



BUZZ POINTS



Modi to Launch ₹2,500-Crore Projects in Punjab

PAGE 07



Assam Repatriates 1,679 Illegal Immigrants in Two Years

PAGE 07



India Launches UNSC Seat Campaign

PAGE 07



Merger Claim Sparks Fresh Shiv Sena Row

PAGE 07

TRUE POINT

VIJAYAWADA | VOL-1 | ISSUE -108| WEDNESDAY| JULY 15| 2026 | PAGES 12 |PRICE ₹ 5 |PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD

Heroes Must Follow Their Followers, Not the Other Way Around

TPN Desk

A hero earns a following through heroism. But when he begins to display the traits of a villain, even his most loyal fans find it difficult to accept. Public support cannot be sustained by acting against the natural expectations of followers. Just as people cannot digest a Left party forming an alliance with the BJP, or the BJP joining hands with the Congress, fans also expect consistency from their heroes. They do not blindly follow every political turn taken by their favourite personalities.

The same happened in the case of Pawan Kalyan. After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the Congress suffered a severe setback. At a time when the country was looking towards the BJP, Pawan Kalyan made his political entry and extended support to the BJP and the TDP. His fans immediately stood by his decision, and it had an impact on the election results. Had he supported Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy instead, it is doubtful whether the same response would have been seen. In the 2019 elections, Pawan allied with the Left parties, but many of his supporters did not vote for him. Those who were opposed to the TDP preferred the YSRCP. In 2024, however, the strong anti-incumbency against Jagan worked in Pawan's favour. A



leader's strategy succeeds only when it matches both his original support base and the prevailing political situation.

There is now speculation that Jr. NTR may eventually launch a political party. It is true that he has, on several occasions, expressed his desire to carry forward the legacy of his grandfather and become a political leader. As long as he was seen as being close to the TDP, his popularity remained intact. But when perceptions emerged that, due to the influence of Harikrishna, Kodali Nani and Vallabhaneni Vamsi, he was leaning towards the YSRCP, there was a noticeable impact. Even a well-received film failed to generate the expected collections. Realising this, Tarak maintained silence on politics and concentrated on his film career, eventually becoming one of the biggest

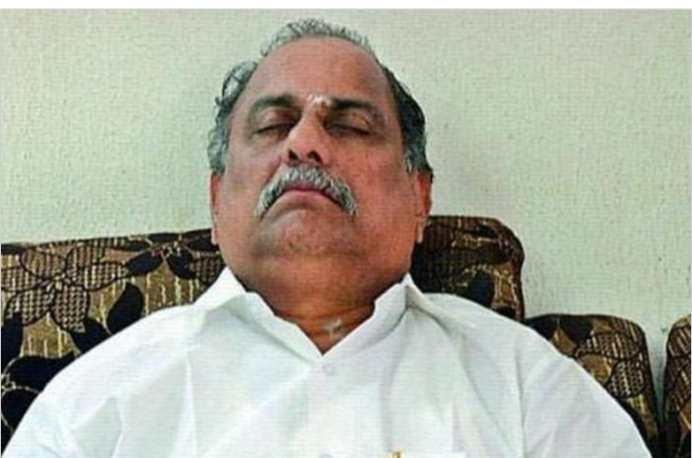
stars. As Nara Lokesh established himself first within the TDP and later in the government, the YSRCP allegedly tried to create the impression that TDP workers wanted Jr. NTR to take over the party. The apparent objective was to create confusion within the TDP ranks. However, it soon became clear that Lokesh is the undisputed political successor to N. Chandrababu Naidu. He now holds a strong grip over both the party and the government, leaving little room for confusion.

Political observers claim that the YSRCP now intends to use every possible issue to weaken the TDP and may attempt to capitalise on Tarak's leadership ambitions. However, Jagan Mohan Reddy has often been accused of using influential individuals for political advantage rather than

accommodating them as equals. The example of Mudragada Padmanabham, who was projected on the Kapu reservation issue but later found himself politically isolated, is often cited in this context.

Some believe that if Tarak enters politics, Lokesh may face a challenge. Certain leaders dissatisfied with Lokesh may also see Tarak as an alternative. But many argue that Tarak can succeed only if he enters as a leader of the TDP itself. Even a slight perception that he is helping Jagan politically could damage both his political future and his film career. His opportunity would arise only if the TDP faces a leadership crisis or if strong opposition emerges against Lokesh. Tarak may not be useful in defeating the TDP, but he could become relevant if circumstances ever create an opportunity to lead it. If he is seen as entering politics merely to weaken the TDP or strengthen Jagan, the consequences could extend to his popularity in cinema as well.

The same principle applies to Allu Arjun. His differences with the Mega family have already distanced a section of Mega fans. Many believe that this had an impact on the Telugu collections of Pushpa 2, even if effective public relations managed to soften that perception.



Kapu Movement Leader Mudragada Padmanabham Passes Away

Ch Raju

Kakinada : Former Minister and Kapu movement leader Mudragada Padmanabham, who played a significant role in Andhra Pradesh politics and social movements, passed away on Tuesday while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Hyderabad. He was 73. Born on January 22, 1953, in

Kirlampudi village of the erstwhile East Godavari district, Mudragada entered politics at a young age following the footsteps of his father Veerarahgava Rao, who was popularly known as Kirlampudi Munsif and served as MLA from Prathipadu constituency.

Mudragada was first elected as MLA from

P3

Jagan Demands ₹1 Crore Compensation for Fishermen Families

Visakhapatnam, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday blamed the coalition government's alleged negligence for the death of six fishermen in a boat accident near Gangavaram Port and demanded 1 crore compensation for each affected family. Jagan Mohan Reddy, after consoling the families of the deceased and meeting the lone survivor Chinna, said seven fishermen had ventured into the sea for fishing when their boat capsized about 10 miles from Gangavaram Port. He alleged that despite repeated appeals and SOS messages from family members, officials failed to respond in time.

He said Chinna survived after swimming to safety and being rescued by a Chinese vessel, while the remaining fishermen lost their lives. Jagan alleged that timely inter-



vention by authorities could have saved others.

He criticised the government for limiting assistance to 10 lakh per family and demanded enhanced compensation. He said the YSRCP government had increased compensation for fishermen deaths from 5 lakh to 10 lakh and had earlier taken steps to bring back fishermen detained in Pakistan and Bangladesh through coordination with the Centre.

Jagan alleged that neither Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu nor Ministers handling Fisheries a

P3

AP First State to Launch Monthly Economic Reports, Says CM Naidu

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce Monthly Economic Reports to monitor economic growth, improve governance and enable data-driven decision-making, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said.

Addressing Ministers, Secretaries and Heads of Departments (HoDs) at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister said the government is focusing on efficient, transparent and outcome-based administration using technology and real-time



data. He advised senior officials to regularly visit the field and understand public issues.

Chandrababu Naidu said monthly reviews of Gross

State Domestic Product (GSDP), revenue receipts and departmental performance would help identify gaps and take corrective measures. He

stressed the need to improve citizen satisfaction through better service delivery and directed departments to achieve zero pendency in grievance disposal through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS).

Highlighting revenue reforms, he said Artificial Intelligence-based tools introduced by the government helped increase revenue collections by 24 per cent across departments. Andhra Pradesh recorded nearly 20 per cent growth over 2017 levels during the previous year, he said.

The Chief Minister said

long-pending land issues were being resolved and Pattadar Passbooks were being distributed every month. He noted that issues in Shettipalli, Vatti Cherukuru, Kanggundi and Gutupalli were resolved, while 7.2 million Pattadar Passbooks were still pending for distribution.

He said electricity tariffs were not increased despite entering the third year of the government's tenure and reiterated the commitment of no tariff hike for five years. The government is also promoting induction stoves and solar power generation to

P3

Govt Approves ₹1,638 Crore for Expansion of Three Greenfield Ports

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The State Government has approved administrative sanctions for land acquisition under Phase-2 expansion of three greenfield ports — Ramayapatnam, Mulapeta and Machilipatnam — with a total allocation of ₹1,638.52 crore for acquiring 6,248.54 acres.

Minister for Investments and Infrastructure BC Janardhan Reddy announced that the approvals were issued following the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to strengthen coastal infrastructure and meet future port development requirements.

Addressing the media at the R&B and I&I Department office in the Secretariat, BC Janardhan Reddy said ₹851 crore has



been sanctioned for acquiring 2,924.45 acres of land for Phase-2 development of Ramayapatnam Greenfield Port. For Mulapeta Greenfield Port expansion, administrative sanctions of ₹440.52 crore have been granted for acquiring 1,903.39 acres, including salt-pan lands. He said Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) measures would also be taken up as part of the land acquisition process. The Minister said ₹347 crore has been allocated

P3

Polavaram Will Become a Major Tourism Destination: CM Naidu

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday unveiled the monthly magazine introduced by the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) at an event in Amaravati, highlighting the organisation's technology initiatives, governance reforms and data-driven administration efforts in Andhra Pradesh.

