



BUZZ POINTS



Gold, Silver Likely to Remain Volatile Amid West Asia Tensions

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Palakkad's Space Legacy Grows as NASA's Anil Menon Prepares for ISS Mission

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Ladakh Creates 17 New Tehsils to Improve Access to Government Services

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# Final 48 Hours for SIR: AP Pushes for 100% Voter Roll Verification

**K Kalyan Krishna Kumar**  
With just 48 hours left for the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Andhra Pradesh has entered the final phase of the voter verification exercise. Launched on June 25, 2026, the SIR involved Booth Level Officers (BLOs) conducting door-to-door verification and distributing Enumeration Forms. The exercise will conclude on July 14, 2026, after which the Election Commission will take up further stages of electoral roll preparation and publication. According to the latest data released by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Andhra Pradesh, 4,16,20,565 Enumeration Forms (EFs) have been distributed across the state, achieving 99.98 per cent coverage. Of these, 3,88,34,360 forms have been digitised, recording 93.29 per cent progress as of 4 PM on Saturday. Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav said district Collectors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were working continuously to complete the process within the stipulated deadline. He appealed to all political parties, public representatives and citizens to cooperate in ensuring a smooth and



transparent SIR exercise. The SIR process involves door-to-door verification of voters, updating electoral details, removing duplicate or ineligible entries and adding names of eligible citizens. The Election Commission of India has described the exercise as a participative process involving voters, political parties and election officials. In Andhra Pradesh, more than 46,000 BLOs are engaged in the field-level verification process, assisted by Booth Level Agents appointed by political parties. The exercise, however, has triggered a political debate. Some opposition parties have raised concerns over transpar-

ency, alleging that the revision process could lead to the exclusion of genuine voters. The YS-RCP has alleged irregularities in the exercise and questioned whether the process is being conducted fairly. The Election Commission has rejected such apprehensions and maintained that no eligible voter would be removed without proper verification and due procedure. Officials have repeatedly stated that the objective of SIR is to prepare accurate electoral rolls by eliminating errors, duplicate registrations and outdated entries. Meanwhile, the BJP has requested an extension of the

| District-wise Digitisation Highlights by 4.00 PM on July 12 |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Highest Progress Digitisation %                             |        |
| Eluru                                                       | 99.96% |
| Kakinada                                                    | 99.46% |
| Srikakulam                                                  | 98.02% |
| Districts Requiring Final Push Digitisation %               |        |
| Visakhapatnam                                               | 87.24% |
| Prakasam                                                    | 89.60% |
| NTR District                                                | 89.95% |

## Naidu Visits Pawan Kalyan in Mumbai, Says Deputy CM Recovering Well

Mumbai, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday visited Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at a hospital in Mumbai, where he is recovering after undergoing rotator cuff surgery on his right shoulder. The Chief Minister enquired about Pawan Kalyan's health from doctors, reviewed details of the treatment and advised



him to strictly follow medical instructions for a complete recovery. He expressed hope that the Deputy Chief

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## Durgesh Reviews Arrangements for CM Naidu's Dowleswaram Visit

Rajamahendravaram, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh conducted a late-night inspection of arrangements for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to East Godavari and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts scheduled for July 13. The Chief Minister will inaugurate construction works related to the installation of new flood gates at the Dowleswaram Barrage. Durgesh reviewed preparations around the barrage after concluding engagements in the Nidadavolu constituency and reaching Rajamahendravaram around 10 PM. He carried out a field-level assessment of key



arrangements being made for the high-profile event. During the inspection, the Minister examined facilities including the helipad, public meeting venue, security deployment and vehicle parking arrangements. He interacted with officials from various departments and sought

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## Vietnam Boat Tragedy A Holiday That Turned Into a Nightmare, Questions Over Rescue and Safety

ARN Mahesh

A leisure trip to Vietnam's picturesque Phu Quoc Island ended in one of the deadliest tragedies involving Indian tourists abroad, leaving 15 people dead, including three from Andhra Pradesh. As families mourn the loss of their loved ones and authorities work on repatriation, eyewitness accounts have raised serious questions about the sequence of events after the tourist boat



capsized. The speedboat, carrying 32 Indian tourists and four Vietnamese crew members, overturned near Hon May Rut Ngaoi Island while returning towards An Thoi I

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## Vietnam Boat Tragedy: Andhra Victims' Mortal Remains to Reach India

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The mortal remains of three tourists from Andhra Pradesh who died in the tragic boat accident near Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam will be repatriated soon, with Union Minister for Civil Aviation K Rammoohan Naidu intervening to expedite the process. The Embassy of India in Vietnam has finalised travel arrangements, and flight schedules are expected



shortly. The victims were identified as Nallapeta Adiseshaiah Ravi Teja from Hindupur in Sri

## Experts Urge Early Intervention After Shabad Killings

Shivaranjani

Hyderabad: Police have intensified their search for 35-year-old P. Rajkumar, the prime accused in the shocking six-murder case in Shabad, as investigators continue to gather evidence and examine the events that allegedly preceded the crime. Fresh details from the First Information Report (FIR) indicate that Rajkumar had allegedly stalked and harassed a 16-year-old girl for nearly a year before the horrific killings. The incident, which claimed the lives of six people,



has sent shockwaves across Telangana and triggered widespread concern over escalating violence, revenge-driven crimes, and the importance of identifying warning signs before tragedies occur. Rajkumar

is accused of murdering the minor girl, her mother, and grandmother, along with his own wife and two children, before fleeing the scene in his car. According to the FIR registered by Shabad Police, a case was filed against Rajkumar on May 16, 2026, under Sections 78 and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act following a complaint lodged by the girl's mother. The complaint alleged that Rajkumar, a resident of Dhaivalguda, had been repeat-

edly following and harassing her younger daughter, who was studying first-year Intermediate at a private college in Shamshabad. Despite being married and having two children, he allegedly pressured the girl to speak with him over the phone and followed her to college. The family alleged that he issued threats, including warnings to kill her if she refused to communicate with him. Due to the continuous harassment and threats, the family reportedly stopped sending the girl to

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## "My Voice Cannot Be Silenced": Prakash Raj

Hyderabad, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Actor Prakash Raj has responded strongly to the ongoing controversy surrounding his remarks in the "Prasanna Ravana" row, stating that attempts to silence his voice of dissent would not succeed. In a recent post on X, he criticised the online campaign against him and alleged that certain Jana Sena supporters, television channels and YouTube platforms were spreading false propaganda against him.



Prakash Raj, without directly naming individuals, said he was observing the developments and questioned the manner in which the campaign

## TTD Announces Darshan Changes and October Quota Schedule

Tirumala, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced changes to VIP Break Darshans at the Srivari Temple and released the online booking schedule for various darshan tickets and accommodation quotas for October 2026. The VIP Break Darshans will remain cancelled on July 14 and 17 due to the traditional temple cleaning ritual, Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam, and the annual Anivara Asthanam celebrations. TTD will not accept VIP recommendation letters



on July 13 and 16, while only protocol dignitaries will be allowed darshan on the specified days. Daily sevas, including Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva, will

also remain cancelled on July 17. **October 2026 Darshan Quota Schedule**

TTD has opened the online booking schedule for October darshan and accommodation quotas. Registrations for premium Arjitha Seva tickets will begin on July 18 at 10 AM. Tickets for other sevas, Rs 300 Special Entry Darshan, Srivani Trust, special categories and accommodation will be released between July 21 and 24 through the official portal. Devotees have been advised to use only official channels for bookings.

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## NTR District Woman Killed in US Road Accident Laid to Rest in Native Village

Kondapalli, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The mortal remains of Atluri Lakshmi Prasanna (28), who died in a road accident in New York, United States, on July 5, were brought to her native village, Mulapadu in NTR district, triggering scenes of deep grief. Family members, relatives and villagers gathered in large numbers to pay their last respects.

Lakshmi Prasanna had travelled to the United States recently and had spoken cheerfully with her family just two



months ago, making her sudden death even more distressing. Her parents, Malleswari and Vasantha Rao, broke down upon seeing her mortal remains, moving onlookers to tears. The repatriation of the body was facilitated by

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# New Chapter for Godavari Delta CM to Launch Modernisation of Dowleswaram Barrage

Ch Raju

Dowleswaram: The historic Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram is set to receive a major technological upgrade, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu scheduled to lay the foundation stone on Monday to replace 117 old floodgates at an estimated cost of 152.95 crore. The programme will be held at Gate No. 1 in Pichukulanka of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district. Officials described the project as a significant step towards strengthening irrigation security, improving flood management and ensuring the

long-term safety of the barrage, which has remained the lifeline of the Godavari Delta for decades. The Dowleswaram anicut, constructed between 1847 and 1852 under the leadership of Sir Arthur Cotton, transformed the Godavari Delta into one of India's most fertile agricultural regions. By effectively diverting Godavari floodwaters for irrigation, the structure changed the economic landscape of the region, earning the lasting gratitude of farmers. Following the ageing of the original anicut and major floods in 1963, the need for a



modern structure was identified. Construction of the present Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage began in 1969 and was completed in 1984. Spread across approximately

5,837 kilometres, the barrage currently provides irrigation facilities to around 10.13 lakh acres and serves as a major source of drinking water for millions of people. It also plays

a crucial role in flood regulation and protecting delta agriculture. Considering nearly four decades of continuous operation, exposure to heavy floods and ageing mechanical components, the Central Water Commission (CWC), Dam Safety Review Panel (DSRP) and expert committees on hydro-mechanical systems conducted detailed inspections. Based on their recommendations, the State government initiated the modernisation works. During the first phase in 2014-15, 58 out of 175 flood gates were replaced at a cost of 31.77 crore. The present project in-

cludes replacement of the remaining 117 gates, installation of new rubber seals, roller assemblies, wire ropes, master control panels and electrical cables for all 175 gates, along with sandblasting and painting works. The State government accorded administrative sanction for the project in 2025, followed by technical approval. The work was awarded to M/s BEKEM Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad, with a target to complete the project within two years. Officials said the modernisation would enhance the barrage's safety and strengthen

flood management capabilities. The initiative is expected to benefit farming communities, fisherfolk and rural populations across East Godavari, West Godavari and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema districts. The project also assumes importance from a heritage perspective as efforts are being made to preserve the legacy of the Godavari region while integrating modern technology. Officials said the upgrade would ensure that the historic barrage continues to serve future generations by securing irrigation and water resources for the Godavari Delta.

## Kerala Partners with EESL for Green Growth Drive

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Kerala has unveiled an ambitious green growth roadmap aimed at making the state a national leader in climate action and sustainable development, with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, set to partner in implementing advanced energy-efficient and renewable technologies.

A high-level meeting, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) K.R. Jyothi Lal, will be held in Thiruvananthapuram on July 15, where EESL Chief Executive Officer Akhilesh Kumar Dixit will present successful national models and global best practices. The state has earmarked 100 crore in the 2026-27 revised budget for Community Battery Energy Storage Systems (C-BESS), a key initiative to strengthen renewable energy integration and grid stability.

The proposed collaboration includes rooftop solar projects, LED street lighting, electric mobility, battery storage, energy-



efficient housing, and solar initiatives for the Kerala Water Authority. Kerala's five-point strategy also focuses on expanding renewable energy, increasing green cover, adopting advanced technologies, and encouraging public participation in climate action.

EESL will also showcase the Andhra Pradesh-EESL partnership as a national best-practice model, highlighting its achievements in energy savings, financial benefits, smart public infrastructure, and the distribution of induction stoves to over 55,000 Anganwadi centres. Officials said the partnership aims to reduce energy wastage, lower public expenditure, and support sustainable governance while advancing India's climate goals.



## Minister Warns Against Encroachment of Donated Lands

Machilipatnam, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra on Sunday warned that strict action would be taken against anyone encroaching on lands donated for the welfare of the poor. He was speaking after attending the oath-taking ceremony of the Sri Thammana Pitchaiah Dharma Satram Development Committee, functioning under the Andhra Pradesh Endowments Department, at Challa Rasta Centre in Machilipatnam.

The minister said philanthropists had donated vast extents of land for schools, colleges, temples and charitable institutions to serve the needy, and protecting

such properties was a collective responsibility. He recalled that the Dharma Satram, established by Thammana Pitchaiah in 1917, was handed over to the government in 1982 and reopened in 1984. Kollu Ravindra announced a personal contribution of 5 lakh for the development of the satram and assured efforts to secure additional funds from the Endowments Department for constructing a modern facility. He also pledged to reclaim encroached charitable lands across the Machilipatnam constituency. Senior party leader Gorrepati Gopichand, former Municipal Chairman Motamarri Babaprasad, committee members and other leaders attended the programme.

## Minister Hails India's Archery Silver Triumph

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy congratulated the Indian women's compound archery team for winning the silver medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-4 being held in Madrid, Spain.

The minister appreciated the exceptional performance of team members Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Prithika Deep and Chikitha Thaniparthi, stating that their achievement on the international stage had brought pride to the nation and inspired young sportspersons.

Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy said the team's victory over South Korea in the semifinals to enter the final was a significant achievement and reflected the growing strength of Indian archery. He noted that securing the silver medal marked another important step forward for the country's archery talent.

The minister expressed hope that the players would continue their excellent performance and win more international medals for India. He extended his best wishes to the entire Indian women's archery team for their future endeavours.

## SSC 2027 Blueprint and Model Papers Released

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The Board of Secondary Education, Andhra Pradesh has released the blueprint and model question papers for the SSC Public Examinations 2027. The materials have been prepared for Class X students appearing for the examinations during the academic year 2026-27 and uploaded on the official website of the Board of Secondary Education and the LEAP App.

Director of Government Examinations K.V. Srinivasulu Reddy informed that all Head Masters and subject teachers

have been instructed to download the blueprint and model question papers and make them available to students for practice and preparation.

Students appearing for the SSC Public Examinations 2027 have been advised to study the blueprint and model papers thoroughly to understand the examination pattern, weightage and scheme.

The Board urged Head Masters, students, parents and other stakeholders to use the resources effectively for better preparation and rely only on official platforms for authentic updates.

## Buried for 2,000 Years, Gottiprolu Finally Claims Its Place in History

Sravani Badugu

Naidupeta: Hidden beneath layers of earth and once dismissed as an abandoned mound covered with wild vegetation, the historic Kotadibba at Gottiprolu village has now secured a place on India's archaeological map. The Union Ministry of Culture has declared the site a monument of national importance, recognising its remarkable historical and cultural significance after years of archaeological research.

