



BUZZ POINTS



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Countdown Begins For Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration, CM Naidu Takes Stock

Vizianagaram Rural, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure flawless arrangements for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, scheduled on August 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the airport.

The Chief Minister held a video conference with state ministers and senior officials on Thursday to review preparations for the event. Principal Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu briefed Chandrababu Naidu on the minute-by-minute schedule of the inauguration programme and the arrangements being made at the airport.

Principal Secretary M.M. Nayak explained the arrangements for the Thimsa dance performance, which is planned as part of the inauguration programme. The Chief Minister



ter instructed officials to execute all arrangements with precision and advised them to conduct repeated checks to avoid any shortcomings.

Minister Atchannaidu informed the Chief Minister that parking arrangements had been made for more than 3,000 cars. Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Rao said people arriving from various constituencies for the public meeting had requested additional bus services.

Krishna Babu informed the Chief Minister that a separate reserved parking area had also been designated as part of the traffic and crowd management

plan. Officials also reviewed security arrangements, transportation facilities and coordination between various departments for the successful conduct of the event.

The video conference was attended by Ministers B.C. Jannardhan Reddy, Gummidandi Sandhya Rani and Kandula Durgesh. Principal Secretaries J. Shyamala Rao and Veerapandian, Information and Public Relations Department Director K.S. Viswanathan, Collector S. Ramsundar Reddy, DIG Gopinath Jetty, VMRDA Commissioner Tej Bharat, Ashok Mayur, chairpersons of various boards and other senior officials participated in the meeting. The Chief Minister emphasised that the inauguration of the international airport is a prestigious event for Andhra Pradesh and instructed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth arrangements.



Pawan Kalyan Urges Farmer Awareness On 'Super El Niño' Crisis

Mangalagiri, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan advised Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu to create awareness among farmers about the impact of the 'Super El Niño' phenomenon and the resulting irrigation water shortage. He stressed the need for direct interaction with farmers and exploring alternative strategies to manage the crisis.

Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu met Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at his camp office in Mangalagiri on Thursday to discuss the prevailing water situation. During the meeting, Pawan Kalyan expressed gratitude to Rama Naidu for releasing 1,000 cusecs of water from the Yeleru project to support farmers in Pithapuram, Peddapuram and Jaggampeta constituencies of Kakinada district.

Rama Naidu informed the Deputy Chief Minister that he was conducting a field visit to the Yeleru ayacut areas to assess the water scarcity situation in Pithapuram and neighbouring regions. He explained the measures being taken to address irrigation challenges arising from the 'Super El Niño' conditions.

Pawan Kalyan said farmers were deeply concerned over the water shortage and stressed that officials and public representatives should jointly explain the situation, government measures and available alternatives. He suggested conducting awareness meetings directly with farmers to educate them about changing weather patterns and water management practices.

The Deputy Chief Minister also urged farmers to enrol under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to protect themselves from losses caused by natural calamities. He emphasised that every drop of water should be conserved and called for measures such as canal desilting and bund repairs to prevent water wastage.

Pawan Kalyan directed officials to provide special attention to Kakinada district and Pithapuram constituency to ensure farmers receive adequate support during the water crisis.

Earlier, Nimmala Rama Naidu met Pawan Kalyan, who recently underwent shoulder surgery, and enquired about his health. He wished the Deputy Chief Minister a speedy recovery and early return to public service.

₹ 5,750 Crore Tata Renewable Project Takes Shape in AP

Pattikonda, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh strengthened its renewable energy ambitions with the groundbreaking ceremony of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited's (TPREL) 800 MW renewable energy project in Kurnool and Anantapur districts. The project, with an investment of 5,750 crore, includes 400 MW solar power capacity at Pattikonda in Kurnool and 400 MW wind power capacity at Kanekallu in Anantapur district.

Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh attended the ceremony as chief guest, while Tata Power CEO & MD Praveer Sinha was present. Ministers Gottipati Ravi Kumar, TG Bharat, Payyavula Keshav, MLA KE Shyam Kumar, MLA Kalava Srinivasulu, District Collector Dr. A. Siri



and representatives from Tata Power and Suzlon participated.

The project has secured 800 MW Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) connectivity at Anantapur II and Kurnool-4 CTUIL substations for efficient power evacuation. Suzlon will

execute the EPC works for the wind component.

Spread across 3,462 acres, the project is expected to create around 4,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities and provide long-term lease income to farmers.

Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh

has emerged as a preferred destination for global investors after restoring confidence in the investment ecosystem. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government damaged the renewable energy sector by cancelling power purchase agreements and affecting investor trust.

He said the Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024 aims to create 160 GW clean energy capacity and develop a complete ecosystem covering solar manufacturing, battery storage, green hydrogen, green ammonia and transmission infrastructure.

Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh's long coastline and renewable resources provide an opportunity to become a global clean energy hub. He added that the state aims to become the "Saudi Arabia of clean energy and clean molecules" by producing and ex-

porting green hydrogen and green ammonia.

He invited Tata Power to collaborate on a Centre of Excellence for solar manufacturing and renewable energy technologies with IIT Tirupati and the University of New South Wales. He also highlighted initiatives to link ITIs with industries for skill development.

Praveer Sinha said the project marks a significant step in Tata Power's clean energy mission and thanked the Andhra Pradesh government for supporting renewable investments. Girish Tanti, Co-founder of Suzlon Group, said the project reflects the company's commitment to Andhra Pradesh's energy transition.

The project supports Tata Power's goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2045 and contributes to India's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

Jagan Alleges Political Vendetta In Appalaraju Case

Visakhapatnam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP Chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday accused the government of politicising an unfortunate incident and foisting false cases on Seediri Appalaraju and his family. He assured that he would stand by the family until justice is delivered.

Addressing the media, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that Chandrababu Naidu was attempting to damage the future of a young boy and target a BC family by turning an accident into a criminal case. He said Appalaraju's son had tried to revive the victim through CPR and had alerted emergency services by calling 108 and informing the police. Despite this, serious charges were filed



against him, while his father was also implicated with "vindictive intentions."

He termed the case a deliberate attempt to convert an accident into a murder case for political reasons. "Justice will prevail, and Appalaraju will come out clean. We will fight this injustice at all levels," he said.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy further alleged a pattern in the

government's functioning, claiming that incidents are first sensationalised by "friendly media," followed by police action invoking stringent sections. He cited a similar incident involving Ichchapuram and Pathapatnam MLAs, where no cases were filed, alleging selective targeting by the ruling coalition.

He also accused Chandrababu Naidu of exploiting

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Bhogapuram Airport To Transform North Andhra Growth Story: Durgesh

Bhogapuram, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said the Bhogapuram International Airport will become a key growth engine for North Andhra by driving industrial, economic and tourism development. He inspected the arrangements for the inauguration of the "Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport" by Prime Minister Narendra



Modi on August 1, along with ministers and senior officials.

During the inspection, Durgesh appreciated the terminal building's design, which reflects Andhra Pradesh's cul-

ture and traditions. He said the airport is a blend of heritage and modernity, featuring cultural elements such as Bobbili Veenas, Kuchipudi dance poses, Etikoppaka toys, leather puppetry, and Kalamkari artworks.

He highlighted that digital displays and wall paintings showcasing Srisailem, Tirumala, Lepakshi Nandi and the scenic beauty of the Manyam region add to the airport's global appeal. He also praised the terminal's flying

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INS Machilipatnam Launch Marks Boost To India's Maritime Strength

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said the launch of the seventh indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), named after Andhra Pradesh's historic port city Machilipatnam, marks another significant milestone in India's journey towards becoming a stronger maritime power.

In a post on X, Pawan Kalyan congratulated the Indian Navy and described the launch of INS Machilipatnam as a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh and the nation. He said the warship reflects India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Deputy Chief Minister recalled Machilipatnam's centuries-old maritime legacy as a major port connecting India with global trade, culture, craftsmanship and seafaring traditions. He said naming the naval vessel after the coastal city was a fitting tribute to Andhra Pradesh's contribution to India's maritime herit-



age. INS Machilipatnam is part of the Indian Navy's ASW SWC project being built with a focus on indigenous shipbuilding capabilities. The seventh vessel of the project was earlier taken up for construction at Cochin Shipyard Limited, with the initiative aimed at strengthening coastal security and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

Pawan Kalyan said the new warship would serve as a vigilant guardian of India's seas by protecting maritime interests, securing coastal waters and safeguarding vital trade routes. He added that INS Machilipatnam symbolises a stronger, secure and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He expressed confidence that the vessel would enhance the Indian Navy's operational capabilities while showcasing the nation's progress in indigenous defence production.

14,000 Tribal Girls To Perform Dhimsa Dance At Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

Harshitha Vipparla Preparations are in full swing for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram on August 1, with a grand cultural programme planned to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will inaugurate the airport.

As part of the event, around 14,000 tribal girls from the North Andhra region are scheduled to perform the traditional Dhimsa dance, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of tribal communities. The massive performance, with thousands of tribal girls participating together, is expected to create a record and may find a place in the Guinness Book of World Records, according to organisers.

Thousands of tribal girls gathered near the airport on Thursday for rehearsals, practising the traditional dance movements and formations ahead of the historic event. Dhimsa, a popular tribal dance form from the Araku region, is traditionally performed during festivals and auspicious occasions and has become a symbol of tribal culture in Andhra Pradesh.

The inauguration of the



Bhogapuram airport is being viewed as a major milestone for North Andhra, with expectations that it will improve connectivity, promote tourism and attract industrial investments to the region. The greenfield international airport, developed near Visakhapatnam, is expected to strengthen aviation infrastructure and support economic growth in the region.

The cultural programme featuring Dhimsa dance is aimed at highlighting the traditions, art forms and identity of tribal communities while marking the launch of one of Andhra Pradesh's major infrastructure projects. Authorities have been making elaborate arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit and the inauguration ceremony.

Minister Gummadi Sandhya Rani participated in the Dhimsa dance rehearsal

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Bhogapuram Airport To Open New Growth Chapter For North Andhra

Ravi Podili

Bhogapuram: The stage is set for a major milestone in North Andhra's development journey with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to dedicate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram to the nation on August 1. The airport, envisioned as a catalyst for regional growth, is expected to provide global connectivity and open new economic opportunities for the region.

The project, initiated with a long-term vision for North Andhra's development, gained momentum after the alliance government assumed office. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the progress, ensured coordination with the Central government, and focused on expediting pending clearances and construction works. The government stated that technical proce-



dures, trial runs and regulatory approvals were completed at a faster pace to prepare the airport for inauguration.

Developed at an estimated cost of 4,727 crore across 2,703 acres, the airport has been designed with a 3,800-metre runway and will initially handle around six million passengers annually. The project also includes plans for a 500-acre aviation hub and a 136-acre Aviation Educity to promote aviation-

related industries, training and employment opportunities.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had identified the importance of Bhogapuram Airport nearly two decades ago as a key infrastructure project for North Andhra. After assuming office, the alliance government accelerated the project by reviewing construction activities, addressing bottlenecks and coordinating with various agencies.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu played a key role in ensuring the completion of final procedures for the airport. He coordinated with officials of the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other agencies for safety inspections, technical clearances, trial operations and approvals.

The airport is expected to boost tourism, industries and investments across Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and surrounding regions. The government is also developing a six-lane beach corridor connecting Visakhapatnam and Bhogapuram to improve travel connectivity. The project is likely to encourage investments in hotels, resorts, logistics, warehouses, IT companies and industrial units.

- Interesting Facts About Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport
- Inauguration Date: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram on August 1. Reports indicate that he is expected to spend around two hours at the airport during the programme.
 - North Andhra's Growth Gateway: Located in Vizianagaram district, the airport is expected to boost connectivity for Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts, supporting tourism, industries and exports.
 - One of India's Fastest-Built Greenfield Airports: Developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the airport has reportedly been completed in around 31 months.
 - Massive Aviation Project: Spread across nearly 2,700 acres, the airport is among the largest aviation infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh.
 - High Passenger Capacity: The first phase is designed to handle around six million passengers annually, with scope for future

- expansion.
- International Operations Ready: The airport features a runway capable of handling wide-body aircraft and includes modern passenger and cargo facilities.
- Cultural Identity: The terminal design blends modern aviation facilities with elements reflecting Andhra Pradesh's cultural heritage.
- Tourism and Employment Boost: The airport is expected to improve access to Araku, Borra Caves, Bheemili, Rushikonda, Thotlakonda and Simhachalam while creating opportunities in aviation, hospitality, logistics and allied sectors.
- Replacement for Visakhapatnam Airport: Once operational, Bhogapuram Airport is expected to handle commercial flight operations from Visakhapatnam Airport. Regular services are reportedly scheduled to begin from August 17.
- Named After Freedom Fighter: The airport is named after Alluri Sitarama Raju, the legendary tribal freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh.

With international connectivity, tourist destinations including Araku, Borra Caves, Bheemili, Rushikonda, Thotlakonda and Simhachalam are expected to gain wider recognition. The airport is also project-

ed to create employment opportunities in aviation, hospitality, transport and service sectors. The transformation of Bhogapuram from a remote region with limited transport facilities into an international

aviation destination marks a significant step in North Andhra's development story. The airport is expected to become a gateway for economic growth, investment and global connectivity in the years ahead.

CoEET To Drive Clean Energy Innovation And Startup Ecosystem

Visakhapatnam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition (CoEET) is set to become a key platform for clean energy innovation, research and startups in Andhra Pradesh through a partnership between the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) and CoEET. Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the collaboration would strengthen the State's clean energy ecosystem and promote advanced technologies.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RTIH and CoEET was exchanged by APEPDC CMD Immedi Pruthvi Tej and RTIH CEO E. Ravi Kumar at the APEPDC corporate office in Visakhapatnam in the presence of the Minister.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the partnership would establish an Energy Technology Co-Incubation Centre to provide incubation, mentoring, technical guidance, investor support and commercialisation opportunities for clean energy startups. He said CoEET has been promoting innovation through conferences, hackathons and research initiatives in artificial intelligence, smart grids, renewable energy, energy storage and digital power systems.

APEPDC CMD Immedi Pruthvi Tej said the collaboration with RTIH would help transform CoEET into a national platform for energy technology



startups.

During a review meeting, Gottipati Ravi Kumar assessed APEPDC's preparedness for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Bhogapuram and directed officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply by deploying additional field staff.

He instructed officials to expedite PM Surya Ghar: PM-KUSUM and RDSS works, including feeder solarisation, smart meters and underground cabling. Officials said RDSS and solarisation projects had reduced the DISCOM's financial burden by over 100 crore, while underground cabling in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli and East Godavari districts was helping reduce losses.

The Minister directed completion of Godavari Pushkaralu power infrastructure works by March 2027 and said 19 new substations were being prepared. He also cautioned job aspirants against middlemen and stated that Electricity Department recruitment is based on merit and transparency.

Tanuku MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna and senior APEPDC officials attended the event.

Jagan Meets Appalaraju Family After Jail Meeting Cancelled

Srikakulam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The scheduled meeting between YSRCP President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and party leader Sidiri Appalaraju at Ampolu Jail near Srikakulam was cancelled on Thursday after the allotted time expired. Appalaraju is currently in remand in connection with a road accident case.

Jail authorities had granted permission for the meeting and allot-



ted a slot from 2 pm to 3 pm. However, Jagan reached the jail after 5 pm, following which officials cancelled the meeting. Later, Jagan met Appalaraju's family members

outside the jail premises.

Speaking to the media, Jagan questioned the alleged conspiracy angle in the road accident involving Appalaraju's son. He alleged that efforts were being made to damage Appalaraju's political career by politicising the incident. Jagan criticised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the government was using such issues for political gains and lacked genuine concern for poor and Backward Classes communities.

Canal Desilting Works To Ensure Tail-End Water Supply: Nimmala Rama Naidu

Pithapuram, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu announced that immediate works will be taken up to remove silt and water hyacinth from the Samalkota and Pithapuram branch canals to ensure irrigation water reaches tail-end agricultural lands.

During his two-day tour of Kakinada district, Minister Rama Naidu inspected the Pithapuram branch canal Zero Point and Yeleru Canal 2/0 regulator at Samalkota on Thursday. He later held discussions with irrigation officials and farmers at the R&B Guest House in Pithapuram and issued instructions on water release measures in the Yeleru ayacut area.

The Minister said that despite severe drought conditions caused



by the 'Super El Niño' phenomenon, effective water management has enabled the supply of irrigation and drinking water to 10.60 lakh acres in the Godavari Delta. He said estimates for desilting and removal of water hyacinth from the Samalkota and Pithapuram branch canals would be prepared within three days and works would begin on a war footing.

He said cleaning works would be taken up along the 48-km canal stretch up to Samalkota through

the Eastern Canal and the 35-km Pithapuram Branch Canal. The PBC works are expected to benefit around 32,000 acres in Pithapuram, Peddapuram, Prathipadu and Kakinada Rural areas.

Regarding the Yeleru Reservoir, Rama Naidu said its capacity was 24 TMC, but only 8 TMC remained after Rabi irrigation and drinking water requirements. He said 1,400 cusecs of water were being pumped daily into the reservoir through the Purushothapatnam Lift Irrigation Scheme.

The Minister said Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had directed officials to ensure effective water management. He urged farmers to use water judiciously, follow rotational water supply and obtain crop insurance amid uncertain weather conditions.

YSRCP Leaders Face Allegations During Jagan's Srikakulam Tour



Srikakulam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leaders and activists faced criticism over alleged unruly behaviour during party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tour of Srikakulam on Thursday. At Kotha Road junction in the city, YSRCP leaders allegedly surrounded Pravalika, Sub-Inspector from Burja, who was on security duty, and pushed her aside. Amadalavalasa YSRCP in-charge Chintada Ravikumar and others were reportedly involved in the incident. They also allegedly pushed past Circle Inspector Sanyasi Naidu when he intervened.