The publication showcases RTGS's role in implementing digital governance solutions, real-time monitoring systems and technology-based platforms aimed at improving government functioning and public service delivery. It also documents innovations, achievements and initiatives



undertaken by RTGS to strengthen data-based decision-making across departments.

RTGS has been supporting government departments in utilising data for better planning, monitoring and evaluation of welfare schemes and development programmes. Through advanced technology platforms, the organisation enables real-time analysis of

government activities, assessment of outcomes and improved coordination among departments.

The launch event was attended by Chief Secretary G. Sai Kumar, Director General of Police Harish Gupta, Finance Department Principal Secretary Piyush Kumar and RTGS, IT Department Secretary Bhaskar Katamneni.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reviewed plans to transform the Polavaram project area and Godavari riverbanks into a major tourism destination under the 'Akhanda Godavari' project.

During a meeting with officials from the Irrigation and Tourism departments and representatives of agencies at his camp office, the

P3

What's Causing Unrest Around Yarlagadda?

Kumar Chand Pullagura

Vijayawada : Political equations in the Gannavaram Assembly constituency appear to be witnessing fresh turbulence, with MLA Yarlagadda Venkatrao's recent public remarks over a government contract triggering discussions within political circles. His open expression of dissatisfaction has raised questions over whether internal differences are resurfacing among the ruling party leaders in the constituency.

Yarlagadda Venkatrao recently questioned the process of awarding an airport-related contract to KMV Projects and held a press conference at his office to clarify his stand. He denied allegations that his objection was linked to the contract not being awarded to a person close to him. The MLA stated that, as Vice Chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee, seeking details regarding government expenditure and project decisions was part of his responsibility as an elected representative. He re-

jected claims of personal interest and challenged that he would resign from his MLA post and quit politics if any wrongdoing was proved. He also said that if he had any issue with the government, he would directly discuss it with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. However, political discussions within the constituency suggest that the issue may have deeper roots. Yarlagadda had earlier been associated

P3



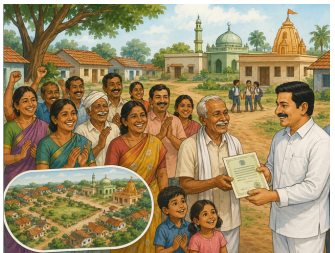
Century-Old Land Issue Resolved for 201 Families

Harsitha Vipparla

Amaravati : The Alliance government has resolved a century-old land rights issue faced by 201 families in Pulladigunta village of Vatticherukuru mandal in Guntur district. The houses of these families, which were constructed decades ago, were listed under the prohibited category, preventing residents from obtaining full legal rights over their properties.

Pulladigunta, a hamlet of Karnepadu revenue village, had been classified as Topu Poramboke land. Though residents had been living there for nearly 100 years, paying Gram Panchayat taxes, electricity bills and exercising voting rights, they were denied ownership rights due to the land classification.

After the Alliance government assumed office, villagers brought the issue to the attention of Revenue, Registration



and Stamps Minister Anagani Satya Prasad. The Gram Panchayat passed a resolution requesting the government to remove the residential area from the prohibited list and reclassify it as a village settlement area.

Minister Anagani Satya Prasad took the matter to the notice of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, following which officials conducted a detailed examination of village records. A re-survey revealed that houses and internal roads had been developed across 8.51 acres, where

P3

BJP Leaders to Visit Polavaram Project on July 16

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The BJP leaders will visit the Polavaram Project on July 16 under the leadership of P.V.N. Madhav. Minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Satyakumar Yadav, party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, state office-bearers, spokespersons and media panellists will participate in the visit.

Addressing a press conference, BJP state spokesperson Mullapudi Renuka described Polavaram as Andhra Pradesh's "lifeline" and highlighted its engineering features, including the world's longest spillway, a 92-metre-deep diaphragm wall and the capacity to discharge 50 lakh cusecs of floodwater. She

said the project would provide irrigation to 7.2 lakh additional acres and supply water for drinking, industrial and future data centre needs.

Renuka blamed the Congress for decades of delay and accused the previous YSRCP government of stalling construction through reverse tendering, alleging that even five per cent of the work was not completed during its tenure. She said the NDA's "double-engine" government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has accelerated construction and appealed to party workers from Eluru, East Godavari and West Godavari districts to visit a success.

Lokesh to Visit Kadapa Today

Kadapa, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh will visit Kadapa district on Wednesday and participate in various programmes in Jammalamadugu and Proddatur constituencies.

As part of his tour, Nara Lokesh will lay the foundation stone for the expansion of the Dalmia Cement plant at Chinnakomeri in Mylavaram mandal of Jammalamadugu constituency. The programme will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Later, he will participate in a coordination meeting with Telu-



gu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and workers of Proddatur constituency. The meeting will be held at the venue arranged at Dorasanipalle in Proddatur from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. The visit comes amid increased focus on industrial development and party coordination activities in Kadapa district.

Durgesh Resolves Tallapalem Waterlogging Issue

Nidadavole, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh responded immediately to the waterlogging issue at the Tallapalem underbridge in Nidadavole mandal despite being in Mumbai, directing officials to take urgent measures to restore normal traffic.

Heavy water accumulation from nearby agricultural fields and canals had disrupted movement on the route towards Tade-palligudem. After receiving information about the issue, Durgesh reviewed the situation through a video call from Mumbai and instructed his personal staff, dis-

trict officials and alliance leaders to visit the spot and resolve the problem on a war footing.

Following his directions, Irrigation Executive Engineer, Nidadavole MPDO Anjaneya Sharma, Tahsildar Naik, minister's staff and alliance leaders inspected the location. Officials informed that the issue had recurred despite earlier attempts to remove the water.

The authorities cleared the stagnant water and restored movement at the underbridge. Residents and farmers appreciated Durgesh for using technology to address the issue promptly while being away from the constituency.

ECI Extends AP Voter Roll Revision Till July 24

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has extended the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh till July 24 following a request from the Chief Electoral Officer of the state. The Commission issued a revised schedule on Tuesday, modifying the timelines for various stages of the voter roll revision process with reference to July 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

According to the revised schedule, house-to-house verifi-

cation by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will continue until July 24, while the rationalisation and rearrangement of polling stations will also be completed by the same date. The draft electoral roll will be published on July 31.

The period for filing claims and objections has been fixed from July 31 to August 30, while their disposal will be completed between July 31 and September 28. The final electoral roll will be published on October 3. The ECI has directed officials to widely publicise the revised schedule and inform all recognised political parties accordingly.

Minister Subhash Demands Jaggireddy Apology

Ramachandrapuram, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash on Tuesday condemned remarks made by YSRCP Konaseema district president Chirila Jaggireddy against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the comments insulted backward classes (BCs).

Subhash said the repeated use of the term "Buda Bukkalodu" while criticising the Chief Minister was an insult to nomadic communities belonging to the BC category. He questioned whether BC communities could be treated with such disrespect and demanded that Jaggireddy issue a public apology.

The Minister alleged that YSRCP leaders were pursuing divisive politics and warned that attempts to create caste



tensions in Konaseema district would not be tolerated. He said political leaders should respect all sections of society in a democracy.

TDP Konaseema district president Guttula Sai also condemned the remarks and demanded an apology from Jaggireddy. BC state convener Pendramesh warned of a state-wide agitation if an apology was not issued.

District TDP leaders Gandham Pallam Raju and Akkala Rishwanth Roy were among those present.

Lepakshi Handicrafts Stall Showcases AP Heritage at Bharat Tex 2026

New Delhi/Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh said, "Bharat Tex has become a globally recognised platform for trade, investment, innovation and policy dialogue, reflecting the growing strength of India's textile sector." He inaugurated Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The Union Minister inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh State Lepakshi Handicrafts stall at the expo, providing an opportunity to showcase the state's traditional crafts and the skills of artisans before visitors from India and abroad.

Rajya Sabha Member V. Vijayendra Prasad, after visiting the Andhra Pradesh Pavilion at Bharat Mandapam, said the state's rich handloom heritage has immense potential in global markets. He stressed the need to use technologies like Virtual Reality (VR) to connect master weavers directly with international buyers.

He said demand for authentic



handmade and culturally rooted products among global consumers, including the Indian diaspora, offers Andhra Pradesh an opportunity to emerge as a major sourcing destination for handloom and textile products.

Lepakshi Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Papupleti Hari Prasad appreciated the Department of Handlooms & Textiles for showcasing the state's handloom heritage, textile strengths and investment opportunities under AP Textile Policy 4.0. He said the government un-

der Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is giving priority to the textile sector through investor-friendly policies and infrastructure development.