Located nearly 20 kilometres from Naidupeta in Tirupati district, Gottiprolu has emerged as one of Andhra Pradesh's most important ancient settlements. Excavations carried out by archaeologists uncovered evidence of a thriving civilisation that flourished nearly 2,000 years ago. Massive brick structures, house foundations, storage pits, black-and-red ware pottery, stone tools and beautifully sculpted idols, including a Vishnu idol believed to belong to the Pallava period, were among the major discoveries.

The excavated bricks closely resemble those used during the Satavahana and Ikshvaku dynasties at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda, indicating that Gottiprolu was a prominent fortified settlement and an important administrative centre. Archaeologists also believe the village served as a major trading hub due to its strategic location near the Swarnamukhi River and the ancient



port of Dugarajapatnam, which connected the region to overseas maritime trade.

Researchers say the fort was built on an elevated mound nearly 40 feet high, providing natural protection and a clear view of the surrounding landscape. The availability of water resources and access to ancient trade routes made it an ideal location for rulers to establish a fortified settlement.

Ironically, many of the site's hidden treasures surfaced during years of illegal gravel excavation. Villagers who noticed ancient bricks, pottery fragments and sculptures alerted the Archaeological Survey authorities, leading to scientific excavations that confirmed the site's historical

importance.

The Centre has now brought more than 24 acres under protected status, with the National Monuments Authority entrusted with its conservation. However, locals say the site, once excavated, has again been covered by dense vegetation and requires further restoration and development to unlock its tourism potential.

The national recognition marks a significant milestone for Gottiprolu, transforming a forgotten mound into a symbol of Andhra Pradesh's glorious past. Historians believe the discoveries will open new avenues for archaeological research while preserving an invaluable chapter of India's ancient civilisation for future generations.

## Minister Consoles Vietnam Boat Tragedy Victim's Family

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra on Sunday visited the residence of the family of Gelli Jayashree, who died in the recent boat accident in Vietnam, and offered his condolences. The minister met the bereaved family at Moghalrajpuram in Vijayawada and assured them of the Andhra Pradesh government's full support during the difficult time.

Kollu Ravindra also reassured the family that Gelli Kishore, who was injured in the accident, was receiving advanced medical treatment in Vietnam. He spoke over the phone with family members



who had travelled to Vietnam to assist Kishore and enquired about his health and the medical care being provided.

The minister said officials had informed him that Jayashree's mortal remains were expected to reach Vi-

jayawada by Monday evening and would be handed over to the family on Tuesday. He added that Minister Nara Lokesh had already held discussions with the Indian Embassy to ensure all necessary assistance to the affected family.

## AP Handloom Exhibition Opens in New Delhi

New Delhi, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi is hosting a Handloom Exhibition-cum-Sale from July 12 to 19, offering visitors an opportunity to experience the rich weaving traditions and craftsmanship of the state's master weavers.

The exhibition, open from 11 AM to 9 PM at Andhra Pradesh Bhavan, No. 1 Ashoka Road, features 17 traditional handloom varieties presented directly by skilled weavers from across Andhra Pradesh. Visitors can explore and purchase renowned collections including Uppada Jamdani, Dharmavaram, Venkatagiri, Gadwal, Kuppadam, Sri Kalahasti Kalamkari, Madanapalle, Madhavaram, Bandar Polavaram, Mori, Pulagurtha Malka and Angara handlooms.

The exhibition showcases a wide range of products, including sarees, dress materials, silk fabrics, khaddar, shirtings, dhoties, lungies and bedsheets. Organisers said the event aims to promote



GI-recognised weaving traditions, provide direct market support to artisans and preserve Andhra Pradesh's centuries-old handloom heritage.

Visitors can also enjoy authentic Andhra cuisine at the AP Bhavan Canteen, making the exhibition a complete cultural experience.

## Power Employees Seek Retirement Age Order Implementation

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Power sector employees have urged electricity organisations to immediately implement G.O. Ms. No.45, which raises the retirement age of employees from 60 to 62 years.

In a press note, employees said the state government issued the order after considering the representations of employee associations and the Group

of Ministers' report. They welcomed the decision and expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, cabinet members and officials.

However, they expressed concern over the delay in implementation within electricity organisations, citing internal committee procedures. They said thousands of employees, particularly those nearing retirement, were facing uncertainty due to the delay and some

benefit-related processes had been affected.

They appealed to power sector management to implement the order immediately, stating that it would provide relief to employees and strengthen their confidence in the government.

AP Power Employees Forum president G. Ramakrishnu, general secretary S. Koteswara Rao, vice-president S. Srinivasa Rao and secretary M. Srinivasa Rao were present.

## Palasa Airport to Boost Jobs and Curb Migration

Palasa, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The proposed Palasa Airport aims to transform Srikakulam district by creating employment opportunities and reducing migration, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said on Sunday. He held a high-level review meeting in Palasa with public representatives, officials, farmers and local residents on airport development, land acquisition and compensation.

The minister said the airport would be developed entirely under government control with funds from the Airports Authority of India under the UDAN scheme and dismissed concerns over privatisation. He said around 500 acres of land acquired along with the airport project would be allocated for industrial development, creating large-scale employment opportunities for local youth.

He assured that a structured policy would be introduced to



give priority to local people in jobs generated through the airport and industries. He cited the growth around Bhogapuram Airport as an example of how such projects can create economic opportunities.

District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar assured farmers that no village would be displaced and promised fair and maximum compensation as per land acquisition rules.

Joint Collector Farman Ahmed Khan, MLA Gauthu Sireesha and other officials participated in the meeting.

## Arya Vysya Council Takes Oath in Nandyal

Banaganapalle, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister BC Janardhan Reddy and his wife attended the oath-taking ceremony of the Nandyal District Arya Vysya Governing Council held at GSS Kalyana Mandapam in Banaganapalle on Sunday. Former MP TG Venkatesh Gupta also participated in the programme.

Before the event, BC Janardhan Reddy welcomed TG Venkatesh Gupta at his residence in Banaganapalle. During the ceremony, Tanguturi Srinayya took oath as the President of the Nandyal District Arya Vysya Sangham, along with the newly elected executive committee members.

Tanguturi Srinayya and the executive committee accorded a grand welcome to Minister BC



Janardhan Reddy, his wife, and former MP TG Venkatesh Gupta on their arrival at the venue.

Addressing the gathering, the minister congratulated the newly elected president and governing council members, expressing confidence that they would work for the welfare and progress of the Arya Vysya community. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of Arya Vysya community members and other prominent personalities from the district.

## Sanskrit Scholars' Meet Scheduled on July 13

Guntur, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The AP Telugu and Sanskrit Academy will organise a conclave of Sanskrit scholars and intellectuals at Vaddeswaram in Vijayawada on Monday to discuss measures for the promotion and expansion of the Sanskrit language.

Academy Chairman R.D. Wilson, also known as Sharath Chandra, said the meeting would bring together Sanskrit scholars and intellectuals to formulate an action plan for strengthening the language's reach and encouraging its wider use.

He said the programme is be-

ing held as part of the ongoing Sanskrit Saptaham celebrations being organised in various towns to popularise the language. The academy is working with the slogan, "Sanskrit for Everyone, Sanskrit to Everyone," to take the language to every section of society.

Wilson said the academy had already published books under the Patita Sanskritam initiative to promote Sanskrit and would continue similar efforts. He added that the academy's primary objective is to make Sanskrit more accessible to the general public through sustained awareness and educational programmes.

## YS Jagan to Meet Fishermen Families on July 14

Visakhapatnam, July 12 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, July 14, to console the families of six fishermen who went missing in the recent boat accident off the Visakhapatnam coast, YSRCP Visakhapatnam District President K.K. Raju announced.

Jagan Mohan Reddy will arrive at Visakhapatnam Airport at 10:30 AM and proceed to Jabbarpet in Visakhapatnam South Assembly constituency to meet the families of the missing fishermen. He will also meet Kari Chinna, the lone survivor of the accident, and his family members.

K.K. Raju criticised the government's response to the incident, alleging delays in rescue operations despite the accident occurring close to the shore.



He questioned the coordination among various departments and demanded greater accountability in handling the tragedy.

He also urged the State Election Commissioner to extend the voter verification and application process under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, citing difficulties in urban areas like Visakhapatnam due to migration.

## Durgesh Reviews Arrangements for CM Naidu’s Dowleswaram Visit

continued

updates on preparedness. Durgesh directed the administration to implement stringent security measures and ensure there is no lapse during the Chief Minister's visit. He stressed the importance of seamless coordination among all departments, including police, irrigation and revenue wings, to handle large crowds and maintain order.

## A Holiday That Turned Into a Nightmare, Questions Over Rescue and Safety

continued

nternational Port. According to Vietnamese authorities, the vessel capsized after encountering strong winds and rough sea conditions. Rescue teams recovered 15 bodies and rescued several passengers. Vietnamese police have detained the boat captain as part of an investigation into possible violations of waterway safety regulations.

Among the deceased were three tourists from Andhra Pradesh — Nallapeta Adise-shaiah Ravi Teja from Hindupur in Sri Sathya Sai district, Mudiom Sreedhar from Kadapa district and Gelli Jaya Lakshmi from Machilipatnam in Krishna district. Their deaths have left their native places in deep sorrow, with families waiting for the mortal remains to return home.

### Eyewitness Accounts Raise Rescue Questions

Survivors from Andhra Pradesh recalled terrifying moments when the boat suddenly overturned. Nirmal Kumar, one of the survivors, said a massive wave struck the boat while it was approaching the shore, throwing several passengers into the sea. He said around 20 people fell into the water, while some passengers remained trapped inside as the boat was fully enclosed.

Another survivor alleged that rescue efforts were not initiated immediately and claimed that precious time was lost. He said some passengers who lost consciousness might have survived if immediate first aid and CPR had been provided. Survivors also raised concerns about the availability of emergency medical facilities at the accident location.

However, Vietnamese authorities and rescue agencies have maintained that search and rescue operations were carried out after receiving information about the accident. Nearby boats and rescue teams

Calling the visit a matter of prestige for the district, the Minister urged officials to act responsibly and ensure the program is conducted smoothly and successfully.

Officials stated that elaborate arrangements are being made as a large number of public are expected to attend the Chief Minister's program at the historic Dowleswaram Barrage.

helped recover survivors, while investigations are continuing to determine whether safety procedures were properly followed.

### Safety Review and Investigation

The tragedy has triggered a wider discussion on tourist safety measures in Vietnam's popular island destinations. Authorities are examining weather conditions, vessel operations, safety equipment and the response mechanism following the accident. Vietnam's Prime Minister has ordered an investigation into the incident and a review of safety protocols for tourist operations.

### Repatriation and Government Support

The Indian Embassy in Vietnam, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Andhra Pradesh Government are coordinating efforts to bring back the mortal remains and assist survivors. The bodies of the deceased tourists are being moved for repatriation after completion of official procedures.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation K Rammohan Naidu has assured that the Central Government is extending full support to the affected families. Arrangements are also being made for survivors to return to India, while one critically injured tourist continues to receive medical care in Vietnam. The Vietnam boat tragedy has not only brought grief to families across Andhra Pradesh and other states but has also highlighted the urgent need for stricter safety standards, faster emergency response systems and stronger accountability in international tourist operations. The final findings of the investigation will determine whether the tragedy was caused solely by natural conditions or whether lapses in safety procedures contributed to the loss of lives.

## NTR District Woman Killed in US Road Accident Laid to Rest in Native Village

continued

Komati Jayaram, NRI and Special Representative of the Andhra Pradesh Government for North America, who coordinated with local authorities and Indian consular officials in the United States. According to official sources, the Consulate General of India in New York assisted in documentation, including issuance of death certificates and clearance for transportation. The mortal remains arrived at Hyderabad Airport in the early hours of Sunday and were shifted to Mulapadu by ambu-

lance. Local authorities ensured smooth transit and necessary arrangements at the village. After relatives and villagers paid floral tributes, the body was taken in a procession to the village cremation ground, where last rites were performed as per family traditions. Officials said the Andhra Pradesh Government, through its NRI support mechanism, extended assistance to the bereaved family in bringing the body back. The tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over Mulapadu village, with residents mourning the untimely loss of a young life.

## “My Voice Cannot Be Silenced”: Prakash Raj

continued

was being carried out. He remarked that those targeting him were lowering the standards of public discourse.

The controversy intensified after cases and complaints were filed against the actor over his alleged remarks related to religious themes and the Ramayana. A complaint was filed before a Tirupati court by BJP leader G. Bhanu-prakash Reddy, alleging that Prakash Raj's comments hurt religious sentiments. The is-

sue has also triggered protests and strong reactions from sections of Jana Sena supporters, who have criticised the actor's statements and demanded action. Prakash Raj, known for expressing strong views on social and political issues, has maintained that criticism and disagreement are part of democracy. His latest post comes amid the continuing debate over freedom of expression, political criticism and the limits of public discourse.

## Andhra Pradesh Development Audit (2014–2026)

# Coalition Politics: Has North Andhra finally found Its Development Advantage?

Chennu Peddiraju, Sr. Journalist

Development is not measured by government announcements. It is measured by the changes people see in their everyday lives. The true progress of a region is reflected not in the number of projects announced or foundation stones laid, but in projects completed, investments attracted, jobs created, irrigation provided, and improvements in people's quality of life. That principle forms the foundation of this series. Rather than focusing on political claims or competing narratives, Andhra Pradesh Development Audit (2014–2026) examines development through measurable outcomes. It looks beyond promises to implementation, beyond rhetoric to evidence, and beyond political debate to documented facts. This series reviews the state's development journey from the formation of the new Andhra Pradesh in 2014 to the present.

### A Region Rich in Potential, Yet Long Waiting for Growth

Regional imbalance has remained one of the defining challenges of post-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh. Few places illustrate this better than North Andhra. Blessed with abundant natural resources, nearly 350 kilometres of coastline, one of India's finest natural harbours at Visakhapatnam, significant mineral wealth, and enormous tourism potential, the region possesses many of the ingredients needed for sustained economic growth. Yet for decades, it has continued to be identified as one of the state's least-developed regions. As a result, every election has brought a new wave of promises, with successive governments presenting ambitious plans for the region's transformation. The central question, however, remains unchanged.