Reserve Constable Simhachalam was reportedly at-

tacked by YSRCP activists and shifted to RIMS hospital for treatment.

Palasa MLA Gouthu Sirisha condemned the alleged incident, stating that the government would take legal action against those responsible. She said such behaviour towards a female SI was unacceptable and criticised the conduct of YSRCP leaders. Meanwhile, Adoni MLA Dr. Parthasarathi submitted a representation to State Education Minister Nara Lokesh seeking funds for constituency development, including 19.75 crore for Ramjala tank conservation, 300 crore for urban roads and measures to improve water, education and employment facilities.

APSRTC To Protect Employee Interests During Electric Bus Transition

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

APSRTC Vice Chairman & Managing Director N. Bala Subramanyam said employees would not be adversely affected due to the introduction of electric buses and assured that the Corporation's modernization would go hand in hand with employee welfare. Addressing the media at RTC House, Vijayawada, on Thursday, he said discussions with APSRTC Employees' Union on nearly 25 issues were held in a cordial atmosphere, with solutions reached for about 90% of the concerns.

He said 750 electric buses sanctioned under the Prime Minister e-Bus Sewa Scheme would operate through 12 identified depots. Vijayawadapuram, Mangalagiri,



Nellore-II and Guntur-II depots would be reopened after infrastructure works, with employees temporarily shifted to nearby depots being reopened.

Bala Subramanyam said drivers, mechanics and technical staff would receive specialised training in electric vehicle technology. He also assured action on pending issues related to promotions, transfers, disciplinary matters and allowances.

CREDAI Welcomes Building Rule Reforms In State

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

CREDAI Andhra Pradesh has welcomed the state government's issuance of G.O. Ms. No. 161 dated July 29, 2026, introducing amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017. The association said the reforms would improve Ease of Doing Business, accelerate the housing sector and provide a boost to the real estate industry.

CREDAI State President Bayana Srinivasa Rao, State Chairman Buddiga Srinivasa and State Secretary D. Rambabu thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Minister

for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana and Minister for IT and Skill Development Nara Lokesh for considering the association's representations.

The key reforms include increasing the height limit for non-high-rise buildings to 24 metres, rationalising setback regulations, allowing infrastructure impact fees in six installments, simplifying permit revalidation and easing fire clearance norms.

CREDAI leaders said the measures reflect the government's commitment to investment, planned urban development and a transparent real estate environment.

DDOs Must Ensure Transparency In Education Funds: Srinivasa Rao

Rajamahendravaram, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Samagra Shiksha Andhra Pradesh State Project Director (SPD) B. Srinivasa Rao stated that Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and school headmasters have a key role in strengthening the education system through accountable administration.

He participated as chief guest at a one-day awareness workshop on "SNA-SPARSH" conducted for Zone-2 DDOs in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday. Srinivasa Rao directed officials to effectively implement Samagra Shiksha and PM SHRI programmes and

focus on improving students' learning outcomes from the primary level. He instructed DDOs to utilise government funds through the SNA-SPARSH system with transparency, efficiency and within prescribed timelines. He stressed the need to follow financial rules and government guidelines while ensuring quality education through proper fund management.

State Finance Controller B. Rajagopala Rao, Kakinada RJD G. Nagamani, DEOs, Samagra Shiksha APCs, DDOs, Assistant Directors, MEOs, headmasters and staff from Zone-2 districts participated.

APSCHE Holds Design Thinking Workshop For University Leaders

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), in collaboration with Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, conducted a two-day workshop on "Design Thinking in Higher Education" on July 29 and 30 at Fortune Murali Park, Vijayawada, under the RUSA 2.0 initiative.

APSCHE Secretary Prof. B. Tirupati Rao stated that the workshop saw active participation from Vice-Chancellors across the State. Sessions focused on applying design thinking in academic administration,



research, innovation, leadership and institutional governance.

The programme highlighted empathy-driven leadership, collaborative problem-solving and evidence-based decision-making to build globally competitive institutions. Discussions were also held on strengthening innovation ecosystems, promoting industry-academia collaboration

and encouraging entrepreneurship among students and faculty.

APSCHE appreciated Prof. K. Gangadhara Rao, Vice-Chancellor (I/c), Acharya Nagarjuna University, for his support in organising the workshop. Prof. K. Gangadhara Rao thanked Vice-Chancellors for their participation and contributions.

Participants also acknowledged resource person Dr. Mohan Kancharla for his insights on design thinking.

APSCHE reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening higher education in line with NEP 2020 and the State's vision of creating a knowledge-driven economy.

Career Planning And Mental Health Focus In Schools: SPD

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Samagra Shiksha conducted a state-level workshop on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and Psychometric Tool under the Career and Mental Health Programme at YES-J Centre for Excellence, Vijayawada, focusing on students' career planning, mental health and holistic development.

State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, B. Srinivasa Rao said the Andhra Pradesh government is focusing on students' academic progress along with mental well-being, personality

development and career planning. He said psychometric assessments would be introduced for students from Class VI to Degree level under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and guidance of Minister for Human Resource Development.

He said the Psychometric Tool would scientifically assess students' interests, abilities, personality traits, career aspirations and emotional well-being, enabling timely counselling and guidance. The SOP would cover assessment procedures, confidentiality, counselling processes, referral systems and stakehold-

er responsibilities.

Additional State Project Director M.R. Prasanna Kumar said the programme would help students identify strengths, choose suitable career paths and detect mental health concerns early. He added that workshop recommendations would support teacher training, digital assessments and monitoring systems.

Experts from NIMHANS, AIIMS, INDLAS, Padala Charitable Trust, SCERT, RIE Nellore, Indian Psychiatric Society, Health & Family Welfare Department, UNICEF, Samagra Shiksha and School Education Department participated.

Minerals and Industries: From Underground Wealth to Industrial Power



Royalaseema's greatest wealth lies beneath its surface. While water is essential for agriculture, the region's rich mineral resources hold the key to its long-term industrial future. However, natural resources alone do not create prosperity. They become true economic assets only when they are transformed into value-added industries that generate employment, exports and sustainable growth. The Mangampeta Barytes Mines are recognised as one of the world's largest single deposits of barytes, with an estimated 74 million tonnes of reserves. Managed by the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC), the mines produce around 2-3 million tonnes annually, supplying international markets including the United States and the Middle East.

Limestone is another major strength of Royalaseema. More than 1.2 billion tonnes of cement-grade limestone are estimated to be available across Kurnool, Nandyal and YSR Kadapa districts. Over 70 per cent of Andhra Pradesh's cement-grade limestone reserves are concentrated in Royalaseema, making it the state's cement manufacturing hub. Today, 16 major cement plants, operated by companies such as UltraT-

ech, Ramco, Penna, Bharathi and Zuari, together have an installed capacity of around 38-40 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The region contributes nearly 65-70 percent of Andhra Pradesh's total cement production capacity. Beyond limestone, Royalaseema possesses significant deposits of black granite in Chittoor, granite in Anantapur, and nearly 30 million tonnes of quartz and silica across YSR Kadapa and Anantapur districts. These resources present enormous opportunities for diversified industrial growth. Yet, a large share of these minerals continues to be exported in raw form. Expanding local processing, cutting, polishing and mineral-based manufacturing industries would generate substantially greater value while creating thousands of additional jobs. Industrial infrastructure has strengthened this transformation. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has developed more than 60 industrial parks and clusters across the region. Sri City has emerged as an internationally recognised manufacturing hub, Orvakal Mega Industrial Hub is attracting investments in drones, aerospace and green energy, while Koppurthy Industrial Park in Kadapa is positioning itself as a centre for electronics, textiles and advanced manufacturing.

Industry estimates suggest that mineral-based industries



currently provide direct and indirect employment to around 150,000-200,000 people. This number can increase significantly if Royalaseema focuses on value-added manufacturing instead of exporting raw minerals. Producing specialised chemicals from barytes, advanced construction materials from limestone, and glass, silicon and electronic components from quartz and silica would substantially strengthen the regional economy. The true value of mineral wealth lies not merely in extraction but in converting natural resources into industries, employment and exports. That remains Royalaseema's greatest industrial opportunity.

Energy Hub: How the Sun and Wind Are Creating a New Economic Future

Royalaseema, once known mainly for drought, is now emerging as one of India's fastest-growing renewable energy hubs. Ironically, the harsh climatic conditions that once limited

agriculture have become major advantages for solar and wind power generation. The intense sunshine that once symbolised hardship is now generating thousands of megawatts of clean energy and creating a new economic landscape. The 1,000-MW Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park is among India's first and largest utility-scale solar parks. Vast tracts of land in Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts, together with excellent solar radiation and favourable wind conditions, have attracted large-scale renewable energy investments. Today, Royalaseema contributes the largest share of Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy capacity. The region is also evolving beyond electricity generation into a centre for energy storage, green hydrogen, green ammonia and battery energy technologies. A landmark project is the 1,680-MW Pinnapuram Off-Stream Pumped Storage Project in the Kurnool-Nandyal region, being developed by Greenko.

Considered one of the world's largest integrated renewable energy storage systems, it is expected to play a crucial role in balancing solar and wind power while ensuring a stable electricity supply. Further strengthening this position are proposals to develop more than 5,000 MW of pumped-storage capacity at Gandikota, Avuku, Paidipalem and other locations. These projects are placing Royalaseema at the centre of India's transition to clean energy. Looking ahead, investments in green hydrogen and green ammonia could transform the region into one of India's leading green industrial corridors. The combination of rich mineral resources, expanding industrial infrastructure and world-class renewable energy potential offers Royalaseema a unique opportunity for sustainable economic growth. A land that once viewed its harsh climate as a disadvantage is now turning abundant sunshine and open landscapes into engines of prosperity. By converting its natural constraints into economic opportunities, Royalaseema is building a new development model for the future. In the next article, we will explore another defining strength of Royalaseema—its rich spiritual heritage—and examine how temples, pilgrimages and religious tourism have contributed to the region's economy and overall development.

14,000 Tribal Girls To Perform Dhimsa Dance At Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

continued

along with tribal students as part of preparations to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. The grand cultural performance will feature around 13,000 to 14,000 tribal participants, highlighting Andhra Pradesh's rich tribal traditions.

Sandhya Rani said the mass Dhimsa performance has been specially planned to showcase the state's vibrant tribal heritage on a global platform. The rehearsal witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal students, reflecting the cultural pride and unity of the tribal communities. The event is expected to become a major attraction during the airport inauguration programme.



Jagan's Paramarsha Yatra a Political Drama: Anitha

Visakhapatnam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha described Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's 'Paramarsha Yatra' as a political drama aimed at creating a show of strength. Speaking to the media at the Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner's office on Thursday, she criticized Jagan for visiting a person facing criminal charges instead of offering support to the family of the accident victim. Anitha alleged that Jagan deliberately prolonged his approximately 120-km journey from Visakhapatnam Airport to Srikakulam to divert public attention from the inauguration of Bhogapuram International Airport. She said Jag-

an, despite being aware of prison regulations, failed to visit at the scheduled time and later blamed the government for political reasons. The Home Minister strongly condemned the alleged rude behavior of YSRCP leaders towards a woman Sub-Inspector (SI) deployed on duty during the visit. She said attacks, abuse or obstruction of police personnel undermine democracy and warned that strict legal action would be taken. Regarding the case involving Sidiri Appalaraju, Anitha said he was remanded over allegations of attempting to tamper with evidence following the accident. She asserted that the law would take its course and no one violating it would be spared.

YSRCP Demands Lokesh's Resignation Over DSC Scam

New Delhi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP parliamentary party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Y.V. Subba Reddy raised the alleged DSC-2025 scam in the Rajya Sabha and demanded the immediate resignation of Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Participating in the debate on the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, he supported the legislation and urged the Centre to extend it to all State-level recruitment and entrance examinations.

Subba Reddy alleged serious irregularities in teacher recruitment in Andhra Pradesh, claiming that teacher posts were sold, the selection process was changed and the DSC question paper was leaked. He said Lokesh should accept responsibility and step down, similar to the Union Education Minister.

He demanded that agencies and examinations including APPSC, DSC and APEAPCET be brought under the proposed legislation. He also called for strict action against coaching-centre mafias allegedly involved in paper leaks.

On education, Subba Reddy said CBSE students have an advantage in NEET compared with State-syllabus students. He claimed the Y.S. Jagan Government introduced CBSE in government schools and strengthened public education, while 5.5 lakh students had left government schools under the present government.

He further alleged that government medical colleges established during the Y.S. Jagan Government are now being privatised, making medical education less accessible to poor students.

Lokesh Calls on TDP Leaders to Target Local Body Poll Victory

Adoni, July 30 | TPN Bureau

TDP National General Secretary and HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh called upon party leaders in Adoni to work unitedly with the clear objective of winning the upcoming local body elections. During an interactive meeting with Adoni town and mandal leaders, Lokesh urged cadres to set aside differences and strengthen coordination with alliance partners.

He directed leaders to effectively conduct the door-to-door campaign highlighting the achievements of the alliance government over the past two years. Lokesh asked mandal, cluster and unit in-charges to remain active and resolve internal issues through discussions instead of taking them to the media. He assured leaders that he would take up revenue and police-related problems with officials and also address pending G-Ram-G bills. Regarding housing bills from 2014-19, he said he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and seek phased payments. Meanwhile, Lokesh received a grand welcome in Pat-



tikonda, where supporters led by MLA KE Shyam Babu raised "Jai Telugu Desam" slogans. A massive rally and folk performances marked his arrival. Earlier, Sadapuram village TDP president Karanam Rajashekhar felicitated him with a giant garland.

During his visit to Virupapuram, Lokesh also interacted with Rekanda Vijaya, a roadside groundnut seller. After accepting and purchasing groundnuts from her, he directed his staff to enquire about her problems and assistance needed.

Zonal In-charge Pellakuru Srinivasa Reddy, Parliamentary Party President Kistamma, Constituency TDP Observer Keshavareddy, Adoni Town Party President B. Thimmappa, Mandal Party President Kuruva Shivappa, District Party Treasurer Valmiki Ravi and TDP leaders B. Krishnaiah, Lakshminarayana, B. Virupakshi, Sajjad Hussain, Kolla Veeresh, Ramanjani, S. Sayyadulla, BP Basavaraj and Kuruvu Muralikrishna participated.

YSRCP Has No Right to Claim Credit for Bhogapuram Airport, Says Satya Kumar

Amaravati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister and BJP National Secretary Satya Kumar Yadav strongly criticised former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YCP over their claims regarding the Bhogapuram International Airport project. He alleged that the Jagan government stalled the project for five years and was now attempting to take credit as construction progressed rapidly.

Satya Kumar said the airport project was conceptualised during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure between 2014 and 2019, when land acquisition and key environmental and aviation clearances were secured. He alleged that the YCP government later halted the project under the pretext of reverse tendering and became involved in legal disputes, delaying the development of North Andhra.

He said the Alliance government, with the cooperation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had revived the project



and accelerated construction after assuming office. The Minister said the airport would become a major catalyst for North Andhra's development.

Satya Kumar accused the YCP of spreading misinformation through social media to claim credit for work undertaken by others. He asserted that people would remember who initiated, stalled and ultimately accelerated the project.



Ravindra Criticises Jagan Reddy's Srikakulam Visit

Amaravati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra strongly criticised YSRCP president Jagan Reddy over his visit to Srikakulam, alleging that he visited the alleged perpetrator in a killing case instead of consoling the bereaved family of a BC community member who died in an accident. Ravindra said Jagan's conduct reflected a "criminal mindset" and accused him of repeatedly shielding those facing serious allegations. He questioned why Jagan defended an 18-year-old allegedly involved in the case and whether those accused of misleading the investigation should be ap-

preciated rather than prosecuted.

Ravindra also condemned the alleged behaviour of YSRCP leaders towards a woman police officer during Jagan's visit, describing it as unacceptable and inhumane. He questioned whether political rallies should involve individuals facing criminal allegations and rowdy-sheet cases while women police personnel are allegedly subjected to harassment. Ravindra said the public had already rejected Jagan by restricting YSRCP to 11 seats and urged people to remain vigilant against leaders who, he alleged, protect accused persons and undermine the law.

Atchannaidu Slams Jagan's 'Consolation Tour'

Amaravati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Agriculture, Co-operation, and Marketing Kinjarapu Atchannaidu criticized Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that political rallies and shows of strength were being staged under the guise of consolation visits. He said Jagan's tour had exposed the "sordid political culture" of the YSRCP and accused him of attempting to shield the accused while ignoring victims.

Atchannaidu condemned the alleged misbehaviour of YSRCP leaders towards female police personnel during Jagan's visit to Srikakulam, including abusive language, inappropriate conduct and stone-pelting. He questioned whether such actions were acceptable for a former Chief Minister and party president.

He also questioned Jagan's decision to visit the family of former minister Sidiri Appalaraju while allegedly failing to meet the family of Danayya, a BC man who died after being struck by a vehicle linked to a former minister's son. Atchannaidu asked why Jagan had not supported the families of Thota Chandraiah Yadav, Ramayyapalem Gorla Gopal Yadav and Nellore's Vengayya Yadav during the previous YSRCP government.

The Minister further alleged that Jagan was giving a "clean chit" to accused persons before completion of the police investigation. He said Ministers Kolu Parthasarathy, Kollu Ravindra and Kondapalli Srinivas had visited Danayya's family, offered financial and moral support, and assured justice.

