of another key member of the family. The makers have now unveiled Yuvina Parthavi as Sampoorna, the adorable daughter of Chittibabu, through a fun-filled character glimpse that has quickly caught the attention of movie lovers.

The newly released glimpse presents Sampoorna as a lively Gen-Z teenager whose playful personality promises plenty of entertaining moments. Filled with Trivikram Srinivas' signature humour and witty dialogues, the video hints that the young character will play a crucial role in adding fun and emotional depth to the family entertainer.

Yuvina Parthavi, known for her impressive performances as a child artist, appears confident and energetic in the role. Her chemistry with Venkatesh Daggubati, who plays Chittibabu, is expected to be one of the film's major highlights.

The makers have been introducing one character at a time as part of a unique promotional strategy. After revealing Venkatesh as Chittibabu and Srinidhi Shetty as Swarna, the introduction of Sampoorna has further expanded the quirky family at the heart of the story. More character reveals are expected in the coming days, keeping the promo-



tional momentum alive.

Written and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, the film marks his first collaboration with Venkatesh, making it one of the most anticipated Telugu releases of the year. The movie is produced by S. Radha Krishna (Chinababu) under the Haarika & Hassine Creations banner, with S. Thaman composing the music, Ravi K. Chandran handling cinematography and Sreekar Prasad taking care of editing.

Apart from Venkatesh, Srinidhi Shetty and

Yuvina Parthavi, the film also features Nara Rohith, Nivetha Pethuraj, Rao Ramesh, Venela Kishore and several other prominent actors in key roles.

Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 2, 2026, Aadarsha Kutumbam House No. 47 (AK47) is expected to offer a wholesome mix of family emotions, comedy and entertainment. With each new character reveal generating positive buzz, anticipation for Trivikram and Venkatesh's first collaboration continues to grow.

Venky Atluri Confirms Another Film With Dhanush

Director Venky Atluri has delighted fans by confirming that he is planning another collaboration with Dhanush, rekindling excitement among movie lovers who enjoyed their successful outing in 'Vaathi' (Sir in Telugu).

Speaking during a recent interaction, Venky revealed that he has already narrated a story idea to Dhanush. The actor reportedly liked the concept, and the director said he will begin writing the complete screenplay after wrapping up his current film, 'Vishwanath & Sons'.

Venky also shared that the upcoming project will be set against the backdrop of the police department. Since he has not previously explored this genre, he said he is investing considerable time in research to ensure the story is authentic and engaging. According to the director, he wants to deliver a well-crafted script, especially because Dhanush is himself an accomplished writer and filmmaker. The announcement has generated considerable excitement, as 'Vaathi' was both a critical and commercial success, earning praise for its strong social message, engaging storytelling and Dhanush's powerful performance. Fans have been eagerly waiting for the duo to reunite ever since the film's release.

At present, Venky Atluri is focused on completing 'Vishwanath & Sons', starring Suriya in the lead role. Once the film is completed, he is expected to



shift his attention to developing the script for the new Dhanush project.

Meanwhile, Dhanush has a packed schedule with multiple films lined up, keeping him busy over the coming months. Despite his commitments, the prospect of another collaboration with Venky Atluri has raised expectations among fans across Tamil and Telugu cinema.

Although the project is still in its early stages, Venky's latest update confirms that discussions are moving in a positive direction. More details regarding the title, cast, production timeline and official launch are expected to be announced after the director completes his current assignment.

Keerthy Suresh May Groove ‘Ramayana’ Trailer To Release On July 30 In ‘The Paradise’ Special Song

National Award-winning actress Keerthy Suresh is reportedly set to make a special appearance in Nani's much-awaited pan-India film 'The Paradise'. According to the latest industry buzz, the actress has been approached for a high-energy special song, which is expected to be one of the film's major highlights. However, the makers are yet to make an official announcement.

If the reports turn out to be true, the song will reunite Keerthy Suresh with Nani and director Srikanth Odela after the blockbuster success of 'Dasara'. Their previous collaboration received widespread appreciation from both audiences and critics, making the prospect of another reunion an exciting one for fans.

Reports suggest the special number is being planned on a grand scale, with lavish production values, an elaborate set and a large troupe of dancers. The makers are reportedly aiming to create one of the biggest dance sequences in the film, matching the raw and intense tone of the action drama.

Interestingly, Keerthy Suresh has largely stayed away from glamorous special songs throughout her career.



If she agrees to be part of The Paradise, it would mark a rare and exciting addition to her filmography, offering audiences a completely different side of the acclaimed actress.

Directed by Srikanth Odela, The Paradise is one of the most anticipated Telugu films currently under production. The film stars Nani in the lead role and features music composed by Anirudh Ravichander, whose soundtrack is already generating significant expectations among fans.

While speculation continues to

gather momentum, neither the production house nor Keerthy Suresh has officially confirmed her involvement in the special song. Until an official announcement is made, the reports remain unverified.

Even so, the possibility of Keerthy sharing screen space with Nani once again has created tremendous excitement. If the collaboration materialises, the special song is expected to become one of the biggest attractions of The Paradise, adding further buzz to a film that is already among the most eagerly awaited releases in Telugu cinema.



The wait is finally over for movie lovers eagerly awaiting Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana'. The makers have officially announced that the film's much-anticipated trailer will be released on July 30 at 4:15 AM, during the auspicious Brahma Muhurat, marking the beginning of the film's grand promotional campaign.

The announcement has generated tremendous excitement among fans, who have been eagerly waiting for a glimpse of one of the biggest and most ambitious Indian films ever made. The trailer was initially expected to arrive earlier but was postponed, making the official confirmation even more special.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana features an impressive ensemble cast led by Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pal-

lavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. The film has been mounted on a massive scale with world-class visual effects and is expected to redefine Indian mythological cinema.

The project is backed by producer Namit Malhotra, who has repeatedly stated that the vision is to present the timeless epic to a global audience with international production standards. The film also boasts an extraordinary musical collaboration between A.R. Rahman and Academy Award-winning composer Hans Zimmer, adding to the anticipation. The trailer is expected to offer audiences their first detailed look at the film's stunning visuals, larger-than-life action sequences, grand production design and the lead actors in their iconic roles. Fans

are especially eager to see the on-screen clash between Ranbir Kapoor's Lord Ram and Yash's Ravana.

Adding to the excitement, the trailer will also be screened in selected theatres, allowing audiences to experience the epic visuals on the big screen before the film's release. This unique strategy reflects the makers' confidence in the scale and cinematic experience of the project.

With expectations soaring, Ramayana has already become one of the most talked-about Indian films in recent years. The trailer launch is expected to set the stage for an extensive promotional campaign leading up to the film's theatrical release, as fans across the country prepare to witness a modern retelling of one of India's greatest epics.