### How much of what was promised has actually been delivered?

Development has been on the policy agenda since the state's bifurcation in 2014. However, the political landscape changed significantly after the 2024 elections. For the first time since bifurcation, the same political coalition assumed office both in New Delhi and in Amaravati. The arrangement created



expectations that closer coordination between the Central and State Governments could accelerate long-pending infrastructure and industrial projects across North Andhra. Attention once again turned to several landmark initiatives—the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Bhogapuram International Airport, Mulapeta (Bhavanapadu) Port, the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone, industrial corridors, highways, and irrigation projects.

Yet one fundamental question remains unanswered. Has political alignment between the Centre and the State translated into faster development for North Andhra, or do many of these projects still remain largely works in progress? This series seeks to answer that question through evidence rather than opinion. The Andhra Pradesh Development Audit will not evaluate governments through political speeches or campaign promises. Instead, it will examine official data, budget allocations, funding patterns, project implementation, administrative progress, and measurable public outcomes. The objective is neither to praise nor criticise any government. It is to place verified evidence before readers, allowing them to reach their own conclusions.

### Two Different Realities

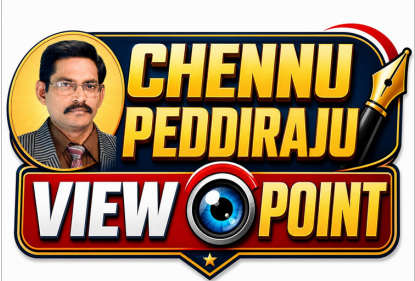
North Andhra presents a striking contrast. On one side lies immense opportunity: a long coastline, one of India's largest natural ports, rich mineral reserves, expanding tourism, and geography ideally suited for industrial growth. On the other side are persistent challenges: young people migrating elsewhere in search of employment, farmers still waiting for reliable irrigation, and communities that continue to hope for projects announced many years ago. The gap between these two realities tells the story of North

### Andhra's development. From Bifurcation to the Capital Debate

Following Andhra Pradesh's bifurcation in 2014, the strategic importance of Visakhapatnam increased substantially. With Hyderabad becoming part of Telangana, policymakers increasingly viewed Visakhapatnam as the state's future economic engine. During this period, the Central Government announced several major infrastructure projects, while successive State Governments promised to position North Andhra as a major destination for investment. However, announcements alone do not guarantee results. The more important question is whether implementation has matched the pace of political commitments. Another significant turning point came in 2019, when Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy proposed Visakhapatnam as the Executive Capital under the three-capitals model. Although the proposal generated intense political debate and prolonged legal challenges, it fundamentally altered the state's development conversation. Visakhapatnam—and North Andhra more broadly—became central to discussions on governance, regional balance, and economic planning. Even so, the capital proposal and infrastructure development should be evaluated separately. Political vision and project execution are not always the same.

### The Test of Coordination

The return of a politically aligned government at both the Centre and the State following the 2024 elections has renewed hopes that long-pending projects will move more quickly. Administrative coordination can undoubtedly improve decision-making. Yet successful development ultimately depends on factors far beyond political alignment—timely funding, land acquisition, regulatory clearances, institutional capacity, and sustained project execution. For that reason, it is still too early to conclude whether coalition politics has become a decisive advantage for North Andhra. Only measurable outcomes



### can answer that question. The Questions That Matter

How much progress has been made on Bhogapuram International Airport? What is the current status of Mulapeta Port? How far has the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone advanced? How much investment has actually reached the industrial corridors? What progress has been achieved in irrigation projects? How much of the planned national highway expansion has been completed? The answers to these questions—not political speeches—will determine whether North Andhra's development has truly accelerated. Throughout this series, we will examine every major project using official records and publicly available data. Which projects were initiated by the Central Government? What role did successive State Governments play? How much funding was sanctioned? How much has been released? How much has actually been spent? Most importantly, what tangible benefits have reached the people? Those are the questions this audit intends to answer.

### Coming Next

The next instalment will present a project-by-project assessment of North Andhra's development. From Bhogapuram International Airport to Mulapeta (Bhavanapadu) Port, from the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone to the Visakhapatnam–Chennai Industrial Corridor, from the Vamsadhara irrigation projects to the National Highway network, each project will be examined through verified data, funding patterns, implementation status, and public impact. Rather than political claims, the next report will present a comprehensive audit of development on the ground.

## Vietnam Boat Tragedy: Andhra Victims’ Mortal Remains to Reach India

continued

The boat had 32 Indian tourists and crew members on board, of whom 21 were rescued. The Indian Embassy confirmed that the victims included tourists from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Meanwhile, all Telugu tourists stranded at Phu Quoc Island have safely reached Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. They are scheduled to depart at 7:05 PM (local time) by Vietnam Airlines and are expected to arrive in Hyderabad at around 10:00 PM (IST). The Embassy of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and AP Bhavan in New Delhi are providing round-the-clock consular, logistical and repatriation support.

Union Minister K Rammohan Naidu said the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Embassy are coordinating with Vietnamese authorities to ensure smooth repatriation and safe return of survivors. He advised families to complete formalities through the e-CARE portal and assured full support. Meanwhile, the condition of injured tourist Gelli Kishore remains critical. During transfer from Phu Quoc Government Hospital, he developed complications and remains unconscious in the ICU on advanced life support. Doctors detected a small blood clot in

the brain along with a mild cardiac episode. He underwent an emergency cardiac procedure and may be shifted to Ho Chi Minh City for advanced treatment after stabilisation.

Union Minister Kollu Ravindra spoke with Kishore's cousin Santosh at the hospital and assured support. The Indian Ambassador is in constant contact with doctors, while Vietnamese authorities are assisting. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to coordinate with the Centre and extend all help. The tragedy has left families in Hindupur, Kadapa and Machilipatnam in deep grief, even as efforts continue to bring victims home.

## Naidu Visits Pawan Kalyan in Mumbai, Says Deputy CM Recovering Well

continued

Minister would regain full health soon and resume his responsibilities in public service. Minister Nadendla Manohar received Chandrababu Naidu at the hospital. Ministers P. Narayana and Anagani Satya Prasad accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit. Later, speaking to media persons in Mumbai, Chandrababu Naidu said Pawan Kalyan's health condition was improving steadily and that he was keen to return to administrative duties at the earliest. He said doctors had advised the Deputy Chief Minister to take complete rest for three weeks following the shoulder surgery. The Chief Minister appreciated Pawan Kalyan's dedication towards public service, stating that he often works tirelessly without giving enough attention to his health. He advised him to prioritise recovery and avoid over-

### Naidu Remembers Janaki's Timeless Musical Legacy

Photo Caption: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu pays floral tribute to legendary playback singer S. Janaki at his camp office. Recalling her six-decade-long contribution to Indian music, he said her melodious voice won the hearts of mil-



lions and her timeless songs would remain forever cherished. He conveyed condolences to her family members and admirers.

exertion to prevent further health issues. Describing Pawan Kalyan as a leader committed to the welfare of people, Chandrababu Naidu said he wished to see the Deputy Chief Minister return to public life and governance with renewed energy. The Chief Minister also spoke about the boat tragedy in Vietnam involving tourists from the Telugu states. He expressed grief over the loss of lives and said the Andhra Pradesh Government was taking necessary steps to bring back the mortal

remains of the victims to their native places. He added that the state was coordinating with the Government of India to ensure the safe return of stranded tourists. Responding to questions on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, Chandrababu Naidu said Modi had enhanced India's global stature and earned respect worldwide. He expressed confidence that the vision of Viksit Bharat would be achieved under Modi's leadership, helping India emerge as a leading global power.

## Experts Urge Early Intervention After Shabad Killings

continued

college for nearly six months. The complaint further alleged that Rajkumar, who lived next door, installed CCTV cameras facing their residence to keep track of their movements. The FIR stated that on May 16, when the girl's mother accompanied her to an Intermediate examination centre in Shamshabad, Rajkumar was allegedly seen near the venue. After the examination, he allegedly grabbed the girl's hand and attempted to pull her away. The girl's mother intervened and took her daughter away from the spot. However, Rajkumar allegedly followed them while issuing death threats, leading to the registration of the criminal case. Following the multiple murders, police launched an extensive search operation and formed eight special teams to track down the accused. Investigators revealed that after the crime, Rajkumar allegedly contacted his father and claimed that he intended to end his life. However, his abandoned car was later discovered near Thimmapur railway station in Kothur mandal, and his mobile phone location was traced to the same area.

Police suspect that Rajkumar may have abandoned the vehicle and entered the railway station in an attempt to escape. CCTV footage from the station is being analysed to determine whether he boarded a train and identify his possible route. To speed up the investigation, police have announced a 2 lakh reward for credible information that helps in locating and arresting Rajkumar. Authorities have appealed to citizens to immediately inform police if they spot the accused or have any information about his whereabouts.

The case has also resulted in disciplinary action against po-



lice personnel. Authorities issued a charge memo to Shabad Circle Inspector Kanta Reddy, while Sub-Inspector Ramesh was suspended over alleged supervisory lapses in handling the earlier stalking complaint.

Meanwhile, psychologists have highlighted the broader concerns emerging from the incident. Mental health experts said acts of extreme violence are generally preceded by behavioural patterns such as persistent harassment, inability to accept rejection, repeated threats, obsessive actions, and increasing aggression.

Experts stressed that such warning signs should not be ignored by families, neighbours, educational institutions, or authorities. They called for timely intervention, better awareness, and stronger support systems to address threatening behaviour before it escalates into serious violence. The Shabad killings have renewed discussions on the need for preventive mechanisms, faster response to complaints of harassment, and improved coordination between law enforcement agencies and communities. The investigation continues as police work to arrest Rajkumar and establish the complete sequence of events behind one of Telangana's most disturbing multiple-murder cases in recent

# Khelo India Boost to Transform IGMC Stadium into Elite Sports Hub

Prasanna Durgam

Vijayawada: In a major boost to sports infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has sanctioned projects worth 60.76 crore under the Khelo India Scheme, paving the way for the transformation of the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium in Vijayawada into a world-class multi-sports facility.

According to the administrative approval, the IGMC Stadium will receive 9.50 crore for a 400-metre, eight-lane international-standard synthetic athletics track with 25-metre-high floodlights. The Centre has also approved 6 crore for an artificial grass football field, 1.50 crore for a tennis court, 92 lakh for a basketball court and 1.08 crore for floodlighting the 200-metre track, basketball and tennis courts.

The redevelopment plan, to be executed by the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP), aims to restore the sta-



dium as a premier sporting venue. It will include improved training areas, modern dressing rooms, better spectator amenities and supporting infrastructure, creating a hub capable of hosting major competitions.

The stadium also has international cricket history. Though lesser known today, it hosted a One Day International between India and the West Indies on November 24, 2002. Earlier, in December 1997, it

State's sports ecosystem by giving young athletes access to quality infrastructure.

The Khelo India package also includes 14 crore for a multi-purpose indoor block at the NTR Sports Complex in Kuppam. 14 crore for an indoor hall at Pathrunivalasa in Srikakulam district and 13.76 crore for a multi-purpose indoor stadium (Arena-2) at V.L. P u r a m i n Rajamahendravaram.

The Ministry has asked SAAP to accept the projects within 15 days and complete land clearances, agency appointments and tendering within three months, warning that delays could lead to cancellation. Funds will be released after compliance.

It has also given in-principle approval for a 14-crore multi-sports complex at Brahmananda Reddy Stadium in Guntur.

With strong Central support, the IGMC Stadium is set for a major revival, boosting Vijayawada's status as a key sporting destination.

## Kollu Ravindra Vows to Protect Donated Lands

Machilipatnam, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra has asserted that the government will not tolerate encroachments on lands donated for public welfare, stating that strict action will be taken against anyone attempting to occupy such properties.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the Development Committee of the Thammana Pitchayya Charity Choultry in Machilipatnam on Sunday, the Minister said philanthropists had donated hundreds of acres of land over the years to support education, charitable institu-



tions and facilities for the poor. Protecting these public assets, he said, is a collective responsibility.

Recalling the history of the charity choultry, Ravindra said it was established in 1917 by Thammana Pitchayya to assist families performing funeral rites and was later handed over to the government in 1982 for better ad-

ministration. He stressed that lands belonging to temples, educational institutions and public charities must be safeguarded for future generations.

The Minister announced a personal contribution of 5 lakh for the development of the choultry and assured that additional funds would be sought from the Endowments Department to construct a modern facility. He also pledged to reclaim all encroached charitable lands in the Bandar constituency.

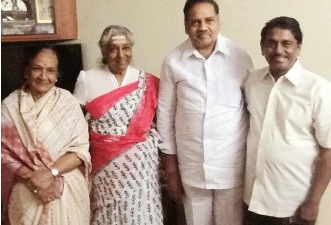
Senior party leader Gorrepati Gopichand, former Municipal Chairman Motamarri Babaprasad, committee members and local leaders attended the programme.

## Buddha Prasad Mourns Singer Janaki's Demise

Avanigadda, July 13 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad expressed profound grief over the demise of legendary playback singer S. Janaki, describing her passing as an irreparable loss to Indian cinema and the music fraternity.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the MLA conveyed his heartfelt condolences to Janaki's family members and prayed for strength to help them bear the loss. He said the iconic singer



had captivated millions of music lovers across Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada film industries with her melodious voice and unforgettable songs spanning several decades.

Buddha Prasad noted that S.

Janaki's remarkable contribution to Indian music earned her a permanent place in the hearts of audiences, and her songs would continue to inspire generations of music enthusiasts.

Recalling his personal association with the veteran singer, the MLA said he cherished the opportunity to interact with her and remembered her as a humble and graceful personality. He added that her legacy would remain immortal through the timeless songs she gifted to Indian cinema.

## Collector Balaji Urges Public to Use 'Meekosam'

Machilipatnam, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji has announced that the "Meekosam" Public Grievance Redressal Forum will be conducted on Monday, July 13, at the Collectorate Conference Hall from 10.30 a.m. to receive petitions from the public and address their grievances.

The Collector said the State Government has decentralized the grievance redressal mechanism to ensure that public services are accessible at the grassroots level. As part of this initiative, the "Meekosam" programme will be held not only at the district headquarters but also at all divisional office-



es, mandal headquarters and municipal offices across the district.