The Andhra Pradesh Pavilion, set up by the Department of Handlooms & Textiles in Hall No. 9, was inaugurated by Commissioner G. Rekha Rani. It features handloom, textile, apparel products, GI-tagged items and ODOP products from Guntur Textile Park, Tarakeswara Textile Park, Harish Fashions, APCO and Magic Weaves.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) expressed interest in partnering with the department for export awareness and capacity-building programmes for textile MSMEs.

Andhra Pradesh ranks second in silk production, sixth in cotton production and seventh in jute production. With over 15,000 textile MSMEs and exports worth around USD 444 million, the state's participation in Bharat Tex 2026 is expected to boost investment and global market access.

Odisha Puts Ganjam on COVID Alert Amid Reports from AP

Berhampur, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO), Ganjam, has directed all government health-care facilities in the district to strengthen COVID-19 surveillance and preparedness following reports of fresh COVID-19 cases and suspected fatalities in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

In an official communication issued on July 13, the CDM&PHO instructed the DMO (MS)-cum-Superintendent, City Hospital, Berhampur, and Superintendents of Sub-Divisional Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) to enhance testing, monitoring and hospital readiness.

Considering Ganjam's proximity to Andhra Pradesh and frequent cross-border movement, authorities have been asked to maintain a high alert. Hospitals must conduct mandatory COVID-19 testing for Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) patients and random

testing of at least five per cent of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases. The order also directed hospitals to ensure functional isolation wards, oxygen-supported beds, oxygen plants and adequate medicine stocks.

Frontline health workers have been asked to monitor unusual fever and respiratory illness clusters.

Daily reports on testing, infrastructure readiness and logistics have been made mandatory as part of the preparedness measures.

Minister Kandula Durgesh visited Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday to enquire about his health following recent surgery on his right shoulder.

Durgesh expressed happiness over the successful surgery and said Pawan Kalyan was recovering well. He hoped the Deputy Chief Minister would regain full health and return to public life soon. The minister also said doctors had advised adequate rest during the recovery period.

Speaking after the meeting, Durgesh said Pawan Kalyan's continued focus on public service and organisational strengthening despite undergo-

“Thank You CM Sir” Bus Flagged Off After Tax Relief

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy on Tuesday flagged off a special "Thank You CM Sir" bus in Vijayawada as a mark of gratitude to the coalition government for reducing taxes on private and tourist buses.

The bus was launched following a gratitude meeting organised by the Andhra Pradesh Private Bus Owners Welfare Association after the state Cabinet approved the reduction of interstate bus tax from 4,000 to 2,500. The minister attended the programme as the chief guest and later inspected the newly designed private bus equipped with modern facilities. Association representatives said the initia-



tive was aimed at expressing their appreciation to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and the coalition government for addressing long-pending issues faced by private bus operators. They welcomed the tax relief decision, stating that it would ease financial burdens and support the growth of the sector.

Addressing the gathering, Ramprasad Reddy said the government was committed to strengthening the transport sec-

tor and ensuring the welfare of private operators. He noted that the tax reduction was made possible under the leadership of the Chief Minister and assured continued efforts to resolve industry concerns while prioritising passenger safety. The minister also announced plans to establish dedicated terminals for private bus operators under the BOT model to improve infrastructure and streamline operations.

On the occasion, he unveiled the new logo of the Andhra Pradesh Private Bus Association. Association president Gautham Kiran, along with representatives and members, participated in the programme and expressed optimism about the future of the private transport sector in the state.

MHPS Forms Legal Team to Protect Voting Rights

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Minority Human Protection Society (MHPS) conducted a state-level legal team meeting to discuss measures for safeguarding citizens' constitutional right to vote and ensuring support during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

The meeting was chaired by MHPS State President and Andhra Pradesh State Urdu Academy Chairman Mohammed Farooq Shubli. Addressing the media, Farooq Shubli welcomed the Election Commission's decision to extend the SIR deadline by 10 days and urged for a further extension to provide sufficient time for eligible voters to complete the process.

He said the primary objective was to ensure that no eligible voter loses the right to exercise



their franchise due to procedural difficulties. The MHPS legal team, he added, would extend legal assistance to people from all communities who face challenges after the completion of the SIR process.

During the meeting, participants discussed issues being faced by citizens, the need for a transparent and comprehensive revision process, and measures required to protect voting rights. A 20-member legal team comprising advocates has been formed to provide assistance across the state.

High Court senior advocate Mohammed Saleem Pasha will head the legal team, while former RTI Commissioner and former judge Intiaz will serve as an adviser. District-level legal coordination committees will also be established to address voter-related concerns.

The meeting was attended by senior advocates, legal team members, MHPS state representatives and other members who discussed the future course of action to ensure constitutional protection of voting rights.

43.30 Lakh Students to Undergo Eye Screening

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government will conduct eye screening tests for 43.30 lakh students across the state from July 15, Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav announced on Tuesday.

The programme will cover students aged between 6 and 18 years studying in government, aided and private schools. As part of the National Programme for Control of Blind-

ness and Visual Impairment, the Health and School Education departments will jointly implement the initiative.

The minister said 2.50 lakh students identified with vision problems will be provided free spectacles, with an estimated expenditure of around Rs 7 crore. The distribution target has been increased from the earlier 95,000 after the Centre approved the state's proposal based on the satisfactory implementation of the

programme.

Students requiring further treatment will be referred to government eye hospitals, district hospitals and recognised voluntary organisation hospitals. Satyakumar Yadav said early detection and treatment of vision problems would improve students' education, concentration and overall development. He urged officials, teachers and parents to ensure successful implementation of the programme.

Singapore Extends Support for Amaravati Development

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Singapore has expressed its willingness to support the development of Amaravati by offering technical expertise, training and planning assistance across multiple sectors. The assurance came during a meeting between Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana and a Singapore government delegation in Amaravati on Tuesday.

The delegation included Francis Chong, Senior Director in Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry, and representatives of the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise. Discussions focused on areas of collaboration for the construction of Amaravati, including technology transfer, expert training, planning support and sharing Singapore's experience in executing world-class infrastructure projects.



The Singapore representatives said their government is committed to assisting Andhra Pradesh in building Amaravati as a global-standard capital city by extending expertise in quality, planning and technical aspects. They also expressed readiness to provide advisory support and strengthen institutional cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Singapore Cooperation Enterprise Chief Executive Tay Lian Chee, Deputy Directors Lim Chi Kia and Nisha Sharda, Municipal Administration Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, CRDA Commissioner Vijayarama Raju and additional commissioners.

Durgesh Visits Pawan Kalyan in Mumbai

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kandula Durgesh visited Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday to enquire about his health following recent surgery on his right shoulder.

Durgesh expressed happiness over the successful surgery and said Pawan Kalyan was recovering well. He hoped the Deputy Chief Minister would regain full health and return to public life soon. The minister also said doctors had advised adequate rest during the recovery period.

Speaking after the meeting, Durgesh said Pawan Kalyan's continued focus on public service and organisational strengthening despite undergo-



ing surgery reflected his dedication and commitment. He thanked the Deputy Chief Minister for guiding the strengthening the party at the grassroots level and addressing public issues even while recuperating.

MLA Boliseti Srinivas and Andhra Pradesh Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (APMSIDC) Chairman Chillapalli Srinivas also accompanied Durgesh during the visit.

Singapore Delegation Visits AP RTGS Centre

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

A delegation from Singapore visited the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on Tuesday to study the state's technology-driven governance initiatives and data-based administrative systems.

The delegation, led by Tan Eng Pheng, Assistant Chief Executive of the Singapore Government's Technology Division, visited the RTGS Command and Control Centre and interacted with officials on the functioning of the organisation. RTGS officials explained Andhra Pradesh's approach towards data-driven governance and the role of technology in improving public administration.

During the interaction, officials highlighted key initiatives such as the Data Lake, Data Lens and other digital governance platforms developed to support real-time monitoring, analysis and decision-making. The team was briefed on how these systems help government departments access accurate information, im-



prove coordination and enhance public service delivery.

The Singapore delegation shared details about the Singapore Government's experience in using advanced data management systems to strengthen governance, streamline administrative processes and deliver efficient services to citizens.

The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to exchange ideas and discuss the use of emerging technologies in governance. Officials said such interactions help in understanding global best practices and exploring possibilities for further improving digital governance systems.

The meeting was attended by RTGS CEO Prakhar Jain, Deputy CEO M. Madhuri, Executive Assistants P. Sreekhara and K. Chaitanya, along with other RTGS officials.