Jagan Alleges Political Vendetta In Appalaraju Case

continued

caste sentiments for political gain, stating that a Minister from the victim's caste was sent to influence the situation. He alleged that the government lacked genuine concern for BC communities and referred to instances in Guntur district where people from the same caste were allegedly harassed. Highlighting past ac-

tions, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said his government had promoted leaders from the Yadava community, including appointing a Mayor in Visakhapatnam, and accused Chandrababu Naidu of later removing her and halting the construction of Yadav Bhavan. He also criticised the government for not responding to the deaths of six fishermen, claiming he had personally visited their fami-

lies. He alleged that ports and fishing harbours were being "put on sale" and that election promises were not being fulfilled. "Those who question the government are being targeted with false cases," he said. Earlier, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy received a rousing welcome in Visakhapatnam, with supporters gathering in large numbers along his route towards Srikakulam.

Bhogapuram Airport To Transform North Andhra Growth Story: Durgesh

continued

fish-inspired design and decorative lighting. Durgesh inspected the aero-bridges, air traffic control tower, runway, taxiways, apron areas and approach roads. He said modern facilities, including digital check-in, self-baggage drop e-gates, advanced security scan-

ning, escalators and elevators, would offer passengers an international travel experience. He stated that the airport, along with initiatives like the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone, would accelerate North Andhra's development with support from the Central Government. He expressed confi-

dence that it would attract industries, investments and tourism opportunities.

The Minister said the inauguration event would be organized on a grand scale and urged people to participate. A special Thimsa dance performance will be presented during the Prime Minister's visit.

Centre Details NH-65 Upgrade Plans

New Delhi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath raised questions in the Lok Sabha regarding the proposed expansion and six-laning of NH-65 connecting Pune and Machilipatnam. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Jairam Gadkari, in a written reply, said highway development is being taken up in phases based on connectivity needs, traffic density, DPRs, feasibility studies and the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

According to the Centre, the 771.495-km Pune-Machilipatnam stretch includes several sections. DPR consultancy bids have been invited for Pune-Solapur and Solapur-Maharashtra-Karnataka border sections. The Maharashtra-Karnataka border-Sangareddy stretch is being



upgraded to a six-lane access-controlled highway under EPC mode. DPR work has been completed for six-laning Hyderabad-Nandigama and Vijayawada-Machilipatnam. The Nandigama-Vijayawada section has already been developed.

The Centre said it was premature to announce the project's total cost, funds or completion timeline, as various stretches remain at different development stages. Further decisions will follow technical and traffic assessments and project approvals.

TDP Calls for Door-to-Door Campaign

Avanigadda, July 30 | TPN Bureau

TDP Avanigadda constituency in-charge Vikkurthi Venkata Srinivasa Rao called upon party leaders, activists and supporters to actively participate in the 'Intintiki Telugu Desam' door-to-door programme. He took part in the campaign in the first ward of Avanigadda Panchayat on Thursday and distributed leaflets explaining the Alliance government's welfare schemes and development initiatives over the past two years.

The programme, organised under the leadership of TDP Mandal President Yasam Chittibabu, is being conducted across all six mandals of the constituency as part of the 'Two Years of Trust, Development and Welfare' campaign. Vikkurthi said development and welfare were



progressing together under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh. He praised Chandrababu Naidu's efforts for State development and urged everyone to participate in the campaign.

Divi Market Committee Chairman Kolluri Venkateswara Rao, TDP SC Cell District President Machavarapu Adinarayana, Vikkurthi Rambabu, Cluster In-charge Bande Raghava, Advocate Vikkurthi Ramakrishna and others participated.

PINPOINT

Special Grievance Meet in Vijayawada East on 31st

Vijayawada: NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha announced that a special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme will be held in Vijayawada East constituency on Friday, July 31. The programme will be conducted at Nallurivari Kalyana Mandapam near NSM Public School in Patamata. Officials will receive petitions from residents from 10 am onwards. District-level officials will be present to receive complaints on various public issues and initiate steps for their resolution. Collector Lakshmisha urged residents of Vijayawada East constituency to utilise the opportunity and submit their grievances directly to the concerned officials.

Durga Temple Brahmotsavam Schedule From August 13

Vijayawada: Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam has announced the schedule for annual Brahmotsavams from August 13 to September 11, 2026. Pallaki Sevas will be held from August 27 to 29 with Gaja, Ashwa, Varaha and Paramananda Vahanams, along with Kalyanam and Maha Mangala Harathi. Pallaki Pradakshina is scheduled on August 21, while Sumuhurtha Pallaki Pradakshina will be held on September 4. Tickets priced at 1,500 include Laddu, Prasadam and Darshan. Sri Krishnashtami celebrations on September 4 will feature special prayers and the Utti Kotte event. Authorities urged devotees to participate.

AI Transforming Electronics Sector: Dr. B.T.P. Madhav

Vijayawada: Dr. B.T.P. Madhav, Dean of K.L. Deemed University, said Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the electronics sector and reshaping societal functions. He was speaking at a programme on AI tools in flexible and printed electronics organised by the Department of Electronics of P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science in Vijayawada on Thursday. Dr. Madhav said future innovations could enable wearable devices like clothes that charge mobile phones and display health data. He noted that AI Copilot tools such as SnapMagic help correct circuit designs quickly, while machine-learning algorithms can detect errors in printing processes. Technologies like TensorFlow and PyTorch are further advancing electronics applications. College Principal Dr. Meka Ramesh, Dean Prof. Rajesh K. Jampala, Director Vemuri Baburao, HoD K. Sambasiva Rao and faculty members honoured him.

Human Trafficking Moving Online, Citizens Must Stay Alert: APSCPCR Chairperson Raju

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Chairperson Vetukuri A.V.S. Suryanarayana Raju on Thursday cautioned that human trafficking is increasingly moving to digital platforms, making awareness and vigilance crucial.

Speaking at an awareness programme organised by APSCPCR and HELP (Society for Help Entire Lower & Rural People) at the Press Club in Vijayawada on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, he said traffickers are exploiting mobile phones, social media, fake job offers and online networks to target youth and children. He stressed that protecting individuals from



trafficking safeguards families and society, underscoring the need for digital literacy and cyber safety.

APSCPCR and HELP jointly unveiled awareness wall posters during the programme. Commission Members and HELP Secretary Nimmaraju Ramamohan participated.

The Chairperson said APSCPCR is actively working to protect children through monitoring, awareness drives and initiatives like

Collector Calls for Vigilance Against Trafficking, Advises Crop Shift Amid Water Shortage

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Thursday stressed the need for public awareness to prevent human trafficking while also urging farmers to adopt alternative crops due to water constraints.

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Collector unveiled a "Wall Poster Against Human Trafficking" at the PGRS Meeting Hall in the Vijayawada Collectorate. He warned that traffickers exploit social media, fake job offers and education promises to target vulnerable groups, including women, children and economically weaker sections. He called for awareness programmes at village and ward levels and urged citizens to report suspicious activities. Strict action would be taken under the BNS and POC SO Act, he said, advising people to use Child Helpline 1098 in emergencies. District Labour Department Deputy Commissioner Guntupalli Dhanalakshmi said surveillance against bonded labour was being intensified. The Collector also distributed 6.60 lakh rehabilitation aid to 22 rescued bonded labourers from Odisha.



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New Arrangements for Devotees at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam Special Grade Deputy Collector and Executive Officer Seena Naik announced new arrangements to ensure devotees face no inconvenience during their visit to Indrakeeladri. During a field inspection on Thursday, he reviewed crowd-management measures and observed difficulties faced by devotees reaching the Puja Mandapams during rush hours. He directed officials to create a dedicated pathway from the



Lakshmi Ganapathi Temple through the Subrahmanya Swamy Temple to the ritual venues, enabling devotees participating in archana and other rituals to avoid the main temple route. He also instructed officials to construct a new ramp and widen the exit route for smoother

NTR UHS Conducts E-Resources Training for Research Scholars

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Dr. NTR UHS) organised a Training-cum-Awareness Programme on E-Resources through the NTRMEDNET Consortium & Digital Library at Aalochana Hall on Thursday. Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Chandrasekhar and Registrar Dr. T. Sai Sudheer jointly inaugurated the programme.

Dr. Chandrasekhar said access to authentic electronic resources was essential for strengthening medical education, clinical prac-



tice and research and urged faculty, scholars and students to utilise NTRMEDNET effectively. Dr. Sai Sudheer said the University was committed to providing affiliated colleges access to globally recognised digital resources.

Experts from international publishing organisations ex-

16,976 Devotees Attend Ashada Sare Festival

Indrakeeladri, July 30 | TPN Bureau

A large number of devotees visited Indrakeeladri on Thursday on the 17th day of the Ashada Sare festival, offering turmeric, vermilion, bangles and traditional Sare to Goddess Kanaka Durga, whom they regard as their family deity. There was a significant increase in the number of women visiting the sanctum to present their offerings. By 5 pm, as many as 39 Sare groups



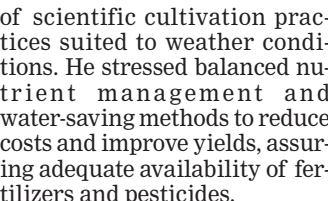
had arrived at the temple, comprising 16,976 devotees. Temple authorities made arrangements to provide free Darshan and Ashirvachanam to devotees belonging to the Sare groups. The temple management ensured necessary arrangements for the smooth movement and participation of devotees during the festival.

Collector Reviews Farming, Fertilizer Supply And Village Development

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau:

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Thursday reviewed agriculture, fertilizer supply and rural development works during visits to Tiruvuru and Vijayawada.

Inspecting paddy fields in Vamakuntla village of Tiruvuru mandal, he interacted with farmers and advised adoption



of scientific cultivation practices suited to weather conditions. He stressed balanced nutrient management and water-saving methods to reduce costs and improve yields, assuring adequate availability of fertilizers and pesticides.

During an inspection of a fertilizer shop in Tiruvuru, the Collector said sufficient stocks were available across NTR district and steps were in place for

"Bala Samvad," which enables direct interaction with children to understand their concerns. He added that the Commission is coordinating with government departments, police, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, District Child Protection Units and civil society groups.

Nimmaraju Ramamohan cited a recent case where youth from Andhra Pradesh were lured with jobs in Singapore but trafficked to Myanmar for cyber scams. He urged youth to verify overseas job offers carefully.

APSCPCR Members Undavalli Gandhi Babu, Venkata Padmalatha, Challa Madhusudhana Rao, RIDS Secretary B. Nagesh, Krishna Kumar, V. Bhaskara Rao and Anuradha attended.

Centre Advances Krishna-Pennar River Linking Project: MP Balashowry

New Delhi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken a significant step towards the Krishna-Pennar river interlinking project, informing Parliament that the feasibility report was completed in January 2022. The details were shared in response to a query raised by Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry.

According to the Ministry, the Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link is part of the larger Godavari (Inchampalli)-Cauvery river interlinking project. The project includes three components: Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar), Krishna (Nagarjuna Sagar)-Pennar (Somasila), and Pennar (Somasila)-Palar-Cauvery links.



The Centre stated that the National Water Development Agency submitted the Detailed Project Report to the concerned states in January 2024, and six inter-state meetings have been held to build consensus.

MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry said the project is crucial for meeting Andhra Pradesh's long-term water needs. He urged the Centre to expedite consensus and implementation, noting that it would greatly benefit irrigation and drinking water supply in Rayalaseema and south coastal regions.

NTR District Declared Free of Illicit Liquor

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government's NAVODAYAM 2.0 programme has helped eradicate illicitly distilled (ID) liquor in NTR district, according to the Prohibition & Excise Department. Launched in February 2025, the programme identified 26 ID-prone villages under Tiruvuru and Mylavaram Prohibition & Excise Stations, involving 249 ID liquor offenders.

The department conducted intensive awareness campaigns, formed vigilance committees at village, mandal and district levels, and undertook round-the-

clock surveillance and enforcement. A total of 210 offenders were bound over, while 88 ID liquor-dependent families were identified and provided 25 lakh for alternative livelihoods. Through coordinated efforts with Revenue, Police and other departments, NTR district was declared ID-free on August 7, 2025.

The department is also implementing the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to combat NDPS drugs through awareness programmes, rallies and road shows in coordination with the EAGLE team. Officials said these measures have contributed to revenue augmentation while promoting a healthier, drug-free society.

M.V. Krishna Rao Remembered as Education Champion

Avanigadda, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda Government Degree College Principal Dr. K. Sujatha said Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao was a champion of educational advancement and made significant contributions to society. As part of his centenary celebrations at Avanigadda Bridge Centre, Dr. Sujatha, faculty, non-teaching staff and students paid floral tributes to his statue on Thursday. They recalled his role as a former minister of the undivided State, freedom fighter, promoter of Telugu language and benefactor of the needy, besides his contribution to establishing Avanigadda Degree College.

The programme was organised by the Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao Centenary Committee, Gandhi Kshetram Committee and his



admirers. Constituency youth leader Mandali Venkatram, Jana-sena district spokesperson Rayapudi Venugopal, TDP Mandal President Yasam Chittibabu, Rajashekharaswamy Devasthanam Chairman Ghantasala Rajamohan Rao, Sri Lankamma Thalli Devasthanam Chairman Annareddy Venkataswamy, former MPP Bande Kanakadurga, former Sarpanch Mandali Udaya Bhaskar and others participated. Numerous local leaders, Water Users' Association representatives, students and admirers also attended.

Blood Donation Camp Held at Andhra Loyola College

Vijayawada, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Loyola College (Autonomous), Vijayawada, organised a blood donation camp at the College Multi-Purpose Hall on Thursday on the eve of the Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The NSS Units, in association with the Indian Red Cross Society, NTR District Chapter, collected 76 units of blood with enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, non-teaching staff and volunteers. College Correspondent Fr Francis Xavier, Vice Principals Fr G. Rayappa and Fr Arul Jyothi appreciated the donors and NSS volunteers for their service. Fr Arul Jyothi said every



unit of donated blood represents hope for patients in need and promotes social responsibility. Fr Francis Xavier thanked the Indian Red Cross Society, medical team, coordinators, volunteers and donors. NSS Programme Officers Dr K. Prakash, Dr K. Shekar, Dr R. John, Dr D. Bhaskar and Dr Dayakar made arrangements for the camp.

Bolisetty Raises Concerns Over Tarluvada Hills Destruction

Visakhapatnam, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Environmentalism Bolisetty Satyanarayana on Thursday alleged that large-scale excavation for a proposed data centre project had caused extensive damage to Tarluvada Hills, a key catchment area feeding the Gambheeram Gedda Reservoir, one of the major sources of drinking water for Visakhapatnam city.

Addressing the media, Bolisetty Satyanarayana claimed that nearly 140 acres of forested hill terrain had been cleared within the last five months without obtaining mandatory prior environmental clearance. Referring to satellite images shared on his social media platforms, he alleged that the excavation had disturbed natural streams flowing from the Eastern Ghats into the reservoir, posing a serious threat to the city's long-term water security and ecological balance.

Questioning the silence of elected representatives, including the local MP, MLA and Environment Minister Pawan Kalyan, he alleged that environmentally sensitive areas were being damaged despite legal safeguards. He said forests, hills and natural drainage channels should be protected in the larger public interest and ex-



pressed concern over the impact of such projects on the environment.

Citing the Supreme Court's judgment in Vanashakti vs Union of India, Bolisetty Satyanarayana asserted that projects requiring environmental clearance cannot legally commence without obtaining prior approval and that post-facto clearances are not permissible.

He urged the Andhra Pradesh government to immediately halt the project until all statutory permissions are secured, restore damaged natural drainage systems and ensure strict compliance with environmental laws. While acknowledging the importance of development and data centres, he maintained that they should not come at the cost of forests, hills, natural streams and vital drinking water sources, and reiterated his commitment to protecting Tarluvada Hills through lawful means.

Collector Orders Filling of 22 Lift Irrigation Tanks in 10 Days

Rajahmendravaram, July 30 | TPN Bureau

East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri directed irrigation officials to fill all 22 tanks under lift irrigation schemes within 10 days to ensure water reaches tail-end agricultural lands. The direction was issued during the District Special Irrigation Advisory Board meeting held at the Collectorate PGRS Hall on Thursday. Mandapeta MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy attended the meeting.

Irrigation Superintending Engineer G. Srinivasa Rao said canal-fed crops would receive adequate Godavari water during Kharif 2026 (Fasli 1436), while lift irrigation areas faced shortages. District Agriculture Officer B. Venkatrao informed that a 60 per cent rainfall deficit affected nearly 9,000 hectares across 10 upland mandals and could lead to ground-water depletion during Rabi.



The Collector advised farmers in water-scarce areas to adopt low-water-consuming crops and directed officials to create awareness on water-efficient farming. She ordered priority filling of Rangampeta tank, reviewed major lift irrigation schemes and instructed Transco officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply. A 15-day campaign was also ordered to ensure crop insurance coverage for all farmers.

Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy sought immediate water release to Rangampeta tank, while Vegulla Jogeswara Rao called for continued support to farmers. B. Yesubabu, Srinivas, D.V. Prasad, A. Durgesh, M.V. Venkataramana and other officials attended the meeting.

Chinta Mohan Criticises Centre, State Over Constitutional Changes

Ongole, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Chinta Mohan on Thursday alleged that speculation was rife in New Delhi about MPs being offered 50 crore each to support proposed constitutional changes. Addressing a press conference in Ongole, he claimed the BJP was planning constitutional amendments in August.

He alleged that the proposed delimitation exercise could increase Lok Sabha seats in North India to 500 while reducing South India's representation to 300, leading to regional imbalance.

Referring to recent student protests in Delhi, Chinta Mohan demanded withdrawal of cases against students and urged the Centre to implement assurances given to the Student JAC within



a fixed timeline. He criticised the Andhra Pradesh Government over the reported 30 crore expenditure for the Bhogapuram Airport inauguration and questioned the need for the large cultural programme.