Balaji advised citizens to submit their grievances at the nearest mandal or municipal office for quicker resolution. He said the initiative aims to bring the administration closer to the people and provide a transparent and efficient platform for resolving public

issues. The Collector also informed that people can register their complaints through the 1100 Meekosam Call Centre and track the status of their petitions. Citizens can also submit applications online through the Meekosam portal.

He added that Revenue Clinics functioning at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) will continue to operate as usual to assist the public with revenue-related issues.

Collector Balaji appealed to residents to make effective use of the grievance redressal system and avail themselves of the government services being provided through the "Meekosam" programme.



## Savitha Assures Junior College for MJPAPBCW Residence School

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S. Savitha has announced that the government will make efforts to upgrade the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule (MJP) BC Residential School at Vatsavai into a junior college, reaffirming the Alliance government's commitment to strengthening educational opportunities for backward class students.

The Minister announced after inaugurating a new dormitory and dining hall constructed at the school under the P4 model with financial support from NRI philanthropist Chirumamilla Rambabu and his family. She praised the donor's contribution, describing it as an inspiration for others to support the development of their native villages.

Savitha said the government is

giving top priority to BC education by establishing 10 new residential schools, upgrading six girls' residential schools into junior colleges and constructing permanent buildings for MJP institutions with an investment of 500 crore. She also announced a 10% increase in diet charges for students and highlighted measures such as the installation of RO plants, CCTV cameras, inverters and mosquito protection in residential schools.

The Minister assured that if additional land is made available, the government would provide a permanent building for the Vatsavai institution. She also distributed sports tracksuits to students and joined them for lunch. Local MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya), KDCC Bank Chairman Nettam Raghuram, school staff, parents and Alliance leaders attended the programme.



## Sujana Foundation's Free Medical Camp Benefits Poor

Vijayawada, July 13 | TPN Bureau

The free medical camp organized by the Sujana Foundation under the leadership of Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdary witnessed an encouraging response on Sunday, with dozens of people availing themselves of free healthcare services.

Held for the second consecutive day at the Kautha Subbarao Municipal High School premises in Poornanandampeta, the camp is part of the Foundation's initiative to provide quality healthcare to the poor and middle-class families through weekend mobile medical camps across the constituency.

A team of specialist doctors examined 86 beneficiaries during the day-long camp and provided free medicines. The camp offered a range of medical services, including cardiology, general medicine, dental and eye care, along with diag-

nostic tests such as blood pressure, blood sugar, ECG, 2D Echo, X-rays and various blood tests.

The organisers said the objective of the programme is to make corporate-level healthcare accessible to economically weaker sections without any financial burden.

Doctors from Sankara Eye Hospital and PVR Hospitals participated in the camp by offering medical consultations and treatment. BJP State Secretary Boddu Nagalakshmi, 35th Division Jana Sena Party President Pradeep Kumar Raj, Mary Sarojini, Rudrapati Venkatesh, former corporator Paidi Mala Subhashini, Sujana Foundation staff and Sujana Mitra coordinators also extended their support to ensure the smooth conduct of the programme.

The organisers said the free medical camps will continue every Saturday and Sunday as part of the Foundation's public health initiative.

## Lakshmisha Urges Voters to Meet SIR Deadline

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has appealed to all eligible voters who have not yet submitted their enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls to do so immediately, with only two days remaining before the July 14 deadline.

The Collector urged voters to hand over their forms to the respective Booth Level Officers (BLOs) or make use of the special camps and help desks functioning at polling stations. He said officials are available at the field level to assist citizens and advised the public to encourage family members, relatives and neighbours to complete the process before the deadline to ensure an accurate and error-free electoral roll. Reviewing the SIR progress through a teleconference with EROs, AEROs and special officers, Dr. Lakshmisha directed officials to intensify field-level coordination and complete the digitisation of pending enumeration forms on a war footing. He also instructed officials to hold meetings with BLOs and Booth



Level Agents (BLAs) to clarify doubts and ensure smooth implementation of the revision process.

According to officials, digitisation of 15,41,222 enumeration forms, accounting for 89.95 per cent, has already been completed across the district. Tiruvuru has achieved 93.65 per cent digitisation, while Nandigama and Jaggayyapeta have crossed 91 per cent. Meanwhile, the Collector announced that the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) - "Meekosam" programme will be held on July 13 at the Collectorate, divisional, municipal and mandal headquarters. He invited citizens to submit petitions for grievance redressal and also informed that applications can be filed through the Meekosam portal or by contacting the 1100 helpline.



## Heavy Rush Marks Sunday at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, July 13 | TPN Bureau

Thousands of devotees thronged the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri on Sunday to offer prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga, prompting temple authorities to make extensive arrangements for smooth darshan and devotee welfare.

With the rush increasing sharply from 9 a.m., officials, under the supervision of Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, streamlined queue management. To facilitate quicker darshan for general devotees, Antaralaya Darshan and all VIP darshan were temporarily suspended between 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Temple Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik continuously monitored the arrangements and issued directions to staff through the wireless communication system.

A newly introduced mobile drinking water distribution system received an enthusiastic response from devotees,

who were provided chilled water while waiting in queues. Free prasadam and annadanam were also served throughout the day. Members of the temple trust board personally visited queue lines to review facilities and interact with devotees.

The temple also conducted the Suryopasana Seva with Vedic rituals, including Aruna Parayana, Mahasoura Parayana and special prayers to Lord Surya for the welfare of devotees and world peace. Teertha Prasadam was distributed after the rituals.

In the evening, the Dharma-patham cultural programme added a spiritual touch to the festivities as artistes led by Smt. Satyavani presented captivating Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam performances based on devotional themes. Temple officials felicitated the performers with Shesha Vastram and Prasadam, while devotees appreciated both the cultural programme and the efficient arrangements made by the Devasthanam.

## P.B. Siddhartha, Fixity Ink MoU to Boost Student Employability

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hyderabad-based skilling company Fixity EDX Private Limited on Saturday to enhance students' employability through industry-oriented training and skill development.

College Principal Dr. Meka Ramesh said the agreement aims to equip students with industry-relevant skills and improve their employment prospects in line



with current market demands. The MoU was signed by Dr. Ramesh, Head of the Business Analytics Department Dr. B. Jayaprakash, and Rahul Varma, Chief Operating Officer of Fixity EDX Private Limited.

Speaking on the occasion, Col-

lege Director Vemuri Baburao said the partnership would provide students with access to industry-based training, internship opportunities and placement support. He noted that the collaboration would help students acquire modern skills required by employers across various sectors.

Campus Coordinator Waheeda Rehman coordinated the programme. College officials expressed confidence that the collaboration would strengthen industry-academia ties and better prepare students for successful careers.

## Tribal Groups Seek ST Commission Intervention on Land Rights

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Adivasi Girijana Sangham (APAGS) and the Kulavivaksha Porata Samithi (KVPS) on Sunday submitted a representation to State ST Commission Chairman Cholla Bojjireddy, seeking a comprehensive inquiry into alleged irregularities in tribal land records related to land acquisition for the Ramayapatnam Port project in Prakasam district.

The organisations urged the Commission to ensure restoration of tribal land rights and provide compensation to eligible beneficiaries. They alleged that assigned tribal lands were transferred through irregular changes in online land records, resulting in com-



pensation being paid to others.

The representation highlighted a specific case involving land in Chevuru village, where the original tribal beneficiaries claimed they were deprived of both their land and compensation. The organisations also sought a judicial inquiry into the alleged role of rev-

enue officials and requested action against those found responsible.

APAGS State Assistant Secretary A. Ashok and KVPS State Secretary Andra Malayadri expressed confidence that the ST Commission would ensure justice and protect the rights of tribal communities.

## CITU Opposes Move to Hand Over Mangalam Depot to Private Firm

Tirupati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

CITU State Vice President Kandarapu Murali has strongly opposed the proposed handover of the APSRTC Mangalam Depot in Tirupati to Pune-based Pinnacle Mobility Solutions, alleging that the move would jeopardise the livelihoods of over 500 employees and amount to the privatisation of public assets.

In a statement on Sunday, Murali alleged that the coalition government was gradually privatising APSRTC by transferring its valuable assets to private firms. He claimed the 10-acre Mangalam Depot, valued at hundreds of crores, had been downsized from 95 buses to 24, with buses and employees shifted to other depots.

Murali also alleged that the government planned to privatise more depots in phases under electric bus operations, despite publicly denying any privatisation. He questioned the agree-



ment with Pinnacle Mobility Solutions, saying the state should instead procure electric buses using the Centre's subsidy.

He further criticised the felling of mature trees and demolition of depot infrastructure to facilitate charging stations, calling it environmentally damaging. Murali warned that CITU would launch large-scale protests if the government proceeded with handing over the Mangalam Depot to the private company.

## 110 Benefit from Free Medical Camp

Chirala, July 12 | TPN Bureau

A total of 110 people benefited from a free medical camp organised by Amar Hospitals at the Old Panchayat Office premises in Valetivaripalem on Sunday. The initiative aimed to provide accessible healthcare services and promote early detection of common health issues among local residents.

As part of the camp, doctors conducted blood pressure (BP), electrocardiogram (ECG) and bone density tests. Patients were also examined by specialists in general medicine, orthopaedics, general surgery and joint-related disorders. The medical team provided consultations, health assessments and guidance on further treatment wherever required.

The camp was attended by Dr. Amarnath, Dr. Divya and Dr. Ramesh, who examined pa-



tients and offered expert medical advice. Nursing and paramedical staff assisted in conducting the examinations and ensuring the smooth management of the programme.

Amar Hospitals representative Raghu Vamsi said the hospital regularly conducts such outreach programmes to improve public health awareness and ensure quality medical care reaches people in rural areas. He added that the response from residents was encouraging, reflecting the growing need for preventive healthcare services.

## 115 Police Personnel Conduct Massive Search

Bapatla, July 12 | TPN Bureau

As part of Operation Vajra Prahar, Bapatla district police, in co-ordination with the Eagle unit, conducted a large-scale cordon and search operation at Jagananna Colony in Repalle town on Sunday to curb crime, prevent drug-related activities and strengthen public safety.

The operation was carried out under the directions of DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, Eagle IGP A.K. Ravi Krishna, Eagle Operations SP M. Maheshwar Raju, Bapatla District SP B. Umamaheshwar and Eagle Admin SP G. Swarooparani. Repalle SDPO Shaik Abdul Aziz supervised the exercise.

A total of 115 police personnel, including one DSP, four Circle Inspectors, 10 Sub-Inspectors and Eagle staff, participated in the operation. Police conducted house-



to-house verification, checked sensitive locations and monitored the movement of suspected offenders and history-sheeters while keeping a close watch on narcotics-related activities. During vehicle inspections, two autorickshaws and 68 two-wheelers without valid documents were seized, and legal action was initiated under the Motor Vehicles Act. Police said similar operations would continue to curb crime, eliminate drug abuse and reinforce public confidence. Participants also took the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan pledge.

## Balakrishna Inaugurates NTR Indoor Stadium

Hindupuram, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Hindupuram received a major boost to its sports infrastructure with the inauguration of the NTR Indoor Stadium by MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna on Sunday. The state-of-the-art facility, constructed at a cost of Rs. 2.65 crore, is equipped with modern sports amenities to encourage athletes and youth.

Andhra Pradesh State Sports Authority (SSA) Chairman Ravinaidu said the stadium was made possible due to the special initiative and continuous efforts of MLA Balakrishna. He expressed confidence that the facility would provide rural youth with opportunities to receive international-standard training and help produce athletes capable of winning



medals at state, national and international levels. MP BK Pothasaraty, District Collector Shyam Prasad, SSA Chairman Ravinaidu, public representatives, officials, athletes, students and youth participated in the inauguration programme. Following the launch, MLA Balakrishna inspected various sections of the stadium and inaugurated sports activities by playing badminton and table tennis with students.

## Seven Buses Guttred in Major Fire at Vijayawada Auto Nagar

Vijayawada, July 12 | TPN Bureau

A massive fire broke out at a mechanic shed in Auto Nagar area of Vijayawada on Sunday afternoon, destroying seven buses and triggering panic among nearby residents. According to preliminary reports, the fire started accidentally during welding work being carried out on one of the parked buses.

The flames quickly spread to adjacent vehicles in the shed, where multiple buses had been stationed for repair works. Staff at the premises immediately alerted the fire department as thick plumes of smoke engulfed the area, causing concern among locals.

Firefighters rushed to the spot with three fire tenders and



battled the blaze for over an hour before bringing it under control. Officials from the fire services department said timely intervention helped prevent the fire from spreading to nearby workshops and industrial units. Authorities confirmed that no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident, as workers managed to move to safety.

However, property damage is estimated to be significant, with seven buses completely gutted.

Fire officials suspect that sparks from welding triggered the blaze, though an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the exact cause. Police have also registered a case and are examining safety compliance at the workshop.

## Badeti Chanti Pays Tribute to Former MLA Badeti Bujji

Eluru, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Badeti Chanti paid rich tributes to former MLA Badeti Kotarama Rao, popularly known as Badeti Bujji, on his 62nd birth anniversary at the MLA camp office in Powerpet, Eluru, on Sunday.

Badeti Chanti, along with Badeti Venkataramaiah and party leaders, garlanded the statues of Badeti Bujji and NTR and re-

called the late leader's contribution to public service.

Addressing the gathering, Badeti Chanti said public service was a cherished legacy of the Badeti family and affirmed that he would continue to follow the ideals and path of his brother, Badeti Bujji, by standing with the people. Referring to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directions, he urged party cadres to begin preparations

for the upcoming local body elections and work collectively to secure the coalition's victory in all 62 divisions of Eluru city.

District TDP Media Coordinator Challa Venkata Satyavara-prasada Rao, Co-option Member SMMR Pedababu, Eluru City TDP President Chode Venkataram, public representatives, party leaders, workers and supporters attended the programme.

## Shakti Team Reunites Missing Boy, Returns Lost Phone

Chirala Rural, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The Chirala Sub-Division Shakti Team rescued a six-year-old boy who went missing at Ramapuram Beach in Vetapalem mandal and safely reunited him with his parents, besides helping recover a tourist's lost mobile phone.

Acting on the instructions of Bapatla District SP Umamaheshwar and under the supervision of Chirala DSP Moin, Shakti Team personnel were deployed at the beach resort area. Manoj and Soujanya from Hyderabad, who had visited



the beach with their son Gausik, sought help after the child went missing in the crowd. Constable K.

