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Brahmani Land Row Rekindles Political Debate

Past allocations, mining controversy and political allegations resurface as government reclaims land

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

The long-standing controversy surrounding land allocation to Brahmani Steels Brahmani Steels is commonly known as Brahmani Industries Limited (BIL), owned by Gali Janardhan Reddy, has resurfaced in Andhra Pradesh following the government's move to reclaim thousands of acres originally allotted for a proposed steel plant in Kadapa district. The development has revived political and administrative discussions on alleged irregularities linked to the project and subsequent mining operations.

In 2007, the then Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy allocated around 14,000 acres to Brahmani Steels. This included 10,760 acres for a steel plant, 3,115 acres for an airport, along with additional land parcels. The company was also granted access to Obulapuram mines as captive resources, while mining rights were extended to the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC). The project promised to generate direct employment for 10,000 people and indirect jobs for one lakh, with a projected steel output of two million tonnes annually. However, the plant never materialised, and the promises largely remained unfulfilled.



Instead, focus reportedly shifted to mining operations at Obulapuram, triggering allegations of large-scale corruption. The Obulapuram mining issue drew nationwide attention between 2007 and 2009 amid claims of illegal iron ore exports meant for steel production. Critics alleged that mining activities were prioritised over industrial development, raising questions over the original intent of the allocations.

Intriguing Discussion on Jagan-Gali Links

The controversy has also reignited debates over alleged links between YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Gali Janardhan

Reddy. Political observers are revisiting details of a firm named "Red Gold," which signed an agreement with OMC in September 2008 and was reportedly registered at the same address as Jagati Publications. CBI findings had earlier indicated that 50% of OMC's iron ore output was to be supplied to Red Gold at production cost plus a 5% margin, with allegations of funds being diverted to Jagati Publications.

Further discussions have emerged over decisions taken during the YSRCP government, particularly a 2022 affidavit in the Supreme Court not

objecting to resuming mining at Obulapuram. TDP leaders have highlighted their party's earlier protests against the mining operations, which eventually led to a CBI probe. The agreement with Brahmani Steels was cancelled in 2012, followed by land cancellation orders in 2013. The recent Supreme Court verdict has now cleared the way for the land to revert fully to the government.

TDP Draws Comparison: Kia vs Brahmani

TDP leaders are contrasting the Brahmani episode with the success of Kia Motors in Anantapur district. They note that Kia began production swiftly after land allocation, generating large-scale employment and exporting vehicles to nearly 90 countries. In contrast, despite vast land allotments, Brahmani Steels failed to establish any industry, leaving behind legal disputes over land estimated to be worth 5,000 crore. Coalition government circles allege misuse of land and mineral resources for personal gain during previous regimes, while the present government projects its industrial policy as development-driven and employment-oriented.



CM Orders Crackdown on Social Media Misuse

Cabinet Clears 30 Key Development Measures

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has ordered stringent action against those indulging in character assassination, spreading false propaganda and posting objectionable content on social media. He directed senior police officials to establish a special task force to curb such activities and instructed that comments targeting women, public representatives and social harmony should not be tolerated.

The issue was discussed extensively during the State Cabinet meeting held on Friday, where ministers expressed concern over the spread of misinformation and objectionable videos targeting political leaders. Chandrababu advised leaders not to react impulsively to provocations by YSRCP members and directed police officials to act firmly against unlawful activities on digital

platforms. He also ordered the appointment of an IG-rank officer to exclusively monitor cybercrime-related issues.

Minister Nadendla Manohar said Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan had suggested coordination between the Home Department and Law Department to control fake news on social media. DGP Harish Gupta highlighted the emerging challenges due to new digital features, including WhatsApp usernames.

The Chief Minister also stressed the need for ministers to address public grievances with empathy. He said every petition represents the hopes, difficulties and expectations of individuals and families, and instructed ministers to ensure respectful communication speedy action and humane decision-making.

Later, Minister for Information and Public Relations and Housing Kolusu Parthasarathy briefed the media

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AP Plans Guidelines for Surplus Ethanol Sale to Industries

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The state government is considering issuing comprehensive guidelines to allow the sale of surplus ethanol exclusively for genuine industrial purposes while introducing strict safeguards to prevent its diversion for potable use.

The decision was discussed at a meeting chaired by Minister for Mines & Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra with representatives of the Ethanol Manufacturers Association at the State Secretariat on Thursday. Principal Secretary, Revenue (Excise), Mukesh Kumar Meena said the government is committed to encouraging industrial growth while ensuring that ethanol is utilised only for authorised purposes through a strong regulatory mechanism. During the meeting, representatives of the Ethanol Manufacturers Association explained that Andhra Pradesh has developed significant ethanol production capacity. However, reduced procurement by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has re-

sulted in surplus stocks, impacting the financial stability of ethanol manufacturing units. The association requested permission to sell surplus ethanol to approved industrial users, including pharmaceutical, paint, chemical industries and eligible private oil marketing companies. It assured that all commitments to Public Sector OMCs under the EBP Programme would continue to be fulfilled.

After detailed discussions, Minister Kollu Ravindra assured the industry representatives that the government would examine the proposal and frame suitable guidelines to facilitate the sale of surplus ethanol for bona fide industrial applications.

The proposed framework will include strict monitoring measures to ensure compliance with EBP Programme obligations and prevent misuse or diversion of ethanol for potable purposes.

Commissioner of Prohibition & Excise Chamakuri Sridhar, Director of Enforcement Rahuldev Sharma, and other senior officials of the Prohibition & Excise Department at-

Lokesh Invites Korean Companies to Partner in AP's Industrial Growth

Seoul, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, ITE&C and RTGS Nara Lokesh invited South Korean companies to partner with Andhra Pradesh in developing advanced manufacturing, technology and innovation-driven industries. Addressing the Special Interactive Session organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, along with the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 Korea Roadshow in Seoul, Lokesh highlighted the state's investment opportunities in electronics, semiconductors, IT, automobiles, EVs,



renewable energy, green hydrogen, food processing, ports and logistics.

The session was attended by

representatives from the Government of Korea, Embassy of India in Seoul, Invest KOREA, KOTRA, Korean industries

and the CII Andhra Pradesh CEOs Delegation. Ambassador of India to South Korea Gourangalal Das highlighted the growing India-Korea economic partnership, while Lee Min-Kyong, Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, and Dr Kim Tae Hyung, Commissioner, Invest KOREA, spoke about strengthening cooperation.

CII Andhra Pradesh Chairman S Narendra Kumar said Andhra Pradesh offers a strong platform for Korean companies in advanced manufacturing, electronics, mobility and clean technologies. ITE&C Sec-

retary Bhaskar Katamneni presented the state's investment ecosystem and emerging opportunities.

During his meetings with Korean companies, Lokesh invited Cuckoo Electronics to establish a home appliance manufacturing unit in Sri City or Tirupati. He said Andhra Pradesh's home appliance cluster already includes Amber, Epack Durable, Daikin and LG Electronics, with significant production of air conditioners and televisions. Cuckoo Electronics Head of Overseas Sales & Marketing Cho Hanchul said the company would consider the proposals.

Lokesh also

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Man Throws Papers at CJI Bench, Disrupts Supreme Court Proceedings

New Delhi, July 10 | TPN Bureau

A brief disruption occurred inside the Supreme Court on Friday after a man allegedly behaved in an unruly manner during proceedings and attempted to approach the bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant.

According to reports, the individual stood up during the hearing, moved towards



the judges' bench and threw papers while making objectionable remarks directed at the Chief Justice. The unex-

pected incident created a tense atmosphere in the courtroom, leaving lawyers and others present shocked.

Security personnel immediately stepped in and removed the man from the courtroom. The proceedings resumed after the situation was brought under control. Reacting to the incident, CJI Justice Surya Kant reportedly observed that the person appeared

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NMC approves 100 additional MBBS seats for Kadapa and Nellore medical colleges

Amaravati, July 11 | TPN Bureau

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has granted approval for an additional 100 MBBS seats in Andhra Pradesh for the 2026-27 academic year. State Minister for Health and Medical Education Satya Kumar Yadav announced that the NMC issued the Letter of Per-



mission (LoP) to increase 75 seats at Kadapa

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Malla Reddy announces Deemed University in Tirupati

Tirumala, July 11 | TPN Bureau

Telangana MLA Malla Reddy offered prayers to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Friday. He participated in the Lord's service during the darshan slot allotted to donors of the Sri Venkateswara Aalayala Nirmanam Trust (SRIVANI Trust). The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) provides special darshan privileges to eligible SRIVANI Trust donors as part of the trust's initiatives for temple construction, renovation and preservation activities. Later, Malla Reddy interacted with the media and said he had established several educational institutions over the past three-and-a-half decades. He stated that he had decided last year to establish a university in Tirupati and that the Central Government had granted permission for the Malla Reddy Deemed University. Malla Reddy said the proposed university



would contribute to the education sector in Tirupati and provide opportunities for students. He expressed happiness over receiving permission for the institution and thanked the authorities concerned.

The visit of the Telangana MLA to Tirumala comes amid his continued focus on expanding educational institutions. He said his aim was to promote quality education through the new university project.

COVID Scare in Kadapa as Six Cases, Two Deaths Raise Concerns

P.P. Nagaraju

Kadapa :Fresh concerns over COVID-19 have emerged in Kadapa district after six positive cases and two deaths linked to suspected infection were reported. The recent fatalities, one from Kadapa city and another from Rajampet, have triggered alarm among residents and prompted swift action from health authorities. According to health officials, both individuals who died had exhibited COVID-like symptoms while undergoing treatment. However, district authorities clarified that the deaths were linked to underlying health conditions, with one patient suffering from respiratory issues and the other from lung cancer. In-charge DMHO Dr. K. Raviprakash stated that among the six positive cases, two patients are currently under treatment, while two oth-



ers have recovered and been discharged.

Health department teams have intensified surveillance in affected areas, including Kadapa and Rajampet, conducting door-to-door surveys to identify individuals with fever,

cough, or respiratory symptoms. Samples from the deceased have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, to determine the exact cause of death and rule out the presence of any new variant.



PM Modi concludes Australia visit, begins historic New Zealand trip

Auckland, July 11 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday concluded his Australia visit and arrived in Auckland, New Zealand, on the final leg of his three-nation

tour, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades. The visit is aimed at further strengthening strategic, economic and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

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V. Ramanjaneyulu Promoted as Deputy Director in I&PR Department

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

V. Ramanjaneyulu, who has been serving as Assistant Director in the Andhra Pradesh Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department, has been promoted as Deputy Director and posted to the Publicity Cell at the State Secretariat. Ramanjaneyulu, who has served as the Secretary's Public Relations Officer and Assistant Director for the past decade, will now discharge his duties in the Commissioner's Office of the I&PR Department. He expressed gratitude to Information and Public Relations Minister Koltusu Parthasarathy and I&PR Director K.S. Viswanadh for the opportunity. A postgraduate in Geography and Journalism and Mass Communication from Andhra University, Ramanjaneyulu joined government service in 1996 as an Assistant Public Relations Officer through Group-II services. He served for



19 years in the Kakinada District Public Relations Office as APRO, Divisional PRO and DPRO. After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, he was transferred to the State I&PR Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada in 2016 and also worked in the Chief Minister's Office. Over the years, he has served under 11 Chief Secretaries while working in the Secretariat Publicity Cell.

Sufficient Fertilizer Stocks for Kharif Season, Assures Atchannaidu

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the government has ensured adequate availability of fertilizers, including Urea and DAP, for farmers during the Kharif season. In a statement on Friday, he said the state has 3.70 lakh metric tonnes of Urea and 0.90 lakh metric tonnes of DAP stocks as of July 10.

The Minister said buffer stocks have been maintained in Markfed warehouses across districts and officials are monitoring supplies daily. He added that the available Urea stock of 3,69,646 metric tonnes meets 85% of the Kharif requirement, while DAP stock of 85,683 metric tonnes covers 64% of the demand.

Responding to the Sankili Rythu Seva Kendram incident in Vizianagaram district, Atchannaidu said additional Urea was immediately arranged and distribution was streamlined. He criticised false propaganda over fertilizer shortages and assured farmers of timely supplies across the state.

Bill Gates Foundation Director to Visit Amaravati Cancer Hospital Project

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Archana Vyas, India Country Director of the Bill Gates Foundation, will visit the under-construction Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute at Thullur village in the Amaravati Capital Region on Friday afternoon to review the progress of the project.

During the visit, Ravi Srinivasa Rao, Chief Operating Officer of the Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute and Project Director, along with other officials, will brief Archana Vyas on the construction status, key features and planned facilities of the upcoming cancer care and research institute.

The interaction is expected to



focus on the hospital's development and its role in strengthening advanced cancer treatment, research and healthcare services in Andhra Pradesh. The Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute is being developed as a major healthcare facility in the Amaravati Capital Region.

The visit highlights the growing engagement of the Bill Gates Foundation with healthcare initiatives and the progress of the ambitious cancer hospital project at Thullur.

Haj Committee Chairman Flags Off Umrah Pilgrims

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Haj Committee Chairman Sheikh Hasan Basha flagged off a bus carrying 90 pilgrims embarking on the Umrah pilgrimage to Makkah from Vinchipeta in Vijayawada on Thursday. The pilgrimage has been organised by Mohammediya Haj Umrah Services Tours and Travels.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Hasan Basha said performing the Haj pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime is an important aspiration for every Muslim, while Umrah can be undertaken multiple times. He described visiting the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah as a cherished blessing for Muslims across the world. Special prayers were offered for the good health and well-being of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy



Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Ministers Nara Lokesh and M.N.D. Farooq. Sheikh Hasan Basha said the Andhra Pradesh government provides a subsidy of Rs.1 lakh for Haj pilgrims travelling from Vijayawada and reaffirmed that the coalition government remains committed to the welfare of every Muslim family in the state.

Travel organisers, Muslim religious leaders and members of the Muslim community attended the flag-off ceremony and extended their best wishes to the pilgrims.

APJUDA opposes proposal to raise government doctors' retirement age to 70 years

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Junior Doctors Association (APJUDA) has opposed the reported proposal to increase the retirement age of government doctors from 63 years to 65-70 years, stating that the move would affect employment opportunities for young medical

professionals.

In a statement, APJUDA President Dr. U. Eswar Shankar and General Secretaries Dr. Balagam Dinakar Sai Srinivas said senior doctors' contributions and experience are highly valued, but extending retirement age is not a sustainable solution to address the shortage of doctors.

CM Celebrates Minister Ramanarayana Reddy's Birthday

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu extended birthday greetings to Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy during a brief celebration held at the State Secretariat on Friday.

The celebration took place in the conference hall immediately after the State Cabinet meeting. Chandrababu Naidu joined Anam Ramanarayana Reddy in cutting a birthday cake and personally offered him a piece of cake while conveying his best wishes. The Chief Minister wished the Minister good health, a long life and continued success in serving the people of Andhra Pradesh.



Several Cabinet colleagues also participated in the celebration and greeted Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on his birthday. The event reflected the cordial atmosphere among members of the State Cabinet following the Cabinet meeting. Ministers present on

the occasion joined the Chief Minister in wishing Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and expressed hope that he would continue to contribute effectively to the government's development and welfare initiatives in the state.

Government Initiates Talks to Resolve Employee Issues

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The State government has initiated steps to resolve the issues raised by employees and decided to hold discussions with all employee unions soon. The government will examine their grievances and demands on an issue-wise basis, including pending dues, Dearness Allowance (DA) and Pay Revision Commission (PRC) matters.

As part of the initiative, Ministers Payyavula Keshav and Anagani Satyaprasad held discussions with AP JAC Amaravati employee union leaders at the Secretariat. AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Ven-



kateswarlu and other union representatives participated in the meeting.

The ministers assured the employees that the government was committed to addressing their concerns. After preliminary discussions on financial and non-financial issues, it was decided to hold detailed talks with the union leaders at the Secretariat on Saturday. The government expressed confidence in resolving employee-related matters through dialogue.

APTA Backs FAPTO's July 14 Protest Over Pending Financial Issues

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Primary Teachers Association (APTA) has extended its full support to the Andhra Pradesh Federation of Teachers' Organisations (FAPTO) call for a statewide rally and picketing programme at district headquarters on July 14, urging teachers and employees to participate in large numbers.

APTA President Kaki

Prakash Rao and State General Secretary M.G. Mehadi alleged that the government had promised to be teacher- and employee-friendly before coming to power and assured implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), but had failed to address key financial issues after assuming office. They said pending dues have been cleared only partially over the past two years and demanded the constitution of a PRC committee, declaration of Interim Relief (IR),

and settlement of surrendered leave bills.

The leaders stated that the government has taken only limited measures following FAPTO's earlier protests and urged employees not to remain "WhatsApp warriors" but to join the July 14 rally and picketing before district Collectorate. They appealed to all teachers' and employees' associations across the state to unite and press for the resolution of their long-pending financial demands.

Minister Felicitates Silver Medal-Winning Skater Dakshinya

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy felicitated Vijayawada skater C.H.V. Dakshinya at the State Secretariat in Amaravati after she won a silver medal at the 8th Brandy Federation Cup Skating Championship held recently in Goa.

Congratulating the young athlete, the Minister praised her achievement and wished her suc-



cess at national and international competitions. He expressed confidence that Dakshinya would continue to bring laurels to Andhra Pradesh and the country through her sporting accomplishments.

Speaking on the occasion, Big Champions Skating Academy coach Sheikh Khader Basha said Dakshinya had already earned a place in the World Book of Records by completing a 35-kilometre skating performance at a very young age. He added that she had also received two national awards in recognition of her achievements.

Dakshinya's parents, including C.H. Sampath Kumar, and others attended the felicitation programme held at the Secretariat.

No Leniency on RTI Violations, Warns Chief Information Commissioner

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Vajja Srinivasa Rao on Friday warned that negligence in implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Act would not be tolerated and officials violating its provisions would face strict action.

Conducting surprise inspections at the Endowments Department Commissioner's Office, Gollapudi Gram Panchayat Office, Directorate of Prosecutions and the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) office, Vajja Srinivasa Rao reviewed the implementation of Section 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act. He examined RTI registers, records



and citizen information systems, and issued directions to officials for better compliance. He said the State Information Commission has received numerous complaints about poor implementation of RTI provisions, including the absence of Public Information Officer (PIO) details, First Appellate Authority name boards, job charts and citizen

charters in government offices. To strengthen enforcement, Information Commissioners have been assigned two districts each to conduct surprise inspections.

Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan briefed the Chief Information Commissioner on RTI implementation in the department. Vajja Srinivasa Rao expressed satisfaction with the records maintained at the inspected offices. APPSC Chairman Professor C. Shashidhar, Secretary Pattamsetti Ravi Subhash, Gollapudi Panchayat Secretary Chintalamma, Public Information Officer V.V.S.K. Prasad, Joint Commissioner Ratna Raju and other officials were present.

Centres of Excellence to Provide Free IIT, NEET and JEE Coaching: Swamy

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Social Welfare Minister Dr. Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and fellow ministers for the Cabinet approval to establish three Centres of Excellence under the Social Welfare Department.

In a statement on Friday, Minister Swamy said the centres would be established from the current academic year at Madhurawada in Visakhapatnam district, Tadikonda in Guntur district and Kota in Tirupati district. The centres will provide free IIT, NEET and

JEE coaching along with Intermediate education.

Each centre will accommodate 300 students, with 150 students each in MPC and BiPC streams across first and second year Intermediate. Separate facilities will be provided for boys and girls, with 50% reservation for girls in admissions.

The government will invite tenders for management by qualified agencies while retaining supervision. Minister Swamy said the initiative aims to provide corporate-standard education to underprivileged students and fulfil CM Chandrababu Naidu's vision of improving opportunities for poor children.

Private Bus Owners Invite Minister for Thanksgiving Meeting

Tadepalli, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Private Bus Owners Welfare Association met Transport, Youth and Sports Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy at his camp office in Tadepalli on Friday and invited him to a thanksgiving meeting scheduled to be held in Vijayawada on July 14.

The association presented the invitation following the State Cabinet's recent decision to approve a reduction in inter-state tourist bus taxes. The representatives expressed gratitude

to the coalition government for the tax relief, describing it as a significant step that would benefit private bus operators.

They said the thanksgiving meeting is being organised to acknowledge the Minister's initiative and support in addressing the long-pending issues of private bus operators. Inviting Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy to attend the event as the chief guest, the association requested him to make the programme a success. According to the representatives, the Minister responded positively to the invitation and appreciated the association's gesture.

MEPMA Director Promotes 'Mana Dabbulu Mana Lekkalu' App

Tadepalli, July 10 | TPN Bureau

MEPMA Mission Director Vakati Karuna reviewed livelihood initiatives and promoted the Mana Dabbulu Mana Lekkalu mobile application during an interaction with members of the Taruna Shanti Self-Help Group at Nulakapeta on Thursday.

Addressing the members, Vakati Karuna explained the benefits of the app and demonstrated how it can be used for better financial management and record-keeping by Self-Help Groups. She later visited an apapadam (papad) manufacturing unit established under the livelihood promotion programme and appreciated the members for their entrepreneurial efforts.

The Mission Director also congratulated Madhuri, a Self-Help Group member who secured a bank loan exceeding



Rs.1 crore under the PMFME scheme last year, one of the largest such loans in South India, and interacted with her about her business. She also handed over a sanction letter for a Rs.3 lakh loan from the State Bank of India under the PMFME scheme to Self-Help Group member Vani for setting up a pickle manufacturing unit.

District MEPMA Project Director Vijayalakshmi, MTMC Additional Commissioner, State MEPMA officials SMC Venkata Narayana, SMM Adinarayana, SMM Rangachari, MTMC MEPMA staff and Self-Help Group members participated in the programme.

Hospitality Industry Seeks GST Relief, Minister Assures Support

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh on Friday assured representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation and the Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association that the state government would take the hospitality sector's concerns to the Centre.

During a meeting at the Minister's camp office in Vijayawada, the delegation urged the restoration of the GST Input Tax Credit (ITC) for the hospitality industry and sought a reduction in GST on commercial LPG cylinders from 18 per cent to 5 per cent. They said hotels and restaurants using commercial LPG incur higher operating costs than establishments using piped natural gas, while the withdrawal of ITC and rising rentals have significantly in-



creased operational expenses.

Durgesh responded positively and said the proposals would be forwarded to the Central government with the State's recommendations. The delegation also thanked the Minister for supporting the Andhra Pradesh Travel Agents Meet and Inbound Tourism Conclave, scheduled to be held at Berm Park Haritha Resort, Bhavanipuram, Vijayawada, on July 14 to promote inbound tourism and strengthen industry-government coordination.

APPSC Releases Junior Lecturer Results for Physics, Telugu

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) has declared the provisional selection list for Junior Lec-

turer posts in Physics and Telugu in Government Junior Colleges under the Andhra Pradesh Intermediate Education Service (Limited Recruitment), Notification No. 16/2023 dated December 28, 2023. The

provisional selection list is available on the Commission's official website. APPSC stated that the results for the remaining subjects covered under the notification will be announced in due course.

CM Orders Crackdown on Social Media Misuse

continued

on the decisions taken during the 1389th Cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister. He said the government would not tolerate misuse of social media and would initiate comprehensive legal action against those spreading false information, obscene content, character assassination and hateful messages.

Parthasarathy said the Cabinet approved more than 30 agenda items aimed at strengthening the state economy and promoting sustainable development. The Cabinet approved 10 multi-village drinking water schemes with an estimated cost of 9,355 crore to address rural water shortages. It also approved the establishment of a special NIA court in Visakhapatnam and a 50 crore tourism promotion campaign.

The Cabinet cleared incentives for ITC WelcomHotel in Nellore, Madhavi Hotel in Kadapa and Sarovar Portico Hotel in Vijayawada. Proposals for an integrated amusement park in Kadapa and promotion of concerts under the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-29 were also approved.

In education and social welfare, the Cabinet approved the establishment of three Centres

of Excellence under Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Gurukulam in Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Nellore to provide residential coaching for IIT-JEE and NEET examinations.

The Cabinet approved a 1,800 crore working capital loan for AP MARKFED and an increase in government share capital. Industrial proposals involving Mondelez India Foods, Averaon Panels and Akshat Greentech were approved, along with land allocations for logistics parks, manufacturing units and a gold mining project in Kurnool district.

Infrastructure decisions included the development of an Integrated Logistics Park in Tirupati district, modernisation works under the Peddagedda Reservoir project and amendments to the Amaravati Land Pooling Scheme. The Cabinet also approved a loan waiver of up to 1.5 lakh for eligible farmers in seven villages contributing land for the second phase of Amaravati capital development.

Parthasarathy reiterated that the government respects freedom of expression but will act firmly against activities that misuse it to spread falsehoods, damage reputations, insult women or disturb social harmony.

NMC approves 100 additional MBBS seats for Kadapa and Nellore medical colleges

continued

Government Medical College and 25 seats at ACSR Government Medical College, Nellore. With the latest approval, MBBS seats at Kadapa Government Medical College have increased from 175 to 250, while ACSR Government Medical College, Nellore, has gone up from 175 to 200 seats.

Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the expansion would create more opportunities for

medical aspirants in the state and strengthen medical education infrastructure.

Director of Medical Education Dr. Vishnuvardhan stated that the approvals were achieved due to infrastructure development, recruitment of faculty and steps taken by the colleges to meet NMC standards. He congratulated the principals, faculty and medical staff of both institutions for the achievement.

YSRCP's Lella Appi Reddy Seeks One-Month Extension for SIR

Tadepalli, July 10 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy on Friday demanded a one-month extension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging serious irregularities in the ongoing process and accusing the coalition government of exerting pressure on election officials.

Addressing a press conference at Tadepalli, Appi Reddy claimed that ruling party leaders were forcing Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to upload voter data to the MyTDP app before submitting it to the Election Commission. He alleged that ministers, elected representatives and their personal assistants were intimidating BLOs, undermining the independence of the Election Commission.

He further claimed that a BLO who attempted to lodge a police complaint over the alleged pressure was not allowed to proceed. Appi Reddy said the YCP had already submitted a complaint to the Election Commission regarding the alleged irregularities and would sub-



mit another representation while also exploring legal options.

He alleged that irregularities had surfaced in places such as Atmakur and Tambalapalle, questioning the government's claims about the progress of the enumeration process. Stating that every eligible voter should be allowed to exercise the franchise, he urged the Election Commission to extend the deadline by one month and use its discretionary powers to examine the alleged violations. He also alleged that duplicate votes existed in several constituencies, including Kuppam.

Sharmila Urges Vigilance Amid COVID-19 Cases

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Y.S. Sharmila Reddy on Friday expressed concern over the recent emergence of COVID-19 symptom-related cases and the confirmation of positive infections in Kadapa district, urging the government to take all necessary precautionary measures.

In a statement, Sharmila said reports of fresh COVID-19 cases and fatalities were a matter of serious con-

cern. She said she had spoken to the Kadapa District Collector to assess the situation and review the preparedness of the district administration.

She appealed to the state government to remain on high alert and ensure timely identification of symptomatic individuals, conduct adequate testing, and establish special hospital wards to handle any rise in cases.

Sharmila also directed Congress leaders and party workers in Kadapa district to remain vigilant and extend

assistance to vulnerable sections, particularly senior citizens, children, and people suffering from chronic illnesses. She urged party workers to coordinate closely with the local administration and support public health efforts. Calling for collective responsibility, the APCC chief appealed to people and political parties to rise above differences and work together to prevent any resurgence of COVID-19, emphasizing that public health and safety should remain the top priority.



Lokesh Invites Korean Companies to Partner in AP's Industrial Growth

urged Motivelink CEO Kim Ki-han to establish an EV component manufacturing unit in Sri City. He highlighted opportunities in EV ICCU parts, SMD/PBA products, integrated modules and defence manufacturing. Kim Ki-han said the company would examine the proposals.

In another meeting, Lokesh invited Shinhyup Electronics Chairman Taehoo Kim to collaborate in developing an end-to-end PCB cluster in Andhra Pradesh. The company proposed setting up a plant at Naidupeta with an investment of 1,595 crore, creating employment for 2,170 people.

Lokesh discussed maritime and shipbuilding opportuni-

ties with HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering Global Business Director Kwon Younghoon. He highlighted Andhra Pradesh's 1,053-km coastline, ports, logistics infrastructure and investor-friendly policies, inviting HD KOSE to explore facilities in the state. At the Korea Auto Industries Round Table Meeting led by Taek-sung Lee, Chairman of KAICA, Lokesh invited Korean firms to participate in developing an EV ecosystem. He outlined plans for an EV cluster in Punganur, charging stations every 30 km, a Rare Earth Corridor for EV magnets and Korean auto component parks near Kia and Sri City. Lokesh also invited Sam-

sung Electronics to establish an AI-compute ecosystem, including data centres, server manufacturing and servicing in Andhra Pradesh. He proposed an R&D centre in Amaravati Quantum Valley and a Samsung City in the state. Samsung Executive Vice President Young Joe Yun said the proposals would be discussed with the company leadership. Lokesh further requested Invest KOREA Commissioner Dr Kim Tae Hyung to establish a KOTRA/Invest Korea office in Amaravati or Visakhapatnam and encouraged Korean companies to participate in the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 scheduled on November 12-13 in Andhra Pradesh.

Man Throws Papers at CJI Bench, Disrupts Supreme Court Proceedings

continued

to be disturbed. Maintaining composure, the Chief Justice avoided escalating the situation and ensured that the proceedings continued smoothly.

Incidents of this nature inside the Supreme Court are extremely rare and have raised concerns regarding security arrangements and maintaining the dignity of judicial proceedings. Court

officials and security personnel play a crucial role in ensuring that disruptions do not affect the functioning of the country's highest court.

Following the incident, authorities collected details about the individual and initiated an inquiry into the circumstances that led to his behaviour. Further information regarding his identity and possible motive is awaited.

The incident has once again highlighted the importance of strict security protocols in courts, particularly during proceedings involving senior judges. Despite the unexpected interruption, the calm response of CJI Justice Surya Kant helped restore order quickly, allowing the Supreme Court to continue its judicial work without further disruption.

YSRCP behind religious clash conspiracy in AP, alleges Minister Durgesh

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Friday alleged that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) was hatching conspiracies to create religious clashes in Andhra Pradesh by targeting Sanatana Dharma and provoking communities. Addressing a press conference at his camp office in Vijayawada, he accused Joseph Ravan, Jada Sravan Kumar and actor Prakash Raj of acting as YSRCP agents.

Durgesh alleged that the recently held 'Dalit Christian Shankharavam' meeting in Eluru was aimed at attacking Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan instead of discussing the welfare issues of Dalits and Christians. He claimed that the programme was scripted at the 'Tadepalli Palace' and said YSRCP was using such platforms to weaken the alliance government.

Demanding a detailed probe into the alleged funding behind such activities, the Minister said police should investigate the international funding an-



gle and identify the people behind the campaign. He questioned Jada Sravan Kumar about his claim to have spent Rs 25 crore during the previous YSRCP government's tenure and sought details of the source of funds.

Durgesh alleged that YSRCP was supporting Joseph Ravan, who was arrested in a UAPA case, and claimed that the party's involvement was evident after Ravan's associate Gagana met former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at Vi-

jayawada airport.

The Minister also criticised actor Prakash Raj, alleging that he had earlier targeted religious traditions and had now joined hands with others to create unrest in Andhra Pradesh.

Warning that the alliance government would defeat attempts to disturb peace, Durgesh said there would be no tolerance for personal attacks against Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan or disrespect towards Sanatana Dharma.

Botcha urges Governor to shift JNTU-Gurajada convocation venue

Vizianagaram, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Opposition Leader Botcha Satyanarayana has urged Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer to reconsider the decision to conduct the first convocation of JNTU-Gurajada, Vizianagaram, at the Andhra University Convention Centre in Visakhapatnam.

In a letter addressed to the

Governor, Botcha thanked him for inviting him to attend the university's inaugural convocation but said holding the event outside Vizianagaram was inappropriate. He stated that JNTU-Gurajada was established to fulfil the educational aspirations of the backward district and that its first convocation should be organised in Vizianagaram itself.

Botcha said the decision to shift the venue had caused dis-

satisfaction among people of the district and triggered protests. He added that conducting the historic event elsewhere would deprive Vizianagaram residents of the pride and recognition associated with the university.

He requested Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer to review the decision considering public sentiment and the interests of the district.

PM Modi concludes Australia visit, begins historic New Zealand trip

continued

Expressing gratitude to the Australian government and people, PM Modi thanked Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for the warm welcome and hospitality. He said the outcomes of his Australia visit had strengthened the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and created new opportunities for co-operation in multiple sectors, including trade, technology, defence and security. After reaching Auckland, Modi thanked New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon for receiving him at the airport. He said the historic visit would provide an opportunity to discuss the complete range of India-New Zealand friendship and expand cooperation

in trade, commerce and strategic areas. The Prime Minister also highlighted the affection shown by the Indian community in New Zealand, stating that their enthusiasm reflected the strong and enduring bond with India. He is scheduled to interact with the diaspora during his visit. Modi expressed appreciation to South Korean President Lee Jae-myung for his greetings and praised the performance by the Naad Vocal Ensemble, saying music serves as a bridge connecting people and reflects the warmth of India-New Zealand relations. The visit comes at a time when India and New Zealand are working to enhance economic engagement following the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

Janasena Alleges YSRCP Backing for Shravan, Ravan

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party leaders on Friday alleged that the YCP was backing social media personalities Shravan and "Prashna Ravan" to create divisions in society and target Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Addressing a press conference at the Janasena central office, AP Mala Welfare and Cooperative Finance Corporation Chairman Dr. Pedapudi Vijay Kumar and Rajolu MLA Deva Varaprasad claimed that the YSRCP's announcement of legal assistance to Prashna Ravan established a connection between the party and the YouTuber.

Dr. Vijay Kumar accused the YSRCP of attempting to provoke caste and religious tensions for political gain. He alleged that Shravan and Ravan

were being encouraged to make remarks against Hindu beliefs and Pawan Kalyan, and appealed to Dalit and Christian youth not to fall into what he described as a political trap. He also criticized the YSRCP's Dalit Christian meetings, alleging that they focused more on attacking political opponents than addressing community welfare.

MLA Deva Varaprasad defended Pawan Kalyan, saying the Deputy Chief Minister had transparently declared his assets in his election affidavit. He challenged Shravan to explain allegations regarding his wealth and questioned how he had accumulated substantial financial resources.

The Janasena leaders urged people to maintain communal harmony and not be influenced by attempts to create social divisions.

YSRCP's MVS Nagi Reddy Urges Markfed Tobacco Procurement

Tadepalli, July 10 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP General Secretary MVS Nagi Reddy on Friday urged the coalition government to procure tobacco through Markfed, alleging that farmers are suffering due to falling prices and inadequate market intervention.

Addressing a press conference at Tadepalli, Nagi Reddy said the average tobacco price had declined from 231 per kg to 194 per kg despite two review meetings conducted by the government. He argued that discussions alone would not benefit farmers unless the government entered the market through Markfed to ensure fair prices.

He demanded that the government allocate 500 crore in coordination with the Tobacco Board and ensure the minimum support price (MSP) of 200 per kg announced by the

Chief Minister. According to him, Markfed's participation would create competition among traders and prevent exploitation of farmers.

Nagi Reddy claimed that during the previous YCP government, Markfed procured tobacco whenever market prices fell below the MSP, providing relief to farmers. He alleged that the current government has limited its response to review meetings while farmers continue to face mounting cultivation and labour costs.

Referring to the ongoing land survey, Nagi Reddy said the scientific survey using satellite technology was initiated during the previous YCP government. He alleged that the present government had merely changed the design of the pattadar passbooks while claiming credit for the initiative.

Krishna Milk Union Rejects Allegations, Warns of Legal Action

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Krishna Milk Union on Friday dismissed allegations made by TDP leader Veerapaneni Sivaram Prasad as false and baseless, stating that all purchases and development works were executed transparently through the tender process.

At a press conference, Union representatives said the land acquisition and construction of the Veeravalli dairy plant were approved through governing body and general body resolutions. They said the project was completed nearly 25 crore below the estimated cost

and the investment was recovered within two-and-a-half years.

The Union alleged that Sivaram Prasad owed 6.53 crore for business transactions between 2016 and 2021 through four bulk milk coolers and warned of legal action.

It said milk procurement and product sales increased from 3.7 lakh litres to 6 lakh litres, turnover from 740 crore to 1,300 crore, and surplus funds from 96 crore to 250 crore.

Managing Director Kolli Easwarababu and board members attended the press conference.