He also alleged that the governments led by Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the YSR family contributed to the State's debt burden. He appealed to Kapu and Balija communities to join Congress, assuring leadership opportunities.

Ayyanna Highlights Welfare, Development During Gandikota Visit

Makavarapalem , July 30 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu visited Gandikota under Bhimavoyinapalem Panchayat in Makavarapalem Mandal on Thursday, where he distributed social pensions and addressed a public meeting after receiving a traditional welcome from villagers.

Ayyanna Patrudu expressed pride over Rajya Sabha MP Chintakayala Vijay's maiden speech in Parliament, stating that his disciplined public service earned him the opportunity. He said the MP's Local Area Development funds of 6 crore annually, amounting to 36 crore over six years, would support infrastructure and basic amenities in the region.

Highlighting welfare measures, he said 2,712 crore is distributed monthly to over 62 lakh pensioners across Andhra Pradesh, 108 crore to 2.53 lakh beneficiaries in Anapalli district, and 17.54 crore to 41,236



beneficiaries in the Narsipatnam constituency. He also announced development works worth nearly 114 crore for Makavarapalem Mandal, including 40 lakh for roads and a cremation ground in Gandikota.

Meanwhile, Chintakayala Padmavathi visited Krishnapuram, distributed pensions, inaugurated works worth 25 lakh, and laid foundation stones for projects worth 29.80 lakh. She said 242 crore had been allocated for development across all 28 wards of Narsipatnam Municipality and highlighted welfare schemes under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Interest-Free Loans to Support Tobacco Farmers: MP Putta Mahesh Kumar

Delhi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar said the coalition government is committed to the welfare of tobacco farmers and is taking measures to provide relief amid declining tobacco prices. Participating virtually in a Tobacco Board meeting from New Delhi during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday, he highlighted the financial difficulties faced by tobacco growers.

In a video statement after the meeting, Putta Mahesh Kumar said the Tobacco Board discussed falling auction prices and the mounting debt burden on farmers. He added that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu, and he had held several discussions with the Union Commerce Minister and Tobacco Board officials to secure relief measures.

The MP announced that the Tobacco Board had agreed to provide an interest-free loan of



50,000 per tobacco barn, particularly benefiting farmers who cultivated low-grade tobacco. He attributed the fall in prices to international market conditions and excess cultivation, while noting that poor demand for low-grade tobacco had worsened the situation.

Putta Mahesh Kumar said the government was working to ensure remunerative prices for tobacco. He recalled that farmers had received prices of up to 470 per kg during the past two years and said efforts were underway to keep prices above 300 per kg this season despite adverse global market conditions. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting the interests of tobacco farmers.

Ramachandra Yadav Announces Mudragada Memorial In Vijayawada



Kirlampudi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Bharata Chaitanya Yuvajana (BCY) Party National President Bode Ramachandra Yadav on Thursday announced that the party would install a statue of veteran Kapu movement leader Mudragada Padmanabham in Vijayawada.

Ramachandra Yadav visited Mudragada's native village in Kirlampudi and paid floral tributes to his portrait. He said he could not attend the funeral due to a religious vow and visited later to pay his respects.

Addressing the media, he de-

scribed Mudragada as a leader who dedicated his life to the poor and social causes without seeking political office. He said Mudragada's commitment to his principles and unwavering spirit would inspire future generations.

Ramachandra Yadav also recalled his close association with Mudragada, saying they shared a father-son bond. He said the statue would be unveiled in the presence of Mudragada's family members, followers and admirers, with the programme scheduled to be announced shortly. BCY leaders and supporters attended the tribute programme.

Awareness Seminar Calls for Joint Fight Against Human Trafficking



Eluru, July 30 | TPN Bureau

A special awareness seminar was held at the District Legal Services Authority in Eluru on Wednesday to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, with judges, police officials, lawyers and child protection authorities participating.

Speakers described human trafficking as a serious crime targeting vulnerable women and children and stressed the need for coordinated efforts by the judiciary, police, revenue and women and child welfare departments to prevent the

menace. District Child Protection Officer Dr. Surya Chakravani highlighted government initiatives for child protection, prevention of child labour and the rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked children. Eluru I-Town Sub-Inspector Sudhakar urged parents and youth to remain alert against traffickers using false promises and appealed to the public to report suspicious activities through Child Helpline 1098 or the police.

Participants pledged to strengthen public awareness and work collectively to protect vulnerable groups from exploitation

Abbayya Chowdary Pays Tribute to Mudragada Padmanabham

Kirlampudi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Former Denduluru MLA Kotharu Abbayya Chowdary on Thursday paid floral tributes to former Minister and Kapu movement leader Mudragada Padmanabham at his residence in Kirlampudi, Kakinada district.

Abbayya Chowdary placed a floral garland on Mudragada Padmanabham's portrait, observed a moment of silence and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family members.

Paying tribute, he described Mudragada Padmanabham as a committed public leader who dedicated his life to the welfare of the Kapu community and social causes. He said Mudragada's contribution to the Kapu movement and his unwavering commitment to public service would remain an inspiration for future generations.

YSRCP leaders and party workers from the Denduluru constituency, along with local supporters and well-wishers, also visited the residence and paid their respects to the late leader.

Human Trafficking Must Be Eradicated: Kalpana Kumari

Ongole, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Prakasam District Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari I. said human trafficking can be eradicated only through coordinated efforts by the government, voluntary organisations, and the police. She was speaking at a programme marking the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons after flagging off an awareness rally from Prakasam Bhavan to Ongole RIMS Hospital.

The rally was jointly organised by the District Women's Development and Welfare Department, District Labour Department, District Child Protection Unit, District Legal Services Authority, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the District Police, Disha Police, and voluntary organisations HELP and SADS, with participation from government officials, NGOs, and Government



Nursing College students.

Kalpana Kumari said traffickers exploit poverty, debt, and social media by luring people with false job offers and relationships, forcing victims into prostitution, child labour, anti-social activities, and organ trafficking. She called for strict action against traffick-

ing gangs, wider public awareness, monthly reviews by the district Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, and continuous monitoring of missing women and girls.

District officials, Government RIMS Hospital nursing students, police personnel, and others participated.

Farmers' Association Seeks Extension of Crop Insurance Deadline

Eluru, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association has urged the State Government to extend the crop insurance premium payment deadline from July 31 to August 30, citing the rainfall deficit and difficulties faced by farmers in enrolling under the scheme.

Addressing a press conference at Anne Bhavan in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association District Secretary K. Srinivas alleged that the government had failed to formulate an alternative crop plan to tackle the impact of the El Niño-induced rainfall deficit. He said crops across the district had suffered severe damage due to inadequate rainfall despite two months of the Kharif season having elapsed.

K. Srinivas demanded an immediate alternative crop plan, extension of the crop insurance



deadline, and restoration of the free crop insurance scheme. He said non-loanee farmers were unable to register because of persistent server issues. He also sought identity cards and interest-free crop loans for tenant farmers, along with a waiver of existing crop loans. Criticising the 20 per kg price differential announced for Virginia tobacco farmers as

inadequate, he demanded an assured average price of 310 per kg and compensation from the Central and State governments whenever market prices fall below that level.

Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association District Vice-President Kona Srinivasa Rao also attended the meeting and supported the association's demands.

Andhra State Carrom Ranking Tournament Begins July 31

Nellore, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra State 1st Ranking Carrom Tournament-2026 will be held at Nellore Club from July 31 to August 2 under the joint aegis of the Andhra State Carrom Association (ASCA) and SPSR Nellore District Carrom Association, ASCA General Secretary Shaik Abdul Jaleel announced on Thursday.

Speaking at a meeting chaired by Tournament Co-Chairman Malireddy Kotareddy, Shaik Abdul Jaleel said around 200 players

from 15 districts would participate in the State-level championship. The tournament will feature Men's Singles and Women's Singles events on a knockout basis, with ranking points considered for selecting the Andhra Pradesh team for national championships.

D.S.R. Murthy will be the Chief Referee, while S.K. Sajida will serve as Assistant Chief Referee. International players CH. Nardhan Reddy, B. Shobhika, Guinness World Record holder S.K. Husna Sameera and other leading play-

ers will take part. The SPSR Nellore District Carrom Association and Nellore Club will provide free accommodation and food facilities for participants. Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy will attend the inaugural event as Chief Guest, while APTRANSCO Director J. Venkateswara Rao will be the Distinguished Guest.

Malireddy Kotareddy, Srimanarayana, President of SPSR Nellore District Carrom Association, S. Srinivasulu, Secretary of the association, and other organisers attended the meeting.

CITU Stages Collectorate Siege Over Wage Demand

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

CITU leaders, along with contract, outsourcing and unorganised workers, staged a siege of the Tirupati District Collectorate on Thursday demanding a minimum monthly wage of 26,000 and regularisation of jobs. Police intercepted the rally, resulting in a scuffle and the arrest of 32 CITU leaders.

Those arrested included CITU

State Vice-President Kandarapu Murali, District President S. Jayachandra, District Secretary T. Subramanyam, Contract and Outsourcing JAC Chairman Gandikota Naga Venkatesh and AP-CAS State President G. Chinnababu.

Addressing workers, Kandarapu Murali alleged that governments had failed to revise wages for nearly two decades and criticised the labour codes. He de-

manded equal pay for equal work, wage revisions on par with Telangana and Karnataka, and regularisation of three lakh contract and outsourcing employees.

Workers also sought timely salaries, regularisation of Panchayat, municipal and VRA staff, higher retirement age and improved service conditions. Hundreds of employees from various sectors participated in the protest.

AITUC Calls for August 18 Protest

Eluru: AITUC State Vice-President D. Somasundar on Thursday called upon employees and workers in Eluru district to participate in the statewide protest on August 18 against the alleged anti-employment and anti-labour policies of the Central and State governments. Addressing the AITUC district committee meeting, he criticised labour reforms and urged affiliated unions to join the nationwide protests on August 10. CPI District Secretary Mannava Krishna Chaitanya extended support to AITUC's activities. Several trade union leaders attended the meeting.



Alliance Government Focused on Public Welfare: Somireddy

Muthukur, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Sarvepalli MLA and former Minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy said the Alliance government's primary objective was to work for the welfare and development of people. During his tour of Brahmadevam and Doruvulapalem villages, he laid the foundation stone for a digital lab at Doruvulapalem High School, funded with 43 lakh from Bunge's CSR funds, and inaugurated a computer lab and digital library in Brahmadevam built at a cost of 38 lakh. Somireddy thanked Bunge and Sehgal Foundation

for providing solar units and farming equipment worth 1.40 crore to farmers. He said 2.93 crore was spent under JJM and 49 lakh on cement roads and health clinics in Brahmadevam Panchayat. He highlighted benefits under Annadatha Sukhibhava, NTR Bharosa and Thaliki Vandanam.

Criticising the YSRCP government, he alleged that development was neglected and no teacher posts were filled during Jagan's tenure. He praised the Alliance government for conducting DSC recruitment and filling 16,000 posts, and appreciated Nara Lokesh for attracting investments.

Villagers Perform Donkey Wedding Ritual Seeking Rain In Kurnool

Halaharvi, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Anxiety has gripped villagers in Gulyam village of Halaharvi Mandal in Kurnool district as crops are withering due to inadequate rainfall and the sowing season is nearing its end.

Seeking divine intervention for rains, villagers performed traditional rituals, including a symbolic wedding of donkeys. The ceremony was organised with decorated donkeys, followed by a procession through the village streets accompanied by traditional music, drum beats and fireworks.

As part of the ritual, villagers performed 'Ganga Puja' in the Vedavati River early in the morning.



Later, the donkeys were decorated and the wedding ceremony was conducted according to local customs.

The procession began from the Vedavati River and passed through various streets of the village, attracting the participation of several villagers. Residents expressed hope that the traditional ritual would bring rainfall and provide relief to farmers facing crop losses due to dry conditions.

Free Cancer Screening Camp Held



Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

A free cancer screening and awareness camp was conducted at the Rajiv Nagar Jeevakona-3 Urban PHC under the auspices of Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS). The camp benefited residents of the Rajiv Nagar Jeevakona-7 and 8 secretariat areas through the 'Pink Bus' mobile screening unit. Doctors explained cancer symptoms, early detection and preventive measures using visual aids.

The programme was organised in accordance with State Government directives and in coordination with the District Medical and Health Department. The Pink Bus provided oral cancer screening for men and women, mammograms for breast cancer screening and Pap smear tests for cervical cancer screening among women.

The camp was held under the directives of SVIMS Director-cum-Vice Chancellor Dr. RV Kumar, guidance of Community Medicine Department Head Dr. Anju D. Ade, and supervision of Nodal Officers Dr. Bhavani and Dr. Siva Santhosh. AP State SC Finance Corporation Director P. Kumari, Urban PHC Medical Officer Dr. Swetha, Pink Bus Medical Officers Dr. Padmavathi, Dr. Haritha, Dr. Lavanya and Dr. Meghana, ANMs Kusuma and Amrutha, and ASHA workers participated.

Seven Red Sanders Logs Seized, Three Arrested

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Task Force police seized seven red sanders logs being illegally transported in a car in the Proddatur area of Kadapa district and arrested three smugglers. A car used for transportation and a motorcycle deployed as a pilot vehicle were also seized.

Acting on the operational plan of Task Force Head L. Subbarayudu, under the leadership of Task Force SP P. Srinivas, supervision of ASP J. Kulasekhar and guidance of DSP MD Sharif, a team led by RSI C. Vinod Kumar conducted checks near Basapuram.

During vehicle inspections in the Pathuru forest area of Khajipet section early Thurs-



day, police spotted a motorcycle and car approaching from Nagapatnam. The occupants attempted to flee but were apprehended. Seven logs were found in the car.

The accused, from Kadapa and Tirupati districts, were taken to the Task Force station. DSP V. Srinivasulu Reddy and ACF J. Srinivas questioned them. CI Khader Basha registered a case and is investigating.

Grand Pushpayagam Held at Appalayagunta Temple

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The grand Pushpayagam festival was celebrated at Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy temple in Appalayagunta on Thursday, following Agama traditions. The festival was performed to atone for any inadvertent lapses by priests, officials, attendants or devotees during the annual Brahmotsavam held from June 25 to July 3.

Between 11 am and noon, Snapanam Tirumanjanam was per-



formed for Sri Prasanna Venkateswara Swamy along with Sridevi and Bhudevi using milk, curd, honey, sandalwood paste and coconut water. Flowers arranged for the Pushpayagam were taken in a ceremonial procession around the

temple and Mada streets before the deity was seated on the Sarvabhupala Vahanam.

From 3 pm to 5 pm, nearly 2.5 tonnes of flowers were offered amid Vedic chants and devotional music. Pushparchana was performed using 18 varieties of flowers and six types of sacred leaves. Deputy EO Harindranath, AEO Devarajulu, Superintendent Srivani, Kankana Bhattacharya Acharyulu, Temple Inspector Venugopal, priests, officials and devotees participated.

Adoni MLA Seeks 19.75 Crore For Ramjala Tank Conservation

Adoni, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Adoni MLA Dr. Parthasarathi submitted a representation to State Education Minister Nara Lokesh seeking support and financial assistance for various development works in Adoni constituency of Kurnool district.

The MLA requested sanction of 19.75 crore for the conservation of Ramjala tank and augmentation of water resources to meet the requirements of the growing urban population. He also highlighted the need to complete AMRUT 2.0 works and sought 42 crore to ad-



dress drinking water issues in rural areas. Dr. Parthasarathi urged the Minister to allocate 300 crore for urban road expansion and 26 crore for road construction works. He also sought attention towards improving educational infrastructure and strengthening government hospitals to overcome the backwardness of the region.

The MLA requested construction of an underpass at the Nalla railway gate to ease transportation issues and sought establishment of industries to generate employment opportunities and reduce migration from the constituency.

Dr. Parthasarathi informed that Minister Nara Lokesh responded positively to the proposals and assured support for the development initiatives. The MLA expressed hope that the requested projects would help improve infrastructure and living standards in Adoni.

APSPDCL Speeds Up Rooftop Solar Bill Settlements

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

APSPDCL Chairman & Managing Director Siva Sankar Lotheti said the bill settlement process for grid-connected rooftop solar consumers has been expedited to ensure transparent and prompt services. He said APSPDCL has introduced monthly billing

and settlement of surplus power supplied to the grid, replacing the earlier quarterly system.

A total of 36,963 consumers across Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts have installed rooftop solar systems with a combined capacity of 128 MW. The data

shows 14,786 services generated payments of 83.88 lakh in June, while 17,086 services received 68.40 lakh in July. Lotheti directed field officials to ensure consumers face no inconvenience. Consumers can approach AAO or AEE offices for billing queries and contact 1912, 1800 425 155333 or WhatsApp 91333 31912 for electricity-related issues.

Awareness Needed to Prevent Human Trafficking

Chittoor, July 30 | TPN Bureau

District Legal Services Authority Chairman and Senior Civil Judge M.S. Bharti stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate trafficking of women and children. She was speaking at an awareness programme organised at NPS Savithamma Degree College on World Anti-Human Trafficking Day by the District Legal Services Authority, ICDS and police departments.

ICDS Project Director Venkateshwari, Mahila Police Station DSP Srinivas Rao, College Principal, Vice Principal Usha, ROPS NGO founder Dhana Sekharan and District Mission Coordinator Nirmala participated.



ed in the programme.

M.S. Bharti said trafficking, sexual exploitation, prostitution, child trafficking, forced begging, forced marriages and illegal organ trade continue despite technological advancement. She urged students and the public to remain vigilant against job-related fraud and social-media deception and immediately inform police about suspicious activities. She said strict legal provisions under the BNS, POCSO Act and

other laws provide punishment for such offences and urged students to contact the 1098 Child Helpline in emergencies.