Sanjeevani Project Sixth Phase Launch on July 25

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

CM N Chandrababu Naidu will launch the sixth phase of the Sanjeevani Project on July 25 at the Aspari Primary Health Centre in Alur constituency of Kurnool district. Medical and Health Department Secretary Ganesan Veerapandian reviewed the arrangements for the programme at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Veerapandian, who recently assumed charge as Secretary of the Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department, instructed officials to make necessary arrangements for the launch. He said the department would work towards taking the Sanjeevani Project closer to people in line with the goals set by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Health Minister Satyakumar

Yadav.

He said health cards of patients would be digitised to maintain complete information about their health history and treatments. Veerapandian stated that his previous experience as Health and Family Welfare Commissioner for over one-and-a-half years would help him improve services in the department.

Veerapandian has served in key positions including Nalgonda Joint Collector, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Anantapur and Kurnool Collector, SERP CEO, and Civil Supplies Corporation MD. He currently holds additional responsibilities as Health and Family Welfare Commissioner, NHM Director, Drug Control Administration Director General and FAC MD of APMSIDC.

Known for his simple lifestyle and commitment to issues he believed in, Mudragada remained a strong voice in social and political movements. His passing marks the end of an important chapter in Andhra Pradesh's political history. (Special Story in Page 3)



VMC Chief says 14,833 voters were classified as uncollectible

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanaachandra on Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)-2026 of electoral rolls and inspected ongoing drainage works aimed at providing a permanent solution to rainwater stagnation in the city.

At a review meeting held with representatives of political parties at the VMC Command Control Room, the Commissioner said that as of 10 a.m., details of 2,59,724 out of 2,77,822 voters in the Vijayawada Central Assembly constituency had been digitised. Of these, 1,99,564 voters were mapped with the 2002 electoral roll, while 60,160 were digitised under the "No Mapping" category. He added that 14,833 voters were classified as uncollectible due to reasons such as absence, migration, death or duplicate

entries.

Representatives of the Congress, CPI, CPM, TDP, YSRCP and Jana Sena attended the meeting along with election officials and discussed the progress of the revision process.

Earlier, the Commissioner inspected flood-prone areas including Vidyadharapuram, Bypass Road, RTC Workshop Road, HB Colony and Urmila Subbarao Nagar. He said two 2x2-metre single-cell box culverts are being constructed across the Bypass Road to ensure quicker discharge of rainwater and prevent flooding during the monsoon.

The proposed drainage system is expected to benefit HB Colony, Kundala Bazaar, Crombe Road, Nagayya Hotel Centre, RTC Workshop Road, Telephone Colony, Lalitha Nagar Road and Rythu Bazaar Road. Dhyanaachandra directed engineering officials to maintain quality standards and complete the works within the stipulated timeframe.



Indrakeeladri Temple Gears Up for Ashadha Festivities

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri conducted the sacred Chandi Homam with religious fervour on the occasion of Amavasya on Tuesday, with hundreds of devotees participating in the rituals seeking the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga.

Temple authorities organised the Homam in accordance with Vedic traditions, believing that the ritual performed on Amavasya brings peace, prosperity and well-being to devotees. A total of 241 tickets were booked for the ceremony, including 206 for direct participation and 35 for virtual participation by devotees from across the country and abroad. Priests performed Sankalpam by reciting the names and gotras of devotees who had opted for the online

mode. Participants received Teertha Prasadam after the ritual. Meanwhile, the Devasthanam announced that the annual Ashadha Masa Mahotsavams will commence on Wednesday and continue until August 12. The inaugural ceremony will begin with the traditional offering of a silk saree to the presiding deity at the Om Turning on the Ghat Road, followed by special Vedic rituals. Temple authorities have invited devotees and media representatives to witness the opening celebrations.

On the occasion, Ch. Vamsikrishna of Harichandrapuram in Guntur district donated a 20-gram gold fancy necklace studded with red and green stones, valued at around 3 lakh, to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Temple priests offered Vedic blessings and presented him with a portrait of the Goddess in appreciation of his devotion.



NTRUHS VC Meets Health Secretary

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS) Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. P. Chandrasekhar and Registrar Dr. Sai Sudheer on Tuesday paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Secretary of the State Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department, G. Veerapandian, and extended their best wishes on his assuming office.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor briefed the Health Secretary on the university's initiatives to strengthen medical education in Andhra Pradesh. He highlighted efforts to improve academic standards in medical, dental, AYUSH, nursing and allied health sciences, promote research, expand digital learning resources and enhance the quality of education in affiliated institutions.

The discussions also focused on the need for close coordination between the State govern-

ment and the university to align medical education with national and international standards and further strengthen the healthcare education system.

Speaking on the occasion, G. Veerapandian stressed the importance of mutual cooperation between the government and educational institutions for the advancement of medical education in the State. He appreciated the role played by Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences in producing qualified healthcare professionals and supporting the growth of the medical sector.

The Health Secretary assured the university of the government's full support in strengthening medical education, research and public health initiatives. University officials expressed confidence that continued collaboration with the Health Department would contribute to improving academic excellence and healthcare services across Andhra Pradesh.

Collector Balaji Turns Teacher, Urges Students to Aim High

Sreeja Rachabathuni

Machilipatnam: Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji on Tuesday donned the role of a teacher, guiding students to achieve success through high goals, disciplined study habits and planning during his visits to several schools in the district. The Collector visited Panduranga High School, Chilakalapudi and Rustumbada Park Municipal Girls' High School in Machilipatnam, along with Bhatta Gnanakotai Zilla Parishad High School in Pedana mandal. He reviewed classroom teaching, pass percentages, infrastructure and facilities, and interacted with headmasters and teachers to understand academic progress and challenges.

Entering classrooms, Balaji checked attendance registers and directly engaged with students, asking questions about their daily routines, study hours, exam preparation and revision methods. He advised students to revise lessons soon after learning them, stating that repeated reading helps re-



tain knowledge for a longer time. Sharing his own experience, he said he would read each chapter two to three times before moving ahead, and encouraged students to adopt similar practices.

He stressed the importance of starting preparation early instead of waiting until examinations approach, and urged students to utilise additional classes effectively to improve performance.

Highlighting the need for overall well-being, the Collector spoke about the benefits of yoga and pranayama in improv-

ing physical health, mental stability and concentration levels. Later, Balaji inspected the construction of special training centres for children with autism being developed under Samagra Shiksha at Chilakalapudi and Pedana schools. He directed officials to maintain quality standards and ensure timely completion to provide better facilities for children with special needs.

Samagra Shiksha Coordinator Venugopal, Regional Engineer Prasad and other officials briefed the Collector on the progress of the works.

Traffic Police Counsel Auto Drivers, Vendors

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The NTR District Police on Tuesday conducted a special awareness and enforcement drive targeting auto-rickshaw drivers and roadside vendors as part of the 'Tactical Urbanism' initiative to improve traffic management in Vijayawada.

The drive was carried out under the directions of City Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu, IPS, and Traffic DCP Shirin Begum, IPS. It was supervised by One-Town Traffic ACP Ramachandra Rao and led by One-Town Traffic Inspector A. Umamaheswara Rao along with traffic personnel.

During the operation, police counselled fruit vendors near the One-Town Kaleswara Rao Market



for encroaching onto roads and causing traffic congestion. Shopkeepers and pushcart vendors were instructed to keep their business activities within the allotted space to ensure smooth movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Traffic police also inspected auto-rickshaws operating from Panja Centre to Tara Peta, the City Terminal and areas near the Railway Station. Officials verified vehicle documents and issued challans for traffic violations.

Auto-rickshaw drivers were advised to pick up and drop passengers without obstructing traffic, maintain valid vehicle documents and drive responsibly, particularly while transporting children, women and senior citizens. They were also urged to assist accident victims by shifting them to the nearest hospital whenever required.

RSI Sridhar and other traffic personnel participated in the awareness programme.

Psychologists Honoured on Appreciation Day

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Psychologists and mental health professionals were felicitated at a special programme organised at the Spark Psychological Counselling Centre on Nirmala Convent Road in Vijayawada on Tuesday to mark World Psychologists Appreciation Day.

The event recognised the contributions of psychologists in promoting mental health, emotional well-being, family counselling, student guidance and personality development. The honourees were presented with shawls and mementoes in appreciation of their services to society.