PGRS Resolves Public Grievances, RTI Compliance Reviewed

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Public grievance redressal and transparency in governance were the focus of two key official programmes held in Vijayawada on Friday, with District Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha overseeing a special PGRS camp and State Information Commissioner Dr. Rehana Begum reviewing the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Participating in a special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme at Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Machavaram, Collector Dr. G. Lakshminisha and Gadde Rammo-han Rao said the initiative was helping resolve long-pending public issues at the constituency level. A total of 61 petitions related to revenue, welfare schemes, employment and police matters were received during the programme, and officials were directed to dispose of them within a stipulated timeframe.

The Collector said constituency-level grievance camps reduce travel and expenses for citizens while ensuring faster resolution of complaints. Gadde Rammo-han Rao noted that this was the

second of four scheduled grievance camps in Vijayawada East during July and said several petitions received during the earlier camp had already been resolved. He added that steps were also being taken to address issues relating to nearly 80 acres of land under the Machavaram Jagirdar category.

Earlier in the day, State Information Commissioner Dr. Rehana Begum conducted surprise inspections at several government offices, including the Collectorate, New Government General Hospital, ward secretariats, the Waqf Board office and the District Educational Officer's office.

During the inspections, deficiencies in RTI compliance, including the absence of mandatory information boards and improper maintenance of statutory records, were detected at some offices. Show-cause notices were issued to the concerned authorities.

Dr. Rehana Begum stressed that effective implementation of the RTI Act strengthens transparency, accountability and good governance, directing all public authorities to ensure timely disclosure of information and strict compliance with statutory provisions.



Global Experts Promote Natural Farming in Guntur School

Guntur, July 10 | TPN Bureau

International experts from Germany and Kenya encouraged students to embrace natural farming and sustainable agriculture during the launch of the 2,000 Square Metre Model at Kornepadu High School in Guntur district on Friday.

Addressing the students, Jordan Jasper of the Foundation on Future Farming, Germany, said food, nutrition, and health are the foundation of a sustainable future and urged every student to learn natural farming. He explained that the internationally recognised 2,000 sq. metre model enables a family to achieve food and nutrition security through scientific and sustainable cultivation while inspiring young people to consider agriculture as a rewarding career.

The international delegation

included Wanjama Njoroge Daniel, Oddah Friday Ochomo, Zipporah Nyambura Kuria, and John Kariuki Mwangi from Kenya. The programme began with the planting of saplings by the delegates, students, and teachers.

Through the Global Farming School initiative, the experts highlighted the importance of natural farming, biodiversity, healthy food systems, and seed conservation, expressing confidence that students would become ambassadors of sustainable agriculture.

Y. Sudhakar, Senior Thematic Lead of Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, said successful implementation of the model could bring global recognition to the school and its students. Representatives of Rythu Nestham Foundation, district officials, teachers, farmers, and natural farming personnel attended the programme.



cial allegedly threatened them with police cases. He further claimed that former Sarpanch Ravi Venkateswara Rao recorded video evidence of the alleged tampering and shared it with senior officials, yet no action followed.

Gautam also accused the Mopidevi police of refusing to accept a complaint from villagers and instead intimidating them. Questioning whether this reflected the spirit of "Gram Swaraj," he demanded an impartial inquiry and strict action against those responsible for the alleged misuse of public funds.

Machilipatnam, July 10 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leader Gautam on Friday alleged serious irregularities in Venkatapuram Gram Panchayat of Mopidevi Mandal, claiming that attempts were made to process bills for development works that were never executed. He also accused officials of harassing villagers who questioned the alleged irregularities.

Addressing the media, Gautam said villagers had submitted complaints to the District Collector and senior Panchayat officials in December 2025, but no concrete action was taken. He alleged that a former Panchayat Secretary, who had been transferred six months ago, recently returned to the panchayat office and tampered with minute books to facilitate the release of bills for unexecuted works.

According to Gautam, villagers objected to the move, but the offi-

Anitha's Son Nikhil Celebrates Birthday with Service at Blind School

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, along with her family, offered special prayers at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri on Friday to mark her son Nikhil's birthday. The family performed special rituals and sought the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga for Nikhil's health, long life, happiness, and prosperity. Temple priests blessed the family with Vedic chants and presented teertha prasadam. The Minister also interacted briefly with temple officials after the darshan.

Later in the day, Nikhil celebrated his birthday by serving visually impaired children at the Vijaya Mary Integrated School for the Blind in Vi-



jayawada. He distributed nutritious food and fresh fruits to the students and donated 15 ceiling fans and 25 cots to improve facilities at the institution.

Nikhil spent time interacting with the children, enquiring about their studies and well-being. His decision to celebrate the occasion through community service instead of a grand celebration drew appreciation from those present.

VMC Chief instructs Civic Grievances Must Be Resolved Promptly

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyana-chandra H on Friday directed officials to expedite the disposal of public grievances and ensure that civic services are not affected despite the ongoing election-related duties.

Chairing a video conference with department heads, the Commissioner reviewed the status of applications received during the Public Grievance Redressal Forum held on July 6. He examined each petition individually and sought updates on the action taken, the current status of pending issues and the timeline for their resolution.

Dhyana-chandra instructed officials to give top priority to long-pending applications and



resolve them within the stipulated timeframe to avoid inconvenience to citizens. He emphasized that addressing public grievances is one of the government's key objectives and directed every department to treat complaints received through the grievance forum with utmost importance.

The Commissioner also asked officials to maintain proper re-

records of all resolved petitions and ensure that applicants are informed about the action taken so that they are satisfied with the outcome.

Referring to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls, Dhyana-chandra noted that many officials are currently engaged in election duties as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs). However, he stressed that these responsibilities should not delay civic services or the disposal of public grievances.

He directed all departments to coordinate effectively and ensure uninterrupted public service while carrying out election-related responsibilities, reaffirming the Corporation's commitment to responsive and citizen-centric governance.

RTI Norms Must Be Implemented Strictly: CIC

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Information Commissioner Sajja Srinivasa Rao has warned that negligence in implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Act will not be tolerated and that strict action will be taken against officials found violating its provisions.

During surprise inspections in Vijayawada Rural on Friday, Srinivasa Rao visited the Commissioner of Endowments Office, Gollapudi Gram Panchayat, Directorate of Prosecutions, and the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) office on Bandar Road. He reviewed RTI registers, records, and systems for providing information to citizens and issued directions to officials



to ensure full compliance with the Act. The Chief Information Commissioner said the inspections were undertaken following numerous complaints about lapses in implementing RTI norms in government offices. He pointed out deficiencies such as the absence of name boards displaying details of Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate

Authorities, besides the non-display of citizen charters and job charts.

He said the State Information Commission has launched a special drive under which Information Commissioners have been assigned districts to conduct surprise inspections and improve transparency in public offices. Officials found negligent or violating RTI provisions would face legal action, he cautioned.

Endowments Commissioner K. Ramachandra Mohan briefed the Commission on RTI implementation in the department. APPSC Chairman Prof. C. Shashidhar, Secretary Pattanshetti Ravi Subhash, Panchayat Secretary Chintalamma, Joint Commissioner Ratmaraju, and other officials attended the inspections.

TDP Files Complaint Against Kodali Nani Over UAPA Remarks

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed at the One Town Police Station in Vijayawada after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders lodged a complaint against former Minister and YSRCP leader Kodali Nani, alleging that he made derogatory remarks about the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

According to the complaint, Kodali Nani, while responding

to the arrest of 'Prashna Ravan', allegedly mocked the UAPA by referring to it as the "Upma Act" and "Idli Act." TDP leaders contended that such remarks insulted a central law enacted to deal with unlawful activities and terrorism.

The complainants also alleged that Kodali Nani made objectionable and insulting comments against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, hurting the sentiments of his supporters. They urged the police to initiate appropriate legal action against the former

minister for his remarks.

Police at the One Town Police Station received the written complaint and acknowledged its submission. Officials said the allegations would be examined and legal opinion sought before deciding on the next course of action.

The incident has triggered fresh political sparring between the ruling TDP-led alliance and the YSR Congress Party, with both parties continuing to trade allegations over recent political developments in the state.

AstraZeneca Scientist Highlights Advances in Drug Discovery

Vijayawada, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Senior Scientist at AstraZeneca, Sweden, Dr. T. Ramesh highlighted the rapid advancements in life sciences and drug discovery, stating that modern research is transforming healthcare by offering effective treatments for diseases once considered incurable.

He was delivering an invited lecture on "Drug Discovery and New Trends", organised by the Departments of Life Sciences at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts

and Science, Vijayawada, on Friday.

Dr. Ramesh said continuous research in life sciences has led to the development of innovative medicines that have significantly benefited humanity. He noted that gene therapy is emerging as a promising treatment approach due to its precision and reduced side effects. He also explained that cutting-edge technologies involving living cells and gene-based therapies are being used for disease diagnosis, vaccine development, and the treatment of seri-

ous illnesses, including cancer.

Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Ramesh said the AstraZeneca vaccine earned worldwide recognition for its contribution to global public health.

Dr. S. Vijayasarithi of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Muscat, introduced the speaker. College Director Vemuri Baburao and faculty members Dr. P. Srinivasa Rao, Lalitha Priyanka, and Ratna Kumari felicitated Dr. Ramesh in recognition of his contributions to pharmaceutical research.



Minister Seeks Faster Completion of HNSS Canal Works

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Transport, Youth Services and Sports Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy has urged the Irrigation Department to expedite the remaining works on the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) main canal to improve drinking water and irrigation facilities in drought-prone regions.

During a meeting with Irrigation Principal Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar at the Amaravati Secretariat on Friday, the Minister stressed the need to complete the pending canal works on priority. He requested the department to ensure the supply of drinking water through the HNSS canal to KV Palli, Galiveedu, Chinna-mandem, Sambepalli, Raya-choti, Pileru and Chittoor areas. Mandipalli also proposed

linking the Srinivasapuram and Adavipalli reservoirs through the HNSS canal to improve water availability. He urged officials to prepare an action plan to fill empty irrigation tanks situated along the canal route, thereby enhancing water storage and ensuring better irrigation coverage.

The Minister said priority should be given to the project as it would help meet the drinking water needs of thousands of people while also providing irrigation support to farmers in the region. He emphasized that the timely completion of the remaining works would strengthen water security and improve agricultural prospects in the affected areas.

Irrigation Principal Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar assured that the proposals would be examined and necessary steps would be taken to speed up the project.



Avanigadda Tops State in SIR Completion

Avanigadda, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda Assembly constituency has secured the first rank in Andhra Pradesh by achieving 100 per cent completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, marking a significant milestone in the electoral roll revision exercise.

The achievement was accomplished through coordinated efforts by officials across all six mandals under the leadership of Constituency Special Officer Penumudi Sai Babu. The team expedited the survey and verification process to ensure timely completion of the exercise.

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad expressed happiness over the constituency's achievement while attending a programme for the release of irrigation water at Mopidevi Warpu. Congratulating officials for their efforts, he felicitated Special Officer Penumudi Sai Babu and appreciated the dedication of the field staff involved in the SIR process.

Rahul Kumar Reddy Assumes Charge as APCRDA Additional Commissioner

Amaravati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

IAS officer T. Rahul Kumar Reddy formally assumed charge as the Additional Commissioner of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) at the APCRDA headquarters in Rayapudi, Amaravati, on Friday.

Before taking charge, traditional Vedic rituals and special prayers were performed at his office chamber in the APCRDA headquarters. Following the ceremony, Rahul Kumar Reddy officially assumed office in the presence of senior officials.

He was accorded a warm welcome by officers from various departments of APCRDA upon his arrival. After assuming charge, Rahul Kumar Reddy paid a courtesy call on APCRDA Commissioner V. Vijayarama Raju, IAS, at the Commissioner's office. Senior officials from different wings of the authority also met the newly appointed Additional Commissioner



and extended their greetings and best wishes. The appointment is expected to strengthen the administrative functioning of APCRDA as the authority continues to oversee the planning and development of the Amaravati Capital Region. Officials expressed confidence that Rahul Kumar Reddy's experience in public administration would contribute to the timely execution of key development initiatives and infrastructure projects being undertaken by the authority. The charge assumption ceremony concluded with senior officials wishing the new Additional Commissioner success in his new responsibilities.

YSRCP Leaders Shift to TDP in Sarvepalli

**Nellore, July 10 | TPN Bureau**

In a significant boost for the Telugu Desam Party, prominent figure Akkem Buiji Reddy returned to the party fold, joining from YSRCP alongside 100 families from Biradavolu Panchayat. An additional 250 families also pledged their support. Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy welcomed them at his Vedayapalem office, noting that Buiji Reddy has returned to his "home." Somireddy criticized previous political leadership, alleging that while the area was used for politics, developmental needs were ignored. He highlighted his efforts in securing lift irrigation for the Kandaleru left canal, completing pending Somashila Dakshina Canal works, and establishing essential infrastructure, including a dialysis unit and a mineral water plant in Chittepalli Tipka. He pledged to revive the Anna Canteen in Podalakur and develop the Kakani Ramana Reddy stadium. Somireddy challenged residents to contrast his development-focused tenure with the governance of his predecessor, accusing the latter of fostering anarchy and land irregularities. He urged voters to support development in the upcoming local body elections. Among those joining the party were Akkem Rakesh Reddy, Chevuru Venkata Kashnaya, and Gandavarapu Penchalay.

MLA Vijayasri Emphasizes Rapid Resolution of Public Grievances

**Tada, July 10 | TPN Bureau**

Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasri participated in a Praja Darbar program organized at the Vatambedu Secretariat in Tada Mandal, the MLA personally received 114 petitions from residents and conducted a comprehensive review with departmental officials to ensure accountability.

The petitions spanned various sectors, including 52 requests for the MRO, 46 for the MPDO, and others involving the Housing, Panchayat Raj, Agriculture, Medical, Power, and Water Resources departments. Nelavala Vijayasri directed officials to process these requests within a strict, time-bound framework, emphasizing that the coalition government's primary goal is to provide efficient and transparent services to the public. He urged the administration to adopt a positive approach toward every grievance to ensure swift resolutions for the citizens.

The event saw significant participation from local government officials, public representatives, party leaders, and activists. Ensuring the success of this initiative were Mandal Parishad Development Officer, and the Mandal Revenue Officer.

MP Prasada Rao Secures Expert Panel for Chittoor Mango Farmers

Chittoor, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao has spearheaded a crucial intervention to resolve a five-year crisis impacting regional mango farmers. Acting on directives from Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Daggumalla consistently voiced concerns in the Lok Sabha regarding plummeting prices, high cultivation costs, and export challenges. In response, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan directed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to form a high-level expert committee to provide a permanent solution. The committee, led by T. Damodaran of the ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, includes members M. Sankaran, H.S. Singh, and D. Srinivasa Reddy. The team recently concluded a two-day field visit, assessing mango-growing regions in Palamaneru, Byreddipalli, Bangarupalyam, Puthalapattu, and Kuppam. Daggumalla, who briefed the panel, highlighted that the district accounts for 7.50 lakh tonnes of annual yield across 2.80 lakh acres. With prices dropping to Rs. 4,000 per tonne, he advocated for the establishment of a dedicated Mango Board as the only viable long-term remedy. The committee aims to study the value chain to stabilize market prices and support local farmers. Key figures driving this initiative include Chittoor MP Daggumalla Prasada Rao, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture expert T. Damodaran.



SC Students Urged to Link Accounts for Talliki Vandanam

Chittoor, July 10 | TPN Bureau

The state government has announced the schedule for financial assistance under the "Talliki Vandanam" scheme for the 2026-2027 academic year. Scheduled Caste (SC) students who have passed the 10th standard and are seeking admission into Intermediate, Polytechnic, or Diploma courses are eligible for the benefits, which comprise a 40% state share and a 60% central share. To receive these funds, students must ensure their bank accounts are linked to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) portal. Those without existing accounts or those needing to activate NPCI linkage are advised to visit their nearest post office to open an Indian Postal Payments Bank (IPPB) account. The documentation required includes a mobile number, [Aadhaar Redacted], and proof of date of birth. Notably, no PAN card is required for this process. Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department, SK Rabbani Bhasha, has emphasized that all eligible students must complete this process by July 13, 2026. Post office staff will remain available on Saturday to assist applicants. For further guidance, students may contact IPPB Branch Manager Nagaraju or Social Welfare Department representative G Ashok. The initiative is being coordinated by Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department SK Rabbani Bhasha, IPPB Branch Manager Nagaraju, and Social Welfare Department official G Ashok.

Tuda Chairman Mandates Swift Action on Master Plan Roads

Tirupati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Tuda Chairman, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Ex-officio Member, and TDP Tirupati Parliament General Secretary Dollars Diwakar Reddy conducted a high-level review meeting with the Tuda Planning Department to address the city's comprehensive development. The discussion focused on accelerating the construction of master plan roads, clearing pending layouts, and enhancing city beautification. Diwakar Reddy emphasized that delays in master plan road projects will not be tolerated. He directed officials to resolve land acquisition challenges through amicable dialogue with local residents. To mitigate future traffic congestion,



he stressed the importance of constructing alternative routes and strategically connecting link roads to the master plan network. Furthermore, he mandated that the Planning Department simplify layout and building permit processes, ensuring transparency and eliminating corrup-

tion. With Tirupati expanding rapidly, he urged officials to adopt a long-term vision that anticipates population growth and infrastructure requirements for the next 20 years. Participating in the review were Tuda Secretary NV Srikanth Babu, and planning officials.

Panabaka Lakshmi Applauds Skating Prodigy Ananta Dakshit

Tirupati, August 10 | TPN Bureau

In a remarkable display of patriotism and sporting dedication, three-year-old skating talent Ananta Dakshit is set to undertake a 79-km indefinite road skating marathon. This extraordinary feat, scheduled for August 14, 2026, is being performed to commemorate India's 79th Independence Day, with the route spanning from Madanapalle to Kadiri. Ahead of this challenging journey, former MP and TDP Parliament in-charge and



TTD board member Panabaka Lakshmi met with the young prodigy to offer

warm congratulations and encouragement. During the meeting, Panabaka Lakshmi lauded the child's courage, perseverance, and early commitment to such an ambitious athletic goal. The former MP emphasized that children who embody the spirit of patriotism and showcase such exceptional talent at a tender age serve as a significant source of pride for the entire society. She urged the public to provide full support and encouragement to help nurture such promising young athletes.