Venkateshwari and Srinivas Rao cautioned youth against trusting strangers and social-media contacts. Srinivas Rao advised women to use security applications such as Shakti. The college principal urged responsible social-media use. A wall magazine against human trafficking was also unveiled.

Document Writers Hold Pen-Down Protest

Nayudupeta, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Document writers staged a pen-down protest on Thursday demanding immediate cancellation of G.O. No. 396 issued by the State Government concerning private organisations under the P3 system in Andhra Pradesh registration offices. The protest was organised by the Document Writers



Welfare Association as part of its indefinite agitation launched on July 20. Association members said the pen-down protest would con-

tinue until their issues were resolved. The programme is being held from July 20 to 31, and they appealed to everyone to extend support. Document writers and assistants, including Sangam Naik, Kalahasti Srinivas, K. Bhaskar, Suman, K. Gopi, Shaik Aziz, G. Suman, G. Vijayabhaskar, D. Uday Kumar Reddy, C.H. Ashok, C.H. Gopi, P. Srinivasulu and P. Mallikarjun Rao, participated.

TDP Campaign Highlights Welfare Schemes

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

TDP Tirupati in-charge JB Srinivas said the Alliance government has brought welfare schemes closer to people and earned their appreciation. As part of the campaign highlighting the government's welfare achievements, an enthusiastic door-to-door programme was held in the 30th Division on Thursday.

Srinivas, along with Parliamentary President Panabaka Lakshmi, Yadav Nidhi Corporation President Narasimha Yadav



and Urban Development Finance and Infrastructure Corporation Director Vuka Vijay Kumar, visited households and distributed campaign leaflets. They interacted with beneficiaries, enquired about welfare benefits and sought details of local

problems.

AP Nai Brahmin Corporation Chairman Rudrakoti Sadasiyam, Cluster In-charge Dampuri Bhaskar Yadav, Tatayyagunta Devasthanam Chairman Mahesh Yadav, 30th Ward President Munikrishna, General Secretary Govindachari, Manyam Srinivasulu, Rajayya and Amudala Tulasi participated. Residents complained about ganja and alcohol consumption near IS Mahal at night. Srinivas urged police to intensify surveillance and take strict legal action against offenders.

Father Dies by Suicide Over Son's Health

Chandragiri, July 30 | TPN Bureau

A 48-year-old man allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Chandragiri, reportedly distressed over his only son's prolonged health problems. According to Chandragiri SI Muralimohan, Jagadeesh Babu, a resident of the MG Brothers area, worked as a lab technician at a

private university, while his wife, P. Dhanalakshmi, was an assistant professor at the same institution.

Their son, P. Mallikarjuna, reportedly developed health and mental health problems after his first year of Intermediate education, and the family had sought treatment at several hospitals. On Wednesday, Dhanalakshmi took their son to a Dargah in Nellore.

While alone at home, Jagadeesh Babu reportedly died by suicide. Before the incident, he had reportedly video-called his wife to enquire about their son. When she could not reach him later, neighbours alerted police. Police found him dead and shifted the body to SV Medical College, Tirupati, for post-mortem. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway.



Alliance Government Accelerating Development Panabaka Lakshmi

Naidupeta, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati District TDP President and TTD Board Member Panabaka Lakshmi said the State has witnessed development across all sectors since the Alliance government, led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, assumed office. Speaking during the "Two Years of Trust - Development and Welfare" programme in Naidupeta, she said the previous government neglected development, while the Alliance government was ensuring welfare benefits reached people. She highlighted efforts to bring

industries and generate employment.

MLA Nelavala Vijaya Sri, who participated in the "Inti Intiki TDP" campaign, assured residents that all local issues would be resolved. She, along with Panabaka Lakshmi, visited households in LA Sagaram, Lothuvanigunta and Beedi Colony, explaining government welfare and development schemes. Former MLA Nelavala Subramanyam, TDP Town President Shaik Rafi, Katta Ramana Reddy, Pasala Ganga Prasad, Revathi, Avadhanam Sudhir, Nanabala Subba Rao and others participated.

MLA Reviews Development Works in Villages

Kovur, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy said she returned to the people after delivering development and welfare works during the past two years. She participated in the "Two Years of Trust - Development & Welfare" door-to-door campaign in Jangamvaridoruvu and Pothurajudibba villages of Indukurupeta Mandal. She visited the local primary school, interacted with teachers and students, and distributed school bags and uniforms.

During the campaign, she announced that 42 houses had been sanctioned for Jangamvaridoruvu and assured residents that issues concerning RTC bus services, drains, the



cremation-ground access road and link roads would be resolved. Development works worth 42.62 lakh, including electrical infrastructure and CC roads, were undertaken in the panchayat. She said beneficiaries were happy with schemes such as Talliki Vandanam, Stree Shakti free bus travel and Deepam-2 free gas cylinders. She later toured Pothurajudibba and explained the Alliance government's Super Six schemes.

Red Sanders Smuggler Gets Five-Year Jail Term

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

The RSASTF ADJ Court sentenced red sanders smuggler Annamalai Murugesan to five years in prison and imposed a fine of 6 lakh for illegally transporting red sanders logs. RSASTF ADJ Court Judge Narasimhamurthy delivered the verdict in Crime No. 49/2017.

Murugesan, a resident of Pativelavu village in Pattanagilayam Taluk, Salem district, Tamil Nadu, was arrested for smuggling red sanders logs from the Bhimavaram Forest Beat in the Pullayya Gari Gutta area of Chittoor East Forest Division.

He was produced before the court after a Non-Bailable War-



rant was issued for failing to appear earlier. RSASTF Head L. Subbarayudu formulated a special action plan, while Task Force SP P. Srinivas and ASP J. Kulasekhar supervised efforts to secure convictions in pending cases. Special Public Prosecutor Aluguri Amara Narayana presented the evidence. Following the court order, Murugesan was lodged in Nellore Central Jail. P. Srinivas said the verdict would deter forest offences.

Minimum Wage Struggle Will Continue: Kandarpu Murli

Tirupati, July 30 | TPN Bureau

CITU State Vice President Kandarpu Murli said the fight for a minimum wage of 26,000 for workers and outsourcing employees was only the beginning. CITU organised a protest at the District Collectorate on Thursday as part of a 40-day campaign demanding wage revision and implementation of "equal pay for equal work." Police stopped hundreds of workers during their rally, leading to a scuffle with CITU leaders.

Murli alleged that contract and outsourcing workers had faced exploitation for two decades without wage revisions and demanded implementation of the Supreme Court order on equal pay. He also sought regularisation of contract workers and criticised the government for implementing labour codes.



CITU District President S. Jayachandra, T. Subramaniam, CPI(M) Tirupati District Secretary Vandavasi Nagaraju, Contract Outsourcing JAC Chairman Nag Venkatesh, AP State President Gandikota Chinababu, CITU District Vice President G. Balasubramaniam and others participated. Workers demanded timely wages, better protection and improved working conditions.

Editorial

Justice Should Never Become a Political Tool

Politics has undergone a significant transformation over the years. Unfortunately, many of the values that once defined public life—ethics, decency, and human relations—have gradually given way to political expediency. Today, political gain has become the overriding priority for almost every major party. The approach to any issue often depends not on the facts of the case, but on whether a party is in power or in the opposition. Such a trend is unhealthy for democracy and weakens public confidence in the justice system.

The recent remarks of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy regarding the case involving former Minister Sidiri Appala Raju appear to reflect this political mindset. A similar pattern was witnessed during the custodial death case of Sai Krishna, where political reactions overshadowed the need for an impartial investigation. Instead of allowing the law to take its own course, leaders from different political parties sought to derive political advantage from the incidents.

The ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is also not beyond criticism. Its response to sensitive cases has often been viewed through the prism of political benefit rather than objective governance. This tendency is not confined to a single party; it has become a disturbing feature of contemporary politics. Every incident is quickly converted into a political weapon, leaving justice to take a back seat.

Criminal cases, custodial deaths, and allegations against public representatives must be investigated solely based on evidence and the rule of law. Political affiliations should neither shield the guilty nor target the innocent. Governments, opposition parties, and law enforcement agencies must demonstrate equal commitment to justice, irrespective of who is involved.

If political bias continues to influence legal proceedings, the credibility of the justice system will gradually erode. Democracy can survive political competition, but it cannot survive if justice itself becomes a casualty of partisan politics.

Editor

The Trust Economy: The Wealth Money Cannot Buy

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"Pay me tomorrow," the neighbourhood grocer says with a smile. There is no identity proof, no signed agreement, no guarantee—only a relationship built over years. A teacher hands over examination papers believing that her students will resist the temptation to cheat. Millions of Indians complete digital payments within seconds, confident that their money will reach the right person. Such moments seem ordinary, yet they rest on one of the greatest forms of wealth any society can possess—trust. Roads, technology, and financial capital can accelerate growth, but none can replace the invisible foundation on which every successful economy rests. Trust is not merely a moral virtue; it is an economic force that quietly shapes the prosperity of families, businesses, institutions, and nations alike.

The Currency We Cannot See

Money is the currency we can count. Trust is the currency we cannot see, yet we use it every day. Every purchase made without suspicion, every contract honoured, and every online payment completed with confidence quietly add value to an economy. Economists call this social capital—the confidence that enables people, businesses, and institutions to cooperate with fewer barriers and lower costs. Across the world, societies with higher levels of public trust generally enjoy stronger institutions, faster innovation, and more sustainable economic growth. Simply put, money fuels an economy, but trust determines how efficiently it runs.

When Trust Becomes Wealth

Trust begins long before money changes hands. It begins when parents keep their promises, teachers grade fairly, doctors put patients before profit, and shopkeepers earn loyalty through honesty.

These everyday acts create the confidence that allows people to cooperate, invest, and innovate. That confidence has real economic value. Businesses flourish when customers trust the products and services they buy, banks thrive because depositors believe their savings are secure, and India's digital payments revolution—with billions of UPI transactions every month—rests as much on public confidence as on technology. Investors, too, look beyond incentives. They seek transparent institutions, predictable policies, and the assurance that agreements will be honoured.

History shows that prosperous societies are built on more than natural resources or financial capital. Nobel laureate Kenneth Arrow described trust as a "lubricant" of economic systems because it reduces friction in human interactions. Ironically, trust becomes most visible only after it disappears. We notice electricity only during a power cut; we recognise the value of trust only after fraud, corruption, or betrayal reminds us how costly distrust can be. The strongest economies are built twice—first through trust between people, and then through transactions between markets.

The Hidden Cost of Distrust
Trust is built one promise at a time, yet it can be destroyed by a single betrayal. Corruption weakens faith in institutions. Fraud makes people hesitate before embracing digital transactions. Broken promises damage relationships far beyond their financial value. Distrust quietly imposes costs that rarely appear in budgets or balance sheets. It leads to longer contracts, excessive verification, costly litigation, delayed investments, and growing bureaucracy. More damaging still, it erodes confidence—the invisible force that



keeps societies moving forward.

The social cost is equally profound. As trust declines, communities become fragmented, public debate grows cynical, and cooperation gives way to suspicion. Innovation suffers because people spend more time protecting themselves than creating value. Even the best policies cannot succeed unless citizens believe in the fairness and credibility of the institutions that implement them.

Rebuilding trust, therefore, is not simply an economic necessity; it is a national imperative. Every honest transaction, transparent decision, fulfilled promise, and fair act strengthens the invisible foundation on which prosperous societies are built.

Trust Begins With Us

It is tempting to believe that trust is the responsibility of governments, courts, or businesses alone. In reality, it is built through millions of everyday choices made by ordinary people. Parents who keep

their promises, teachers who reward honesty, employers who treat workers fairly, journalists who verify facts, officials who act impartially, and citizens who obey rules even when no one is watching all help create a culture of trust.

Institutions become trustworthy because people choose to be. Laws may discourage wrongdoing, but they cannot create integrity. Technology can speed up transactions, but it cannot replace character. Trust grows when honesty becomes a habit and integrity becomes culture.

In a diverse democracy like India, trust is more than a personal virtue—it is a shared national asset. Every promise kept, every fair decision, every honest day's work, and every act of civic responsibility strengthens both democracy and economic prosperity. The future of a nation depends not only on the wealth it creates, but also on the confidence its people inspire in one another.

Trust Is the Future

India's future will be shaped not only by the pace of its economic growth but also by the quality of trust that binds its people, institutions, and markets. Roads, technology, and financial capital can accelerate development, but only trust can sustain it. As India moves towards becoming a global economic power, strengthening trust through integrity, transparency, accountability, and responsible citizenship will be as important as building infrastructure. Every civilisation is remembered for what it built. Every great nation is remembered for what its people believed in. The greatest wealth any nation can possess is not measured in currency or GDP, but in the confidence its people place in one another.

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

Reimagining Education Through the Lens of Panchakoshas

Swathi Dev

Researcher in Indian Knowledge System

When we talk about education today, the conversation often revolves around grades, skills, and jobs. But in India, education has always meant more than information or career preparation. The Taaittiriya Upanishad offers a timeless vision of human development through the Panchakoshas—five sheaths or layers of existence. This framework reminds us that true learning is about nurturing the whole person: body, energy, mind, intellect, and spirit.

Body First: Annamaya Kosha

The outermost layer is the Annamaya Kosha, the physical body sustained by food. A hungry or sick child cannot focus in class, no matter how brilliant the teacher. Nutrition, healthcare, sports, and yoga are not extras but essentials. Mid-day meals, playgrounds, and wellness programs are part of education because they strengthen the foundation for learning.

Breath and Energy: Pran-

amaya Kosha

Next comes the Pranamaya Kosha, the vital energy sheath. It governs breath, vitality, and action. When prana flows smoothly, students are alert and disciplined. Practices like pranayama, Surya Namaskar, dance, and theatre help regulate this energy. By weaving movement and rhythm into the school day, we nurture focus and enthusiasm alongside academics.

Mind and Emotions: Manomaya Kosha

The third sheath, Manomaya Kosha, is the mental body—the seat of emotions, imagination, and sensory experiences. A restless or anxious mind struggles to absorb knowledge. That's why education must also care for emotional well-being. Music, art, storytelling, counselling, and healthy friendships help children feel safe and inspired. Emotional intelligence is not a luxury; it is as vital as exam scores.

Intellect and Values: Vijnanamaya Kosha

The fourth sheath is the Vij-

nanamaya Kosha, the intellectual body centred on buddhi (intellect). This is where reasoning, judgement, and critical thinking reside. It is the domain of academics and inquiry. Yet intellect without values can be dangerous. Education must therefore balance sharp thinking with ethical reflection. Discussions, debates, and value-based learning help students develop wisdom, not just knowledge.

Joy and Purpose: Anandamaya Kosha

At the core lies the Anandamaya Kosha, the bliss sheath. It is linked to joy, peace, creativity, and meaning. When students find purpose in learning, education becomes fulfilling rather than stressful. Meditation, gratitude, service, and stories of inspiring lives nurture this inner dimension. A child who experiences joy in learning is already touching the essence of self-realization.

A Timeless Framework for Today

The Panchakosha model shows that education must move from the outer to the inner: Body Energy Mind Intellect Bliss. Each layer supports the next. We cannot expect critical thinking if emotional needs are ignored, nor emotional balance if physical



health is neglected. Holistic development is not optional—it is essential. This vision resonates strongly with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which calls for multidisciplinary, holistic education. Physical health, emotional well-being,

creativity, ethics, and intellectual growth are all part of its agenda. The Panchakoshas provide a philosophical foundation for this modern vision, reminding us that ancient wisdom still guides contemporary challenges.

Reflection

The purpose of education is not just to produce graduates or skilled workers. It is to nurture healthy, energetic, emotionally balanced, intellectually sharp, and spiritually aware human beings. That is

the true meaning of Vidya—knowledge that liberates and leads to Ananda. In a world often defined by competition and stress, the Panchakoshas offer a gentle reminder: education is about developing the whole person, not just the mind.

Parliament Session Storm: Key Bills Amid Opposition Uproar

Opposition Walkout in Rajya Sabha Over Paper Leak Row

The ninth day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed intense political exchanges as the government pushed forward with key legislative business while the Opposition continued to raise concerns over several issues.

A major focus of the proceedings was the proposed legislation related to increasing the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court. The government is seeking parliamentary approval for amendments to the law governing the number of judges in the apex court. The move comes after an earlier ordinance aimed at increasing the court's judicial strength.

The session also remained dominated by the controversy surrounding examination paper leaks and student protests. The government defended the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, stating that stronger measures are needed to protect the future of students and



ensure transparency in competitive examinations.

Opposition parties, however, criticised the government's handling of the paper leak issue and demanded accountability over recent incidents affecting students. The debate saw sharp political exchanges, with both sides accusing each other of avoiding responsibility.

The proceedings were also affected by repeated disruptions, with protests and sloganeering creating hurdles for smooth functioning of both Houses. The government urged

the Opposition to participate in debates, while Opposition leaders insisted on discussions over issues they described as matters of public concern.

The Monsoon Session has so far reflected deep political divisions, with the ruling alliance focusing on legislative reforms and the Opposition pressing the government on governance-related issues. As more important bills are scheduled for discussion, further confrontations between the two sides are expected in the coming days.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed heated exchanges and an Opposition walkout as political tensions escalated over the paper leak controversy and demands for accountability from the government. Opposition parties targeted the Centre over the handling of student protests and sought answers from Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Opposition members raised concerns over alleged police action during protests linked to examination irregularities and demanded a statement from the government. They accused the administration of ignoring students' concerns and failing to address the larger issue of repeated paper leaks affecting competitive examinations.

The ruling party defended its position, maintaining that the government is committed to ensuring transparency in examinations and taking strict action against those involved in unfair practices. Leaders from the treasury benches argued that legislative measures are being introduced to strengthen the examination system and protect students' interests.