Child Psychologist Tammina Durga Prasad from the Old Government General Hospital and Dr. Ramesh Bhavisetti, Founder of Spark Psychological Counselling Centre, were specially

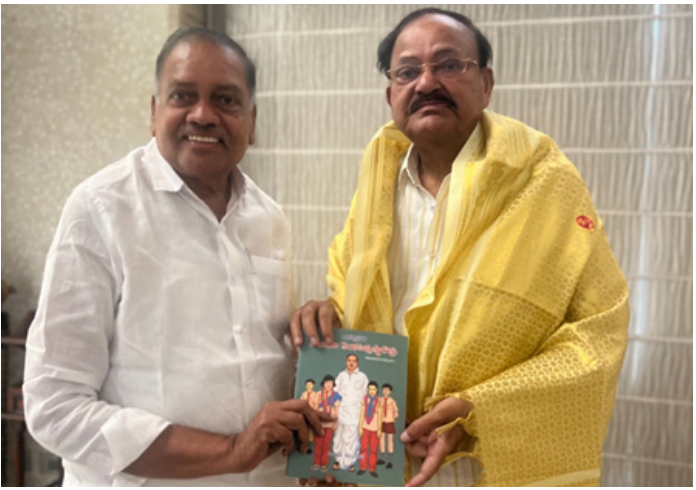


honoured for their contributions to the field of psychology.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh Bhavisetti said mental health forms the foundation of a healthy life and encouraged families to seek professional psychological support whenever required. He stressed the need to eliminate misconceptions surrounding mental health and create greater public awareness through continuous education and counselling initiatives. Tammina Durga Prasad appreciated the organisers for recognising the work of psy-

chologists and urged society to overcome the stigma associated with mental health by encouraging awareness and acceptance.

The programme was attended by Dr. Srihari Nallamala, President of Spark Lions Club, Treasurer Prasad Jonnala-gadda, Madanu Joseph, Kondaraju Vamsi Krishna, counsellors, academicians and several mental health professionals, who lauded the efforts of psychologists in improving the emotional well-being of individuals and communities.



Buddha Prasad Invites Venkaiah Naidu for Centenary

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad on Tuesday invited former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu to participate in the centenary celebrations of noted leader and educationist Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao, scheduled to be held on August 4.

Accepting the invitation, Venkaiah Naidu assured Buddha Prasad that he would attend the celebrations. Recalling his long association with Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao, he described him as a leader who upheld high values in public life and politics.

Venkaiah Naidu reminisced about participating in the World Telugu Conference alongside Krishna Rao and recalled the latter's efforts in promoting Telugu language and culture globally. He

also remembered attending Telugu gatherings in Malaysia, where Krishna Rao had encouraged the participation of leaders from different political backgrounds, reflecting his inclusive approach.

Expressing happiness over the centenary celebrations, Venkaiah Naidu said the occasion would serve as an opportunity to remember the ideals and contributions of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao to society and public life.

During the meeting, Buddha Prasad presented Venkaiah Naidu with books on the life and legacy of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao authored by Valluri Siva Prasad and Dr. G.V. Purnachand. Playwright Dr. Deerghasi Vijayabhaskar also presented his books highlighting the contributions and achievements of the veteran leader.



VMC Organises Health Camp for Rag Pickers

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Tuesday organised a special welfare programme for waste pickers at Kandukur Kalyana Mandapam in Gandhinagar as part of the observance of "Namaste Day." Held under the directions of VMC Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, the programme focused on the health and well-being of sanitation workers engaged in waste collection across the city.

As part of the initiative, essential welfare kits were distributed to the workers. A medical team also conducted free health check-ups, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, and provided medical advice on preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle practices.

Speaking on the occasion, VMC Superintendent Engineer

Chandrasekhar said the Corporation is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of waste pickers, who play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness in the city. He said similar welfare and healthcare programmes would be organised regularly to support sanitation workers.

Assistant Medical Health Officers Dr. Gopal Naik and Dr. Annapurna supervised the health screening activities and interacted with the beneficiaries. Dalit Bahujan Resource Center District Coordinator Puli Ramadevi, City Coordinators B. Ramesh and M. Pravalika, along with VMC officials and staff, participated in the programme.

The initiative was aimed at improving access to basic healthcare services for waste pickers while recognising their contribution to maintaining public hygiene and sanitation in Vijayawada.

P.B. Siddhartha Students Donate Study Kits

Vijayawada, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Students of the B.A. Economics department at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Vijayawada, donated study kits worth 12,000 to SSC students of Karnati Rammohan Rao Municipal School at Suryaraopet on Tuesday as part of a community service initiative.

The study kits included essential learning materials such as pens, pencils, geometry boxes and writing pads. The programme was coordinated by Assistant Professor Dr. Rohini Kusuma with the objective of supporting students from economically weaker sections and encouraging educational development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rohini Kusuma said the initiative was aimed at motivating school students to continue their education while instilling a sense of social responsibility among college students through meaningful community service.

Principal Dr. Meka Ramesh



appreciated the efforts of the students and faculty, congratulating them for their generous contribution and commitment to serving society. He said such initiatives help build compassion and civic responsibility among young people while extending valuable support to schoolchildren.

Headmistress Suryaprabha, faculty members S. Suresh Kumar, J. Venkat and S.V. Shyam Prasad, along with student volunteers including Bhuvana, Shyam and Salim, participated in the programme.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the support, stating that the study materials would assist them in their academic preparation and encourage them to pursue their studies with greater confidence.

MEO-1 Association Seeks Self-Drawing Powers for Officers

Parvathipuram Manyam, July 14 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh MEO-1 Association has urged the State government to grant Self-Drawing Powers to Mandal Educational Officers-I (MEO-1), stating that the move would improve administrative efficiency and strengthen the functioning of the School Education Department.

In a representation submitted to Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday, MEO-1 Association Founder and State President Samala Simhachalam appealed for immediate approval of the long-pending demand. The letter said MEO-1 officers are discharging key responsibilities in monitoring

schools, implementing government programmes and overseeing educational administration at the mandal level, but continue to function without financial autonomy.

The association argued that conferring Self-Drawing Powers would enable MEO-1 officers to carry out official duties more effectively and reduce administrative delays. It also noted that several officers serving in equivalent capacities have already been granted such powers.

The representative called on the government to issue orders at the earliest, describing the decision as a justified administrative reform that would benefit both the department and public education.

Steps to Resolve Flooding Issue in Yadugundlapadu Colony

Maddipadu, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Santanutalapadu MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar inspected the Harijanwada colony in Yadugundlapadu village of Maddipadu mandal to find a permanent solution to the recurring waterlogging problem during the rainy season.

The MLA, along with National Highway and Panchayat Raj department officials, visited the area and interacted with residents to understand the difficulties they face due to flooding. He inspected drainage systems along the highway and rainwater flow channels and discussed technical measures required to prevent water stagnation permanently.

Vijay Kumar directed officials



to take coordinated and immediate steps to resolve the issue without causing inconvenience to residents. He assured the colony residents that efforts would be made on behalf of the government to provide a long-term solution and relief from the recurring problem.

Officials, mandal leaders, village representatives and residents participated in the inspection programme.

Constable Narendra Shines at National Championship

Bapatla, July 14 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla district police constable Veeranki Narendra won a silver medal at the 14th Senior National Penkak Silat Championship 2026-27 held in Shillong, Meghalaya, bringing recognition to the district police department.

The championship was conducted by the Indian Penkak Silat Federation from July 6 to 8 at the Gymnasium Hall in Shillong. Narendra, who is working at Karlapalem Police Station, displayed his skills and secured the silver medal in the national-level event.

Bapatla District Superintendent of Police B. Umamaheswar congratulated Narendra at the District Police Headquarters on Tuesday and honoured him with the medal. The SP appreciated



his achievement and said his success had enhanced the reputation of Bapatla district police at the national level.

He stated that Narendra had previously won medals in various national competitions, including one gold, two silver and two bronze medals. The SP assured continued encouragement for police personnel with sporting talent and wished Narendra success in future international-level competitions.

Prakasam Pantulu Statue Unveiled in Rajamahendravaram

East Godavari, July 14 | TPN Bureau

A statue of Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu was unveiled at the Andhra Kesari College Junction on JN Road in Rajamahendravaram by Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adiredy Srinivas (Vasu).

MLC Somu Veeraj, State Shettibailaja Corporation Chairman Kudupudi Sattibabu, alliance leaders, Andhra Kesari Yuvaajana Samithi representatives, college management, faculty, students and police officials participated in the programme and paid floral tributes to the legendary leader.

Speaking on the occasion, the

leaders said Prakasam Pantulu's courage, discipline and commitment to public service should inspire future generations. They stated that installing his statue in front of the college named after him was a historic and appropriate decision.

Later, police officials conducted a "Mee Bhadrathra - Maa Badhyatha" awareness programme for students. Eagle Team in-charge Mohan Rao, Disha Police SI Mangadevi and Prakash Nagar CI Bajilal created awareness on women's safety, cyber crimes, drug abuse prevention, discipline and the importance of education. They urged youth to follow Prakasam Pantulu's ideals of courage, honesty and patriotism.