Sudheer Reddy Oversees Transparent Voter List Revision

Srikalahasti, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy conducted a rigorous field-level inspection of the ongoing voter list revision process in wards 11 and 13. Adhering to the directives of the Central Election Commission, the MLA carried out the assessment alongside senior leaders and activists from the coalition parties. During his visit, Bojjala Sudheer Reddy closely observed the survey methodologies to ensure absolute accuracy and transparency. He provided critical guidance to officials, emphasizing the necessity of enrolling every eligible citizen while strictly eliminat-



ing fraudulent entries to maintain the integrity of the electoral roll. Addressing the gathering, he reiterated that the right to vote serves as the cornerstone of the democratic system. He assured the public that the coalition government is committed to managing this revision

process with full accountability, ensuring it remains free from irregularities while actively promoting voter awareness across the constituency. The field inspection underscored the government's resolve to deliver a flawless and comprehensive voters' list for the region.

Collector Directs Rapid Implementation of PM-AJAY Works

Kurnool, July 10 | TPN Bureau

District Collector A. Siri called for full cooperation from political parties and the public as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls approaches its July 14 deadline. At a review meeting with party representatives at the Collectorate, she stressed ensuring transparency and accuracy in voter lists.

A. Siri said field-level enumeration is progressing as per Election Commission guidelines and urged parties to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to assist Booth Level Officers (BLOs) in verification and corrections. She noted that 250 new polling stations have been



established and 48 relocated to improve accessibility. Efforts are underway to resolve migration, duplicate entries and deceased voter records by July 13. Election Cell Superintendent Murali and DRO Venkatanarayana are monitoring the process. Later, at a District Level Appraisal Cum Convergence Committee

meeting, A. Siri directed officials to expedite works under Pradhan Mantri Anusuchita Jati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY). She prioritized drinking water and drainage works in selected villages. R&B SE Maheshwara Reddy and District SC Welfare Empowerment Officer Radhika are overseeing implementation.

Collector Anand Inspects Voter Revision, Sets July 14 Deadline

Anantapur, July 10 | TPN Bureau

District Collector O. Anand conducted a surprise field inspection of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process on Friday, visiting multiple polling station wards in Anantapur. During his interaction with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), he stressed that the final deadline for the voter list amendment is July 14. Collector Anand urged officials to prioritize the enrollment of eligible citizens, particularly those who have recently relocated or have been previously unavailable. He specifically advised residents of polling stations 168, 169, 170, and 171 within the 45th ward to verify their details at their respective secretariats immediately to safe-



guard their voting rights. Addressing the Municipal Commissioner, the Collector ordered a special meeting with BLAs to clear all pending work within the next 48 hours. He further called for transparent coordination between political party representatives and administration officials to accurately handle deletions, such as deceased or migrated voters, and to rectify dual registrations. The administration aims to ensure that no eligible voter is excluded from the electoral rolls, urging the public to engage voluntarily in this comprehensive revision process before the window closes. Overseeing the successful completion of this electoral drive are Municipal Commissioner Jaswant Rao and BLA Nagabhushanam.

Apollo College of Nursing holds State-Level Workshop

**Chittoor, July 10 | TPN Bureau**

Apollo College of Nursing, under The Apollo University, organized a State-Level One-Day Workshop on Friday to equip students and faculty with practical strategies to reduce examination anxiety, strengthen emotional resilience, and promote mental well-being. The workshop focused on helping students develop a positive approach towards examinations while enhancing confidence, coping skills, and emotional balance through evidence-based wellness practices. Inaugurating the programme, Dr. Ramya Ramakrishnan, Dean, Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR), emphasized that academic excellence should go hand in hand with mental well-being. She encouraged students to approach examinations with confidence, pursue their goals step by step, and actively participate in sports, cultural activities, and other co-curricular programmes to maintain emotional balance and reduce stress. She highlighted that mental wellness plays a crucial role in improving concentration, confidence, and overall academic performance. Presiding over the programme, Dr. T. Jayanthi, Principal, Apollo College of Nursing, said the workshop was designed to help students overcome examination anxiety and strengthen their emotional resilience through structured wellness interventions. The academic sessions were led by internationally renowned nursing educators. Dr. Cara Caldavi, Dr. Sujaya Devarayasamudram, and Ms. Paula O'Neil from the United States joined the programme virtually, while Dr. Catherine Poornaselvam participated in person. The experts shared practical approaches to managing examination stress, promoting emotional well-being, supporting students' mental health, and strengthening faculty mentoring practices. Faculty members and students from nursing institutions across Andhra Pradesh participated in the workshop and interacted with the resource persons during the technical sessions.

APSPDCL targets 100% digital electricity bill payments

Tirupati, July 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) is taking steps to simplify electricity services for consumers by promoting digital payment systems and reducing dependence on traditional bill collection methods. The company has introduced online electricity bill payment facilities through its official website and mobile application to provide faster, secure and transparent services.



APSPDCL said consumers who earlier had to spend considerable time waiting at electricity bill collection centres can now pay bills from their homes within minutes. Consumers can make payments through the APSPDCL website, mobile application, Dynamic QR Code, WhatsApp Governance (Mana Mitra), Net Banking, Debit Cards and Credit Cards. Through the APSPDCL mobile application, consumers can also check electricity consumption details, previous payment records and apply for new electricity connections and other services. APSPDCL is currently supplying electricity to 61.32 lakh consumers across Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, Kadapa, Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Consumers are paying around 7520 crore towards electricity bills every month. At present, 49.50% of consumers are using online payment methods, and the company has set a target of achieving 100% digital payments in a phased manner. The company is also encouraging online payments at Electricity Revenue Offices (EROs) and taking measures to close bill collection centres gradually to improve transparency and reduce cash transactions. APSPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Siva Sankar Lotheti said special awareness programmes are being conducted to encourage consumers to adopt digital payment methods. He said instructions have been issued to Superintending Engineers of all districts to promote online transactions and achieve complete digitalisation of bill collections. "Consumers should not trust unknown links, messages or fake applications while making digital payments. Electricity bills should be paid only through the official APSPDCL mobile application or website to ensure safe and transparent services," Siva Sankar Lotheti said. APSPDCL advised consumers to prioritise digital payments and remain cautious against online fraud while using electricity-related services.

MLA Prashanti Reddy Reviews 'SIR' Progress

**Buchireddypalem, July 10 | TPN Bureau**

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy participated in a public grievance forum in Buchireddypalem, where she personally received petitions from citizens. Addressing the gathering, she assured the public that all requested infrastructure projects, including CC roads, bridges, and drainage systems, would be addressed promptly.

Following the grievance session, the MLA conducted a review of the 'SIR' program, noting that while enumeration is nearly 99% complete, digitalization remains at 72%. With only three days remaining, she directed local leaders to prioritize the digitization of the remaining forms and address gaps in specific wards. She emphasized that while vote deletion is not the objective, accurate data is essential for residents to access welfare schemes. She urged leaders to personally assist families in completing the documentation process.

Coordinating these efforts to ensure a 100 percent success rate are Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy, along with local leaders and party activists.

Editorial

The Middle Class Must Prepare for The Economic Shock

The ongoing conflict in the Gulf is no longer just a geopolitical issue confined to the Middle East. If the war continues for an extended period, its economic consequences will be felt across the world, and the middle class is likely to bear the heaviest burden. History has repeatedly shown that prolonged wars trigger inflation, disrupt supply chains, increase fuel prices, and slow economic growth. The present conflict appears to be no exception.

Even before the latest tensions, families were struggling with rising prices of essential commodities, healthcare, education, and housing. A prolonged war could push crude oil prices even higher, making transportation, manufacturing, and daily necessities more expensive. The result would be an additional financial strain on households that are already trying to balance stagnant incomes with increasing expenses.

The greater concern, however, is employment. Companies facing higher operational costs and uncertain markets often resort to cost-cutting measures. Recruitment slows down, salary increments become rare, and layoffs become more common. The middle class, which largely depends on fixed monthly salaries, becomes the most vulnerable section during such economic downturns. A single job loss can disrupt an entire family's financial planning.

Governments and industries have their own responsibilities in minimizing the impact of global crises. However, individuals cannot afford to remain passive spectators. The need of the hour is continuous learning and skill enhancement. Employees must regularly update their knowledge, embrace emerging technologies, and acquire new competencies that increase their professional value. In a competitive business environment, employers will always prefer a workforce that delivers better results with greater efficiency.

Economic crises come and go, but preparedness determines who survives them. The middle class must not wait for the storm to arrive before taking precautions. Financial discipline, prudent savings, and continuous skill development are no longer optional—they are essential. In an uncertain global economy, adaptability is the strongest insurance against an uncertain future.

Editor

A gift beyond life

Cornea donation brings the light of sight to millions

B.V.S. Kumar Social Activist, Vijayawada

Eyes are often described as the windows to the world. For millions of Indians suffering from corneal blindness, however, that window remains closed despite the existence of an effective treatment. Corneal transplantation can restore vision to people whose blindness is caused by diseases or injuries affecting the cornea. Yet, the greatest challenge before India is not the lack of surgical expertise, but the severe shortage of donor corneas. Increasing cornea collection through voluntary eye donation must therefore become a national public health movement.

Corneal blindness is one of the leading causes of visual impairment in India. Experts estimate that nearly 10 to 13 lakh Indians are living with corneal blindness, while 20,000 to 25,000 new cases are added every year. Many of these patients are children and young adults whose education, employment, and quality of life are severely affected. Unlike many other causes of blindness, corneal blindness can often be cured through a successful corneal transplant, provided a healthy donor cornea is available.

It is observed that most of the people suffer from cornea-related diseases like Keratitis, Ocular herpes, Herpes zoster. Viral infections also damage the cornea and lead to nearly 20 types of corneal dystrophies.

All such problems can be solved with transplantation of a healthy cornea collected from dead bodies of healthy persons within 9 hours of death or within 24 hours, provided the dead body was kept in a freezer mortuary box. Cornea can be collected from persons aged one to ninety years of age. There is no validity for

the cornea, and as such, the cornea from the cornea transplanted dead person also can be used for further transplantation.

Although India has made commendable progress in strengthening eye banking services, the availability of donor corneas still falls far short of the national requirement. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 396 eye banks are currently functional across the country. Cornea collections have steadily increased from 62,370 in 2022-23 to 66,434 in 2023-24 and 69,848 in 2024-25. These figures reflect encouraging growth but remain inadequate to meet the country's demand for corneal transplantation.

Medical experts estimate that India requires at least one lakh transplantable corneas every year, while only about 25,000 to 30,000 corneal transplant surgeries are performed annually because of the shortage of suitable donor tissue. Moreover, not every donated cornea is medically fit for transplantation, further reducing the number of patients who can benefit.

The shortage is not due to unwillingness alone. Lack of awareness remains the biggest barrier. Many families are unaware that eye donation is possible after death or believe myths that discourage donation. In reality, cornea retrieval is a simple procedure that can be performed within six hours of death by trained eye bank professionals. It does not delay funeral arrangements or cause any facial disfigurement. Even elderly individuals and those who wore spectacles may be eligible to donate, depending on the condition of their corneas.

One donated pair of eyes can restore vision to two individuals.



Few humanitarian acts can match the impact of enabling another person to see their family, pursue education, earn a livelihood, and lead an independent life. Every eye donation is therefore not merely a medical contribution but a priceless social gift.

Hospital-based cornea retrieval has emerged as one of the most effective methods of increasing donations. Through the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Program (HCRP), trained grief counselors approach the families of deceased persons with sensitivity and explain the benefits of eye donation. Experience from several tertiary hospitals has shown that compassionate counseling significantly improves family consent rates. Expanding this program to every district hospital and major private hospital would substantially increase cornea collection.

The National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI) has strengthened eye banking by supporting

infrastructure development, training of ophthalmologists and eye bank technicians, supply of corneal preservation media, and public awareness campaigns. Continued government investment in eye banks, rapid transportation of donated tissue, digital donor registries, and equitable distribution of corneas will further improve transplant outcomes. Voluntary organizations also have a crucial role to play. The Indian Red Cross Society, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, National Service Scheme (NSS), Youth Red Cross, medical colleges, educational institutions, and civil society organizations can conduct sustained awareness programs in schools, colleges, villages, workplaces, and community gatherings. Eye donation pledges should become a routine part of health awareness campaigns, just as voluntary blood donation has become a social movement. The media can also contribute by sharing inspiring stories of donor families and

transplant recipients. Such stories dispel myths, build public confidence, and encourage more families to make the life-changing decision to donate their loved one's eyes. India has the medical expertise, trained ophthalmologists, and an expanding network of eye banks. What it needs now is greater public participation. If every citizen discusses eye donation with family members and pledges to donate after death, thousands of people suffering from corneal blindness can receive the gift of sight every year.

The true measure of a compassionate society lies in its willingness to help others even after life has ended. Eye donation is one such noble act. By strengthening awareness, increasing cornea collections, and supporting eye banking services, India can significantly reduce avoidable corneal blindness. Let every family remember that while life may come to an end, the gift of vision can continue forever through the eyes of another.

Cancer: A Global Crisis Demanding Prevention, Care and Collective Action

Prof Madhusudhan Reddy Burra Education Expert 9949700037

Cancer is a deeply personal disease that touches nearly all of us. Cancer is a genetic term for a large group of diseases that can affect any part of the body. One defining feature of cancer is the rapid is the rapid creation of abnormal cells that grow beyond their usual boundaries, and which then can invade adjoining parts of the body and spread to other organs, the primary cause of death from cancer. Cancer arises from the transformation of normal cells into tumour cells in a multi-stage process. These changes are a result of the interaction between genetic factors and external factors like physical, chemical, and biological carcinogens. WHO, through its cancer research agency, the "International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) released the "Global status report on cancer 2026: the future we choose together" report on cancer cases/deaths worldwide on 08 July 2026.

Cancer - Leading Cause of Deaths

Cancer is a leading cause

of death worldwide, accounting for an estimated 20.6 million new cases and nearly 10 million deaths in 2024, accounting for nearly one in six deaths and as the second leading cause of death globally after cardiovascular diseases. The annual cases of cancer are projected to rise to nearly 35 million by 2050. The most common cancer cases are lung (2.5 million cases), breast (2.4 million), colon and rectum (2.0 million), prostate (1.5 million), skin (1.1 million) and stomach (1.0 million cases). The most common causes of cancer deaths in 2024 were 1.86 million lung cancer, 9.18 lakh colon and rectum, 7.32 lakh lung cancer, 6.94 lakh breast cancer, and 6.42 lakh cancer deaths reported. Cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents 0 - 19 years of age), with approximately 4 lakh affected by cancer. Nearly 87% of women with breast cancer survive at 5 years after their diagnosis in high-income countries; only about 42% do so in low-income countries.

Preventive Measures of



Cancer

Nearly a quarter of cancer deaths are due to tobacco use, alcohol consumption, high body mass index (BMI), low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, and air pollution (a risk factor for lung cancer). Cancer-causing infections, such as human papillo-

mavirus and hepatitis, are responsible for nearly 30% of cancer cases. Many cancers can be cured if detected early and treated effectively. Nearly 38% of cancers can be prevented by avoiding risk factors, cured through early detection and properly treated. The preventive methods may include

no tobacco/alcohol use, maintaining body weight, a healthy diet, physical activity, avoiding UV radiation from the sun, minimising exposure to ionising radiation, and reducing exposure to air pollution. Nearly four of ten cases globally are linked to preventable risk factors.

Regional differences in cancer burden

Asia accounted for the largest share, with more than half of all cancer cases (50.6%) and deaths (56.5%), reflecting its large burden. Europe carried a disproportionately high burden, contributing 21% of global cases and 20 percent of deaths.

In contrast, many countries in Africa and parts of Asia experience lower incidence but disproportionately high mortality. Tobacco use has declined by 27% since 2010, and hence lung cancer cases/deaths have also reduced. Infection-related cancers are also decreasing due to expanding vaccination coverage and improved water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Cancer Burden on Families

Cancer mortality is reduced when cases are diagnosed and treated early. Palliative care is treatment to relieve, rather than cure, symptoms and suffering caused by cancer and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Beyond its impact on health, cancer remains one of the most financially and socially devastating challenges a household can face. The WHO survey also found that at least 45% of affected people experience financial hardship, mental challenges, and strain on caregivers, including unpaid services and social isolation. Cancer is not a medical diagnosis - it profoundly, indefinitely affects every aspect of a person's life, and their family's as well. The WHO experts called on the global community to "value care as highly as cure", and on governments to fund cancer services from prevention to diagnosis to treatment.



Vijay Blames Police Over Karur Stampede Row

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay has spoken out over the Karur stampede controversy, saying he trusted the police to handle crowd control and security arrangements but was later blamed for the tragedy.

During his visit to Karur, Vijay expressed his grief over the incident and said it was one of the most painful moments of his life. He claimed that he had relied on the police administration for managing the gathering and ensuring safety, but the responsibility for the stampede was eventually placed entirely on him.

The Karur stampede took place during a TVK political rally and resulted in multiple deaths, leading to widespread criticism and a political controversy. Questions were raised over crowd management, security planning and the responsibilities of both organisers and authorities.

Vijay said that if the police had clearly informed him about possible risks or warned about crowd-related issues, the

tragedy could have been prevented. He questioned why the blame was being shifted only towards him when government agencies were also involved in maintaining security and managing the event.

The TVK chief also met the families of those who lost their lives in the incident and assured them of his support. He said the tragedy would remain a painful memory and promised to stand by the affected families.

The stampede has now become a major political issue in Tamil Nadu, with opposition parties questioning TVK's arrangements and Vijay defending his role in the incident. The controversy has added pressure on the newly formed party as it attempts to establish its political presence in the state.

Vijay's latest comments indicate that he is trying to highlight the role of the administration while addressing criticism over the tragedy. The incident continues to remain a key issue in Tamil Nadu politics.



India's First Hydrogen Train Set to Hit Tracks

India is set to enter a new phase of green transportation with the launch of its first hydrogen-powered train on the Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana. The indigenous hydrogen fuel cell-based train marks a major step in Indian Railways' efforts to promote cleaner and more sustainable mobility.

The hydrogen train will operate on the Jind-Sonapat section and is designed with advanced technology aimed at reducing dependence on traditional fuels. The train will have multiple coaches and will be powered by a hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system, offering a cleaner alternative to conventional diesel-powered trains.

Unlike diesel engines that release harmful emissions, hydrogen fuel cell technology generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen. The process produces water vapour and heat as by-products, making it an environmentally friendly transportation solution.

The Jind-Sonapat route has been selected as the pilot corridor for the operation of this hydrogen-powered train. The project is part of Indian Railways' larger vision to reduce carbon emissions and introduce alternative energy solutions across its network.