Subbarao and Lady Constable CH. Sunitha immediately launched a search and safely traced the boy before handing him over to his relieved parents. They also advised visitors to closely monitor children while at the beach.

In another incident, Hyderabad-based tourist Babu misplaced his mobile phone after travelling to the beach by auto-rickshaw. Auto driver Koteswara Rao found the phone in his vehicle and handed it over to the Shakti Team. Police traced the owner and returned the phone through the driver, appreciating his honesty.

## Temple Panel Rallies to Protect Lands

Chirala, July 12 | TPN Bureau

The governing body of the Sri Bhadravathi Sametha Bhavanarushi Temple in Santabazar, Chirala, on Sunday organised a padayatra demanding protection of the temple's lands and an immediate end to their alleged illegal sale.

The protest march commenced from the temple premises in Santabazar and concluded at Rosayya Colony, with temple committee members, devotees and local residents participating in large numbers.



Speaking on the occasion, the temple governing body alleged that valuable lands donated by devotees and philanthropists to the historic temple were being transferred through illegal means. The committee urged

authorities to prevent any unlawful transactions and take steps to safeguard the temple's assets.

The governing body president and secretary said protecting temple properties was a collective responsibility and warned that any attempts to encroach upon or illegally dispose of the lands would be firmly resisted. They asserted that the committee was prepared to intensify its agitation until all temple lands were secured and protected for the benefit of the institution and future generations.

## Tight Security Arrangements for CM's Polavaram Visit

Eluru, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Eluru district police have made elaborate security arrangements for Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit to the Polavaram project on Monday. Eluru Range IG G.V.G. Ashok Kumar, IPS, conducted a detailed briefing for police officers and personnel involved in the security arrangements.

The IG explained the bandobast plan through maps and directed officers to efficiently handle their assigned responsibilities. Special focus was given to route security, rooftop surveillance, traffic regu-



lation, parking arrangements and deployment of movable barricades at key junctions.

He instructed officials to ensure smooth traffic movement without inconvenience to the public and keep contingency plans ready considering the VVIP convoy movement. Anti-sabotage checks through bomb disposal and dog

squads, culvert inspections, road opening parties and combing operations were also reviewed.

Police personnel were directed to remain alert, carry identity cards, follow duty timings and maintain continuous communication. After the briefing, officials conducted a convoy trial run at all locations to review security preparedness.

Eluru Additional SP (Admin) Y. Prasad Rao, Eluru DSP Sravan Kumar, Nuzvid DSP Prasad, SB Inspector Malleswara Rao, Polavaram Inspector, SI Apparao and other police officials participated.

## Srinath Gupta Honoured with Padma Chakra Vibhushan Award

Adoni, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Adoni Town AOPA President Pankadar Srinath Gupta was honoured with the Padma Chakra Vibhushan award for his social service contributions. The award was presented during the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Manam Foundation, recognised by the NITI Aayog department, held at Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in

Hyderabad. Former Governor Dattatreya and Manam Foundation Chairman Chakravarthy presented the award to Srinath Gupta, acknowledging his dedicated services in the social sector. The foundation felicitated several individuals who have made notable contributions in various fields during the event. Meanwhile, Adoni Peddathumbalam SI Vindhyaasri advised girl

students to pursue education with dedication and excel in all areas. Addressing an awareness seminar organised by the Adoni Civic Society at the Government Girls Hostel, she stressed the importance of parents providing quality education to their daughters and warned that child marriages could adversely affect their future. She also explained various legal provisions to the students.

## Home Minister Expresses Grief Over AR Constable's Death

Amaravati, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha expressed deep grief over the death of AR Constable Mariyadas in a road accident on the Ongole Bypass Road in Prakasam district on Sunday.

In a statement, the minister said the loss of a police personnel who had dedicated himself to safeguarding the public was an irreparable loss to the police department. She conveyed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and assured them that the state government would extend all necessary support and assistance.

Vangalapudi Anitha directed officials to ensure that those injured in the accident receive the



best possible medical treatment without delay. She also instructed authorities to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the cause of the accident and take appropriate action based on the findings.

Praying for eternal peace to the departed soul of Mariyadas, the minister wished the injured a speedy and complete recovery.

## Chintamaneni Credits Pattiseema for Saving Krishna Delta

Eluru, July 12 | TPN Bureau

Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar on Sunday credited CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's foresight in executing the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme, stating that it had become the lifeline of the Krishna Delta during the prevailing drought conditions.

Marking the release of Godavari waters to the Krishna Delta through the Pattiseema project, the MLA, along with coalition leaders, offered special prayers and Jala Harathi to River Godavari at the Polavaram Right Main Canal Aqueduct near Janampeta in Pedavegi mandal, seeking prosperity for farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Prabhakar said that without the Pattiseema project, villages in the delta region would have faced severe drinking water shortages and migration due to the impact of El Niño. He said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu were continuously monitoring the situation to ensure irrigation water



for farmers.

The MLA announced that the Pedavegi Lift Irrigation Project would be completed during his present term with the support of the Chief Minister, providing a permanent solution to water scarcity in the region. He also criticised the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it made false promises on irrigation projects without undertaking any meaningful development. Denduluru Agricultural Market Committee Chairperson Garapati Rama Sita, BJP District President Choutapalli Vikram Kishore, TDP District Vice President Boppina Sudha, Water Resources Department officials, coalition leaders, farmers and party workers attended the programme.

## Free Eye Camp Held to Prevent Blindness

Chirala, July 12 | TPN Bureau

A free eye screening camp aimed at preventing blindness was organised at Vijayanagara Colony in Chirala mandal on Sunday, drawing a large number of residents from the colony and nearby areas.

The camp was conducted in memory of the late Duddu Makayya and Muthyalamma under the joint auspices of Gunthur Shankara Eye Hospital and the District Blindness Prevention Society. The programme was organised by Usurupati Musalayya.

ITC General Manager S.S. Shyam Sundar and ITC Senior Manager V. Sridhar attended as chief guests. Ophthalmologists Dr. Shradha Lazar and Dr. Hema Sai from Shankara Eye Hospital, along with village elder Tella Lakshmi Prasad, par-



ticipated in the programme.

People from Vijayanagara Colony, Aikya Nagar, Ramana-gar, Adinarayanapuram and Perala underwent free eye examinations. Doctors identified patients requiring cataract and other eye surgeries and said they would be taken to Shankara Eye Hospital in Guntur for free treatment and surgery. Village elders and volunteers, including Duddu Vandanam, Lokayya, Mark, Tella Moshe, Ongole Yesu and Inaganti Suresh, also participated in the camp.

## Youth Dies After Being Swept Away in Sileru River

Paderu, July 12 | TPN Bureau

A tragic incident occurred in Alluri Sitharama Raju district's Paderu area where a young man died after being swept away in the Sileru River. The incident took place when a group of seven youths visited the river region to enjoy the scenic beauty.

According to reports, one of the youths accidentally slipped into the river and was carried away by the strong water currents. Despite rescue efforts, he could not be saved and died in the incident. The remaining six youths were rescued safely by local residents, GENCO staff and police personnel who immediately responded to the situation.

The identity and other de-



tails of the deceased youth were yet to be confirmed. Authorities advised tourists visiting rivers and water bodies to exercise caution, especially during the monsoon season, to prevent such accidents. Rescue operations and further inquiries are underway.



# Gold, Silver Likely to Remain Volatile Amid West Asia Tensions

Gold and silver prices are expected to remain volatile with a corrective trend in the coming week as investors closely monitor escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, movements in crude oil prices, and key inflation data from major economies.

Market analysts said the renewed conflict in West Asia has increased uncertainty in global financial markets. The latest tensions intensified after Iran reportedly targeted a commercial vessel and announced the closure of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. In

response, the United States carried out strikes on Tehran, prompting Iran to retaliate by attacking American-linked installations in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Experts believe any further escalation could push crude oil prices higher, reigniting inflation concerns worldwide. Rising oil prices may strengthen safe-haven assets such as the US dollar and US Treasury bonds, limiting gains in precious metals despite heightened geopolitical risks.

Pranav Mer, Senior Vice

President of Commodity and Currency Research at JM Financial Services, said gold and silver continue to exhibit a corrective trend. According to him, markets will closely watch geopolitical developments, as a major escalation could significantly influence commodity prices and investor sentiment.

Apart from geopolitical events, traders will focus on inflation data from India, the United States and the European Union for clues on the future course of interest rates by central banks. Economic indi-

cators from the US, including retail sales, housing data and weekly jobless claims, are also expected to influence market direction. Additionally, China's GDP growth, industrial production, trade figures and bank lending data will be watched closely for signals about global economic recovery.

In the domestic market, MCX gold futures for August delivery declined by Rs. 3,900, or 2.65 per cent, during the week to settle at Rs. 1.43 lakh per 10 grams. Silver futures for September delivery recorded an even sharper fall, dropping Rs.

14,746, or 6.2 per cent, to close at Rs. 2.22 lakh per kilogram.

Internationally, Comex gold futures slipped to 4,113.7 US dollars per ounce, while silver settled at 60.16 US dollars per ounce. Analysts attributed the weakness to a stronger US dollar, firm crude oil prices and expectations that interest rates could remain elevated for longer. Market experts said bullion prices have repeatedly failed to sustain rallies, with investors preferring to book profits rather than build fresh positions. They believe gold and silver are likely to remain under



pressure unless there is a significant easing in geopolitical tensions or fresh economic data alters expectations regarding global monetary policy.

## Punjab Man Arrested in ₹1.6 Crore Digital Loan Fraud Case

Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old man from Punjab for his alleged involvement in a cyber fraud racket that used stolen Aadhaar and PAN card details to obtain personal loans in the names of unsuspecting victims. Investigators believe the syndicate targeted nearly 50 people and fraudulently secured loans worth around 1.6 crore.

The case came to light after a victim approached the Cyber Police Station in Rohini on June 25, claiming he was receiving repeated calls from loan recovery agents demanding repayment of a loan he had never taken. A check of his CIBIL report revealed that a 4.5 lakh personal loan had been sanctioned in his name by a private finance company using his PAN details. Police also found that the mobile number linked to his Aadhaar



had been changed without his knowledge.

During the investigation, officials traced the loan amount to the bank account of Ajay Kumar, a resident of Mohali, Punjab. He was arrested after police tracked his movements through technical surveillance

and intelligence inputs. A mobile phone allegedly used in the fraud was recovered from his possession.

Forensic examination of the device revealed that the complainant's personal information had been shared among members of the fraud network before the loan application was processed. During interrogation, the accused reportedly admitted to being part of a larger syndicate that misused Aadhaar and PAN details to secure digital loans from private finance companies.

Police said the gang also changed the mobile numbers linked to victims' Aadhaar cards, enabling them to complete online KYC verification and loan applications without the knowledge of the account holders. The loan amounts were routed through bank accounts of individuals who al-

lowed their accounts to be used in exchange for commissions.

Rohini Deputy Commissioner of Police Shashank Jaiswal said the investigation indicates that the racket is much larger than initially suspected. Authorities are now working to identify other members of the syndicate, trace additional mule bank accounts, and locate more victims.

Cyber law expert Pawan Duggal warned that such crimes are increasing due to weak implementation of data protection measures and inadequate compliance with KYC and cybersecurity standards. Delhi Police has urged citizens to avoid sharing Aadhaar, PAN, and other sensitive documents on unverified websites and to use only trusted platforms for financial transactions. Further investigation is underway.

## BJP Seeks Evidence From Omar Abdullah Over Defection Allegations



A political row has erupted in Jammu and Kashmir after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah alleged that attempts were made to lure National Conference (NC) legislators with huge financial inducements and political promises to engineer defections. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly denied the allegations and demanded that the Chief Minister either produce evidence or publicly apologise.

Addressing a public rally in Srinagar, Abdullah claimed that a Jammu-based NC MLA informed him about an alleged offer made through a Supreme Court lawyer whom he described as being close to the BJP. According to the Chief Minister, the legislator was allegedly offered between 20 crore and 30 crore, a ministerial berth and even a promise of restoring statehood in exchange for switching political allegiance. He termed the alleged move an attempt to undermine the people's mandate and destabilise the elected government.

Reacting to the allegations, BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president Sat Sharma demanded that Omar Abdullah reveal the identity of the BJP leader allegedly involved or withdraw the statement and apologise. He maintained that accusations of such a serious nature should not be made without credible evidence.

BJP MLA R.S. Pathania also

dismissed the allegations as "false, baseless and politically motivated." He said any claim involving bribery of elected representatives must be backed by verifiable proof and urged the Chief Minister to submit evidence to the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) or any other competent investigating agency if such an incident had indeed taken place.

Pathania questioned why no FIR or formal complaint had been filed if an MLA was actually approached with an offer to defect. He also sought details of the alleged incident, including the identity of the legislator, the person who made the offer, the BJP leader purportedly involved, and when and where the alleged meeting took place.

Warning of legal action, the BJP leader said that if the Chief Minister failed to substantiate his claims, the party

would explore all legal options, including filing a criminal defamation case. He argued that unverified allegations of this magnitude damage the credibility of democratic institutions and should not be used as political rhetoric.

Pathania further alleged that the Chief Minister was attempting to divert attention from governance issues and criticism faced by the ruling alliance. He claimed that several legislators from the ruling coalition had recently raised concerns regarding the functioning of ministers during a meeting in Dachigam.

The controversy has intensified political tensions in Jammu and Kashmir, with both the ruling National Conference and the BJP standing firm on their respective positions. The matter is expected to remain a key political issue in the coming days.

## Palakkad's Space Legacy Grows as NASA's Anil Menon Prepares for ISS Mission

Kerala's Palakkad district is set to strengthen its unique place in global space exploration as NASA astronaut of Indian origin Dr Anil Menon prepares to launch to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard Russia's Soyuz MS-29 spacecraft on July 15. With his mission, Palakkad will be linked to three distinguished astronauts, making it one of the few regions in the world with such a remarkable association with human spaceflight.

The trio includes Dr Anil Menon, private astronaut Anna Menon, and Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, one of India's astronaut-designates for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme. The achievement has become a matter of pride for Kerala, which is also home to Thumba, the birthplace of India's space programme.

Ahead of the launch, Air Commodore Prasanth Nair shared an emotional message congratulating Anil Menon and



his wife Anna Menon, recalling the time they spent training together in Houston. He described the couple as a "complete astronaut family" and said their connection to Kerala and India would always be cherished.