Murder Case Accused Dies by Suicide with Family

Singarayakonda, July 14 | TPN Bureau

A man accused in a murder case died by suicide along with his wife and two children at Singarayakonda railway station in Prakasam district on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Kudumula Harikrishna, who was the main accused in the murder case of N. Srihari, an agricultural officer from Buchireddypalem mandal in Nellore district. Police identified Harikrishna through an Aadhaar card found in his pos-

session. According to police, Srihari was allegedly taken to Penchalakona in Harikrishna's car on June 15 and later died under suspicious circumstances. Initially, the death was reported as a heart attack, but after a complaint by Srihari's wife Lavanya, police investigation reportedly revealed allegations of murder over a property dispute.

Police said Harikrishna, who had been absconding in the case, ended his life along with his family at the railway station. Further investigation is underway.

Tirumala Temple Purification Ritual Held

Tirupati, July 14 | TPN Bureau



The traditional Koil Alwar Tirumanjanam ritual was performed at the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple on Tuesday in preparation for the Salakatla Anivara Asthanam festival scheduled on July 17.

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra said the ritual is conducted four times a year before major festivals including Ugadi, Anivara Asthanam, Brahmotsavam and

Vaikunta Ekadasi. During the ceremony, the temple premises, including the sanctum surroundings, sub-shrines, walls, ceilings, kitchen area and worship materials, were purified with water. The presiding deity was covered with a cloth during

the cleaning process, followed by the sprinkling of sacred fragrant water prepared with ingredients including turmeric, sandalwood powder, kumkum and other traditional substances. After the purification, special prayers and offerings were performed by priests, following which devotees were allowed darshan.

TTD Additional EO C.H. Venkayya Chowdary, JEO Dr. A. Sharath, CVSO Muralikrishna, Deputy EO Lokanatham and other officials participated in the programme.

In-Service Teachers Demand TET Exemption

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau



In-service teachers have urged the government to exempt them from the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET), stating that experienced educators should not be required to appear for the examination again.

Teachers' associations have appealed to the authorities to consider the years of service, professional experience and existing qualifications of working teachers while taking decisions on TET requirements. They said many teachers have been serving in schools for several years and have contributed significantly to improving the quality of

education.

The teachers pointed out that making in-service educators undergo the TET process could create additional pressure and difficulties. They requested the government to review the issue and provide relief to eligible teachers through suitable policy decisions.

The teachers expressed hope that their demand would be considered positively in the interest of educators and the education system.

Family Dies by Suicide at Railway Station

Singarayakonda, July 14 | TPN Bureau



A tragic incident occurred at Singarayakonda railway station in Prakasam district, where a couple along with their children allegedly died by suicide after coming under a moving train.

The incident took place on the second platform of the railway station, creating shock among passengers and residents. Railway police rushed to the spot af-

ter receiving information and began an investigation into the incident.

Police are working to identify

Job Mela on July 17 to Provide Employment Opportunities

East Godavari, July 14 | TPN Bureau



A job mela will be conducted on July 17 at the Model Career Centre in Rajamahendravaram to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth. District Employment Officer C.H. Sirisha announced.

The job fair will be organized by the East Godavari District Employment Office at its premises in Rajamahendravaram Urban constituency from 9:00 AM

onwards. Interviews will be held for various posts in reputed companies including TVS Lucas and Joyalukkas Jewellery.

District Employment Officer C.H. Sirisha said candidates

Document Writers Oppose Registration Department Privatisation

Giddalur, July 14 | TPN Bureau



The Giddalur Document Writers Association has announced its support for the state-wide pen-down programme scheduled from July 20 to 31 against the implementation of G.O.Ms No.396 issued by the Andhra Pradesh government regarding privatisation of the Registration and Stamps Department.

Association President Kore Subba Rao said the government's move to introduce private par-

ticipation in the registration process would affect the livelihoods of document writers, assistants, stamp vendors and DTP operators. He expressed concern that the policy could also impact the security of people's property doc-

uments. Speaking at a meeting held at the office of association secretary Garre Ram Prasad, Subba Rao demanded withdrawal of the privatisation process and registration service centres. He appealed to members to make the pen-down programme successful and create awareness among the public and document service users.

Document writers, assistants, DTP operators and stamp vendors participated in the meeting.

Sand Prices Rise Amid Free Sand Claims

Rajahmundry, July 14 | TPN Bureau



Concerns have been raised over the availability and pricing of sand in East Godavari district, with allegations that rates have increased despite the government's free sand policy.

According to reports, closure of open sand reaches citing Godavari floods and environmental concerns has led to limited availability, allowing private operators to

increase prices. Sand rates that were earlier around Rs 2,500 for three units have reportedly risen to Rs 4,000, while six units in a lorry have increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,500, excluding transportation

Student Dies After Falling Under RTC Bus

Pileru, July 14 | TPN Bureau



A student who was preparing to attend EAMCET counselling died after being crushed under an RTC bus at the old bus stand in Pileru town on Tuesday.

According to CI Venkateswarlu, the deceased was identified as Haseenlaj (18), daughter of Rahimunnisa, a teacher residing in Indiranagar, Pileru. After school hours, Haseenlaj came on a scooter to the old bus stand to pick up her

mother.

Police said the student lost control of the scooter while moving near a stationary RTC

bus and fell on the road. The driver, reportedly unaware of the incident, moved the bus forward, resulting in the front wheel running over her.

Haseenlaj was immediately shifted to the Pileru Government Hospital, where doctors declared her dead. She had recently completed Intermediate, secured a rank in EAMCET and was scheduled to attend counselling on Wednesday. The incident has left her family and locals in deep shock.

Silent Heart Trust Supports Widows with Essentials

Chundur, April 13 | TPN Bureau



Silent Heart Trust organised a meeting for widows at Valiveru village in Chundur mandal on Monday and extended support by distributing essential commodities and blankets.

Petla Mariyadas, who attended the programme as the chief guest, said Silent Heart Trust would always stand by the underprivileged and work for their welfare. He said serving the poor should be considered a divine responsibility and urged everyone to develop a spirit of service towards needy people.

He appealed to people to treat the poor, differently-abled persons and widows with love, affection and care, and come forward to provide necessary assistance. He appreciated the services being carried out by the

representatives of Silent Heart Trust.

On the occasion, Ganteela Das said helping others would bring greater support and goodwill in return. Essential items including five kg rice, one kg cooking oil, one kg red gram, one kg potatoes, one kg onions and blankets were distributed to 100 widows.

Silent Heart Trust volunteers including Sankhya Prasad, Nutthalapati Sambasiva Rao, Jammalamadugu Prasanna Kumar, Gauri Dhanaraj, Raparla Kishore and Parabattina Vinod participated in the programme.

Tipper Falls Into Gorge, 60 Bus Passengers Escape

Nandyal, July 14 | TPN Bureau



A major accident was averted on the Nandyal-Giddalur main road in the Nallamala forest area on Tuesday after a tipper truck fell into a gorge while trying to avoid an RTC bus.

The incident took place around 11 am near Sri Sarva Narasimha Swamy temple and Pacharla village. A tipper travelling from Nandyal towards Giddalur and a Markapuram RTC bus coming from the opposite direction reached a culvert at the same time.

To prevent a collision with the bus, the tipper driver moved the vehicle aside, following which the tipper hit a roadside culvert structure and fell into the gorge.

Around 60 passengers travelling in the RTC bus escaped unhurt.

The tipper driver, who was trapped after the vehicle fell into the gorge, was reported safe. The incident caused brief tension among commuters travelling through the forest route.

Pushkaram Arrangements Reviewed in East Godavari

East Godavari, July 14 | TPN Bureau



East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, along with SP D. Narasimha Kishore and Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, conducted a field-level inspection of arrangements for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram on Tuesday.

The officials inspected several locations under Kovvur division, including private lands near Dommeru, Devarapalli Greenfield Highway, Greenfield Toll Gate, Devarapalli Diamond Junction, Prakkilanka Ghat, Paidimetta village, Tallapudi and Kumaradevam, to identify suitable sites for Pushkar Nagers, parking areas and traffic diversion routes.

Collector Keerthi Chekuri said arrangements were being planned scientifically to ensure

a smooth experience for lakhs of devotees. She directed officials to focus on drinking water, sanitation, electricity, medical facilities, temporary accommodation, transport and security arrangements.

SP D. Narasimha Kishore said priority would be given to devotees' safety through traffic management, CCTV surveillance, drone monitoring and coordinated security measures. Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop instructed officials to finalize land proposals and parking plans at the earliest.

Ration Rice Black Market Busted in Chirala

Chirala, July 14 | TPN Bureau



Officials of the Revenue and Civil Supplies departments have busted an illegal diversion of ration commodities at Vijayalakshimpuram in Chirala mandal and seized 26.5 quintals of PDS rice and 86 packets of sugar.