Before its launch, the train underwent extensive trials to test its safety systems, braking capabilities and overall performance. Various technical evaluations were carried out to ensure smooth and secure operations.

The train comes equipped with advanced safety features, including systems to monitor hydrogen storage and prevent operational risks. With this initiative, India joins a select group of countries exploring hydrogen-based rail technology.

Railway officials believe hydrogen-powered trains can be especially useful on routes where full electrification is difficult. The technology could help reduce fossil fuel consumption and contribute to India's clean energy goals.

The launch of the hydrogen train represents a significant milestone for Indian Railways and reflects the country's growing focus on sustainable transportation. The project could pave the way for wider adoption of green technology in railway operations across India.

India's ₹31,000 Crore Myanmar Border Fence Plan

The Centre has announced a major security initiative to fence the entire India-Myanmar border at an estimated cost of around 31,000 crore. The move aims to strengthen border management, prevent illegal activities, and improve surveillance along the sensitive frontier.

The India-Myanmar border stretches over 1,643 kilometres across four northeastern states — Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram. Due to difficult terrain, dense forests, and remote locations, large parts of the border have remained unfenced, making the region vulnerable to illegal crossings, smuggling, and movement of armed groups.

The government plans to install advanced fencing systems along the entire stretch, along with patrol roads and modern surveillance equipment. The upgraded infrastructure is expected to help security forces monitor border areas more effectively and respond quickly to security threats. The decision comes amid growing concerns over instability in Myanmar and its impact on India's northeastern states.

Authorities have raised concerns about increased movement of illegal migrants, trafficking of weapons and narcotics, and the activities of insurgent groups operating across the border.

Along with the fencing project, the Centre has also decided to end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar. The earlier arrangement allowed people living near the border to travel a limited distance across the frontier without a visa due to historical ethnic, cultural, and family ties between communities on both sides. While the government believes tighter border control is necessary for national security, the move has also raised concerns among local communities. Many residents fear that restrictions could affect traditional movement, local trade, and social connections that have existed for generations.

The 31,000 crore project is expected to become one of India's biggest border infrastructure initiatives. Through the fencing and surveillance upgrade, the Centre aims to create a stronger security network along the eastern frontier while addressing challenges posed by cross-border movement and regional instability.



Shiv Sena Corporator Sent to 3-Day Police Custody in Doctor Assault Case

A court has sent Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre to three days of police custody in connection with the alleged assault of a woman doctor and other medical staff at a hospital in Maharashtra.

The order came after police produced the corporator before the court as part of their investigation into the case. The incident reportedly took place at Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli, where Mhatre and some others were accused of attacking doctors and nurses following an argument inside the hospital premises.

The matter gained public attention after CCTV footage of the alleged confrontation surfaced, leading to widespread criticism. The visuals triggered concerns over the safety of healthcare workers and the increasing incidents of violence inside medical facilities.

Police sought custody of the corporator to question him further, examine the sequence of events and collect additional evidence related to the case. The court allowed the request and granted three days of police custody.

The incident has sparked anger among doctors and medical associations, who have demanded stronger protection for healthcare professionals while on duty. Political parties have also reacted to the controversy, raising questions over the conduct of elected representatives.

Mhatre has denied intentionally assaulting the woman doctor and claimed that the incident occurred during a heated argument related to a patient's treatment.

He has maintained that his actions have been misrepresented. Following the complaint, police registered a case against the corporator and others involved. Investigators are examining witness statements, CCTV footage and other evidence to determine the exact role of those accused.

The case has once again brought the issue of workplace safety for doctors and medical staff into focus. The police custody period is expected to help authorities gather more details and move forward with the investigation.



CBI Targets Mahadev App Betting Network

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has intensified its probe into the Mahadev Online Book case, focusing on alleged illegal betting syndicates and the network operating through digital platforms. The investigation is aimed at uncovering the people involved in running the betting operations, financial transactions and the alleged movement of illegal funds.

The Mahadev app case involves allegations of large-scale illegal online betting activities carried out through multiple platforms. Investigators are examining how the network allegedly operated, attracted users and managed large financial transactions through various channels.

The case has drawn attention due to allegations of a wide-ranging betting network and the involvement of several individuals and entities. Investigation agencies have been looking into the financial trail, digital evidence and possible links between operators connected to the platform.

Earlier probes by different agencies focused on alleged money laundering activities connected to the betting network. Officials have examined whether funds generated through illegal betting were transferred through complex channels to hide the source and destination of the money.

CBI officials are now studying available evidence, including digital records, financial documents and transaction details. The agency is also trying to identify the key members involved in operating the alleged syndicate and understand the methods used to run the betting platforms.

The Mahadev app controversy has also turned into a political issue, with various parties making allegations and counter-allegations. However, investigation agencies have maintained that their primary focus is to trace the alleged illegal operations and identify those responsible.

The latest developments indicate that the probe is likely to expand further as investigators continue questioning suspects, analysing financial records and collecting evidence. The focus remains on uncovering the complete structure of the alleged online betting network and taking action against those involved.



BJP's 'Good TMC vs Bad TMC' Plan to Weaken Mamata's Party

The political battle in West Bengal has intensified, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) focusing on creating divisions within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to challenge Mamata Banerjee's dominance. The BJP's strategy reportedly revolves around projecting a difference between "good TMC" leaders and those linked with controversies and corruption allegations.

The BJP is attempting to attract dissatisfied TMC leaders by presenting itself as an alternative platform for those who want to distance themselves from the negative image surrounding the party. The objective is to create internal pressure within TMC and weaken its organisational strength ahead of future electoral battles.

The strategy comes at a time when the Trinamool Congress is facing internal challenges, with differences reportedly emerging among sections of leaders over the party's future direction and leadership structure. The growing influence of Abhishek Banerjee and discussions over the party's next generation of leadership have also added to the internal debates.

The BJP believes that weakening TMC's grassroots network could help it expand its presence in West Bengal. By reaching out to influential leaders, legislators and local-level figures, the party aims to create a perception that support for Mamata Banerjee is declining.

However, Mamata Banerjee has strongly opposed these efforts and accused the BJP of attempting to destabilise her party. She has been working to strengthen the organisation and send a message that TMC remains united despite political challenges.

The ongoing political battle in West Bengal is now not only a BJP versus TMC contest but also a fight over the future identity and structure of the Trinamool Congress. While the BJP sees internal differences within TMC as an opportunity, Mamata Banerjee is trying to prove that her party remains strong and capable of countering the opposition's strategy.



Uttarakhand Monsoon Fury: 118 Roads Shut, Red Alert Issued

Heavy rainfall has triggered a major crisis in Uttarakhand, disrupting normal life across several parts of the hill state. Continuous showers have led to landslides, swollen rivers and road blockages, forcing authorities to remain on high alert.

Around 118 roads have been closed due to landslides, debris accumulation and damage caused by intense rainfall. Restoration teams have been deployed to clear the affected routes and restore connectivity, but fresh rains are creating challenges for rescue and repair operations.

Rivers and streams across several regions are flowing at high levels, increasing concerns of flooding and flash floods in vulnerable areas. Officials are closely monitoring the situation, especially in areas prone to landslides and water-related disasters. The weather department has issued alerts for several districts, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall. The administration has advised residents and tourists to remain cautious and avoid unnecessary travel in risky areas. The adverse weather has also affected pilgrimage routes, including parts of the Char Dham Yatra network. Authorities have urged pilgrims and visitors to stay updated on weather conditions before travelling through mountainous regions. Disaster management teams, local officials and emergency services have been placed on standby to handle possible emergencies. Efforts are underway to clear blocked roads, assist stranded people and minimise the impact of the monsoon conditions.

With rivers swelling and mountain roads becoming vulnerable, Uttarakhand continues to face a challenging monsoon situation. Authorities are focusing on ensuring public safety, restoring connectivity and preventing further damage as more rainfall is expected in the coming days.



Final Preparations Underway for Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri

Puri, July 9 | TPN Bureau

Preparations for the annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, scheduled to commence on June 27, have reached the final stage in Puri, with elaborate arrangements being completed for one of India's most significant religious festivals. The construction of the three grand chariots—Nandighosha of Lord Jagannath, Taladh-waja of Lord Balabhadra and Darpadalana of Goddess Subhadra—has been completed, and essential components required for the procession have been readied.

Officials associated with the

temple administration said that special ropes used to pull the massive chariots have been prepared with precision. Each rope measures about 220 feet in length, ensuring sufficient strength and grip for thousands of devotees who participate in pulling the chariots during the procession. A total of 18 such ropes are required for the three chariots, while an additional 10 ropes have been arranged this year as a precautionary measure.

In addition to the pulling mechanism, significant attention has been given to safety arrangements, particularly the braking system of the chariots. Temple

sources said nylon-rubber belts have been fitted as part of the

braking system to help regulate the movement of the chariots along the Grand Road (Bada Danda). A specially designed wooden brake, about 20 feet in length, is attached to the front of each chariot. This brake is lowered manually when required to bring the massive structures to a halt, ensuring the safety of devotees and smooth conduct of the procession. The Rath Yatra, which draws lakhs of devotees from across the country and abroad, involves the ceremonial pulling of the chariots from the Jagannath Temple to the Gundicha Temple. The festival is steeped in centuries-old traditions, with strict ad-

herence to rituals, craftsmanship and engineering practices passed down through generations. Authorities have also intensified crowd management, security and logistical arrangements to handle the expected surge in pilgrims. Coordination between temple officials, local administration and police is underway to ensure the festival is conducted peacefully and without incidents. With all major preparations nearing completion, the temple town of Puri is set to witness the grand spectacle of devotion, tradition and collective participation that defines the Rath Yatra each year.



Bolton Dismisses Trump's Greenland Push

Former US National Security Adviser John Bolton has dismissed President Donald Trump's renewed calls for the United States to take control of Greenland, describing the remarks as political rhetoric rather than a serious foreign policy proposal.

Speaking during the NATO summit, Bolton said Trump often makes controversial statements to capture public attention and dominate political discussions. According to him, the Greenland comments should not be viewed as an indication of a formal US strategy but as part of Trump's communication style.

Trump recently revived the debate by insisting that Greenland should come under US control instead of remaining part of the Kingdom of Denmark. He argued that the Arctic island holds immense strategic value for American national security, particularly because of increasing Russian and Chinese activities in the Arctic region.

Bolton, however, warned against taking Trump's remarks literally. While acknowledging Greenland's strategic importance, he said the idea of acquiring the territory is unrealistic and could unnecessarily strain relations with

Denmark, one of America's closest NATO allies. He added that such statements distract from more pressing security issues facing the alliance.

Denmark has firmly rejected Trump's latest comments. Danish leaders have reiterated that Greenland is not for sale and stressed that the island's future will be determined solely by its people. Greenland's government has also rejected any proposal involving a transfer of sovereignty, while expressing willingness to continue security and defence cooperation with the United States.

Trump first floated the idea of purchasing Greenland during his first term as president, a proposal that was immediately rejected by Denmark. His renewed comments have once again triggered international debate over the island's strategic importance and US foreign policy.

Despite the controversy, Bolton believes the statements are primarily aimed at generating headlines and political attention rather than signalling an actual shift in American policy. He emphasized that maintaining strong ties with NATO allies should remain a higher priority than pursuing unrealistic territorial ambitions.



Egypt Denies Entry to LGBTQ+ Cruise Ship

An LGBTQ+-chartered cruise ship carrying nearly 2,000 passengers was denied entry into Egypt, just days after Turkish authorities refused to allow the same vessel to dock at their ports.

The Scarlet Lady, operated by Virgin Voyages and chartered by LGBTQ+ travel company Atlantis Events, was scheduled to stop at Alexandria during its 10-day Mediterranean voyage from Athens to Venice. However, passengers were informed through a notice delivered to their cabins that Egyptian authorities had denied the ship permission to enter the country's waters.

No official reason has been provided by Egyptian authorities for the decision. The ship's operators immediately began working to identify an alternative destination so the voyage could continue without major disruption. The denial came shortly after Turkey blocked the vessel from docking at Istanbul and Kusadasi, citing concerns that the charter group's activities did not align with the country's social and moral values. Those cancella-

tions had already forced organisers to revise the cruise itinerary. Atlantis Events CEO Rich Campbell said the decision by Egypt came as a surprise because the company had successfully operated similar itineraries in the region in previous years. He expressed disappointment, noting that both Atlantis Events and Virgin Voyages had made extensive efforts to secure the Alexandria stop.

Among the passengers is Broadway star Patti LuPone, who had been scheduled to perform during the cruise. The voyage has attracted international attention following the repeated refusals by countries along its planned route.

The incident has sparked renewed debate over LGBTQ+ rights, tourism, and inclusivity. Travel organisers said they remain committed to ensuring passengers enjoy the remainder of the voyage despite the unexpected itinerary changes.

The cruise is now expected to continue with revised port calls elsewhere in the Mediterranean as organisers work to minimise inconvenience for passengers.

US Charges Highlight Bishnoi Gang's Global Crimes

A newly unsealed US federal indictment against jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi has outlined the international reach of his criminal syndicate, linking it to high-profile crimes including threats against Bollywood actor Salman Khan and the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala.

According to US prosecutors,

Bishnoi allegedly continued to direct criminal operations from prison using smuggled mobile phones and encrypted communication channels. Investigators claim he managed a global network involved in extortion, contract killings, drug trafficking, money laundering, and organised crime across multiple countries.

US Foils Alleged Iranian Plot to Target Trump

US intelligence agencies have uncovered an alleged Iranian-backed plot to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, according to reports citing senior American officials. The revelation comes amid heightened tensions between the United States and Iran following recent military confrontations and ongoing diplomatic strains.

Officials reportedly said intelligence gathered in recent weeks pointed to renewed efforts by individuals linked to Iran to target Trump. The alleged plot was identified and disrupted before it could be carried out, prompting security agencies to intensify protective measures around the former president.

The reports indicate that the suspected plan is believed to be connected to Iran's long-standing vow to avenge the 2020 killing of General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's elite Quds Force. Soleimani was killed in a US drone strike ordered by then-President Trump near Baghdad International Airport.

US authorities have not publicly disclosed specific operational details, citing national security concerns. However, officials said the intelligence was considered credible enough to warrant an increased security response and closer monitoring of potential threats.



The alleged assassination plot has further escalated already strained relations between Washington and Tehran. The two countries have remained at odds over Iran's nuclear programme, regional military activities, sanctions, and recent conflicts involving US forces and Iranian-backed groups in the Middle East.

Iran has repeatedly denied involvement in similar allegations in the past, dismissing such claims as politically motivated. There has been no official response from Tehran regarding the latest reports.

Security experts believe that high-profile political figures, particularly former presidents, continue to face elevated threat levels because of major foreign policy decisions taken during their time in office. As a result,

US intelligence and law enforcement agencies regularly assess and respond to potential risks.

The latest development is expected to further intensify diplomatic tensions between the United States and Iran at a time when both nations are already engaged in a complex geopolitical rivalry. American officials have reiterated their commitment to protecting current and former national leaders against any domestic or foreign threats.

Investigations into the alleged plot are continuing, with intelligence agencies working to determine the extent of the network involved and whether additional individuals may have played a role in planning the attack. Authorities have assured that all necessary security measures remain in place to address any emerging threats.

Erdogan's Unusual NATO Gift Sparks Debate

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan surprised NATO leaders with an unusual farewell gift after the alliance's summit in Ankara—personalised Turkish-made revolvers accompanied by six live bullets.

Each leader received a wooden presentation box containing a vintage Gumusay .357 Magnum revolver engraved with their name. The box also included live ammunition, a cleaning kit, and official documents related to the firearm. The gift was intended to showcase Turkey's growing defence manufacturing capabilities and promote its domestic arms industry.

However, the gesture quickly created logistical and security challenges. Several world leaders and their security teams were left wondering how to transport the firearms across international borders while complying with customs regulations and local gun laws.

Some leaders chose to leave the weapons in Turkey, while others handed them over to airport security or diplomatic officials for safekeeping. A few governments indicated the re-



volvers would likely be placed in museums or official state collections rather than kept as personal gifts.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed receiving an engraved revolver, while Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever reportedly surrendered his gift to airport authorities upon returning home. Other NATO members also sought legal guidance before transporting or storing the firearms.

The unusual gifts sparked widespread discussion over diplomatic protocol and the appropriateness of presenting weapons at an international summit. While Turkey defended the gesture as a symbol of

national craftsmanship and defence innovation, critics argued that gifting firearms to foreign leaders—even as ceremonial items—raised unnecessary security and diplomatic concerns.

The incident attracted global attention not only because of the unconventional nature of the gifts but also because it highlighted Turkey's ambition to promote its expanding defence industry on the international stage. Despite the controversy, the presentation became one of the most talked-about moments from this year's NATO summit, drawing mixed reactions from diplomats, security experts, and political observers.

New York Legionnaires' Outbreak Raises Climate Concerns

A growing outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in New York City has prompted health officials and experts to warn that climate change could increase the risk of similar infections in the future.

The outbreak has affected dozens of people in Manhattan's Upper East Side, with authorities investigating contaminated cooling towers as the likely source of the bacteria. Officials have collected water samples from numerous buildings and ordered disinfection measures where Legionella bacteria have been detected.

Legionnaires' disease is a severe form of pneumonia caused by inhaling tiny water droplets contaminated with Legionella bacteria. The disease is not spread from person to person and is commonly linked to cooling towers, hot tubs, fountains, and large plumbing systems.

Health experts say rising temperatures, heatwaves, and changing weather patterns create favourable conditions for the



bacteria to multiply in warm, stagnant water. Climate change, combined with ageing infrastructure and inadequate maintenance of water systems, is believed to be contributing to an increase in outbreaks worldwide.

Symptoms of the disease include high fever, cough, muscle aches, chills, and shortness of breath. Older adults, smokers, and people with weakened immune systems are at the highest risk of developing severe illness. Early diagnosis and antibiotic treatment significantly improve recovery chances.

New York health officials have assured residents that the city's

drinking water remains safe and that the disease cannot be transmitted through ordinary household air-conditioning systems. The investigation is focused on identifying the exact source of the outbreak while ensuring contaminated cooling towers are cleaned and disinfected.

Public health experts believe the incident serves as a reminder of the growing health challenges posed by climate change. They stress that regular inspection and maintenance of cooling towers and water systems will be essential to reducing the risk of future outbreaks as global temperatures continue to rise.