During the proceedings, Opposition members staged a walkout after their demand for Amit Shah's response was not accepted. The protest reflected the growing political divide between the government and Opposition parties over the issue.

Despite the disruption, the Rajya Sabha continued with its scheduled business. The government moved ahead with legislative discussions, while Opposition leaders continued to

press for debate on issues they described as important matters of public concern.

The paper leak controversy has become one of the major flashpoints of the Monsoon Session, with student concerns, examination reforms and government accountability dominating political discussions inside and outside Parliament. Both sides are expected to continue their confrontation as the session progresses.



Supreme Court Seeks Records on RAF, Pellet Gun Use

The Supreme Court has sought detailed records from the Centre regarding the deployment of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the use of pellet guns during protests held at Jantar Mantar. The court's move came while hearing concerns over police action and crowd-control measures adopted during demonstrations.

A bench of the Supreme Court asked the government to provide information related to the deployment of security forces, the use of equipment and the guidelines followed while dealing with protesters. The court stressed the importance of maintaining a balance between ensuring public order and protecting citizens' rights.

The matter gained attention following allegations regarding the use of force during protests. Questions were raised over whether the actions taken by security personnel were proportionate and whether proper procedures were followed while managing gatherings.

The Centre has been asked to

submit relevant details, including records related to RAF deployment, instructions issued to security personnel and circumstances that led to the use of pellet guns during the protests.

The Supreme Court has previously highlighted the importance of accountability and transparency in police actions. The latest proceedings reflect the judiciary's focus on ensuring that law enforcement agencies follow established norms while handling public demonstrations. The hearing comes amid wider debates over the right to peaceful protest, public safety and the role of security forces in maintaining law and order. The court's intervention is expected to bring more clarity on the measures adopted during the demonstrations.

The case has once again brought attention to the challenges faced by authorities in managing large-scale protests while ensuring that citizens' democratic rights are protected and unnecessary use of force is avoided.

Assam Flood Fury: Death Toll Climbs, More Rain Threat Looms

Assam continues to battle one of its worst flood crises as heavy rainfall and rising river levels have caused widespread destruction across several districts. The flood situation has become more severe, with the death toll rising to 78 and thousands of families struggling to recover from the devastation.

Large parts of the state have been submerged, affecting lakhs of people and forcing many residents to leave their homes. Roads, agricultural fields and essential infrastructure have suffered major damage, while rescue and relief operations continue in flood-hit areas.

The Brahmaputra and several other rivers have crossed danger levels in many locations, leading to severe waterlogging and flooding. In some areas, rising waters entered villages within a short span of time, leaving residents with little time to move to safer places.

Authorities have deployed disaster response teams, including the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force and other emergency agencies, to carry out evacuation and relief operations. Temporary relief camps have been set up to provide food, shelter and medical assistance to affected people.

Officials and experts have



pointed to multiple factors behind the scale of the disaster, including intense rainfall, overflowing rivers, geographical conditions and environmental changes. Experts warn that increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events could make such floods more challenging in the future. The India Meteorological Department has predicted more rainfall in parts of the region, raising concerns that the flood situation could worsen further. Authorities are closely monitoring river levels and advising people in vulnerable areas to remain alert.

The floods have severely impacted agriculture, livestock and local livelihoods. Many families who lost homes and belongings are now dependent on relief support as restoration work begins in affected regions.

The Assam flood crisis has once again highlighted the growing challenges posed by extreme weather events and the urgent need for stronger disaster preparedness, climate adaptation measures and long-term flood management strategies.

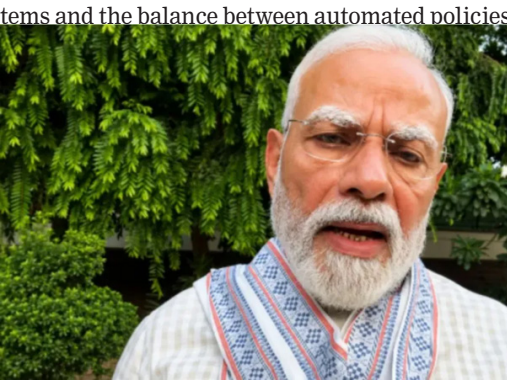
Meta Row: Centre Seeks Answers Over PM Modi Post Removal

A controversy has erupted between the Indian government and social media giant Meta after a Facebook post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was briefly removed from the platform. The Centre has sought an explanation from Meta, raising concerns over content moderation policies and the handling of high-profile accounts.

The post, which featured a video message from Prime Minister Modi addressing the youth and discussing measures against examination paper leaks, was temporarily unavailable on Facebook before being restored. Meta later said the removal happened due to an error and that the content had been reinstated.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology sought clarification from Meta's senior leadership over the incident. Government officials questioned the circumstances behind the removal and called for greater transparency from digital platforms while handling content shared by public figures.

Meta maintained that the action was not intentional and resulted from a technical issue. The company expressed regret over the incident and assured that steps would be taken to avoid similar occurrences in the future. The incident has sparked a wider debate over the power of global technology platforms, content moderation systems and the balance between automated policies



and public interest communication. Critics argue that errors involving influential accounts highlight the need for stronger accountability mechanisms, while technology companies maintain that automated systems are necessary to manage billions of posts worldwide.

The government and Meta are expected to continue discussions on platform policies, oversight mechanisms and safeguards for important public communications. The episode has once again brought attention to the growing influence of social media platforms in shaping political and public conversations.

Uddhav Targets Remarks on Gen Z, Mughals and Shivaji

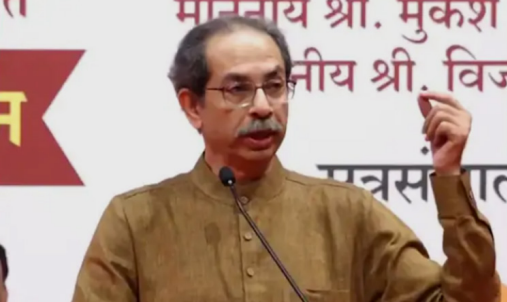
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray has criticised controversial remarks made during recent political debates, drawing attention to comments allegedly comparing Gen Z protesters to "cockroaches" and references made about historical figures like Mughal rulers and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Addressing the issue, Uddhav Thackeray questioned the language being used in public discourse and said that such statements were disrespectful towards young people and historical personalities. He highlighted the need for responsible communication, especially when discussing sensitive social and political issues.

The remarks over Gen Z came amid a wider controversy surrounding protests and criticism of the younger generation's political activism. The use of derogatory comparisons triggered reactions from opposition leaders, who accused certain groups of attempting to insult students and youth voices.

Thackeray also referred to historical narratives involving Mughal rulers and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, arguing that history should not be distorted for political gains. He stressed that leaders must maintain dignity while discussing figures who hold importance for millions of people.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) chief's comments added another layer to the ongoing political debate, with parties



ties exchanging accusations over the use of language and historical references in public life.

The controversy comes at a time when youth-led movements and social media-driven campaigns have become increasingly influential in shaping political discussions. Leaders across parties have been responding to the growing role of Gen Z in public debates and protests.

Uddhav Thackeray's remarks are expected to intensify the political conversation, with the issue likely to remain a talking point among opposition parties and the ruling establishment. The debate has once again highlighted the challenges of balancing political criticism with respect for social groups and historical icons.

Odisha Flood Alert: Mahanadi Swells, Authorities On High Alert

Odisha has stepped up flood preparedness as rising water levels in the Mahanadi river system have triggered concerns in several districts. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation and have alerted administrations in vulnerable areas to take precautionary measures.

Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas has increased the inflow into rivers, raising concerns over possible flooding in low-lying regions. The Water Resources Department is keeping a close watch on river levels and dam operations to manage the situation effectively.

The Mahanadi river, one of Odisha's most important waterways, plays a crucial role in the state's flood management system. Officials are monitoring the flow of water released from reservoirs and assessing the impact on downstream areas.

District administrations have been asked to remain prepared for emergency situations, including evacuation and relief operations if water levels rise further. Disaster response teams are being kept ready in vulnerable locations to deal with any flood-related challenges.

Weather officials have warned of continued heavy rainfall in parts of Odisha due to active monsoon conditions, increasing the possibility



of waterlogging and flash floods in some areas.

Authorities have advised people living near riverbanks and flood-prone zones to remain alert and follow official instructions. Emergency control rooms are monitoring developments and coordinating with district officials.

The situation has once again highlighted Odisha's vulnerability to monsoon floods and the importance of early warning systems, river management and disaster preparedness measures.

With rainfall activity expected to continue, officials are maintaining a close watch on the Mahanadi basin to prevent major disruptions and ensure timely response in case of worsening conditions.

PM Modi Holds Key Security Meet With Top Ministers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting with senior Union ministers and key officials in Parliament amid discussions on national security, defence preparedness and important strategic issues. The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval among others.

The discussions focused on the evolving global security environment and India's preparedness to deal with emerging challenges. Senior officials briefed the Prime Minister on various security-related developments and measures being taken to safeguard national interests.

The presence of top leaders from the defence, foreign affairs and security establishments highlighted the importance of the meeting. Issues related to geopolitical developments, border security and strategic planning are believed to have been discussed during the interaction.

The meeting comes at a time when global conflicts and regional tensions have increased concerns over national security. The government has been closely monitoring international de-



velopments and assessing their possible impact on India's economic, energy and security interests.

NSA Ajit Doval and other senior officials have been playing a key role in coordinating India's response to various security challenges and strengthening strategic partnerships with other countries.

The high-level meeting also reflects the government's focus on maintaining coordination between different ministries and security agencies. Such reviews are aimed at ensuring a unified approach while addressing complex domestic and international challenges.

As Parliament's Monsoon Session continues, the meeting underlined the government's priority towards national security and strategic preparedness amid a rapidly changing global scenario.

Kerala Vigilance Drops Probe Against CM Satheesan



The Kerala Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has reportedly decided to drop its probe against Congress leader and Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan over allegations linked to the 2018 flood rehabilitation initiative. The development comes after a prolonged political and legal controversy surrounding the case.

The case was related to the "Punarjani" housing project, an initiative aimed at helping victims affected by the devastating 2018 Kerala floods. Allegations were raised that foreign funds collected for rehabilitation activities had violated regulations, leading to a Vigilance inquiry. Satheesan had denied any wrongdoing and maintained that the allegations were politically motivated.

The issue had triggered a political battle between the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). Opposition leaders had accused the Kerala government of targeting Satheesan, while the government maintained that the investigation was based on complaints and legal procedures.

Satheesan had earlier stated

that he was ready to cooperate with any investigation and claimed that all documents related to the rehabilitation project were transparent. He argued that the allegations were aimed at damaging his political image.

The Vigilance probe had become a major political issue in Kerala, with both sides using the matter to attack each other. The Congress had accused the ruling establishment of misusing investigative agencies, while the government insisted that accountability and transparency were necessary in matters involving public funds.

The decision to close the probe is expected to provide temporary relief to Satheesan and the Congress leadership. However, the issue may continue to remain a topic of political debate, especially with parties gearing up for future electoral battles in the state.

The controversy highlights the continuing political friction in Kerala, where allegations of corruption, investigations and governance issues frequently become major points of confrontation between the ruling and opposition fronts.

Bismil's Revolutionary Poem Echoes in PoK Protests

The iconic revolutionary poem “Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna” has once again become a powerful symbol of protest, with its verses echoing during demonstrations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Protesters have been using the historic poem as a voice of resistance amid growing anger over political, economic and social issues.

The famous lines, associated with India's freedom struggle, have gained renewed attention as demonstrators gathered in different parts of PoK. The poem, originally written by poet Bismil Azimabadi and later popularised by revolutionary Ram Prasad Bismil, has remained a symbol of courage, sacrifice and defiance for generations. Videos from the protests showed crowds raising slogans and reciting verses

from the legendary composition, turning the century-old poetry into a modern protest anthem. The use of the poem highlights how revolutionary literature continues to inspire movements beyond its original historical context.

“Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna” became widely associated with India's independence movement after revolutionaries used it as a source of inspiration against British rule. Over the years, its powerful message of sacrifice and determination has been adopted by various social and political movements.

The appearance of the poem in PoK protests has drawn attention because of its historical connection with the Indian freedom movement. Protesters have used the verses to express frustration and demand greater attention to their concerns.



freedom fighters, “Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna” continues to represent resistance, courage and the desire for change.



Israel Strikes Gaza Mosque, Claims Hamas Weapons Site

Israel has carried out an airstrike on a mosque in Gaza, claiming that the religious site was being used by Hamas for storing weapons and military activities. The Israeli military released a video of the operation, alleging that the mosque was being used as a base linked to Hamas operations.

over damage to places of worship and civilian infrastructure, while Israel maintains that its operations are aimed at eliminating Hamas' military capabilities.

The Israel-Hamas conflict has continued to trigger widespread international concern, with humanitarian groups repeatedly calling for the protection of civilians and essential infrastructure during military operations. The latest development comes amid ongoing tensions in Gaza, where both sides continue to exchange accusations over the use of civilian areas during the conflict.

Israel says targeting such locations is necessary to prevent further attacks, while Palestinian authorities and Hamas have rejected claims that civilian sites are being used for military purposes.

The strike has once again highlighted the complex challenges of urban warfare, where military operations often take place in densely populated areas and raise questions about civilian safety, international law and the protection of religious sites.

The Israeli military has previously accused Hamas of using civilian infrastructure, including religious buildings, for military purposes. Israel says such locations become legitimate military targets if they are used for storing weapons or carrying out attacks.



Sexual Torture Allegations Emerge as War Weapon in Ukraine

The Russia-Ukraine war has brought renewed attention to allegations of sexual violence being used as a tool of warfare, with survivors and investigators describing cases of torture, abuse and humiliation allegedly carried out during the conflict.

Reports based on survivor testimonies and investigations have documented allegations of sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war. The reported abuses include rape, forced nudity, genital mutilation, electric shocks and other forms of physical and psychological torture.

Human rights experts say sexual violence in conflicts is often used not only as an act of physical abuse but also as a method to intimidate, punish and break the psychological strength of victims. In Ukraine, several former detainees have described experiences of severe mistreatment while being held in captivity.

According to international investigators, hundreds of cases of conflict-related sexual violence have been documented in Ukraine since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion. However, experts warn that the actual number of victims could be higher because many survivors hesitate to report such crimes due to fear, stigma and trauma.

eBay Pays \$55 Million Over Harassment Lawsuit

Online marketplace giant eBay and several former executives have agreed to pay around \$55.7 million to settle a lawsuit filed by a Massachusetts couple who accused the company of orchestrating a harassment and cyberstalking campaign against them.



The case involved David and Ina Steiner, founders of EcommerceBytes, an online publication covering the e-commerce industry. The couple alleged that they were targeted after publishing critical reports about eBay, leading to a disturbing campaign of intimidation and threats.

According to court records, the harassment campaign in 2019 involved threatening online messages, surveillance attempts and the delivery of disturbing items to their home, including live insects, a funeral wreath and a bloody pig mask. The couple claimed the actions were intended to silence their reporting and create fear.

The settlement includes compensation for the Steiners along with contributions from former eBay executives. Former CEO Devin Wenig, former senior vice president Wendy Jones and former communications executive Steve Wymer are among those involved in the agreement.

The case has raised broader concerns about corporate accountability, freedom of the press and the potential misuse of power against critics. Legal experts say the settlement highlights the importance of protecting independent reporting and ensuring that companies are held responsible for misconduct by employees or executives.

The incident remains one of the most unusual corporate harassment cases involving a major technology company, drawing global attention over the risks faced by journalists and publishers who investigate powerful organisations.

The company has taken steps to strengthen internal policies and prevent similar incidents in the future. The settlement brings an end to the civil lawsuit that had continued for several years.



US Launches Fresh Strikes on Iran After Jordan Attack

The United States has launched a fresh wave of airstrikes against Iran, escalating tensions in the Middle East after a deadly attack on a US military base in Jordan. The strikes came after Washington warned that it would respond strongly to attacks targeting its forces in the region.

US officials said the latest military action was aimed at weakening Iran's military capabilities and targeting facilities linked to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The operation followed an Iranian missile attack on a US base in Jordan that killed American service members and intensified the ongoing conflict between Washington and Tehran.

Former US President Donald Trump had earlier warned that Iran would face a severe response if American forces were attacked. Following the Jordan incident, the US military carried out retaliatory strikes, signalling a tougher approach against Tehran.

The latest escalation has raised fears of a wider regional conflict. The exchange of strikes between the two countries has already affected several parts of the Middle East, with concerns growing over the security of key energy routes and the possibility of further military involvement by regional powers.

Iran has vowed to respond to US actions, warning that continued attacks could lead to further retaliation. The situation remains highly volatile as both sides continue military operations while diplomatic efforts to prevent a broader war face major challenges.

The conflict has drawn global attention due to its potential impact on international security, oil markets and regional stability. Countries across the world are closely monitoring developments as fears of a prolonged confrontation between the US and Iran continue to rise.



Curfew Imposed in Nepal District After Communal Violence

Authorities in Nepal have imposed a curfew in a district near the India border after communal violence left one person dead and several others injured. The situation turned tense following clashes between groups, prompting security forces to step in and restore order.

The violence reportedly broke out after tensions escalated between communities, leading to clashes in parts of the district. Local administration imposed restrictions on public movement to prevent further unrest and maintain law and order.

Security personnel have been deployed in sensitive areas, with authorities monitoring the situation closely. Officials have appealed to residents to remain calm and avoid spreading rumours or provocative messages that could worsen tensions.

The district administration said the curfew would remain in place until the situation returns to normal. Police and security agencies are investigating the circumstances that led to the clashes and are taking steps to identify those responsible for the violence.