Acting on a tip-off about ration rice being diverted to the black market, Enforcement DT Omkareswara Rao, along with Civil Supplies officials, conducted surprise inspections in the area. During the operation, officials caught a vehicle being loaded with ration rice from a fair price shop belonging to Avula Sharada. A total of 7.5 quintals of rice in the vehicle was seized.

Further inspection of the ration shop revealed another 19 quintals of rice kept without proper records for illegal sale, along with 86 sugar packets. Officials seized all the stocks and initiated action.

DT Omkareswara Rao warned that strict criminal action would be taken against dealers and middlemen involved in illegal trading of PDS commodities, including cancellation of ration shop licences.

Auto Nagar Safety Alarm Rings Again

Amaravati, July 14 | TPN Bureau

A series of fire accidents in Vijayawada Auto Nagar has exposed serious gaps in industrial safety measures, with several units reportedly failing to follow basic fire prevention norms. The recent blaze at a bus repair unit in Kanuru, where five buses were destroyed and two others damaged, has intensified concerns over safety arrangements.

Auto Nagar, one of Asia's major automobile hubs, houses thousands of industrial and service units, in-

cluding plastic, oil, lubricant and vehicle repair facilities. However, only around 30 per cent of the units are said to be adhering to safety standards. Many industries lack essential firefighting equipment, water storage facilities and alarm systems required to control emergencies. Accumulated industrial waste and poor maintenance have further increased the risk of major fires. With thousands of workers depending on these units, authorities are facing demands to enforce strict safety regulations and prevent further incidents.

Editorial

Where Is the Anti-Corruption Drive In Andhra Pradesh?

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Telangana has been making headlines with its relentless crackdown on corrupt public servants. Hardly a week passes without reports of raids on government officials, disproportionate assets being unearthed, or arrests made in bribery cases. In one of the recent operations, the ACB reportedly uncovered assets worth nearly 500 crore belonging to officials under investigation. Such actions send a strong message that corruption, irrespective of the rank of the accused, will not be tolerated.

This naturally raises a question in the minds of people in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh. Why is the ACB in Andhra Pradesh not displaying the same level of activity? Corruption is not a problem confined to one state alone. Public complaints about bribery, irregularities in government offices, and misuse of authority continue to surface from different parts of Andhra Pradesh as well. Yet, large-scale ACB operations are rarely seen.

The silence has led to several questions. Is the ACB waiting for permission from the government before taking action? Is the agency lacking the resources or operational freedom required to investigate corruption? Or is the government convinced that corruption has been eradicated from the state? If none of these explanations is true, then the authorities owe an answer to the public regarding the apparent lack of visible anti-corruption initiatives.

An effective Anti-Corruption Bureau is essential for strengthening public confidence in governance. Honest officers deserve protection, while dishonest officials must be held accountable without fear or favour. Fighting corruption should never become a matter of political convenience or selective enforcement. The rule of law must prevail equally in every state.

People do not expect miracles, but they do expect action. A proactive and independent anti-corruption mechanism reassures citizens that public money is protected and that integrity in administration remains a priority. Andhra Pradesh, like every other state, must ensure that its anti-corruption institutions function with transparency, independence, and determination. Only then can the public truly believe that the fight against corruption is real and not merely a promise.

Editor

UK Trade Deal Opens Big Opportunities For Every Indian



Starting today, nearly all of India's exports to the UK will enjoy duty-free access, creating huge opportunities for our small businesses, farmers, fishermen, innovators, women and labour-intensive industries as the transformational Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) comes into effect.

This is India's most comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and it will bring prosperity by creating numerous jobs and business opportunities. It will also gradually expose Indian manufacturers to healthy competition that will benefit every citizen with competitively priced high-quality goods. This will significantly accelerate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 mission.

Businesses are excited. They have elaborate plans to flag off cargoes to the UK. Gems and jewellery exporters expect shipments to the UK to grow 230% to \$2.5 billion in three years, if not earlier, while exporters of engineering goods expect sales to the UK to almost double to \$7.5 billion in the next 4-5 years.

The win-win agreement, signed last year in the presence of PM Modi and British PM Keir Starmer, immediately eliminates duties on about 99% of tariff lines, covering almost 100% of trade value, creating enormous opportunities for Indian exports, which are already growing hand-somely despite global turbulence.

Young Minds, Global Finds – The people-centric FTA comes

into force on July 15, which is also the World Youth Skills Day. On the same day in 2015, PM Modi launched the Skill India Mission, which is empowering our youth to compete, contribute and lead, not just in India, but globally.

For the benefit of Indian youth, the UK has provided one of its most comprehensive service commitments ever, covering all major service sectors and 137 sub-sectors of export interest to India. Enhanced market access and regulatory certainty will support Indian service providers in IT and IT-enabled services, financial services, professional services, healthcare, education, engineering, telecommunications and consultancy services.

Job Creation - The youth will get more job opportunities as labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather and footwear, organic chemicals, plastics, auto parts, artisanal products and food processing expand operations with greater market access.

Overall, by fostering access to global value chains and enhancing competitiveness, CETA will empower Indian youth with essential skills and opportunities needed to participate meaningfully in international markets and drive growth.

A significant aspect of CETA is the Double Contribution Convention. This landmark arrangement, entering into force alongside CETA, exempts Indian workers and employers from making dual social security contributions in the UK during temporary assignments.



More than 75,000 Indian professionals and over 900 companies are expected to benefit from continued social security coverage for employees on temporary overseas assignments.

Grow Local, Sell Global - Indian farmers will gain from easier access to the \$37.5 billion UK market. This will boost exports of Indian dairy products, tea, coffee, spices, fruits, vegetables, fruit juices, meats and processed agriculture product. About 95% of UK's farm imports will be open to India duty free. Exports to this vast market have the potential to grow 50% in three years. This will boost farm incomes and create a numerous jobs across the agricultural value chain.

Importantly, the agreement ful-

ly safeguards sensitive farm products such as dairy, vegetables, apples, edible oils, oats, millets, cooking oils and others by placing them in the sensitive list. No duty concessions have been granted to the UK on these items. These exclusions reflect the Modi government's strategy of prioritising food security, domestic price stability and vulnerable farming communities.

SMEs - Local Hustle, Global Muscle – PM Modi has always given high priority to India's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). CETA has a dedicated chapter to help the vital SME sector that accounted for 45.8% in India's total export in 2024-25. CETA will help SMEs with key provisions including faster customs processing, agreements to

recognise and facilitate digital systems and paperless trade.

Apart from preferential market access, SMEs will benefit from enhanced cooperation on best practices related to trade, education and finance, digital skills, business infrastructure and other important areas.

Big Catch for Fishermen - CETA is poised to significantly benefit India's fishery and aquaculture sector which supports the livelihoods of approximately 28 million individuals.

Enhanced market access and higher exports will benefit fishermen of the Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Odisha, and Maharashtra. It will not only strengthen India's fisheries exports but also contribute to the welfare and livelihoods of fishermen and promote coastal economic development.

A Win for Women – The landmark agreement, that goes far beyond traditional FTAs, recognises the contribution of women in driving sustained and inclusive economic growth. It aims to promote opportunities and benefits for women.

Both countries have committed to undertake various activities to enhance women's access to markets and emerging sectors, promoting financial inclusion and literacy, promoting equal opportunities for women in the workplace, and develop their capacity and skills etc.

CETA is far more than a trade agreement. It is a statement of confidence in India's capabilities and aspirations. It reflects a new India that is not merely participating in global commerce but helping shape it. By empowering our farmers, fishermen, workers, women entrepreneurs, MSMEs, professionals and youth, it will create opportunities that touch every Indian in every corner of the country.

(The author is Union Minister of Commerce and Industry)

Unlocking Horizons: The Value of Language Skills!



Ludwig Wittgenstein, A Philosopher, says that Language profoundly shapes how we perceive, understand, and interact with the world. Language is the primary tool for processing thoughts, acquiring new information, and expressing views and knowledge. It is necessary for learning, and it helps students to understand complex concepts, share ideas, build memory, and nurture critical thinking skills. Research highlights that language learning is a powerful tool for individual development, yielding major cognitive, academic, and socio-cultural benefits. Language renovates the brain to improve memory and problem-solving abilities. Even though in the current trends of education, students need to be exposed to different languages, the mother tongue is crucial at the foundational stage, as it fosters a sense of self-worth and cultural identity. The NEP 2020 language policy mandates a Three-Language Formula, requiring students to study three languages, with at least two being indigenous Indian languages. It heavily promotes instruction in the mother tongue or local language and ensures no specific language is forced upon any state. The policy recommends that, wherever possible, the medium of instruction up to Grade 5 (and preferably till Grade 8) should be the home language, mother tongue, or local regional language. Considering these mandates and belief in mother tongue education, most of the states have introduced English language as an option or for-

eign language choice within the framework and provided bilingual textbooks for better learning and to boost academic performance.