Trump-Netanyahu Discuss Iran, Regional Security

US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a high-level phone conversation focused on the aftermath of recent US strikes on Iran, regional security, and growing diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

According to officials, the two leaders reviewed the impact of the military operation targeting Iran's nuclear infrastructure and discussed the broader security situation in the region. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear capabilities and agreed to maintain close coordination on future developments.

The conversation also covered the ongoing conflict in Gaza and efforts to secure the release of Israeli hostages still being held by Hamas. Trump and Netanyahu reportedly exchanged views on possible diplomatic initiatives aimed at reducing tensions while ensuring Israel's security interests remain protected.

Another major topic was the increasing diplomatic engagement by regional powers, including Turkey and several Gulf nations. Both leaders assessed how these countries could influence future negotiations and regional stability. They also discussed the role of

the United States in maintaining strategic partnerships across the Middle East.

The call came amid heightened international attention following recent US military action against Iranian nuclear facilities, which has significantly raised tensions in the region. While Washington has emphasized that its objective is to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions, global leaders continue to urge restraint and renewed diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation.

Officials described the Trump-Netanyahu conversation as constructive, highlighting the strong coordination between the United States and Israel on security matters. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact as the regional situation evolves and to continue consultations on diplomatic and military developments.

The discussion underscores the close strategic alliance between Washington and Jerusalem at a time when the Middle East is witnessing rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics. With regional actors increasing their diplomatic involvement and concerns over Iran's nuclear programme persisting, both countries are expected to continue working together to address emerging security challenges.

Thai, Malaysian PMs Steal the Show with Musical Duet

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim won hearts after surprising guests with a musical performance during an official luncheon in Kuala Lumpur.

A video from the event has gone viral on social media, showing Anutin playing the saxophone while Anwar sang the timeless classics "My Way" and "Can't Help Falling in Love." The light-hearted performance came after the two leaders concluded formal bilateral talks, offering a relaxed and memorable end to an otherwise diplomatic occasion.

Anutin's visit marked his first official trip to Malaysia since assuming office as Thailand's Prime Minister. During the visit, both leaders held extensive discussions on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, education, agriculture, and border security. They also explored ways to deepen economic ties and improve connectivity between the neighbouring countries.

The two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on agricultural cooperation aimed at boosting collaboration between Thailand and Malaysia. They also agreed to work on developing a special border economic zone, streamline customs and immigration procedures, and resolve recent trade issues affecting cross-border commerce.

The musical performance



quickly became a talking point online, with many social media users praising the leaders for displaying warmth, friendship, and a personal touch beyond official diplomacy. The performance was widely viewed as a refreshing break from formal political engagements.

Observers described the duet as an example of "soft diplomacy," where cultural exchanges and shared moments help strengthen international relationships. The performance reflected the cordial ties between the two neighbouring nations and highlighted the importance of building goodwill alongside political and economic cooperation.

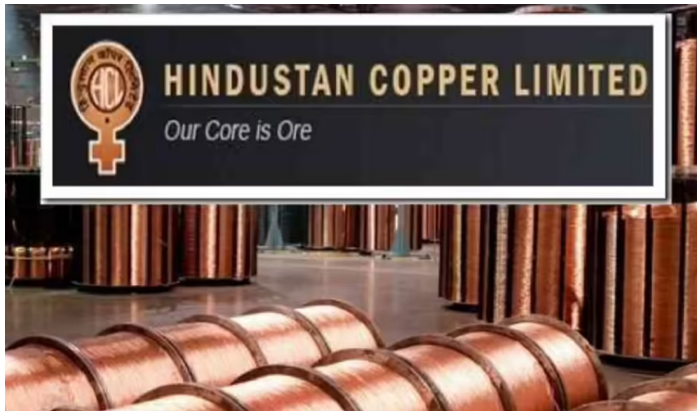
The visit also reaffirmed the close partnership between Malaysia and Thailand, two of Southeast Asia's key economic partners. As both countries continue to expand cooperation across multiple sectors, the unexpected musical duet emerged as one of the most memorable highlights of the visit, symbolising friendship, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to stronger bilateral relations.



outfit into an international syndicate capable of carrying out targeted attacks across borders. Authorities believe the network used encrypted communication, international associates, and financial channels to coordinate criminal activities in different countries.

The latest US action underscores growing global coopera-

tion against organised crime and marks one of the most significant international investigations involving an Indian criminal network in recent years. Officials say the case highlights the increasing threat posed by transnational gangs and the importance of cross-border intelligence sharing to dismantle such criminal organisations.



Hindustan Copper Gains as Metal Rally Continues

Shares of Hindustan Copper climbed nearly 3% on Friday as copper prices remained on track for a second consecutive week of gains, boosting investor sentiment toward metal stocks. The rally also lifted the broader Nifty Metal Index, which advanced around 1.5% during the trading session.

The positive momentum was driven by firm global copper prices, with investors focusing on improving demand prospects while looking past concerns over geopolitical tensions and short-term market volatility. Rising industrial metal prices have strengthened optimism about the earnings outlook for mining and metal companies.

Copper prices have remained resilient due to expectations of robust demand from sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, construction, and infrastructure. At the same time, concerns over limited global supply have continued to support higher prices for the industrial metal.

Hindustan Copper, India's only vertically integrated copper producer, is considered one of the key beneficiaries of rising copper prices. Higher metal prices typically improve the company's revenue and profitability, making the stock an attractive bet during periods of strength in the commodities market.

The rally in Hindustan Cop-

per was accompanied by gains across several other metal stocks, reflecting broad-based buying interest in the sector. Investors have increasingly shifted their focus toward commodity-linked companies amid expectations of sustained industrial demand.

Market analysts believe that if copper prices continue to remain firm, metal stocks could maintain their positive momentum in the near term. However, they also caution that global economic developments, trade policies, and geopolitical events could influence commodity prices and lead to short-term volatility.

The recent rally highlights growing investor confidence in the metals sector, which has benefited from improving global sentiment and expectations of stronger industrial activity. As infrastructure spending and clean energy investments continue to rise worldwide, demand for copper is expected to remain healthy over the long term.

With the metal sector showing renewed strength, investors will closely monitor international copper price movements and upcoming economic data for further direction. The performance of global commodity markets is expected to remain a key driver for Hindustan Copper and other metal stocks in the coming weeks.



SIP Inflows Hit Record ₹31,781 Crore in June

Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) investments in mutual funds reached a new all-time high in June, with monthly inflows touching 31,781 crore. The record inflow reflects growing confidence among retail investors, who continue to prefer disciplined, long-term investing despite fluctuations in the equity markets.

The June inflows registered a 3% increase over the previous month, highlighting the sustained popularity of SIPs as one of the most preferred investment options for wealth creation. Industry experts attribute the strong performance to improving market sentiment and increasing financial awareness among investors.

One of the most encouraging developments during the month was the improvement in the SIP stoppage ratio, which declined to a four-month low. This indicates that fewer investors discontinued their SIPs, while new registrations continued to outpace closures and matured accounts. The trend reflects stronger investor commitment to long-term financial planning.

The number of active SIP accounts also continued to rise, demonstrating growing participation from retail investors across the country. Financial advisors believe more individuals are recognizing the benefits of investing regularly through SIPs, regardless of short-term market movements.

The mutual fund industry benefited from improved equity market performance during June, which helped boost investor confidence. Rather than at-

tempting to time the market, many investors continued to rely on SIPs as a disciplined investment strategy that allows them to accumulate wealth steadily over time.

Experts point out that SIPs help investors average their investment costs by purchasing mutual fund units at different market levels. This approach reduces the impact of market volatility and encourages consistent investing, making it particularly suitable for long-term financial goals such as retirement planning, children's education, or wealth creation.

The broader mutual fund industry also recorded healthy growth during the month, supported by strong participation across various investment categories. Positive market sentiment and increasing awareness about financial planning have contributed to sustained inflows into mutual fund schemes.

Industry observers expect the momentum in SIP investments to continue in the coming months. With improving economic conditions, stable market outlook, and rising investor awareness, SIPs are likely to remain the preferred investment route for retail investors seeking long-term returns.

The record inflows and declining stoppage ratio underline the growing maturity of India's mutual fund investors. As more individuals adopt systematic investing as a regular financial habit, the mutual fund industry is expected to witness continued growth and stronger retail participation in the years ahead.

Markets Extend Rally; Sensex Surges 828 Points

Indian equity markets extended their recovery for a second consecutive session on Friday, with benchmark indices posting strong gains amid broad-based buying across sectors. The BSE Sensex jumped 828 points, while the Nifty 50 reclaimed the 24,200 mark, reflecting renewed investor confidence.

The rally was driven by positive global cues, strong buying in information technology stocks, and encouraging corporate earnings at the start of the first-quarter results season. Investors also took comfort from easing crude oil prices and improving overall market sentiment.

Among sectoral indices, Realty emerged as the top performer, gaining around 3.5 percent, followed by PSU Bank stocks, which advanced nearly 3 percent. The IT index also posted solid gains of around 2 percent, supported by strong buying in technology majors after upbeat quarterly earnings.

Market breadth remained firmly positive, with most sectoral indices ending the day in the green. Buying interest was visible across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks, indicating broad participation in the rally.



The upbeat mood on Dalal Street was also supported by favorable global market trends and optimism surrounding corporate earnings. Investors responded positively to signs of stability in international markets, while easing geopolitical concerns further boosted risk appetite.

Analysts believe the recovery reflects improving investor confidence after recent volatility. They noted that sustained buying in heavyweight sectors such as IT, banking, and real estate helped lift the benchmark indices to higher levels.

Despite the strong rally, market experts have advised investors to remain selective, pointing out that upcoming quarterly earnings, global economic developments, and foreign institutional investor ac-

tivity will continue to influence market direction in the coming weeks. The latest gains have also resulted in a significant increase in overall market capitalization, with investors witnessing a sharp rise in the value of listed companies. The positive momentum has raised hopes that the market could continue its recovery if earnings remain strong and global conditions stay supportive.

With the earnings season gathering pace and investor sentiment improving, market participants will now closely watch the financial performance of major companies for further cues. The next few trading sessions are expected to determine whether the current rally can be sustained or if profit-booking emerges at higher levels.

Silver ETFs See Record ₹4,286 Crore Inflows in June

Silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) staged a remarkable comeback in June, attracting a

record 4,286 crore in net inflows and ending a four-month streak of investor withdrawals. The surge reflects renewed confidence in silver as investors returned to the precious metal after a correction in prices and amid continued global economic uncertainty.

According to the latest industry data, June marked the highest-ever monthly inflow into silver ETFs. The category had witnessed continuous outflows from February to May, as many investors booked profits following a strong rally in silver prices earlier this year.

Despite the record inflows, the total assets under management (AUM) of silver ETFs declined to 78,943 crore at the end of June from 86,217 crore in May. The decline was mainly due to a fall in silver prices during the month, which reduced the market value of existing investments.

Investor participation, however, continued to increase. The number of silver ETF folios rose to 53.93 lakh, indicating sustained retail interest despite short-term price volatility. Many investors appear to



have viewed the price correction as a buying opportunity, increasing their exposure to the precious metal.

Gold ETFs also witnessed strong demand during June, receiving 3,443 crore in net inflows. Similar to silver, investors took advantage of lower bullion prices to add to their holdings, highlighting continued confidence in precious metals as a hedge against inflation and market uncertainty. Overall, passive mutual funds attracted significant inflows during the month, driven largely by exchange-traded funds. The robust investment in silver and gold ETFs reflects growing investor preference for diversified and relatively safer investment options amid volatile global financial markets.

Market experts believe the

renewed interest in precious metal ETFs is supported by attractive valuations, expectations of long-term industrial demand for silver, and the traditional safe-haven appeal of both gold and silver. Silver, in particular, continues to benefit from increasing demand from sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and electronics.

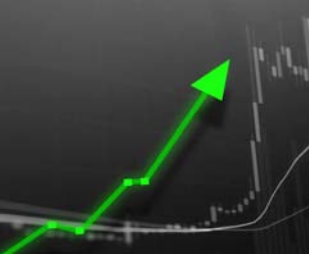
While analysts caution that precious metal prices may remain volatile in the short term due to global economic developments and changes in interest rate expectations, they remain optimistic about the long-term outlook. The strong inflows in June suggest that investors continue to see silver ETFs as an effective way to gain exposure to the metal while maintaining portfolio diversification.

Aastha Spintex Hits 5% Upper Circuit on Acquisition News

Shares of Aastha Spintex surged 5% on Friday, hitting the upper circuit after the company announced the acquisition of Falcon Yarns. The development triggered strong buying interest, with investors welcoming the company's latest expansion move shortly after its stock market debut.

The acquisition is expected to significantly strengthen Aastha Spintex's manufacturing capabilities. Following the deal, the company's annual spinning capacity will increase from 7,700 metric tonnes to 17,457 metric tonnes, while its spindle capacity will expand from 25,920 to 61,824.

Falcon Yarns operates a modern spinning facility in Gujarat with an installed capacity of 35,904 spindles and an annual production capacity of 9,757 metric tonnes. The acquisition is expected to enhance production efficiency, improve economies of scale, and strengthen Aastha Spintex's position in the cotton yarn industry.



The company stated that the acquisition is part of its long-term growth strategy and will help meet increasing customer demand while expanding its footprint in the textile sector. Management believes the additional capacity will improve operational efficiency and create a stronger platform for future growth.

The rally also marked a sharp turnaround for the stock, which had declined nearly 15% over the previous three trading sessions after its listing. Friday's upper circuit reflected renewed investor confidence following the announcement of the strategic acquisition.

Aastha Spintex recently com-

pleted its 170 crore initial public offering (IPO) and was listed on the stock exchanges earlier this month. Although the shares debuted below their issue price, the latest acquisition has shifted investor attention toward the company's long-term expansion plans.

Market analysts believe the acquisition could significantly strengthen the company's competitive position by increasing production capacity and improving its ability to serve a larger customer base. The move also highlights the company's focus on inorganic growth alongside expanding its existing operations.

With enhanced manufacturing capabilities and a clear expansion strategy, investors will now closely monitor how effectively Aastha Spintex integrates Falcon Yarns into its business. Successful execution of the acquisition could support higher revenues, improved profitability, and stronger market presence in India's competitive textile industry.



Nomura Stays Bullish on Oberoi Realty Despite Court Order

Shares of Oberoi Realty are expected to remain in focus after the Punjab and Haryana High Court temporarily restrained the company from making fresh allotments or creating new third-party rights in its Three Sixty North luxury residential project in Gurugram. Despite the legal development, global brokerage Nomura has maintained a 'Buy' rating on the stock with a target price of 2,090.

The High Court directed that no additional third-party rights be created in the project until the Haryana Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) decides a complaint related to the development. The DTCP has been asked to resolve the matter by July 20, 2026.

According to Nomura, the court order is unlikely to have a significant impact on Oberoi Realty's near-term business. The brokerage cited the company's management, which clarified that the order does not affect apartments that have already been sold and does not halt construction activities at the project.

Nomura also noted that the next phase of the Gurugram project is not expected to be launched until the 2028-29 financial year. As a result, the interim restriction is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on the company's near-term sales or revenue outlook.

The brokerage remains opti-

mistic for two key reasons. First, it pointed out that the Haryana DTCP has previously ruled in Oberoi Realty's favor on multiple occasions. Second, the company has consistently maintained that it has not violated foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations or any other legal provisions related to the project.

The legal dispute stems from allegations challenging the validity of the project's licence and claims of FDI norm violations. Oberoi Realty has denied all allegations and stated that it will pursue appropriate legal remedies while continuing construction work at the site.

Despite the temporary legal uncertainty, analysts believe the company's strong balance sheet, premium residential portfolio, and consistent execution continue to support its long-term growth prospects. The market is now awaiting the DTCP's decision, which is expected to provide greater clarity on the future of the Gurugram project.

For now, Nomura believes the court order represents only a temporary legal hurdle rather than a fundamental risk to Oberoi Realty's business. The brokerage continues to maintain a positive long-term outlook on the company, citing its healthy financial position, strong project pipeline, and sustained demand in the premium real estate segment.



Nomura Raises TCS Target to ₹2,590 After Strong Q1

Global brokerage Nomura has reaffirmed its 'Buy' rating on Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) after the IT giant reported Q1-quarter earnings that exceeded market expectations. The brokerage also raised its target price for the stock to 2,590, expressing confidence in the company's long-term growth despite near-term macroeconomic challenges.

TCS reported revenue of \$7.62 billion, recording 0.4% quarter-on-quarter growth and 3.2% year-on-year growth in constant currency terms. The company's international business remained resilient, with the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) and Technology & Services segments emerging as the strongest contributors to growth.

Although the company's EBIT margin declined to 24%, primarily due to annual salary hikes and continued investments in artificial intelligence (AI), Nomura believes the pressure on margins is temporary. The brokerage expects profitability to improve gradually and forecasts EBIT margins to recover above 25% by the end of the current financial year.

A major highlight of the quarter was TCS' strong deal pipeline. The company reported total contract wins worth \$9.4 billion, including a significant \$800 million deal. According to Nomura, the robust order book provides strong visibility for future revenue growth as global technology spending gradually recovers.

The brokerage also identified AI as a key long-term growth driver for TCS. AI-related projects now contribute around 8.5% of the company's revenue, with more clients moving from pilot programs to large-scale AI transformation initiatives. This trend is expected to support sustained business growth over the coming quarters.

Despite ongoing global economic uncertainty affecting client spending, Nomura expects demand to improve from the second quarter, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and life sciences. The brokerage also remains optimistic about continued momentum in the BFSI and technology services businesses.

Several market analysts continue to maintain a positive outlook on TCS, citing its strong execution capabilities, healthy order pipeline, and leadership position in the Indian IT industry. However, they believe consistent revenue growth and margin improvement will remain key factors for further upside in the stock.

With a solid client base, expanding AI opportunities, and a strong order book, TCS appears well-positioned to navigate near-term challenges and capitalize on future growth opportunities. Nomura believes these strengths will help the company deliver improved financial performance in the coming quarters while reinforcing its position as one of India's leading IT services firms.

Sabeer Bhatia Questions Civic Sense Over Gurugram Garbage

Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia has triggered a fresh debate on social media after sharing a picture of a garbage-strewn road in Gurugram. The entrepreneur questioned whether the growing problem of littering reflects a deeper issue with civic responsibility, sparking widespread discussion on cleanliness and public behavior.