The incident has raised concerns in Nepal, particularly in border areas where communities from different backgrounds live together. Authorities are focusing on preventing further escalation and ensuring peace between different groups.

Political leaders and local representatives have urged people to maintain harmony and cooperate with law enforcement agencies. They stressed the importance of dialogue and peaceful resolution of disputes instead of resorting to violence.

Nepal has witnessed occasional tensions in some regions due to social, political and communal issues. The latest incident has once again highlighted the challenges faced by authorities in maintaining stability in sensitive areas.

Officials said additional security measures will continue until complete normalcy is restored. The government has assured that strict action will be taken against those found involved in provoking violence or disturbing public peace.



Vedanta Aluminium Profit Jumps 34% in Q1

Vedanta Aluminium Metal reported a strong financial performance in the first quarter of FY27, posting a 34% quarter-on-quarter rise in net profit to Rs 5,629 crore, driven by higher aluminium prices, improved operational efficiency and healthy demand.

The company's revenue from operations increased 12% sequentially to Rs 18,594 crore, reflecting strong sales volumes and favourable market conditions. Growth in aluminium prices, coupled with cost optimisation initiatives, helped the company deliver robust earnings during the quarter.

Operating performance also remained impressive, with EBITDA rising 17% quarter-on-quarter to Rs 7,171 crore. The EBITDA margin improved to 38.6%, highlighting the company's focus on operational excellence and disciplined cost management.

Vedanta Aluminium stated that strong demand across key sectors, including infrastructure, automotive, construction and electrical industries, supported higher sales during the quarter. The company also benefited from favourable global aluminium prices.

The results mark the company's first quarterly earnings

after its demerger and separate listing, making the performance particularly significant for investors. The strong numbers underline Vedanta Aluminium's position as one of India's leading aluminium producers.

Adding to the positive sentiment, the company's board approved an interim dividend of Rs 8 per equity share, rewarding shareholders following the strong quarterly performance. The dividend announcement further boosted investor confidence.

Management expressed optimism about future growth, citing continued investments in capacity expansion, operational efficiency and sustainable production practices. It also expects domestic demand for aluminium to remain strong, supported by increased infrastructure spending and manufacturing growth.

With solid earnings, improving margins and a shareholder-friendly dividend announcement, Vedanta Aluminium has started FY27 on a strong note. The company now aims to maintain this momentum by capitalising on favourable market conditions and strengthening its leadership in the aluminium sector.



New Closing Auction System to Transform Stock Trading

India's stock markets are set for a major operational change as exchanges introduce the Closing Auction Session (CAS) from Monday. The new mechanism will replace the existing Volume Weighted Average Price (VWAP) system for determining the closing price of Category I stocks, marking one of the biggest changes to the country's equity market structure.

Under the new framework, the closing price of eligible stocks will be determined through a dedicated auction session instead of calculating it based on the average price of trades during the last 30 minutes of the trading session.

The Closing Auction Session will run for 20 minutes, beginning immediately after the regular trading session. During this period, market participants can place buy and sell orders, allowing the exchange to discover a single equilibrium price based on actual demand and supply.

The new system is expected to improve price discovery, reduce the possibility of last-minute price manipulation and bring India's market practices in line with major global

exchanges. It is also expected to provide more accurate closing prices for benchmark indices, mutual funds and exchange-traded funds.

The transition is likely to have a significant impact on brokers, arbitrage funds and institutional investors, who will need to adjust their trading strategies and systems to accommodate the new closing process. Market participants are preparing for changes in execution patterns, particularly during the final minutes of the trading day.

While the Closing Auction Session will initially apply only to eligible Category I stocks, all other securities in the cash segment will continue to use the existing VWAP-based closing price mechanism until further phases of implementation.

Market experts believe the new framework will enhance transparency, improve liquidity during market close and create a more efficient price discovery process. Although traders may take some time to adapt to the revised mechanism, the long-term benefits are expected to outweigh the initial operational challenges.

Auto Stocks Drive Market Rally Amid Volatility

Indian equity markets ended Thursday's volatile trading session on a positive note, with benchmark indices posting moderate gains led by strong buying in automobile stocks. Despite mixed global cues and cautious investor sentiment, the markets managed to extend their recovery.

The BSE Sensex climbed 273 points to close at 77,928, while the NSE Nifty 50 advanced 67 points to settle above the 24,300 mark. The benchmark indices swung between gains and losses during the session before ending firmly in positive territory.

The automobile sector emerged as the biggest winner of the day after encouraging quarterly earnings from several companies boosted investor confidence. Stocks such as Mahindra & Mahindra and Balakrishna Industries recorded strong gains, helping the Nifty Auto index outperform other sectoral indices.

Banking and financial stocks also supported the market, while information technology shares traded with a positive bias. However, weakness in select mid-cap and small-cap stocks limited the broader market's upside, keeping overall gains in check.

Global factors continued to influence investor sentiment. The US Federal Reserve's decision to



keep interest rates unchanged, along with concerns over inflation and elevated crude oil prices, prompted traders to remain cautious. Rising geopolitical tensions also contributed to the volatile trading environment.

On the currency front, the Indian rupee ended 4 paise lower at 95.68 against the US dollar, snapping its three-session gaining streak. The decline reflected continued demand for the greenback amid global uncertainty.

Market experts believe investors are now closely tracking corporate earnings, global central bank decisions and crude oil movements for fresh direction. While the domestic market has shown resilience, analysts expect volatility to persist in the near term as global macroeconomic developments continue to influence trading sentiment.

IT Stocks Set for Best Monthly Rally in Six Years

India's information technology (IT) sector is staging a remarkable comeback, with IT stocks heading for their best monthly performance in six years after a strong five-day rally. The sharp rebound comes as investor sentiment improves following months of concerns over the impact of artificial intelligence on the software industry.

The Nifty IT index has witnessed strong buying interest throughout July, recovering from heavy losses suffered earlier this year. Investors are now reassessing fears that AI would severely disrupt traditional IT services, with many believing those concerns had been exaggerated.

Leading IT companies such as TCS, Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra have attracted renewed investor interest after reporting resilient earnings and expressing confidence about long-term demand for digital transformation and AI-driven services.

Market experts believe the recent rally has been supported by improving global technology sentiment, attractive valuations and expectations that enterprise spending on



technology will remain healthy. Strong quarterly earnings from several global technology companies have also boosted confidence in the sector.

Another factor driving the recovery is the growing belief that AI will complement rather than replace the business models of major IT firms. Instead of reducing demand, companies are increasingly investing in AI solutions, creating fresh opportunities for software service providers.

Analysts say investors who had previously exited IT stocks due to AI-related fears are now returning to the sector, resulting in strong buying momentum. Short covering and renewed institutional inflows

Thangamayil Jewellery Shares Hit Lower Circuit Again



Shares of Thangamayil Jewellery remained under heavy selling pressure, hitting the 10% lower circuit for the second consecutive trading session after investors reacted negatively to the company's first-quarter earnings and cautious business outlook.

Although the jewellery retailer reported strong year-on-year growth in revenue and profit, the stock declined sharply as management issued a weak outlook for the current quarter, raising concerns over near-term demand.

For the June quarter, the company posted a net profit of Rs 85 crore, while revenue from operations rose to around Rs 2,666 crore. However, on a sequential basis, net profit declined by 41% and revenue fell 6%, reflecting weaker business momentum compared with the previous quarter.

The company attributed the slowdown to a sharp increase in gold import duty, depreciation of the Indian rupee and uncertainty in global markets. These factors prompted many customers to postpone jewellery purchases in anticipation of lower gold prices, resulting in softer demand.

Management also indicated that sales remained subdued during the early weeks of the second quarter, signalling that the demand environment has not improved significantly. This cautious guidance overshadowed the company's otherwise healthy financial performance and triggered heavy selling by investors.

Analysts believe the stock's decline reflects investor concerns about future growth rather than the quarterly earnings alone. The weak outlook for the ongoing quarter has raised questions about the pace of recovery in jewellery demand, especially amid rising costs and geopolitical uncertainties.

Despite the recent correction, Thangamayil Jewellery has delivered impressive returns over the long term and remains one of the prominent players in the organised jewellery retail sector. Investors are now closely watching demand trends during the upcoming festive and wedding seasons, which are expected to play a crucial role in determining the company's performance in the second half of the financial year.



SML Mahindra Shares Hit 20% Upper Circuit Again

Shares of SML Mahindra continued their dream run in the stock market, hitting the 20% upper circuit for the second consecutive trading session after the company announced a major restructuring deal with Mahindra & Mahindra.

The rally was triggered after Mahindra & Mahindra decided to transfer its Truck and Bus Division to SML Mahindra in a Rs 525 crore slump sale. The move is aimed at consolidating the Mahindra Group's commercial vehicle business under a single entity, creating a stronger and more focused company in the truck and bus segment.

Following the announcement, investor sentiment turned overwhelmingly positive, with heavy buying pushing the stock to its upper circuit limit for a second straight day. Market participants believe the acquisition will significantly strengthen SML Mahindra's product portfolio, operational scale and market presence.

The restructuring will also involve the transfer of assets, employees, licences and liabilities related to Mahindra's truck and bus business to SML Mahindra. The integration is expected to simplify the

group's commercial vehicle operations while improving efficiency and competitiveness.

Industry analysts believe the deal could help SML Mahindra expand its footprint in India's commercial vehicle market by combining Mahindra's existing strengths with SML Mahindra's established presence in the light and medium commercial vehicle segment.

The acquisition is also expected to provide long-term growth opportunities through a wider product range, improved distribution network and better economies of scale. Investors are optimistic that these synergies could boost the company's revenue and profitability in the coming years.

Although the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions, the market has welcomed the development as a strategically important move for the Mahindra Group.

The sharp rally in SML Mahindra shares reflects growing investor confidence that the merger of commercial vehicle operations will create a stronger player in the industry, positioning the company for sustained growth in the highly competitive truck and bus market.



Hyundai Motor India Q1 Profit Falls 35%

Hyundai Motor India reported a challenging start to FY27, with its consolidated net profit declining 35% year-on-year to Rs 889 crore in the first quarter. The automaker attributed the weaker performance to temporary production disruptions, higher operating costs and a sharp decline in export volumes.

The company's revenue from operations slipped marginally to around Rs 16,335 crore, reflecting pressure on overall sales despite steady domestic demand. While local vehicle sales showed resilience, exports witnessed a significant decline, weighing on the company's overall financial performance.

Hyundai said production at its Chennai facility was affected during the quarter due to a fire at one of its key supplier's plants. Although operations returned to normal by the end of June, the disruption impacted vehicle availability and overall production volumes during the quarter.

Higher raw material costs, particularly for steel and other commodities, also put pressure on margins. Despite imple-

menting selective price hikes, the company was unable to fully offset the increase in input costs, resulting in lower profitability. Rising logistics expenses and global uncertainties further added to the challenges.

Domestic demand remained relatively healthy, supported by continued interest in SUVs and premium models. However, weaker overseas demand and lower export shipments offset the gains from the Indian market, leading to a subdued overall performance.

Looking ahead, Hyundai Motor India expects production to stabilise following the resolution of supply-chain issues. The company is also banking on upcoming product launches, festive-season demand and continued focus on premium vehicles and electric mobility to drive growth in the coming quarters.

Despite the disappointing quarterly results, Hyundai remains optimistic about the long-term outlook of the Indian passenger vehicle market and plans to strengthen its portfolio through new models, technological innovation and enhanced customer offerings.

Ajinkya Rahane Retires from All Cricket

Veteran Indian batter Ajinkya Rahane has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, bringing the curtain down on an illustrious career that spanned more than a decade. The 38-year-old confirmed his decision through an emotional social media message, saying the time had come for him to move on. Rahane represented India in 85 Tests, 90 ODIs and 20 T20Is, scoring 8,414 international runs and 15 centuries across formats. Widely regarded as one of India's most dependable batters in overseas conditions, he earned immense respect for his calm temperament and ability to perform under pressure. One of the defining moments of

Rahane's career came during India's historic 2020-21 Test series in Australia. After Virat Kohli returned home following the first Test, Rahane took over the captaincy and led an injury-hit Indian side to a memorable 2-1 series victory, considered one of the greatest achievements in Indian cricket history. In Test cricket, Rahane scored 5,077 runs, including 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries. He also contributed 2,962 runs in ODIs with three centuries and represented India in 20 T20 Internationals. Beyond his batting, he was admired for his leadership, humility and team-first attitude. Rahane's retirement marks the

end of an era for Indian cricket. Throughout his career, he played several match-winning knocks in challenging overseas conditions, particularly in Australia, England, New Zealand and South Africa, earning a reputation as one of India's finest touring batters. Tributes have poured in from former teammates, cricketers and fans, all praising Rahane's contribution to Indian cricket and his exemplary sportsmanship. While he steps away from competitive cricket, his legacy as a dependable batter and inspirational leader will remain one of the highlights of Indian cricket's modern era.



Rahane's Unique Captaincy Record Stands Unmatched

Ajinkya Rahane signed off from international cricket with a remarkable captaincy record that even some of India's greatest leaders, including MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, could not achieve. Rahane remains the only Indian captain to retire unbeaten in both Tests and One-Day Internationals. Whenever he led India in these two formats, the team never suffered a defeat, making his leadership record one of the rarest in Indian cricket. In Test cricket, Rahane captained India in six matches, registering four victories and two draws. His finest achievement came during the historic 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. After India suffered a crushing defeat in the first Test and Virat Kohli returned home, Rahane took charge and inspired an injury-hit Indian side to a memorable 2-1 series victory, one of the greatest overseas triumphs in the country's cricket history. Rahane also led India in three One-Day Internationals, winning all three matches to maintain his flawless record as captain. While his opportuni-



ties to lead were limited, he made the most of every chance and never ended on the losing side in either format. Although legendary captains like MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have guided India to numerous memorable victories and major ICC titles, each of them experienced defeats during their captaincy tenures. Rahane's unbeaten record, therefore, remains a unique milestone in Indian cricket. Known for his calm temperament, tactical awareness and composed leadership, Rahane

earned widespread respect from teammates and fans alike. His ability to stay composed under pressure was evident during India's famous triumph in Australia, a series that cemented his place among the country's most respected leaders. As Rahane bids farewell to international cricket, this extraordinary unbeaten captaincy record stands as one of the defining achievements of his career and a milestone that may remain unmatched for years to come.

Pujara's Emotional Tribute to Ajinkya Rahane

Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara penned an emotional tribute to his long-time teammate Ajinkya Rahane after the latter announced his retirement from international cricket. Taking to social media, Pujara reflected on their years together in the Indian dressing room, describing it as an honour to have shared countless memories with one of India's most dependable cricketers. He praised Rahane's dedication, humility and unwavering commitment to the team throughout his career. Pujara highlighted Rahane's calm personality and selfless attitude, saying he always put the team's interests ahead of personal milestones. He also



recalled the many memorable partnerships they built together in Test cricket, especially during challenging overseas tours. The veteran batter paid spe-

cial tribute to Rahane's leadership during India's historic 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph in Australia. According to Pujara, Rahane's composed captaincy and in-

spiring performances played a crucial role in one of the greatest victories in Indian cricket history. Pujara concluded his message by wishing Rahane success in the next phase of his life and thanked him for being a wonderful teammate, friend and leader. His heartfelt words resonated with cricket fans, many of whom remembered the duo's invaluable contributions to India's Test success over the past decade. Rahane's retirement has sparked an outpouring of tributes from former teammates, fans and cricket experts, with Pujara's emotional message standing out as one of the most touching farewells to the veteran batter.

Hockey India Defends Saffron Jersey Decision

Hockey India has clarified its decision to introduce saffron jerseys for the Indian men's and women's teams at the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup after the move sparked widespread debate and criticism. The governing body said the decision was based primarily on technical considerations rather than any other factor. According to Hockey India, the traditional blue jersey blended with the blue synthetic hockey turf used in international competitions, affecting on-field visibility for players. The federation explained that the new jersey colour was finalised after detailed consultations with players, coaches and support staff. Improving visual clarity during high-speed matches was identified as a key reason for the change. Hockey India also highlighted the symbolic significance of saffron, describing it as a colour that represents courage, sacrifice and victory. The jersey design retains elements inspired by the Indian tricolour, including blue accents reflecting the Ashoka Chakra, along



with patterns celebrating India's cultural heritage. The announcement, however, triggered mixed reactions from fans and former players. Several critics questioned replacing India's iconic blue jersey, arguing that the colour has long been associated with the country's sporting identity. Former India captain Viren Rasquinha was among those who expressed disappointment, saying the blue jersey has been an integral part of Indian hockey's legacy. Despite the criticism, Hockey India maintained that the

decision was taken purely to enhance player performance and visibility during the World Cup, while also reflecting national pride through the new design. The Indian men's and women's teams are expected to wear the saffron jerseys during the FIH Hockey World Cup, scheduled to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands next month. Hockey India remains confident that the focus will soon shift from the jersey colour to the teams' performances on the world stage.

Stephen Fleming Named England Test Head Coach

England have appointed former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming as the new head coach of their Test team, marking the beginning of a new chapter for English cricket. Fleming succeeds Brendon McCullum in the red-ball role and is expected to officially take charge after England's upcoming Test series against Pakistan. Until then, Marcus Trescothick will serve as the interim coach. One of the most respected coaches in world cricket, Fleming built an outstanding reputation during his long stint with Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League. Under his guidance, CSK won multiple IPL titles and became one of the most successful franchises in T20 cricket. The England and Wales Cricket Board believes Fleming's vast coaching experience, tactical knowledge and calm leadership style make him the ideal candidate to revive England's Test fortunes after a difficult period. Fleming ex-

pressed his excitement about taking on the new challenge, saying he is looking forward to working with the England players and building on the foundations already laid in recent years. He also emphasized his ambition to help England become a consistent force in Test cricket. England are currently rebuilding following a disappointing run in the World Test Championship. The team hopes Fleming's appointment will bring greater stability, improved performances and renewed confidence ahead of future international assignments. With years of experience as both an international captain and a highly successful franchise coach, Fleming is expected to bring fresh ideas, strong tactical planning and a winning mindset to England's Test setup. Cricket fans will now be watching closely to see whether he can replicate the success he enjoyed with Chennai Super Kings on the international stage.