Born to an Indian father and a Ukrainian mother, Anil Menon grew up in the United States but has maintained close ties with India. Before joining NASA's astronaut corps, he spent a year in New Delhi as a

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar supporting India's polio eradication programme, an experience that shaped his career as a physician and humanitarian.

A highly accomplished medical doctor, aerospace medicine specialist, engineer, pilot and colonel in the United States Space Force, Menon previously served as a NASA flight surgeon, supporting astronauts on ISS missions before being selected as an astronaut himself. He will travel to the orbital

laboratory with Russian cosmonauts Pyotr Dubrov and Anna Kikina, where the crew is expected to spend nearly eight months conducting scientific experiments. The mission will focus on studies related to human health in microgravity, blood circulation, advanced medical technologies, artificial intelligence-assisted healthcare and techniques that could support future missions to the Moon and Mars.

Anil Menon's wife, Anna Menon, is also a NASA astronaut candidate and previously served as the medical officer on SpaceX's landmark Polaris Dawn mission, which featured the world's first commercial spacewalk. Together, the couple represent one of the world's rare astronaut families.

As the countdown to launch begins, excitement is building across Kerala, with Palakkad celebrating yet another milestone in its remarkable contribution to global space exploration.

## Ladakh Creates 17 New Tehsils to Improve Access to Government Services



In a major administrative reform aimed at bringing governance closer to people living in remote and border areas, the Ladakh administration has created 17 new tehsils, increasing the total number from 15 to 32. The move is expected to significantly reduce the long distances residents currently travel to access government services and make the region's five newly created districts fully operational.

The decision comes less than three months after the Union Territory announced the creation of five new districts—Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar and Drass—raising the total number of districts in Ladakh from two to seven. The latest reorganisation establishes the revenue administration required for these districts to function effectively.

Officials said many residents in Ladakh's remote villages currently travel more than 300 kilometres across difficult mountainous terrain to reach government offices. With the creation of new

tehsils, administrative services such as revenue records, land-related work and public welfare services are expected to become more accessible.

The restructuring follows recommendations made by a Union Territory-level committee, which found that several tehsils extended across multiple districts, leading to overlapping jurisdictions and administrative complications. Under the revised framework, every revenue village will now fall under a single tehsil, and every tehsil will be linked to only one district, ensuring greater administrative clarity.

As part of the exercise, 17 existing niabats have been upgraded into full-fledged tehsils. The administration has directed the Chief Secretary to appoint tehsildars immediately so that the new units become operational without delay.

Following the reorganisation, Leh district will have five tehsils, Kargil seven, Nubra six, Sham five, Changthang four, Zaskar four and Drass one.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said the reforms are designed to make governance more citizen-centric and improve public service delivery. He noted that the reorganisation would strengthen grassroots administration, streamline revenue management and ensure faster implementation of development programmes, particularly in remote and border regions.

The Lieutenant Governor also said the restructuring aligns with the vision of balanced and inclusive development by ensuring every citizen has easier access to essential government services.

Ladakh became a Union Territory in October 2019 following the reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The latest administrative overhaul marks another significant step in strengthening governance, improving accessibility and addressing the unique challenges posed by the region's vast geography, sparse population and difficult terrain.

## War Veteran Battles Land Fraud After Serving Nation in Three Wars

A 92-year-old Indian Army war veteran who fought in the 1962, 1965 and 1971 wars is now fighting what his family calls his "fourth battle"—a legal struggle to reclaim his agricultural land in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, allegedly transferred using forged documents without his knowledge.

Retired Honorary Captain Chunni Lal, a resident of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh, was allotted 25 bighas of agricultural land in Mohangarh, Jaisalmer, in 2002 after being displaced by the Pong Dam project. However, due to inadequate irrigation and infrastructure, he returned to his native village while a neighbour initially looked after the land. The property later remained unattended for several years.

According to police, the veteran recently discovered that his land had been transferred to another person through an allegedly



fraudulent sale deed. In his complaint, Chunni Lal alleged that an impersonator appeared before the sub-registrar's office on June 16, posing as him and executing the sale using a fake photograph, forged Aadhaar card, fabricated signatures and other counterfeit documents. The land mutation was subsequently recorded at the tehsil office on June 22.

Based on his complaint, police have registered a case against four individuals—Mohanlal, Dhannaram, Karnaram and Omprakash—

on charges of cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The former Army officer said he never imagined that after defending the country in three wars, he would have to spend his old age visiting police stations and government offices to protect his own property. He alleged that proper verification of identity documents during the registration process could have prevented the fraud.

His son, Multan Singh Thakur, described the legal battle as his father's "fourth war." He said the el-

derly veteran, who is a heart patient, has been physically exhausted after making repeated visits to government offices over the past few days. Despite his health condition, Chunni Lal remains determined to recover his land.

Police said the preliminary investigation has revealed that records of several agricultural land parcels in the Mohangarh area are still maintained offline, making them vulnerable to fraudulent transactions. Investigators suspect that properties belonging to absentee landowners are being targeted through forged documentation.

Authorities are now scrutinising registration records, identity documents and revenue files to identify similar fraudulent transactions and determine the involvement of those responsible. The investigation is continuing.

# 15 Indian Tourists Killed in Vietnam Boat Tragedy

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar expressed deep grief over the tragic boat accident near Phu Quoc Island in Vietnam that claimed the lives of 15 Indian tourists, while assuring support to the affected families and wishing a speedy recovery to those injured.

In a message posted on the social media platform X, Jaishankar said he was "deeply distressed" by the incident and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the quick recovery of the injured passengers.

The accident occurred when a tourist speedboat carrying 36 people, including 32 Indian tourists, capsized near Hon May Rut Ngoai Island off the coast of Phu Quoc, a popular tourist destination in southern Vietnam. The Indian Embassy in Vietnam later confirmed that all 15 fatalities were Indian nationals.

The tragedy has sent shockwaves across India, with several state governments coordinating with the Ministry of

External Affairs to assist affected families and facilitate the return of the victims' mortal remains.

Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan confirmed that two of the deceased were residents of Kottarakkara in Kerala. Identifying them as A.C. Thomas (57) and Loveni Thomas (56), he said the state government was working closely with the Ministry of External Affairs to expedite all necessary procedures. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the

grieving family.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kondapalli Srinivas also expressed sorrow over the incident, stating that around 33 tourists from Andhra Pradesh were part of the travel group. He said three people from the state had lost their lives, while another victim was undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit. Describing the incident as heartbreaking, the Minister said the state government was closely monitoring the situation and extending all

possible assistance to the affected families.

In response to the tragedy, Vietnam Prime Minister Le Minh Hun issued urgent directions to central and local authorities to intensify search and rescue operations, provide immediate medical assistance to survivors, and extend all necessary support to the victims' families. Authorities have launched an investigation into the cause of the accident while rescue teams continue operations in the area.



The incident has highlighted the importance of maritime safety during tourist excursions and prompted swift diplomatic coordination between Indian and Vietnamese authorities to support the victims and their families.

# Former Qatar Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Passes Away at 74

Former Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the visionary leader who transformed the small Gulf nation into a global diplomatic, economic and media powerhouse, passed away on Sunday at the age of 74. The state-run Qatar News Agency confirmed his death but did not disclose the cause.

Sheikh Hamad ruled Qatar from 1995 to 2013, a period marked by rapid economic growth, ambitious global investments and an increasingly influential foreign policy. He voluntarily abdicated in June 2013 in favour of his son, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, becoming one of the few Arab rulers to peacefully transfer power during his lifetime.

Widely regarded as the architect of modern Qatar, Sheikh Hamad used the country's vast natural gas wealth to diversify its economy and strengthen its international presence. Under his leadership, Qatar emerged



as one of the world's wealthiest nations on a per-capita basis and invested heavily in global businesses, real estate and infrastructure. Among its high-profile overseas acquisitions was the iconic Harrods department store in London.

His tenure also witnessed the launch of Al Jazeera, the influential satellite television network that reshaped news broadcasting in the Arab world and gained international recognition for its extensive coverage of regional and global events.

Sheikh Hamad played a significant role in positioning Qatar as a key mediator in international conflicts and diplomatic negotiations. The country became an important venue for peace talks involving regional and global powers, expanding its influence far beyond its geographical size.

His long-term vision also laid the foundation for Qatar's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, the first-ever World Cup held in the Middle East. Although he had stepped down

nearly a decade before the tournament, Sheikh Hamad attended the opening ceremony, receiving a warm ovation from the home crowd in recognition of his role in making the event possible.

Despite his achievements, Qatar's independent foreign policy under Sheikh Hamad occasionally strained relations with some regional neighbours and Western allies. The country's engagement with Iran, its support for groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, and its contacts with Hamas often drew criticism from several governments.

Tributes are expected from world leaders, who have acknowledged Sheikh Hamad's contribution to Qatar's remarkable transformation into a globally influential nation. His legacy is widely seen as one of bold leadership, economic modernisation and strategic diplomacy that reshaped Qatar's place on the world stage.

# 10 Indians Rescued, One Missing After Ship Attack Near Oman

Ten Indian nationals have been rescued while one remains missing after a commercial vessel came under attack in waters off the coast of Oman amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Sunday.

According to the ministry, 11 Indian crew members were on board the commercial vessel GFS Galaxy when it was struck early Sunday in waters east of Oman. Search and rescue operations are continuing to trace the missing Indian sailor.

In an official statement, the MEA said the attack on the vessel was "deeply worrisome" and emphasized the need to ensure the safety of civilian shipping in the region. It called for an immediate end to attacks on commercial vessels and stressed that free and unimpeded navigation through international waterways must be restored in accordance with international law.

The incident occurred about 17 kilometres east of the Omani coast, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). The agency reported that the crew abandoned the damaged vessel and escaped in a lifeboat while



rescue operations were launched. The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) said the vessel suffered severe fire damage and flooding in its engine room, alleging that the attack was carried out by Iran. Tehran has not officially responded to the accusation.

The attack comes amid rapidly escalating hostilities between Iran and the United States following fresh US military strikes. Iran has announced the closure of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz and launched missiles and drones targeting several Gulf countries in retaliation.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's busiest shipping routes, carrying a significant share of global crude oil and

# Vietnam Arrests Boat Captain After 15 Indian Tourists Die in Capsize

Vietnamese authorities on Sunday arrested the captain of a tourist speedboat that capsized off the coast of Phu Quoc Island, killing 15 Indian tourists, as investigations into one of the country's deadliest recent maritime accidents gathered pace.

The tragic incident occurred on Saturday when the speedboat, carrying 32 Indian tourists, three Vietnamese crew members and a tour guide, overturned in rough waters near May Rut Ngoai Islet, a popular tourist destination known for its beaches and diving spots.

According to Vietnamese authorities, rescue teams managed to save 21 people from the sea, while 15 passengers lost their lives. Police in southern An Giang province arrested the 57-year-old captain on charges related to alleged violations of maritime safety regulations that resulted in the fatal accident. Officials said further investigations are underway to determine the exact



circumstances leading to the capsizing.

Preliminary findings quoted by local media suggested that the accident was primarily caused by rapidly deteriorating weather conditions and unexpectedly rough seas. However, authorities are examining whether safety protocols were fully followed before and during the voyage.

Rescue personnel involved in the operation said high waves battered the vessel despite the absence of rainfall. Several other tourist boats were reportedly operating in the area at the same time with-

out encountering similar incidents, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Eyewitness Ha Van Loc, who participated in the rescue effort, said he found the overturned boat with several passengers desperately clinging to its hull while others drifted in the sea without life jackets. He and his crew threw lifebuoys attached to ropes into the water, pulled survivors aboard their vessel and alerted emergency services. Jet skis were later deployed to transport victims to the shore.

The Indian Embassy in Ha-

noi confirmed that at least 15 survivors had been discharged from hospitals and were preparing to return to India, while one critically injured passenger continues to receive treatment at a hospital in Phu Quoc. The embassy also said arrangements are being made to repatriate the bodies of the 15 deceased tourists to India.

Following the tragedy, several tourism operators suspended speedboat services between Phu Quoc and nearby islands as a precautionary measure.

Phu Quoc has emerged as one of Vietnam's fastest-growing tourist destinations, attracting more than 1.8 million international visitors last year. However, boating accidents remain a recurring concern in Vietnam due to unpredictable weather, inadequate maintenance, and safety lapses, prompting renewed calls for stricter enforcement of maritime safety regulations to protect tourists and local passengers alike.

# Russian Missile, Drone Strikes Kill Eight in Ukraine



Russia launched a fresh wave of missile, drone and guided bomb attacks across Ukraine on Saturday, killing at least eight people and injuring dozens, including children, as the conflict entered another deadly phase.

According to Ukrainian officials, Russia fired more than 120 drones and 12 missiles, including several ballistic missiles, during overnight attacks targeting multiple regions of the country. President Volodymyr Zelensky said civilian infrastructure was struck even before air raid sirens were activated, highlighting the growing challenge posed by Russia's latest tactics. In the capital, Kyiv, missiles hit residential and commercial areas, injuring at least 12 people, including two children. Apartment buildings, office complexes and a theological school sustained damage as emergency crews worked through smoke-filled streets and debris to rescue survivors and assess the destruction. The deadliest at-

tack occurred in the northern city of Sumy, where a Russian guided aerial bomb struck a populated area, killing five people, including a young girl. In eastern Ukraine, one person was killed in Sloviansk, while two others died in a missile strike on the southern port city of Odesa, local authorities said.

President Zelensky stated that Ukraine's air defence systems intercepted many of the incoming drones and missiles but struggled to stop the high-speed ballistic missiles. He renewed his appeal to international partners, particularly the United States, to accelerate military assistance and strengthen Ukraine's air defence capabilities.

Zelensky urged Washington to swiftly implement its decision allowing Ukraine to manufacture Patriot air defence missile systems under licence, saying delays in providing critical defence equipment continue to cost civilian lives.

Military analysts suggested

that some of the missiles may have been modified S-400 systems used in ground attack mode, making them harder for radar systems to detect and reducing the warning time available before impact.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry maintained that its forces had targeted military-industrial facilities in Kyiv and port infrastructure in Odesa, denying allegations that civilians were deliberately targeted.