Posting the image on X (formerly Twitter), Bhatia expressed disappointment over the condition of the road and asked whether such careless behavior could be described as a "mental sickness." He argued

that despite India's rapid economic growth and modern infrastructure, the sight of garbage piling up on public roads continues to expose a lack of civic discipline among citizens. His comments quickly went viral, attracting thousands of reactions from users across social media. Many supported his views, saying littering has become a common habit that affects public health, damages the environment, and creates a poor impression of Indian cities. Several users emphasized that maintaining clean surroundings is not only the re-

sponsibility of municipal authorities but also of every citizen. They argued that lasting change will come only when people stop throwing waste in public places and develop stronger civic values. However, others felt Bhatia's remarks were too harsh. Critics argued that calling the issue a "mental sickness" oversimplifies a much larger problem. They pointed out that poor waste management systems, inadequate public infrastructure, insufficient garbage bins, and weak enforcement of sanitation rules also contribute significantly to the problem. Accord-

ing to them, civic behavior can improve only when governments provide better facilities alongside awareness campaigns. The discussion soon expanded beyond Gurugram, with many users sharing similar experiences from cities across the country. People posted pictures of littered streets and overflowing garbage bins, highlighting that urban cleanliness remains a nationwide challenge despite several government initiatives aimed at improving sanitation. Many social media users also observed that platforms like X have become powerful tools for

highlighting civic issues and holding authorities accountable. At the same time, they stressed that public participation is equally important. Clean cities can only be achieved when citizens and local administrations work together to maintain public spaces. Sabeer Bhatia has often spoken about issues related to education, innovation, governance, and civic responsibility in India. His latest post has once again ignited a conversation about whether economic progress alone is enough without corresponding improvements in civic sense and urban



cleanliness. While opinions remain divided over his choice of words, the discussion has brought renewed attention to the importance of responsible public behavior, efficient waste management, and collective efforts to build cleaner and more livable cities.

'Forget Work-Life Balance': CEO's Message Sparks Outrage

A viral Reddit post has ignited a heated discussion about toxic workplace culture after an unemployed Indian software engineer shared an unexpected response he received from the founder of a US-based company while seeking a job opportunity. According to the post, the engineer, who had been unemployed for several months, reached out to the entrepreneur through social media to inquire about vacancies. Instead of a conventional interview invitation, he received a blunt message outlining the company's work expectations. The founder reportedly told the applicant to forget about work-life balance if he wanted the job. The message stated that employees would have no personal life, would be expected to master infrastructure skills, and should be prepared to be told they were "dumb" almost every day as part of the learning process. The founder also warned that anyone with an ego would not fit into the



organization. The engineer shared screenshots of the conversation on Reddit, asking whether such work culture had become normal. The post quickly gained traction, attracting hundreds of comments from professionals across the technology sector. Many users described the message as a major red flag and advised the engineer not to join the company. They argued that no job is worth sacrificing mental health, dignity, and personal life. Several commenters said the language used by the founder reflected an unhealthy work-

place where employees could face constant pressure and verbal humiliation. Others pointed out that the role reportedly required mandatory night shifts from an office in India to match US working hours, making the offer even less attractive. Some users viewed the expectations as an example of companies taking advantage of job seekers in a highly competitive employment market. However, not everyone dismissed the opportunity outright. A few users admitted they might still consider accepting such a job because of financial

pressures and the difficulty of finding employment in the current market. They said prolonged unemployment often forces professionals to compromise on working conditions. The discussion soon expanded into a broader debate on the growing normalization of long working hours and toxic work environments in the technology industry. Many participants expressed concern that desperate job seekers are increasingly being expected to tolerate unreasonable demands simply to secure employment. The viral exchange has once again highlighted the ongoing conversation around workplace culture, employee well-being, and the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between professional responsibilities and personal life. While opinions differed on whether such expectations are realistic, most users agreed that respect, mental health, and work-life balance should remain essential elements of any modern workplace.

Toothache Turns Into Costly Nightmare

A routine visit to a dental clinic for a toothache turned into a shocking ordeal for a 63-year-old man in China after doctors allegedly removed all 12 of his remaining teeth, inserted multiple implants, and emptied his bank accounts without proper consent. The man, identified only by his surname Li, visited a dental clinic in Baoji, Shaanxi province, after experiencing pain in a single tooth. He was reportedly attracted by the clinic's advertisements promising same-day dental implants and a quick return to normal eating. According to reports, the clinic even arranged transportation for Li and offered him a free dental examination. However, instead of treating the painful tooth, the medical staff extracted all 12 of his remaining teeth during the visit and immediately implanted 10 artificial teeth. The financial shock was just as severe as the medical procedure. Li alleged that the clinic with-



drew 18,800 yuan (around Rs 2.6 lakh) from his bank account and digital wallets for the treatment. On top of that, he was left with an additional unpaid bill of 6,200 yuan (approximately Rs 87,000). Li later recalled that when his son found him after the procedure, his mouth was bleeding heavily and he had only a small amount of money left for his journey home. The case became even more controversial after it emerged that Li suffered from several serious health conditions, including

coronary heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, a previous heart attack, and multiple coronary stents. Medical experts say patients with such conditions require careful evaluation before undergoing extensive dental procedures, particularly multiple tooth extractions and immediate implants. Li's family accused the clinic of several irregularities, claiming it failed to provide complete medical records and produced new documents whenever discrepancies were questioned.

They also alleged that some records contained basic errors, including listing Li's gender as female. The family suspects that parts of the documentation may have been altered after the procedure. Following an investigation, local health authorities found the clinic guilty of misconduct. Officials ordered the clinic to refund the treatment charges, suspended its operations, and directed it to undergo corrective measures before resuming services. The incident has sparked widespread outrage on Chinese social media, with many users demanding stricter oversight of private dental clinics and stronger protections for patients. The case has also renewed concerns about misleading medical advertisements, unnecessary procedures, and unethical billing practices in the healthcare sector, highlighting the importance of informed consent and transparent medical treatment.

CEO's Praise for Remote Work Sparks WFH Debate

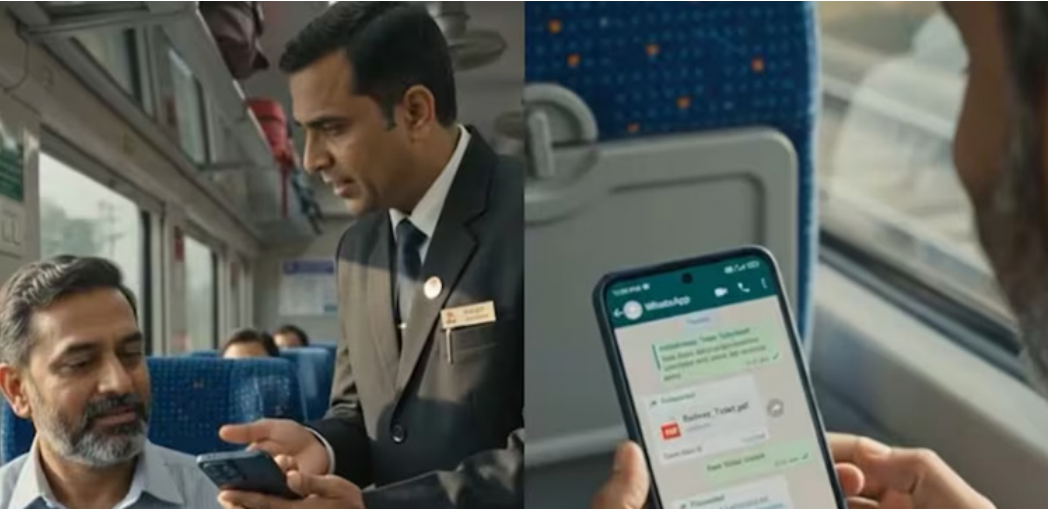
The debate over remote work has resurfaced after a US-based CEO shared a strong endorsement of the work-from-home model in a LinkedIn post that quickly went viral. His comments have reignited discussions about productivity, flexibility, and whether employees really need to be in an office to perform at their best. Jared Kleinert, founder and CEO of Offsite, argued that remote work is simply a better way to work. According to him, a person's location or schedule should matter far less than the quality of the results they deliver. He said the focus should always be on achieving goals and serving clients rather than monitoring where employees sit or how they organize their day. In his post, Kleinert explained that he does not care whether employees begin work at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., or even later in the day. He also said it makes no difference if they take several short breaks or one long lunch break, as long as they remain productive and meet their responsibilities. He encouraged employees to arrange their work around per-



sonal priorities such as family, exercise, hobbies, or other commitments. The CEO added that if team members have a reliable internet connection, the right tools, and the ability to collaborate effectively, there is little reason to insist they work from a traditional office. He believes leadership should be about enabling employees to perform at their best rather than controlling their schedules or physical presence. The post quickly gained widespread attention, with thousands of professionals joining the conversation. Many users supported Kleinert's perspective, saying remote work has improved their productivity, reduced commuting stress, and allowed them to achieve a healthier work-life balance. Several commenters argued that judging employees by outcomes rather than office attendance creates a more positive and efficient work

environment. Others, however, expressed reservations. Some users pointed out that certain roles require in-person collaboration, while others argued that office environments help build stronger relationships, improve communication, and support the professional development of younger employees. A few also noted that remote work may not be suitable for every industry or organization. The viral discussion reflects the continuing divide over the future of work as companies around the world adopt different approaches. While some businesses are bringing employees back to offices full-time, others continue to embrace remote or hybrid models. Kleinert's comments have once again highlighted a key question facing modern workplaces: should employers focus on where employees work, or simply on the results they deliver? The answer continues to vary from one organization to another, but the conversation around flexible work arrangements remains far from over.

WhatsApp Train Ticket? Railways Says It Won't Work



Indian Railways has clarified that passengers travelling with unreserved digital tickets cannot rely on WhatsApp forwards, screenshots, photos or PDF copies as valid proof of travel. The announcement has sparked widespread debate, with many passengers questioning how the rule will affect families and elderly travellers. According to the latest guidelines, an unreserved ticket booked through the RailOne app will be considered valid only if it is displayed on the same registered mobile phone that was used to book the ticket. During ticket inspection, passengers must present the original ticket within the RailOne app on that device. In addition, they are required to carry a valid photo identity card for verification. Railways also stated that unreserved digital tickets must be booked before the train departs from the boarding station. Any ticket booked after the train has left the station will be treated as invalid. The new rules are in-

tended to prevent misuse of digital tickets through forwarding, copying or sharing across multiple devices. The clarification came after a passenger was reportedly penalised for producing only a WhatsApp screenshot instead of the original ticket on the RailOne app. Following the incident, railway authorities reiterated that only the original digital ticket on the registered mobile device will be accepted during inspections. However, the decision has drawn criticism from many passengers on social media. Several users argued that the rule creates unnecessary inconvenience for elderly travellers and people who are not comfortable using smartphones or digital apps. Others pointed out that family members often book tickets on behalf of parents, spouses or children and may not travel with them, making it difficult to comply with the new requirement. Some passengers questioned

whether they would now have to hand over their personal mobile phones to relatives simply because the ticket was booked on their device. Others urged the Railways to introduce a more practical system that balances security with passenger convenience. The discussion also highlighted concerns about situations where a passenger's phone battery dies, the device is lost, or there are technical issues with the app. Many users suggested that verified digital copies or linked family accounts should be accepted as an alternative in such cases. Despite the criticism, railway officials maintain that the policy is designed to strengthen ticket verification and reduce fraud. As digital ticketing becomes increasingly common, passengers are advised to carry the registered mobile phone used for booking, ensure it remains charged throughout the journey, and keep a valid photo ID ready for inspection.

Entrepreneur's Emotional Flight Goes Viral

An Indian-origin entrepreneur based in Canada has touched millions online after sharing an emotional video of himself breaking down during a flight when he realized he was finally living the life he had dreamed about as a child. Ash Lamba posted the heartfelt video on Instagram, where he is seen wiping away tears while sitting by the window in what appeared to be a business-class seat. What began as an attempt to record a light-hearted video unexpectedly turned into an emotional moment of reflection. Lamba later explained that the tears were triggered by memories from his childhood. He recalled how fascinated he used to be by airports and airplanes. Whenever he travelled, he would intentionally walk past the business-class section just to catch a glimpse of what it looked like behind the curtain. At the time, flying in business class felt like an impossible dream. He also remembered watching wealthier classmates talk about their vacations abroad, expensive gadgets, luxury cars, designer brands, and lavish lifestyles. Although he described his childhood as happy and said his parents worked tirelessly to provide him with a wonderful life, those experi-



ences inspired him to dream bigger. According to Lamba, he always wanted more than financial success. He wanted freedom, new experiences, the opportunity to travel the world, and the ability to build something meaningful. Those dreams gradually became his life's mission and motivated him to work relentlessly toward his goals. Years later, while sitting in the very business-class seat he once admired from afar, the realization suddenly overwhelmed him. He reflected on how he now travels to destinations he once only heard about, owns the kind of car he used to imagine, and lives in a home his younger self would have considered impossible. Lamba said the emotional moment was not really about luxury or material success. In-

stead, it was about remembering the little boy who dared to dream despite having no certainty that those dreams would ever come true. Looking back at that journey filled him with gratitude and reminded him how far he had come. The video quickly went viral, with thousands of viewers sharing their own stories of perseverance, ambition, and achieving long-held dreams. Many praised Lamba for openly expressing his emotions and showing that success is often measured not just by wealth, but by fulfilling personal aspirations. His story has resonated with people across the world, serving as a reminder that childhood dreams, combined with determination, patience, and hard work, can eventually become reality.

Gambhir's Position Under Scrutiny After England T20I Loss

India's disappointing T20I series defeat against England has reportedly put head coach Gautam Gambhir under increased scrutiny, with fresh reports suggesting that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is closely evaluating the team's recent performances.

According to reports, the series loss has intensified discussions within the board over India's inconsistent results across formats. Although no official decision has been taken regarding Gambhir's future, the defeat has reportedly raised concerns about the team's direction under his leadership.

Gambhir, who took charge as India's head coach with high expectations, has faced growing pressure following a string



of underwhelming performances. While the team has shown flashes of brilliance, inconsistency in team selection, batting performances, and tactical decisions has invited criticism from former cricketers and fans alike.

The report claims that the BCCI is expected to review the team's overall progress before

making any major decisions. Rather than reacting to a single series, the board is believed to be assessing long-term performance, player development, and the team's preparedness for upcoming ICC tournaments.

Despite the speculation, there has been no official indication that Gambhir will be re-

moved from his position. Board officials are reportedly expected to hold discussions with the coaching staff and selectors to identify areas that need improvement before India's next international assignments.

Several cricket experts have urged patience, arguing that any new coaching setup requires time to implement its plans and build a consistent winning combination. Others, however, believe that India's performances must improve quickly, especially with major global tournaments on the horizon.

The T20I series exposed weaknesses in both batting and bowling, with England outperforming India in crucial moments. India's inability to capitalize on key situations

and maintain consistency throughout the series has become a major talking point among analysts.

Meanwhile, fans have expressed mixed reactions on social media. While some have questioned Gambhir's strategies and team management, others believe it would be unfair to judge the coach solely on one disappointing series, emphasizing that players also share responsibility for the results.

As speculation continues, all eyes are now on the BCCI's next move. Whether the board decides to back Gambhir or seek changes, the coming weeks are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of India's coaching setup. Official confirmation on the matter is still awaited.



Sanju vs Vaibhav Debate Sparks Fresh Selection Row

India's team selection has once again become a major talking point, with former cricketers and experts debating the decision to back young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi ahead of Sanju Samson during the ongoing T20I series against England.

The discussion gained momentum after India's disappointing performances in the series, with many questioning whether the team management made the right call in its batting combinations. While Vaibhav was given an opportunity as part of India's long-term plans, critics believe the experienced Sanju Samson could have provided greater stability at the top of the order.

Several experts have described the selection decision as an "emotional" one, suggesting that the management may have been influenced by the excitement surrounding Vaibhav's immense talent rather than the team's immediate requirements. They argued that while investing in young players is important, experience becomes equally valuable in challenging overseas conditions.

Sanju Samson, who has consistently delivered impressive performances in T20 cricket over the years, has often found himself in and out of the national side despite maintaining strong domestic and IPL records. His supporters believe he deserved a longer run in the playing XI, especially during a difficult series.

On the other hand, many former players have defended the decision to back Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. They believe the youngster possesses exceptional potential and should be given sufficient opportunities to develop at the international level without being judged on a handful of matches.

The debate has also highlighted the challenge facing India's selectors in balancing the need to groom future stars while remaining competitive against top international teams. With several talented players competing for limited spots, selection decisions have become increasingly difficult.

India's struggles with the bat during the England series have only intensified the discussion, as fans and analysts continue to debate whether greater experience or youthful promise should take priority in the T20 setup.

As the team looks ahead to upcoming international tournaments, the management is expected to carefully assess the performances of both experienced players and emerging talents before finalizing its long-term plans.

While opinions remain divided, the Sanju Samson versus Vaibhav Sooryavanshi debate has once again highlighted the intense competition for places in India's T20 squad. The final decision on who earns an extended run will ultimately depend on performance, consistency, and the team's long-term vision.



Mbappe: 'This Isn't France's Strongest Team Yet'

Despite leading France into the 2026 FIFA World Cup semi-finals, captain Kylian Mbappe believes the current squad still has significant room for improvement. After France's impressive quarter-final victory, the star forward praised his teammates but insisted the team has not yet reached its peak.

Mbappe described the present French side as "the one with the most potential," while adding that it is "not the strongest yet." He explained that the squad is filled with talented players who continue to grow together and believes their best performances are still ahead.

France booked their place in the last four with a convincing victory over Morocco. Mbappe bounced back from an early missed penalty to score later in the match and also played a crucial role in creating another goal, once again demonstrating why he is regarded as one of the world's best players.

Despite the comfortable win, Mbappe urged his teammates to stay grounded and maintain their focus. He emphasized that reaching the semi-finals is an important achievement, but the team's ultimate objective is to win the World Cup. According to him, there is no room for complacency with tougher challenges still to come.

France have looked impressive throughout the tourna-

ment, combining solid defensive displays with clinical finishing in attack. The team has consistently delivered strong performances and remains one of the favourites to lift the trophy.

Mbappe's leadership has been one of the standout features of France's campaign. In addition to scoring crucial goals, he has inspired the team with his maturity, confidence, and ability to perform under pressure. His influence on and off the pitch has been instrumental in France's successful run.