Sikandar Raza Joins Dambulla Sixers for LPL

Zimbabwe captain and star all-rounder Sikandar Raza has joined the Dambulla Sixers as a replacement player for the remainder of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2026, giving the franchise a major boost ahead of the business end of the tournament. Raza replaces South African batter Marques Ackerman, who has been ruled out due to injury. One of the most experienced T20 all-rounders in world cricket, Raza arrives with an outstanding record of more than 7,500 runs and over 250 wickets across hundreds of T20 matches, making him a valuable addition to the Dambulla squad. The Dambulla Sixers are currently fighting for a place in the knockout stage, and the management hopes Raza's vast experience in franchise cricket around the world will strengthen both their batting and bowling departments. Tournament officials said player replacements are a nor-

mal part of a competition featuring international stars, adding that the quality of the replacement pool ensures the standard of the league remains high throughout the season. The LPL also announced several other squad changes. Colombo KAPS brought in Ashen Bandara as a replacement for the injured Kusal Mendis, while Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud returned home for national duty and was replaced by fellow Bangladeshi Ripon Mondol. Meanwhile, Kandy Royals signed Kavija Gamage to replace the injured Vishen Halambage, while Afghanistan pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi will leave Dambulla after the team's next match to join his national side. With experienced international players continuing to join the tournament, the Lanka Premier League is expected to witness an exciting finish as franchises battle for a place in the playoffs.

Sports Fraternity Pays Tribute to Ajinkya Rahane

Ajinkya Rahane's retirement from international cricket has triggered an emotional wave of tributes from across the sporting world, with several celebrated athletes and former cricketers saluting his remarkable career and contribution to Indian cricket. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu praised Rahane for his calmness, resilience and ability to deliver under pressure. She described his career as an inspiring journey built on courage and determination, recalling his memorable

performances in difficult overseas conditions. She also hailed his century at Lord's in 2014 as one of the defining moments of his career. Former India opener Viren Sehwag lauded Rahane's immense contribution to Indian cricket, especially in Test matches. He appreciated Rahane's quiet leadership, consistency and match-winning performances, wishing him success in the next phase of his life. Former opener Shikhar Dhawan also shared a heart-

felt message, thanking Rahane for the unforgettable memories they created together while representing India. Dhawan praised his humility, professionalism and unwavering commitment to the team, saying he would always be remembered as one of India's finest ambassadors of the game. Messages also poured in from several current and former cricketers, teammates and fans, many highlighting Rahane's composed nature, selfless attitude and ability to rise

to the occasion in challenging situations. His leadership during India's historic 2020-21 Test series victory in Australia was repeatedly remembered as one of the greatest achievements in Indian cricket. Rahane's retirement marks the end of a memorable international career spanning more than a decade. Known for his elegant batting, dependable performances overseas and calm leadership, he leaves behind a legacy that has earned admiration across the cricketing world and beyond.

Amit Shah Hails India's Historic CWG 2026 Success

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Indian athletes Dilip Mahadu Gavit, Mohammed Basil Morssingnakathi and Murali Sreesankar for their outstanding performances at the Commonwealth Games 2026. Shah praised para-athletes Dilip Gavit and Mohammed Basil for creating history by securing a memorable gold and silver medal finish in the men's T47 100m event. Gavit clinched the gold medal with a Commonwealth Games re-

cord timing of 10.71 seconds, while Basil claimed silver after clocking 10.83 seconds, helping India achieve a historic one-two finish. The Home Minister described their achievement as a proud moment for the nation and appreciated their speed, determination and sporting spirit. He said their success had inspired millions of Indians and showcased the growing strength of India's para-athletics movement. Shah also congratulated long jumper Murali Sree-

shankar for winning the silver medal in the men's long jump event. Sreesankar recorded a best effort of 8.09 metres to secure his second consecutive Commonwealth Games silver medal, adding another major milestone to his career. Sreesankar's achievement is considered special as he became the first Indian men's long jumper to win two Commonwealth Games medals. His consistent performances have strengthened India's presence in global athletics.



Mahesh, Priyanka, Nick Enjoy Special Movie Night

Superstar Mahesh Babu, global star Priyanka Chopra, and international singer Nick Jonas were recently spotted together during a special movie outing at AMB Cinemas in Hyderabad. The trio's appearance quickly became the talk of social media, with fans delighted to see the stars enjoying a relaxed evening away from their busy schedules.

A photo shared by AMB Cinemas captured Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas smiling together, instantly going viral online. Fans flooded social media with comments, praising the rare get-together and expressing curiosity about which film the celebrities had watched during their visit.

The outing comes at a time when Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra are actively shooting for SS Rajamouli's ambitious action-adventure film Varanasi. The much-awaited project also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran in a pivotal role and is one of the biggest Indian films currently un-

der production.

Priyanka Chopra is currently in Hyderabad for the latest shooting schedule of the film and is accompanied by her husband Nick Jonas and their daughter, Malti Marie. Despite her packed work commitments, the actress has been spending quality time with her family, making the movie night a perfect break from filming.

Mahesh Babu, who owns AMB Cinemas, appeared relaxed as he welcomed his co-star and her husband for the evening. The outing reflected the strong camaraderie among the team members and added to the excitement surrounding their upcoming collaboration.

The pictures have generated tremendous buzz among fans, with many calling it one of the most memorable celebrity moments of the week. The sight of a Telugu superstar, a global Bollywood icon and an international music sensation enjoying a casual evening together has only increased anticipation for SS Rajamouli's highly awaited film.

Aamir Khan's Absence Fuels Batwara 1947 Buzz

The trailer launch of Batwara 1947 created a huge buzz, but it wasn't just the film that grabbed attention. Producer Aamir Khan's absence from the high-profile event became a major talking point, sparking widespread speculation among fans and the media.

Batwara 1947, directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, stars Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta and Shabana Azmi in pivotal roles. As the film is backed by Aamir Khan Productions, many expected the Bollywood superstar to attend the trailer launch alongside the cast. However, Aamir's absence surprised everyone. While the makers have not issued any official statement explaining why he skipped the event, social media has been flooded with theories and speculation. Some reports suggest that Aamir may have chosen to stay away to avoid questions related to ongoing student pro-

tests and activist Sonam Wangchuk. Others believe he could have missed the event due to prior professional commitments. So far, none of these claims have been officially confirmed.

Despite Aamir's absence, the trailer launch received an overwhelming response. The film's grand visuals, emotional storytelling and powerful performances by Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta and Shabana Azmi have generated strong anticipation ahead of its theatrical release. With Batwara 1947 set against the backdrop of India's Partition, the film is one of the most awaited releases of the year. While the trailer has impressed audiences, Aamir Khan's unexpected absence has added another layer of curiosity, leaving fans waiting to see if the actor or the production team will address the speculation.



Kriti Sanon Wants to Romance Jr NTR

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has once again expressed her admiration for Telugu cinema, revealing that she would love to share screen space with Jr NTR in the future. Her statement has delighted fans, especially as the actress began her career in Tollywood before becoming one of Bollywood's biggest stars.

During a recent media interaction while promoting her latest project, Kriti was asked which Telugu actor she would like to work with. Without hesitation, she named Jr NTR, saying she has always admired his screen presence, acting talent and electrifying performances.

Kriti made her acting debut opposite Mahesh Babu in I: Nekkadine in 2014 before shifting her focus to Hindi cinema. Over the years, she has delivered several successful films and even won the National Film Award for her performance in Mimi. Despite her Bollywood success, she has often spoken fondly about returning to Telugu cinema if the right opportunity comes along.

Her latest comments have sparked excitement among fans, many of whom believe Kriti and Jr NTR would make a fresh and exciting on-screen pair. Social media was flooded with posts supporting the idea, with several users urging filmmakers to bring the duo together in a big-budget pan-Indian project.



Jr NTR, meanwhile, is currently occupied with multiple high-profile films and remains one of the most sought-after stars in Indian cinema. His growing popularity across the country has made him a favourite choice for filmmakers looking to mount large-scale projects.

Although no collaboration between Kriti Sanon and Jr NTR has been officially announced, the actress's candid wish has already generated considerable buzz in film circles. Fans are now hoping that directors and producers will take note and turn the dream pairing into reality.

Naga Vamsi's Big Project with Rishab Shetty Put on Hold

Producer Naga Vamsi's much-anticipated collaboration with Kannada star Rishab Shetty is reportedly not moving forward as initially planned. The project, which had generated considerable buzz among movie lovers, has now been delayed due to scheduling issues.

Rishab Shetty is currently occupied with the shooting of Jai Hanuman, directed by Prasanth Varma. The ambitious mythological film is taking longer than expected to complete. Once that project wraps up, Rishab is expected to begin work on The Pride of Bharat: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, leaving little room in his schedule for any new commitments. Because of these prior commitments, the proposed film with Naga Vamsi is unlikely to begin production anytime soon. Industry insiders believe the project has ef-



fectively been put on hold, although neither the producer nor the actor has made an official announcement regarding its cancellation. The news has disappointed fans who were eager to see Rishab Shetty collaborate with one of Telugu cinema's leading production houses. Given the success of Rishab's recent films and Naga Vamsi's track record of back-

ing high-profile projects, expectations surrounding the combination were quite high. For now, both Rishab Shetty and Naga Vamsi remain focused on their respective commitments. While the collaboration may not happen in the immediate future, fans continue to hope that the project will eventually materialise once both sides find suitable dates.

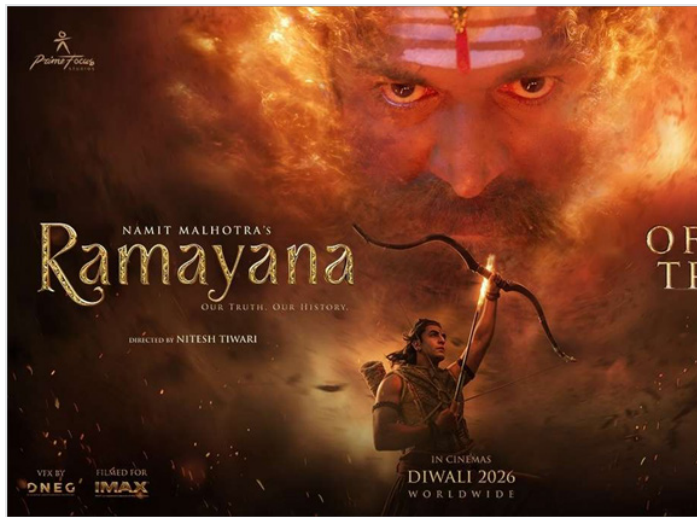
Ramayana Trailer Wows with Grand Visual Spectacle

The much-awaited trailer of Ramayana has finally been unveiled, and it has lived up to the massive expectations surrounding the film. Mounted on an extraordinary scale, the trailer offers a breathtaking cinematic experience filled with stunning visuals, emotional depth and spectacular action sequences.

Ranbir Kapoor impresses as Lord Rama with a calm, composed and powerful screen presence. Sai Pallavi brings grace and dignity to the role of Sita, while Yash steals the spotlight with his fierce and commanding portrayal of Ravana. His intense appearance and powerful aura have already become one of the biggest talking points among fans.

The trailer showcases world-class visual effects, massive battle sequences and grand production design that rival international fantasy films. Every frame reflects the enormous effort and budget invested in bringing the epic to life, making it one of the most visually ambitious Indian films ever made.

The background score by A.R. Rahman and Hans Zimmer adds tremendous emotional weight and grandeur to the



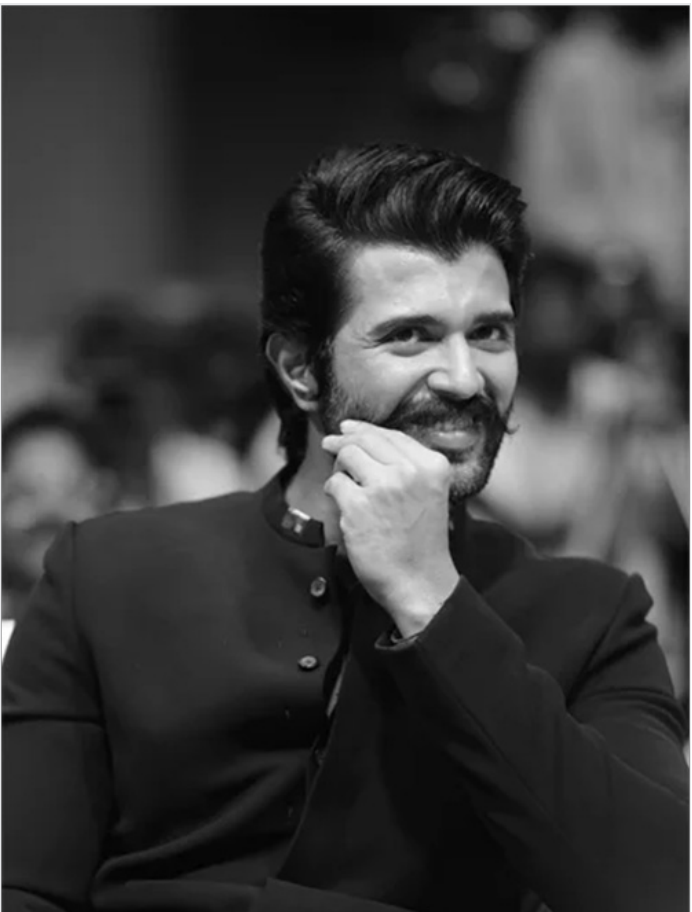
visuals. The music perfectly complements the mythological setting, elevating the trailer's impact and making several moments truly goosebump-inducing.

Director Nitesh Tiwari appears to have focused on presenting the timeless epic with authenticity while maintaining a modern cinematic appeal. The trailer successfully balances emotion, action and spirituality without overwhelming the audience.

The chemistry between the lead characters, the majestic presentation of Ayodhya and

Lanka, and the carefully designed action sequences have further increased anticipation for the film. The makers have also paid close attention to the visual detailing of costumes, sets and character designs.

Overall, the trailer promises a visually magnificent retelling of the Ramayana that blends cutting-edge technology with one of India's greatest epics. If the film delivers on the promise shown in the trailer, it has every chance of becoming a landmark achievement in Indian cinema and a major box-office phenomenon.



Vijay Deverakonda Completes 10 Years as Lead Hero

Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda has completed a remarkable decade as a lead actor, marking a major milestone in his cinematic journey. It was on this day in 2016 that Pelli Choopulu released, introducing Vijay as a solo lead and paving the way for one of the most inspiring success stories in Telugu cinema.

Although Vijay had already earned recognition with Yevade Subramanyam, it was Pelli Choopulu that transformed him into a household name. The romantic entertainer became a blockbuster, winning both critical acclaim and audience appreciation, giving a strong launch to his career as a leading man.

Over the past ten years, Vijay has delivered several memorable films, including Arjun Reddy, Geetha Govindam, Taxiwaala, Kushi and Kingdom. His bold choice of scripts and natural acting style have helped him carve out a unique identity in the industry. He also made a special appearance as Arjuna in Kalki 2898 AD, further expanding his reach among audiences.

What makes Vijay's journey even more inspiring is that he entered the film industry without any film background. Through determination, hard work and perseverance, he rose from a struggling actor to

become one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars. His career has witnessed blockbuster successes, setbacks, criticism and immense fan support, making his journey one of resilience and growth.

Beyond acting, Vijay has also established himself as an entrepreneur with his clothing brand, Rowdy Wear. Through The Deverakonda Foundation, he has been actively supporting underprivileged families and promoting educational initiatives. Recently, the foundation awarded scholarships to 180 deserving students from economically weaker sections in Mahabubnagar district, reflecting his commitment to social causes.

Vijay's upcoming lineup is equally promising. He is currently working on Rowdy Janardhana, directed by Ravi Kiran Kola and produced by Dil Raju and Shirish. He is also part of Ranabaali, directed by Rahul Sankrityan, besides another prestigious project with Hi Nanna director Shouryuv.

As Vijay Deverakonda celebrates ten successful years as a lead actor, fans are looking forward to seeing him scale even greater heights in Indian cinema. His journey continues to inspire aspiring actors who dream of making it big through talent, dedication and perseverance.



Suriya Eyes Third Release of 2026

Tamil star Suriya could become one of the busiest actors of 2026, with reports suggesting that he may have a third theatrical release before the end of the year.

According to the latest buzz from Kollywood, Suriya's upcoming film directed by Jithu Madhavan of Aavesham fame has already completed shooting. The makers are reportedly planning to release the film during the Diwali 2026 festive season, although an official announcement is still awaited.

If the plan goes ahead, the Jithu Madhavan project will mark Suriya's third release of the year. The actor has already lined up Karuppu, directed by RJ Balaji, while another much-awaited project is also expected to arrive before the end of

2026.

The collaboration with Jithu Madhavan has generated significant excitement among fans, as the filmmaker earned widespread acclaim for his unique storytelling and blockbuster success with Aavesham. Movie lovers are eager to see what the director has planned for Suriya in this fresh collaboration.

Suriya is aiming for a strong comeback after a series of mixed box-office performances. With multiple films in different genres lined up, 2026 could prove to be one of the biggest years of his career. If all the scheduled releases hit theatres as planned, fans will get to see the versatile actor on the big screen three times in a single year.