The latest strikes came a day after Ukrainian drones reportedly attacked oil refineries in southern Russia, continuing Kyiv's campaign against Russian energy infrastructure. With the war now in its fifth year, the renewed exchange of long-range strikes underscores the escalating intensity of the conflict. The latest attacks have once again raised international concerns over civilian safety, the strain on Ukraine's air defence network, and the urgent need for diplomatic efforts to prevent further escalation.

# Two Killed, Three Injured in Shooting Near Toronto Street Festival

Two people were killed and three others injured in a shooting near a popular street festival in Toronto on Saturday, triggering a major police response and temporary warnings of an active shooter.

The incident occurred near the intersection of St. Clair Avenue West and Arlington Avenue, where the annual Salsa on St. Clair festival was being held. Toronto Police responded swiftly after reports of gunfire in the area.

Authorities said five people were found suffering from gunshot wounds. Two victims later succumbed to their injuries, while the remaining three were taken to hospital for treatment. Their conditions have not yet been officially disclosed.

In the immediate aftermath of



the shooting, police urged residents and festival-goers to avoid the area, warning of an active shooter situation as officers secured the scene and launched an extensive search.

Hours later, Toronto Police confirmed that the area had been secured and there was no ongoing threat to public safety. How-

ever, officials did not release any information regarding a suspect or announce any arrests.

A large number of police officers and emergency medical personnel remained at the scene as investigators collected evidence and interviewed witnesses. Authorities are also reviewing surveillance footage from the festi-

val and nearby businesses to determine the circumstances leading to the shooting.

The Salsa on St. Clair festival, one of Toronto's largest annual cultural events celebrating Latin music, dance and cuisine, attracts thousands of visitors each year. The violence shocked attendees and disrupted the celebrations as emergency responders rushed to assist the victims.

Police have appealed to members of the public who witnessed the incident or recorded videos to come forward and assist the investigation.

The motive behind the shooting remains unclear, and investigators are continuing efforts to identify those responsible. Officials have assured the public that updates will be provided as the investigation progresses.



# Belgaria Women Grow a New Future with Mushrooms

In a region once known for underground fires, land subsidence and struggles for survival, a quiet economic revolution is taking root. Belgaria Rehabilitation Township in Dhanbad, Jharkhand, is witnessing an unusual transformation — not through mines or industries, but through mushrooms cultivated by determined women.

For years, Belgaria was seen as a symbol of displacement. Families from fire-affected and unstable mining areas were relocated here, carrying with them the challenges of rebuilding their lives. Limited employment opportunities and basic livelihood concerns remained major hurdles. But today, the

township is presenting a different picture — one of entrepreneurship, confidence and self-reliance.

At the centre of this change are nearly 40 to 50 women who have turned mushroom cultivation into a source of steady income. Working through self-help groups, these women are not just growing mushrooms; they are growing financial independence for their families.

Each woman earns around Rs 200 to Rs 250 per day through this activity, making a significant contribution to household expenses. What began as a livelihood experiment has now become a sustainable income-generating model for many

families in the township.

The journey was made possible through training and scientific guidance. After learning modern cultivation techniques, the women began producing varieties of mushrooms suited to seasonal conditions. At present, Oyster and Milky mushrooms are cultivated regularly, while Button mushrooms have also been successfully grown in the past.

Experts from Deoghar continue to support the women by introducing improved methods and helping them enhance production practices. The initiative has transformed many women from homemakers dependent on family income into

entrepreneurs managing their own small-scale businesses.

The demand for Belgaria's mushrooms has grown steadily because of their freshness and quality. Interestingly, the women do not have to depend heavily on outside markets. Local residents themselves visit the production centre to buy fresh mushrooms, ensuring a ready customer base and reducing transportation challenges.

However, the women believe that their success could multiply with better infrastructure. Currently, production stands at around four to five kilograms daily, but earlier it had reached 15 to 20 kilograms per day. They feel that a dedicated workspace

and climate-controlled facilities could help them revive and expand production.

"More women are interested in joining mushroom cultivation, but limited space and facilities are restricting growth," says Geeta Devi, one of the mushroom producers.

The story of Belgaria is a reminder that economic change does not always emerge from large factories or major investments. Sometimes, it begins inside small rooms where women carefully nurture mushroom beds and dreams together.

From a township created for displaced families, Belgaria is now becoming a place where women are creating opportuni-



ties with their own hands. With improved support, better facilities and wider markets, these mushroom entrepreneurs could turn a local success story into a model for rural women's empowerment across Jharkhand.

# Kashmir's Young Paddlers Are Charting a New Course in Water Sports

For generations, the waters of Dal Lake have been synonymous with Kashmir's aquatic identity. The iconic lake has witnessed countless boat rides, shikaras and sporting activities. But now, a new chapter is unfolding away from its familiar shores. In the heart of Srinagar's Downtown area, young athletes are discovering that their dreams can travel much farther than the boundaries of a single lake.

At Pokhribal, a water body located near the northeastern side of Nigeen Lake and close to the historic Hari Parbat Fort, the rhythmic sound of paddles cutting through water has become a symbol of change. Here, boys and girls from different parts of Kashmir are training in kayaking, canoeing, rowing and swimming, hoping to build careers in competitive water sports.

Located about six kilometres from Lal Chowk, Pokhribal is emerging as a promising alternative training destination for athletes who earlier had limited opportunities beyond Dal Lake. The growing participation of youngsters from districts such as Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Budgam reflects how water sports are slowly ex-



panding across the Valley.

Leading this movement is international water sports coach Bilquis Mir, who believes that talent should not remain restricted to one location. She is working to develop Pokhribal as another major centre for aquatic sports in Kashmir.

"Water sports should reach beyond Dal Lake. Pokhribal has the potential to become another important training hub, but greater support and facilities are needed," she says.

During the summer holidays, around 80 aspiring athletes are taking part in a 20-day coaching camp at the Water Sports Centre in Pokhribal. The programme brings together beginners eager to learn as well as experienced players who have

already participated in state and national-level competitions.

For many youngsters, the camp represents more than just physical training. It offers a chance to imagine a future where their skills can take them to bigger platforms.

Naem Nisar from Baramulla says the training has helped him understand advanced techniques in kayaking, canoeing and rowing. For others like Nakia Yaqoob, the ambition is even bigger — to represent Jammu and Kashmir and the country at national and international competitions.

The training centre has received support through modern boats and specialised equipment from the Indian Kayaking

and Canoeing Association, helping young athletes experience professional-level training. However, coaches believe that additional infrastructure, including improved facilities and expanded centres, can help nurture more talent.

Bilquis says the initiative is also aimed at encouraging children to move beyond a screen-based lifestyle and develop healthier interests. She believes that with proper investment, Kashmir can create a strong pool of athletes capable of competing at higher levels.

The enthusiasm among participants is already visible. Omar Shafa from Sopore believes similar coaching programmes should reach every district so that more young people can explore opportunities in water sports.

As more paddles enter Kashmir's waters, the story of the Valley's sporting future is slowly changing. Once limited to a few familiar locations, water sports are now opening doors for a wider generation of athletes. Pokhribal's waves are carrying a new message — that Kashmir's sporting dreams are no longer tied to one lake, but are ready to flow across the region and beyond.

# Telangana Tribal Girl Kannibai's Everest Base Camp Dream

In a remote corner of Telangana, where opportunities often remain as distant as the mountain peaks she dreams of conquering, a young tribal woman is preparing for the biggest challenge of her life. Kannibai from Bhimangondi village in Kerameri Mandal of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district is set to embark on an extraordinary journey — a trek to the Everest Base Camp, carrying with her the hopes of her community and the dream of proudly unfurling the national flag at the world's highest mountain's foothills.

Kannibai's journey has never been an easy climb. Belonging to the Kolam tribal community, she grew up facing financial struggles and limited resources. Yet, difficult circumstances never stopped her from pursuing her passion for mountaineering.

Her biggest source of inspiration was her father Jaitu. When he passed away on January 1, 2020, he left behind words that became a lifelong motivation for her — encouraging her to succeed despite challenges. Just a day after his funeral, Kannibai participated in the World Rappelling Competition at Araku Valley in Visakhapatnam and created a remarkable achievement by winning four gold medals.

Since then, she has continued to prove that determination can overcome limitations. In 2019, she won a gold medal after scaling Mount Bhagirathi in Uttarakhand, reaching an altitude of 6,512 feet. In 2022, she created another milestone by hoisting the national flag on Mount



Pangarchulla at a height of 14,700 feet, bringing recognition to Telangana.

Now, her next destination is the Everest Base Camp. The expedition, scheduled to begin on July 15, will conclude with her dream of hoisting the tricolour on Independence Day, August 15, at an altitude of 5,364 metres above sea level.

However, reaching the base of Mount Everest requires more than courage. It also demands significant financial resources. The expedition cost is estimated at around Rs 3.50 lakh, covering travel expenses, Nepal government permits, airfare, specialised cold-weather equipment, in-

surance, food and other essential requirements.

Kannibai, who is currently pursuing her third year through distance education at Kakatiya University, does not have the financial means to independently fund the expedition. The Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Utnoor, has extended support by providing Rs 2.18 lakh, but she still needs additional assistance to complete her dream.

Her words reflect the struggles behind her achievements. "I belong to the Kolam tribe. I do not even have money to buy proper clothes. People appreciate me when I return after climbing mountains, but

they forget about me soon after," she says. The Everest Base Camp trek itself is considered a challenging adventure, covering nearly 130 kilometres over 12 to 14 days. The journey includes steep climbs, unpredictable weather, high-altitude conditions and a route through the famous Sherpa villages of Nepal.

For Kannibai, this expedition is not just about reaching a destination. It is about showing that talent can emerge from the most unexpected places. From the tribal hills of Telangana to the mighty Himalayas, her journey represents courage, resilience and a dream that refuses to stay grounded.

# Indiranagar's 100 Feet Road: Bengaluru's Urban Charm Amid Contrasts

Bengaluru has always been a city of contrasts — a global technology hub struggling with infrastructure challenges, a fast-growing metropolis still holding on to pockets of old-world charm. A recent social media post has reignited conversations about this unique character of the city, with one resident describing Bengaluru as a "paradox" where different neighbourhoods tell completely different stories.

The spotlight fell on Indiranagar's iconic 100 Feet Road, a bustling stretch that has become synonymous with Bengaluru's cosmopolitan lifestyle. From trendy cafes and restaurants to premium stores and startup offices, the road represents a blend of commerce, culture and community life that many believe sets it apart from typical urban spaces.

Social media user Aaditya Aanand described the area as an example of what thoughtful city planning can create. According to him, walking along 100 Feet Road in the evening feels less like navigating a crowded city street and more like exploring an open-air urban destination where people, businesses and greenery coexist.

As the sun sets, the neighbourhood takes on a different personality. Tree-lined streets, glowing storefronts, busy cafes and people heading out for evening gatherings create an atmosphere that many residents associate with Bengaluru's youthful energy.

The charm of Indiranagar, however, does not end with its famous commercial stretch.



Just a short walk away from the lively 100 Feet Road are quieter residential lanes where old-style homes, greenery and peaceful surroundings continue to exist alongside the modern cityscape.

Aanand highlighted this contrast, pointing out that Bengaluru's identity lies in these unexpected transitions — a city where a vibrant nightlife district can exist just steps away from calm residential streets.

The post also drew attention to the broader challenges faced by Bengaluru. While neighbourhoods like Indiranagar showcase the city's potential, areas such as Bellandur have frequently faced criticism over flooding and infrastructure problems during heavy rains. The comparison sparked discussions about the uneven development patterns seen in rapidly expanding Indian cities.

The online conversation attracted thousands of views and reactions, with many users sharing their own experiences of Bengaluru's character. Several people called it one of India's most beautiful cities, while others pointed out that

many metropolitan areas have similar contrasts between well-planned zones and neglected neighbourhoods.

Some users also shared interesting facts about Indiranagar, including a common misconception about its name. Contrary to popular belief that it was named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the locality is named after Kannada writer M.K. Indira.

Beyond the debate over infrastructure, the discussion highlighted something deeper about Bengaluru — its ability to surprise people. It is a city where technology campuses stand alongside heritage spaces, where modern lifestyles meet traditional neighbourhoods, and where a single road can capture the energy of an entire generation.

Indiranagar's 100 Feet Road may not represent the whole of Bengaluru, but it reflects a vision of what urban life can become when design, greenery and human interaction come together. In a city constantly changing, it remains a reminder that the soul of a place often lives in its streets.

# Sri Lanka's Cleanliness and Kindness Leave Traveller Amazed

Sometimes, the most memorable travel experiences are not created by famous landmarks or luxury stays, but by the everyday habits of ordinary people. For an Indian traveller exploring Sri Lanka, the biggest discovery was not just the island nation's natural beauty, but the warmth, discipline and civic responsibility she witnessed along the way.

Sharing her experience on social media, the traveller described Sri Lanka as a place that left her amazed with its cleanliness, cultural pride and the attitude of its people. She said the journey offered a fresh perspective on how communities can preserve their surroundings and maintain public spaces despite facing economic and social challenges.

During her seven-day trip, covering nearly 700 kilometres across the country, she noticed well-maintained roads and organised surroundings. What surprised her most was the absence of potholes during the long journey, a detail she felt reflected the importance given to public infrastructure.

Her observations went beyond roads and facilities. She was particularly impressed by the behaviour of people in everyday situations. Recalling a moment during the trip, she described a traffic situation on a narrow two-way road where her cab driver and another motorist approached each other from opposite directions.

Initially, she expected a typical argument between drivers. Instead, both drivers simply exchanged smiles, laughed, adjusted their vehi-



cles and managed to clear the situation within minutes. The simple act of patience and cooperation left the travellers surprised.

"We blinked in wonder," she recalled, describing the experience as a reminder that small gestures can reveal the character of a society.

The traveller also praised Sri Lanka's beaches, which she found remarkably clean and free from plastic waste, paper and other litter. For her, the cleanliness of public spaces reflected the responsibility citizens felt towards their environment.

She highlighted that Sri Lanka's challenges, including economic difficulties faced by the country, have not stopped people from taking pride in maintaining their communities. According to her, the sense of duty among citizens was visible in their daily actions.

Another aspect that impressed her was the hospitality of locals. She described Sri Lankan people as

soft-spoken, friendly and eager to help visitors. Even when language became a barrier, many locals used gestures and signs to guide travellers and ensure they received assistance.