The French captain also remains one of the leading contenders for the tournament's Golden Boot, thanks to his consistent goal-scoring form and overall impact in the competition.

Although Mbappe reportedly picked up a minor ankle knock during the quarter-final, the injury is not believed to be serious, and he is expected to be available for the semi-final, providing a major boost to the French camp.

As France prepares for another crucial knockout clash, the team remains fully focused on achieving its ultimate goal. Mbappe's comments reflect a squad that is confident but determined to keep improving, believing that its strongest performances are still to come as it pursues another FIFA World Cup title.



the bowlers have consistently exploited India's weaknesses. The hosts have maintained control in key moments, which has been a major factor behind their unbeaten run.

For India, the final T20I re-

presents an opportunity to restore some pride and end the tour on a positive note. A victory would at least prevent a rare 5-0 series defeat and provide some confidence ahead of future international

Australia Could Host an IPL Match in Historic First

The Indian Premier League (IPL) could soon create history by staging a match in Australia, with reports claiming that discussions are underway between cricket administrators from both countries. If the proposal materializes, it would mark the first time an official IPL match is played on Australian soil.

According to reports, officials from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Cricket Australia have held private discussions about the possibility of taking the world's biggest T20 league overseas. The move is reportedly aimed at expanding the IPL's global reach while capitalizing on Australia's large Indian diaspora and growing fan base for the tournament.

Although the talks are said to be in the preliminary stages, the idea has already generated significant excitement among cricket fans. Hosting an IPL game in Australia could attract packed stadiums, strong television viewership, and create

new commercial opportunities for both cricket boards.

Reports suggest that if the plan moves forward, the match could be scheduled during a future IPL season in a way that does not disrupt the tournament's regular calendar. However, logistical challenges such as travel, scheduling, and player workload would need to be addressed before any final decision is made.

Australia has successfully hosted several major international cricket events and boasts world-class venues such as the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), and Perth Stadium. These iconic stadiums are considered capable of hosting a marquee IPL fixture.

The IPL has previously explored expanding its global footprint, with complete seasons or portions of tournaments being held outside India due to exceptional circumstances. However, an official league match in Australia

would represent a new milestone in the tournament's international growth.

Cricket experts believe such a move could strengthen the relationship between the BCCI and Cricket Australia while introducing the IPL experience to a wider global audience. It could also pave the way for more international collaborations involving franchise cricket in the future.

Despite the growing speculation, neither the BCCI nor Cricket Australia has officially confirmed the proposal. Any decision would require approval from multiple stakeholders, including franchise owners, broadcasters, sponsors, and tournament organizers.

For now, the possibility of an IPL match being played in Australia remains under discussion. If approved, it would mark another landmark moment in the evolution of the IPL, further cementing its status as one of the biggest and most influential sporting leagues in the world.



Salima Tete to Lead India's Women's Hockey Team at Asian Games

Hockey India has announced a 20-member Indian women's hockey squad for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with experienced mid-fielder Salima Tete named captain. India will head into the continental event with the goal of defending its title and securing direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The selected squad features a healthy blend of experienced players and promising young talent. Hockey India has retained the core group that has performed consistently in recent international tournaments while also providing opportunities to emerging stars who have impressed with their performances.

Salima Tete, one of India's most dependable midfielders, will once again lead the side. Her leadership, experience, and ability to control the mid-field are expected to play a vital role as India aims for another successful campaign.

The goalkeeping responsibilities will be handled by Bichu Devi Kharibam and Bansari Solanki, while the defensive unit includes experienced players such as Nikki Pradhan, Udit, Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary, and Suman Devi Thoudam.

India's midfield will revolve around captain Salima Tete, supported by Neha, Sunelita Toppo, and Lalremsiami, who

are expected to provide stability, creativity, and quick transitions during matches.

The attacking department boasts a strong lineup featuring Navneet Kaur, Mumtaz Khan, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Beauty Dungdung, Annu, and Baljeet Kaur. Their pace and goal-scoring abilities are expected to be key strengths for the Indian team.

The Asian Games carry added significance because the gold medal-winning team earns direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. After winning the title at the previous edition, India will enter the tournament as one of the favorites and will be determined to retain its crown.

Hockey India has expressed confidence that the selected squad possesses the right balance of experience and youth to compete at the highest level. The players are expected to undergo an intensive training camp before departing for Japan to fine-tune their preparations.

With a settled squad, experienced leadership, and several match-winners across all departments, India will be aiming to produce another memorable performance on the continental stage. Fans will be hoping the team can successfully defend its Asian Games title and strengthen its position among the leading women's hockey nations in Asia.



Kandula Durgesh Unveils ‘Grahanthara Premikudu’ First Look

Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh on Friday unveiled the first look and trailer of upcoming OTT film Grahanthara Premikudu at the Velagapudi Secretariat, describing it as a ground-breaking experiment in cinema that explores cosmic mysteries beyond current scientific understanding.

Speaking at the launch, Durgesh said the film arrives at a time when scientists across the world are actively researching the existence of extraterrestrial life. “Grahanthara Premikudu presents a thought-provoking concept on whether aliens are a threat or a benefit to humanity. It is a remarkable experiment in storytelling. The Alliance government will support filmmakers who bring innovative content and encourage film production in Andhra Pradesh,” he said, congratulating the team.

The film is helmed by popular YouTuber and creative director Style Ravi, with Dileep Raja leading the pro-



ject as director. The team met the Minister following the unveiling and announced that the film will soon premiere directly on OTT platforms.

Director Style Ravi said the story is inspired by scientific research indicating the presence of 1,715 stars in Earth's transit zone. “We have attempted to visualise aliens

travelling at the speed of light, offering a unique cinematic experience. The film is being produced to international standards using Artificial Intelligence, advanced visual effects and high-end computer graphics,” he said.

The film features Bhavani Kapoor, Ramya Rathod, Samudrala Sridhar Sharma, Ramesh Varma, Varanasi Patrudu, Yashwanth Chandra, Mallesh Padu Ramesh and Saidulu in key roles. Elizabeth from Canada is the producer.

The technical team includes DOP Prakash Jain from Rajasthan, editor Andrew Alexa, AI composer Benjamin Weir and computer graphics artist Alexa.

With its blend of science, imagination and advanced technology, Grahanthara Premikudu aims to deliver a visually rich and concept-driven experience for OTT audiences, marking a new attempt in experimental filmmaking from Andhra Pradesh.



Prabhas' Fauzi Reportedly Bags Record Netflix Deal

Prabhas' much-awaited period war drama Fauzi is creating waves even before its theatrical release, with reports suggesting that the film has secured a massive OTT deal with Netflix. If the reports are accurate, it would rank among the biggest digital rights deals ever signed for a Telugu film.

Directed by Hanu Raghavapudi, Fauzi is currently in production and is scheduled for a grand multilingual theatrical release in December 2026. The film has generated enormous buzz due to its scale, historical backdrop, and Prabhas' collaboration with the acclaimed filmmaker.

According to industry reports, Netflix has acquired the South Indian digital streaming rights of Fauzi for a staggering Rs 180 crore. While an official announcement is still awaited from the makers or the streaming platform, the reported deal has already become a major talking point in the film industry.

The film is set against the backdrop of pre-Independence India and is mounted on a grand scale. Prabhas is expected to portray a soldier, with the story blending patriotism, romance, action, and emotional drama. Director Hanu Raghavapudi, known for his emotional storytelling, is said to be presenting the pan-India star in a completely new avatar.

The movie also stars newcomer Imanvi as the female lead, while veteran actors Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher, and Jaya Prada are expected to play

pivotal roles. The production is progressing rapidly, with the team currently filming important action sequences and key portions of the story.

If the reported Rs 180 crore Netflix agreement is confirmed, it will become one of the biggest OTT deals for an Indian film, further strengthening Prabhas' dominance in the digital streaming market. Over the past few years, films starring the actor have consistently attracted premium digital rights deals, reflecting his strong pan-India appeal and massive global fan following.

The impressive pre-release business also highlights the confidence that streaming platforms have in large-scale Indian films featuring established stars. Even before the film's theatrical release, the reported OTT agreement has significantly boosted expectations among fans and industry observers alike.

For now, the makers are focused on completing the shoot before launching an extensive promotional campaign. Fans are eagerly waiting for the first teaser, posters, and official announcements, which are expected to be unveiled in the coming months.

With an acclaimed director, a high-profile cast, a grand historical backdrop, and a reportedly record-breaking OTT deal, Fauzi has already established itself as one of the most anticipated Indian films of 2026. However, the makers are yet to officially confirm the Netflix deal.

Anvesh Varala Joins Roshan Kanakala's New Film as Director of Photography

A new film starring Roshan Kanakala, son of popular anchor Suma and actor Rajeev Kanakala, was officially launched on Friday in Hyderabad. The film promises to introduce audiences to a fresh cinematic world with a unique and innovative storyline.

The project is being written and directed by Vijay K. Kamishetty, who has also penned the dialogues. The filmmakers describe the movie as a refreshing journey that offers a new perspective and a distinctive cinematic experience for Telugu audiences.

The muhurat ceremony was attended by actor Nikhil Siddhartha, who gave the ceremonial clap for the first shot, marking the beginning of the film's production. Newcomer Gana Re has been cast as the female lead.

The film is being produced by Balaji Gutta and Kaushik Reddy. Acclaimed cinematographer Anvesh Varala has come on board as the Director of Photog-



raphy (DOP), adding another significant project to his growing portfolio.

Anvesh Varala is known for his exceptional visual storytelling and has previously worked on several documentaries and films that have earned recognition at prestigious international film festivals, including those held in Goa, Pune, and Mumbai. His work has received critical acclaim and multiple awards, making him one of the promising cinematographers in the industry.

Speaking about the project, director Vijay K. Kamishetty and writer Y. Anand said the

film aims to deliver a cinematic experience unlike anything Telugu audiences have seen before. They expressed confidence that the story, visuals, and emotional depth of the film will offer viewers a fresh and engaging experience.

With Roshan Kanakala in the lead, a talented technical team, and Anvesh Varala handling the cinematography, the film has already generated curiosity among movie lovers. The makers are expected to begin regular shooting soon and will announce further details, including the title and release plans, in the coming months.



Dulquer-Pooja's Film Titled Sri Sri

The much-awaited film starring Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde has officially been titled Sri Sri, with the makers unveiling its first-look poster. The announcement has generated considerable excitement among fans, as it marks the first on-screen collaboration between the two popular stars.

Directed by Ravi Nelakuditi, the multilingual romantic entertainer was previously referred to as DQ41 during production. With the title reveal, the makers also shared a charming first-look poster that hints at a youthful love story set against a college backdrop.

The poster features Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde sitting together on a compound wall, sharing a light-hearted moment. Dressed in coordinated blue outfits, the pair display effortless chemistry, while their youthful appearance suggests they play college students. The serene visuals and simple presentation have been well received by movie lovers.

Sharing the poster on social media, Dulquer Salmaan wrote, "Love will feel a little extra special with Sri Sri," offering fans a glimpse into the film's romantic theme. The announcement quickly went viral, with fans praising the fresh pairing and expressing excitement for more updates. Apart from Dulquer Salmaan and Pooja Hegde, the film also stars

Dheekshith Shetty in a pivotal role. The project is being produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, while GV Prakash Kumar is composing the music. The film is being made as a multilingual project and is expected to release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi, targeting audiences across the country.

Although the makers are yet to announce an official release date, the title reveal has significantly boosted the film's buzz. Fans are eagerly awaiting the teaser, songs, and additional promotional content, which are expected to be released in the coming months.

The combination of Dulquer Salmaan's charming screen presence, Pooja Hegde's popularity, and Ravi Nelakuditi's fresh storytelling has already made Sri Sri one of the most anticipated romantic entertainers in production. The first-look poster suggests a youthful, feel-good love story with vibrant visuals and emotional depth.

With a fresh lead pair, an accomplished technical team, and growing anticipation among movie lovers, Sri Sri has started its promotional journey on a promising note. Fans now look forward to discovering more about the film's story, music, and release plans as the makers gradually unveil new updates.

'Jana Nayagan' Gets an Unexpected A Certificate

The long-awaited censor certification for Thalapathy Vijay's upcoming film Jana Nayagan is finally out, and the result has surprised both fans and the film industry. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has awarded the film an 'A' (Adults Only) certificate, making it one of the rare Vijay films to receive this classification.

The decision has sparked widespread discussion because Vijay's films have traditionally received U or U/A certificates, allowing family audiences to enjoy them. An A certificate is unusual for a star known for delivering mass entertainers and family-friendly blockbusters.

According to reports, the film underwent several modifications during the certification process before receiving clearance. The CBFC is said to have recommended multiple edits, including changes to certain dialogues and scenes, before granting the final certificate.

Directed by H. Vinoth, Jana Nayagan is one of the most significant films in Vijay's career as it is widely expected to be his final movie before he fully enters politics. The project has generated immense buzz ever since its announcement, with fans eagerly



ly awaiting every update.

The certified runtime of the film is reportedly 3 hours and 3 minutes, making it one of the longest films in Vijay's career. Despite its lengthy runtime and adult certification, anticipation remains exceptionally high among moviegoers.

Following the announcement, social media was flooded with reactions. While many fans were surprised by the A certificate, others expressed excitement, believing the film may feature more intense action, mature storytelling, and powerful political themes than a typical Vijay entertainer.

The film features an impressive ensemble cast, including Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj, Priyamani, and

Mamitha Baiju in key roles. Music for the film has been composed by Anirudh Ravichander, whose soundtrack is also highly anticipated.

With the censor process now complete, the makers are expected to intensify promotional activities ahead of the theatrical release. Fans are eagerly waiting for the trailer and final promotional content before the film hits the big screen.

As Vijay prepares for what could be his farewell as a full-time actor, Jana Nayagan has emerged as one of the year's most awaited releases. The unexpected A certificate has only heightened curiosity, with audiences eager to discover what makes the film different from the superstar's previous blockbusters.

Hrithik Roshan in Talks for Laxman Utekar's Next?

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan is reportedly in discussions to headline the next directorial venture of Laxman Utekar, the filmmaker who recently impressed audiences with Chhaava. Although the project is still in its early stages, the reports have already created a buzz in the film industry.

According to industry sources, Laxman Utekar has approached Hrithik Roshan with the script for his upcoming film. While the actor is said to have shown interest, he has not yet given his final approval, and discus-

sions are reportedly ongoing.

If the collaboration materializes, it will mark the first time Hrithik Roshan and Laxman Utekar work together. The director has earned a reputation for blending strong storytelling with commercial appeal, making the potential pairing one of the most exciting prospects in Bollywood.

Hrithik Roshan currently has a packed schedule with several major projects in various stages of production. As a result, the actor is believed to be taking his time before committing to another film, carefully evaluat-



ing scripts that align with his career plans.

Meanwhile, Laxman Utekar is riding high on the success of his recent films and has emerged as one of Bollywood's most sought-after directors.

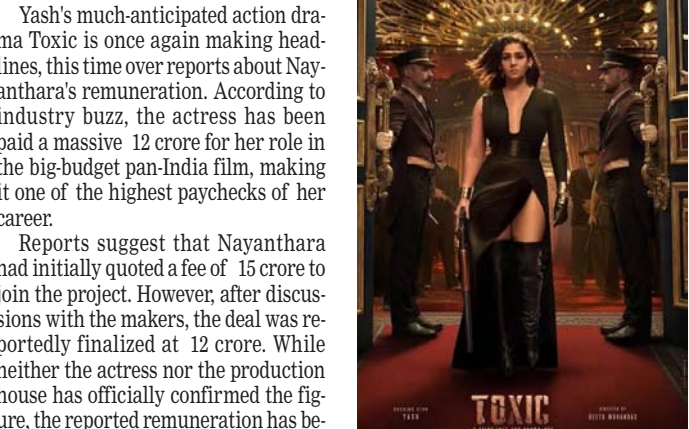
His ability to deliver both critically acclaimed and commercially successful movies has significantly raised expectations for his next venture.

Although the makers have not revealed the film's storyline or genre, speculation is already building around the kind of role Hrithik Roshan could portray. Fans are hoping to see the actor in a fresh and challenging character that makes the most of his acting skills and screen presence.

The reports have generated widespread excitement on social media, with fans expressing enthusiasm

about the possibility of this new collaboration. Many believe that the combination of Hrithik's star power and Utekar's storytelling style could result in one of Bollywood's biggest upcoming films.

As of now, neither Hrithik Roshan nor the filmmakers have officially confirmed the project. Until an official announcement is made, the reports remain speculative. Even so, the possibility of the two joining forces has already become a major talking point among movie enthusiasts, who are eagerly waiting for further updates.



Yash's much-anticipated action drama Toxic is once again making headlines, this time over reports about Nayanthara's remuneration. According to industry buzz, the actress has been paid a massive 12 crore for her role in the big-budget pan-India film, making it one of the highest paychecks of her career.

Reports suggest that Nayanthara had initially quoted a fee of 15 crore to join the project. However, after discussions with the makers, the deal was reportedly finalized at 12 crore. While neither the actress nor the production house has officially confirmed the figure, the reported remuneration has become a major topic of discussion in the film industry.

Interestingly, sources claim that Nayanthara's role in Toxic does not involve extensive screen time. Despite this, the makers were reportedly willing to pay a premium amount, reflecting her immense popularity and strong box-office appeal across multiple languages. Her presence is expected to enhance the film's reach among audiences in both South India and other markets.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic marks Yash's first major release after the blockbuster success of the KGF franchise. The film is being mounted on a lavish scale and promises a gripping blend of action, drama, and intense storytelling. The project has already generated tremendous excitement among fans, with every new update attracting widespread attention. Apart from Yash and Nayanthara, the film boasts a star-studded cast that reportedly includes Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and several other prominent actors. The mak-

ers are aiming for a grand pan-India release, with high production values and international-level action sequences expected to be among its major highlights.

The reported remuneration also reflects the growing trend of leading actresses commanding substantial fees for big-budget productions. Nayanthara, often referred to as the "Lady Superstar" of South Indian cinema, continues to be one of the industry's highest-paid actresses, thanks to her consistent success and strong fan following.

Although the makers are yet to officially confirm the payment details, the buzz surrounding Toxic continues to grow. Fans are eagerly waiting for the film's teaser, trailer, and official release date, expecting another spectacular cinematic experience from Yash.

With a celebrated director, an impressive ensemble cast, and one of the biggest stars in Indian cinema leading the project, Toxic is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated pan-India films in recent times.