The post sparked conversations online, with many users discussing the importance of civic responsibility and community participation. Several people agreed that cleanliness and public behaviour are not only dependent on government efforts but also on citizens' willingness to contribute.

For the traveller, Sri Lanka offered more than scenic landscapes and cultural experiences. It provided a lesson in how kindness, discipline and respect for shared spaces can shape the identity of a nation.

Her journey became a reminder that the true beauty of a country is often reflected not only in its monuments and natural wonders, but also in the everyday actions of its people.

# Jyothi Sureka Vennam Shines With Archery World Cup Silver

Andhra Pradesh's ace archer Jyothi Sureka Vennam, along with teammates Prithika Pradeep and Chikitha Taniparthi, won the silver medal in the Women's Compound Team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 4 held in Madrid. The achievement has brought pride to India and Andhra Pradesh, with the team delivering a strong performance against some of the world's top archers.

India's growing strength in international compound archery and the rising potential of Indian women athletes on the global stage. Jyothi Sureka Vennam has emerged as one of India's most successful compound archers, representing the country in several prestigious international competitions. Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, she has consistently brought recognition to the state through her achievements and has become an inspiration for young athletes aspiring to make a mark in sports.

Known for her accuracy, discipline and dedication, Jyothi has played a significant role in promoting compound archery in India. Her journey reflects years of hard work, rigorous training and commitment to excellence. Her achievements at national and international events have established her as one of the leading figures in Indian archery.

The silver medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 4 adds another important achievement to Jyothi's illustrious career. Along with Prithika Pradeep and Chikitha Taniparthi, she displayed exceptional teamwork and determination while competing against strong international opponents.

CM N Chandrababu Naidu congratulated the Indian women's compound archery team for their remarkable achievement. He praised Jyothi Sureka Vennam's continued excellence on the international stage and said Andhra Pradesh was proud of her accomplishments. He described her as a daughter of the state whose success inspires young athletes across Andhra Pradesh. Naidu highlighted the importance of encouraging sporting talent and supporting athletes who bring recognition to the country through their performances.



# Shashank Singh Denies Assault Allegations

Punjab Kings cricketer Shashank Singh has strongly denied the allegations made against him and his family in a recently registered assault case, claiming that the complaint was fabricated as part of a conspiracy to extort money and tarnish his reputation. In a detailed statement shared on social media, Shashank said the FIR filed by a former cook was false and intended to exploit his public image for financial gain. He alleged that the accusations were part of a deliberate attempt to defame him and his family.



Last month, Ratibad police in Bhopal registered a case against Shashank Singh and his father, retired Special Director General of Police Shailesh Singh, following a complaint alleging that they assaulted a cook employed at their residence and stole his mobile phone. Shashank has categorically denied all the allegations. Expressing disappointment

# Messi Clashes with Referee During Argentina Win

Argentina captain Lionel Messi was involved in a heated exchange with referee João Pinheiro during his team's FIFA World Cup knockout match against Switzerland, with the on-field confrontation becoming one of the major talking points despite Argentina's dramatic victory.



The incident occurred in the first half when Switzerland was awarded a free kick. As Messi stood in Argentina's defensive wall, referee Pinheiro instructed him to move back to the required distance. Unhappy with the referee's tone, Messi reportedly responded by asking him to speak respectfully, insisting that he had addressed the official politely and should be treated the same way.

The match proved to be a frustrating one for the Argentine captain, who failed to score for the first time in the tournament. Switzerland's disciplined defence successfully contained Messi throughout the regulation period, leaving the score tied at 1-1 after 90 minutes.

Another controversial moment came later in the match when referee Pinheiro, following a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) review, sent off Swiss striker Breel Embolo with a red card for simulation. The dismissal forced Switzerland to continue with 10 players, giving Argentina a numerical advantage during extra time.

# Argentina Football Great Antonio Rattin Dies at 89

Former Argentina captain Antonio Ubaldo Rattin, one of the country's most celebrated footballers and a figure closely associated with the introduction of the yellow and red card system in football, has passed away at the age of 89. His death has prompted an outpouring of tributes from across the football world. The Argentine Football Association (AFA) expressed deep sorrow over his demise, with president Claudio Tapia describing Rattin as a legendary captain and an enduring icon of Argentine football whose contributions to the game will never be forgotten.



Rattin became a central figure in football history during the 1966 FIFA World Cup quarter-final between Argentina and England. In that match, German referee Rudolf Kreitlein ordered the Argentine captain off the field. At the time, football did not have the yellow and red card system to communicate disciplinary decisions clearly.

# BCCI Makes Two Changes to India Squads



# Hyderabad E-Champions, Khammam Aces Set for TG20 Final

The inaugural Telangana Cricket League (TG20) is set for a thrilling conclusion as Hyderabad E-Champions take on Khammam Aces in the grand final at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal on Sunday. The title clash, scheduled to begin at 7.30 pm, promises an exciting contest between the tournament's two best-performing teams.



Hyderabad E-Champions entered the playoffs as the standout side after winning all seven of their league matches. However, their unbeaten run came to an end when Khammam Aces stunned them in Qualifier 1. Hyderabad bounced back strongly by defeating Karimnagar Diamonds in Qualifier 2 to secure another shot at the title.

Led by Abhirath Reddy, Hyderabad possess one of the most balanced squads in the competition. Abhirath has been the tournament's leading run-scorer and the first batter to cross the 500-run mark this season. Opener Sai Vikas has provided solid starts, while

ers Paras Raj and Wafi Kachi have provided aggressive starts, while Sai Krishna, Mikel Jaiswal and Prateek Reddy have added stability in the middle order. Khammam's bowling department has also impressed, with Ved Reddy emerging as one of the tournament's top wicket-takers. Supported by Sahendra, Harshith Sai and Vidyanand, the bowling attack has consistently delivered under pressure.

Before the final, a closing ceremony will be held from 5.30 pm. Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and TG20 brand ambassador and actor Vijay Deverakonda are expected to attend the event, while singer Rahul Sipligunj and his team will entertain the spectators with a live performance. A reserve day has been kept in place in case rain disrupts the final. If weather prevents the completion of the match on both scheduled days, Hyderabad E-Champions and Khammam Aces will be declared joint champions of the inaugural TG20 season.



# Nagarjuna Celebrates Akhil's 'Lenin' Success

Veteran actor Nagarjuna Akkineni expressed immense happiness over the success of his son Akhil Akkineni's latest film Lenin, saying the film has finally given the young actor the breakthrough he truly deserved. Speaking at the film's success celebration held in Hyderabad on Saturday, Nagarjuna praised Akhil's dedication and perseverance throughout his career.

Produced by Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, Lenin stars Akhil Akkineni in the lead role and is directed by Murali Kishor Abburu. The film, featuring Bhagya Shri Borse as the female lead, was released on Friday and has received a positive response from audiences.

Addressing the gathering, Nagarjuna said Akhil has always been determined to achieve his goals and has consistently put in tremendous effort for every film. He noted that although Akhil had come close to success several times, Lenin has finally delivered the recognition and commercial success he had been striving for.

The actor also recalled attending the success celebra-

tions of Thandel last year and said both Naga Chaitanya and Akhil are equally dear to him. He added that fans have always wished for the success of both brothers and expressed joy that Lenin has fulfilled those expectations. Nagarjuna also thanked actor Jr NTR for lending his voice to the film, affectionately referring to him as the family's "elder son."

Speaking at the event, Akhil Akkineni thanked audiences for embracing Lenin and overlooking the disappointments of his previous films. He expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support shown by moviegoers and said the success has motivated him to work even harder in the future.

Producer Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, actress Bhagya Shri Borse and other members of the film's cast and crew also attended the success meet, celebrating the film's encouraging box office performance and positive audience response. With Lenin emerging as a significant milestone in Akhil Akkineni's career, the team expressed confidence that the film would continue its successful run in theatres.

# Cheating Case Filed Against Actor Arya in Hyderabad

A cheating case has been registered against Tamil actor Arya, also known as Jamshed C., and the producers of the Malayalam film Ananthan Kaadu at the Jubilee Hills Police Station in Hyderabad over an alleged dispute involving unpaid equipment rental dues exceeding 1.80 crore.

The complaint was lodged by Javed Ali, an accountant with Hyderabad-based Taher Cine Technique. According to the complaint, the production team approached the company in February 2025 to hire high-end cameras and lighting equipment for the shooting of Ananthan Kaadu. The equipment was transported from Hyderabad to Kerala for the film's production.

The complainant alleged that the total rental amount for the equipment was 2.12 crore, but a major portion of the payment remains unpaid despite repeated assurances from the producers. It was further alleged that the production team had signed agreements promising to clear the outstanding dues, but failed to honour the commitment.

The complaint also states that repeated attempts to contact the producers through phone calls and WhatsApp messages did not yield any response. The company further alleged that when its manager demanded payment of the pending amount, he was threatened by the producer, actor Arya and the actor's personal assistant,

# Allu Arjun Reportedly Set to Play Four Roles in 'Raaka'

Excitement surrounding Raaka, the upcoming big-budget film starring Allu Arjun and directed by Atlee, has intensified after reports emerged that the actor will be seen in four different roles. Although the makers have not officially confirmed the development, the speculation has created a strong buzz among fans and the film industry, making the project one of the most anticipated Indian films currently under production.

According to reports, Allu Arjun is expected to portray a grandfather, a father and two sons, making it the most ambitious role of his career. If confirmed, Raaka will mark the first time the National Award-winning actor takes on four distinct characters in a single film. The multiple roles are ex-

pected to span different generations, requiring unique looks, mannerisms and emotional depth.

Initially, director Atlee reportedly planned the film with Allu Arjun playing only two characters, while different actors were to be cast for the father and grandfather roles. However, the actor is believed to have expressed his desire to perform all four characters himself. After conducting detailed look tests, the director and creative team were reportedly impressed with the transformations and decided that the move would strengthen the film's narrative and enhance its cinematic appeal.

Known for delivering visually grand commercial entertainers, Atlee is mounting Raaka on a massive scale with

advanced visual effects and international production standards. The filmmaker has already promised audiences a never-before-seen cinematic experience with spectacular visuals and high-quality storytelling aimed at viewers across the globe.

Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has been cast as the female lead, bringing together one of the biggest actor-director combinations in Indian cinema. The collaboration between Allu Arjun, Atlee and Deepika has already generated enormous expectations among movie lovers. The film is currently being shot in Mumbai, with major sequences being filmed on elaborate sets. While the makers have maintained complete secrecy about the storyline and the reported



multiple roles, the growing speculation has only added to the excitement surrounding the project.

An official announcement regarding Allu Arjun's character details is still awaited. However, the reports have fueled anticipation for the

film's first look and teaser. Scheduled for a grand worldwide theatrical release in 2027, Raaka is expected to be one of the biggest pan-India releases of the year and could feature one of the most challenging performances of Allu Arjun's career.

# Mandakini's Latest Photos Delight Fans

Veteran actress Mandakini, who won the hearts of Telugu audiences with her memorable performances in Simhasanam and Bhargava Ramudu, has once again caught the attention of fans with her latest photographs from Manali. The actress, who has largely stayed away from films in recent years, shared glimpses of her peaceful vacation on social media, receiving an overwhelming response from admirers.

Mandakini, best known in Telugu for portraying the 'Vishakanya' alongside Superstar Krishna in the blockbuster Simhasanam, looked graceful in traditional Himachali attire during her visit to the picturesque hill station. Surrounded by lush mountains and scenic landscapes, she



posed with a flower-decorated traditional basket, reflecting the rich culture of Himachal Pradesh.

Along with the pictures, the actress penned a heartfelt note

about the joy of reconnecting with nature. She described the mountains as a place of peace, where the whispering pine trees, cool breeze and breathtaking landscapes bring a

sense of calm and gratitude. She wrote that every sunrise in Manali feels like a blessing and every path tells a unique story, adding that some journeys help people rediscover themselves.

The photographs have drawn praise from fans, many of whom remarked that Mandakini continues to retain her elegance and charm despite being away from the silver screen for many years.

Mandakini became a household name across India with her iconic role in Raj Kapoor's Hindi classic Ram Teri Ganga Maili, which established her as one of the leading actresses of her generation. She later appeared in several successful Hindi films, including Dance Dance, Commando and Jeete

Hain Shaan Se. In Telugu cinema, she earned widespread recognition after the success of Simhasanam in 1986 and later starred opposite Nandamuri Balakrishna in Bhargava Ramudu. Her performances in both films remain fondly remembered by Telugu audiences.

Though she has stepped away from the film industry, Mandakini continues to stay connected with her admirers through social media, where she occasionally shares moments from her travels and personal life. Her latest pictures from Manali have once again reminded fans of the timeless grace and screen presence that made her one of the most admired actresses of the 1980s.



# 'Maa Inti Bangaram' Crosses ₹100 Crore Mark

Actress Samantha's latest film Maa Inti Bangaram has achieved a major box office milestone by crossing the 100 crore gross worldwide, further strengthening its successful theatrical run. To celebrate the achievement, the film's team released a special video capturing Samantha's emotional reaction after learning about the film's impressive collections.

Directed by Nandini Reddy, Maa Inti Bangaram was released on June 19 and has received an overwhelming response from audiences. The film has been praised for its engaging storyline, emotional depth and Samantha's powerful performance in the lead role, contributing significantly to its commercial success.

The celebration video, shared by the makers on social media, shows Samantha reacting with joy and gratitude upon being informed that the film had entered the prestigious 100 crore club. Her genuine excitement and heartfelt response quickly went viral, with fans widely sharing the clip across social media platforms.

The actress, who has consistently delivered memorable performances over the years, has received appreciation from both audiences and crit-

ics for carrying the film with confidence and emotional intensity. The latest milestone has been viewed as another significant achievement in her successful career.

Director Nandini Reddy and the film's team also expressed gratitude to audiences for their overwhelming support, describing the success as a result of the love and encouragement shown by moviegoers worldwide. They credited the audience's positive word-of-mouth for helping the film sustain a strong run at the box office.

The 100 crore milestone places Maa Inti Bangaram among the notable Telugu blockbusters of the year. With strong occupancy continuing in several centres and positive audience response remaining steady, the film is expected to add to its box office collections in the coming days.

The makers are expected to continue celebrating the film's success with more promotional content and special events, while fans continue to applaud Samantha's performance and the team's achievement. The emotional reaction video has become one of the most talked-about moments on social media, reflecting the excitement surrounding the film's remarkable box office journey.