Student performance and dropout from schools

Despite all these reforms and frameworks, four out of every 10 children who enter the system drop out before completing higher secondary education due to a lack of learning and substandard pedagogical practices. It is very alarming to make our classrooms more learner-friendly, supportive, inclusive, and experiential to foster quality. India's enrolment is truly remarkable, with 98.1% age between 6-14 years, but retention and quality have become major challenges at all levels. There are 76.6% of children in standard III grade who are unable to read a Standard II level textbook, and 74% of children are unable to do the substation; it means three out of 4 children in rural government schools have not achieved the most basic reading benchmark as per ASER 2024.

Major Hurdles.

The Indian education system is challenging us with severe multigrade and multilingual classrooms and a pedagogical crisis. There are one lakh+ schools (DISE 2025-26) with single teachers in India; 89% of these schools are in very remote and tribal villages, as stated by NITI Aayog. A single teacher is to manage multigrades, multi-level students, multilingual challenges, and administrative responsibilities in a single room with limited resources. On the other hand,



at higher grades, major learning deficits among students, mainly due to linguistic diversity, rigid classroom transactions, and running behind in syllabus completion without ensuring basic and pre-requisite competencies of the students. Alongside rote learning, memorization without understanding the concepts, no scope for critical thinking, and student participation in the classroom process with deeply root-issues. Regarding teacher professional development, many teachers are experiencing training as occasional, lecture-based sessions rather than sustained & practice-centred learning, with no special focus on structured language teaching, which determines

the students' academic performance, a foundation for better learning with reading, writing, and comprehension as reinforced by the NEP 2020.

Ground realities

Most of the studies indicate the need for language competencies among students to achieve age- and grade-appropriate competencies across the country. PARAKH 2024 report indicated that language benchmark alignment drops from 65% in Class 3 to 57% in Class 6, and hits a low of 54% by Class 9. The assessment was evaluated over 21 lakh students across India and identified critical gaps in foundational literacy and communication, and indicated that many stu-

dents are yet to develop higher-order reading skills such as inference, critical thinking, and reflective engagement, which are essential for understanding complex subjects and concepts.

Need of the hour

Requires pedagogical transformation from rote method to child-centric, with a special focus on language learning with a strategy of "Language across the curriculum". Teachers need to adopt language teaching irrespective of their subject. If language teaching is weak, it affects the student's performance even in complex subjects like science, mathematics, and other subjects. "The limits of my language

mean the limits of my world." It means it hinders the entire academic cycle, which leads to dropping out of school and students become out of school.

In this circumstances, we can draw a proven pedagogical strategy from a proof of concept of LIP – "Learning Improvement Programme" which was designed and being implemented jointly by Department of School Education, AP & Telangana, Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), Centre for Innovations in Public Systems (ASCI) and UNICEF to support the children who are behind the learning in grades 6-9 with a special focus on Language across the curriculum, integrating the Teaching and practice period with regular syllabus,

bridging pre-requisite competencies, peer learning, creating a print rich environment to inculcating reading habits, inclusion of mother tongue, reduction of screen time and create an opportunity for student participation.

Experiential and project based learning, encourage student and teacher quality conversations, encouraging elocution and writing competitions, conduct language melas to build a strong foundation for students under the lenses of inclusion.

(is an Education Analyst, views are personal, not related to his organisation)

Modi to Launch ₹2,500-Crore Projects in Punjab

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch and inaugurate development projects worth around 2,500 crore in Punjab on Friday. The projects are aimed at boosting infrastructure, improving connectivity, and supporting economic growth in the state.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will participate in various programmes and dedicate key initiatives focused on public welfare and regional development.

The projects are expected to benefit multiple sectors, including transportation, urban infrastructure, agriculture, and social development.

The Centre has been emphasizing infrastructure expansion across states as part of its broader development strategy. The Punjab projects are expected to strengthen basic facilities, improve services for citizens, and create new opportunities for employment and investment.

Punjab, known for its strong agricultural base and industrial potential, has been witnessing increased focus on improving logistics, road networks, and connectivity. Better infrastructure is expected to support businesses, farmers, and local communities by reducing transportation challenges and improving market access.

The Prime Minister's visit also comes at a time when the Centre has been highlighting cooperation between the Union and state governments for faster implementation of development schemes. Officials are expected to review the progress of various ongoing initiatives during the visit.

Security arrangements have been strengthened ahead of the Prime Minister's programme, with authorities making extensive preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the events.

The launch of the projects is being seen as a significant push towards accelerating development activities in Punjab. The initiatives are expected to contribute to economic growth, improve public facilities, and strengthen the state's infrastructure network.

The Prime Minister's visit will also provide an opportunity to highlight the government's focus on inclusive development and investment in regional projects. The newly launched initiatives are expected to play a role in improving the quality of life for people while supporting Punjab's long-term growth prospects.



Punjab BJP Leader Faces Heat Over Viral Video

A political controversy has erupted in Punjab after a purported video of a BJP leader went viral, in which she is allegedly heard making remarks about deleting voter names to help her party win elections. The comments triggered strong criticism from the Congress, which demanded action from the Election Commission.

In the viral clip, the leader is allegedly heard referring to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and mentioning the deletion of around 20,000-25,000 votes to help elect a party candidate. The remarks led to accusations that the electoral process could be misused for political advantage.

Punjab Congress leaders strongly criticised the statement and called for immediate intervention by the Election Commission. They argued that every eligible voter has a constitutional right to vote and urged authorities to ensure that the electoral process remains free, fair, and transparent.

Reacting to the controversy, the BJP leader rejected the allegations and claimed that her remarks were taken out of context. She clarified that the discussion was related only to the removal of fake or duplicate voters and not genuine voters. She also stated that no political leader has the authority to directly add or remove names from electoral rolls, as the process is handled by election authorities according to legal procedures.

The leader further alleged that the video may have been selectively edited or manipulated and called for an investigation into its authenticity. She maintained that her intention was to highlight the need to remove illegal voter registrations rather than target genuine voters.

Authorities have taken note of the viral video and are examining whether the footage is authentic or altered. Officials said further action would depend on the findings of the inquiry.

The controversy has intensified the political debate in Punjab over electoral rolls, voter verification, and election transparency. With future elections approaching, issues related to voter lists and election procedures are expected to remain a major political flashpoint in the state.



NBW Issued Against LeT Founder Hafiz Saeed

A special court has issued a non-bailable warrant against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) founder Hafiz Saeed in connection with the Pahalgam terror attack case, marking a major development in the ongoing investigation.

The warrant was issued after investigating agencies named Hafiz Saeed as an accused in the case and sought legal action against him. Authorities have alleged that he was involved in the conspiracy behind the attack and played a role through his links with the banned terror organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir resulted in the deaths of several civilians, including tourists, and triggered widespread outrage across the country. The incident intensified concerns over cross-border terrorism and security threats in the region.

According to investigators, Hafiz Saeed is currently based in Pakistan and has not appeared before Indian authorities. The agencies have argued that legal proceedings are necessary as the accused has allegedly avoided facing the investigation.

The court's order is considered an important step in the legal process and could pave the way for further action under existing laws. Authorities are examining all available legal options to proceed with the case and ensure that those accused of involvement in terror activities face trial.

Hafiz Saeed, who has been designated as a terrorist by India and several international agencies, has previously been accused of involvement in major terror operations, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks. He has denied allegations against him.

The latest development is expected to increase pressure on terror networks operating across borders. Indian security agencies have maintained that individuals responsible for attacks on Indian soil must be brought before the law, regardless of their location.

The issuance of the non-bailable warrant marks a significant stage in the Pahalgam attack investigation. Authorities are expected to continue pursuing legal measures to establish the role of the accused and complete the judicial process.

India Launches UNSC Seat Campaign

India has officially launched its campaign for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2028-29 term, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meeting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York.

During the meeting, Jaishankar and Guterres discussed several major global issues, including conflicts in West Asia, Ukraine, and Sudan, along with challenges facing international peace and security. The discussions come at a time when global geopolitical tensions are increasing and the role of multilateral institutions is under greater focus.

India formally launched its UNSC campaign under the theme "SHANTI: India for the United Nations Security Council 2028-29 - Norms, Trust, Integrity" at an event held at the UN headquarters. The campaign highlights India's focus on global peace, cooperation, transparency, and reforms in international institutions.

The bid is part of India's larger effort to secure a greater role in global decision-making platforms. India has consistently argued that the structure of the



UN Security Council should reflect current global realities and provide stronger representation to developing nations.

The election for the non-permanent seat will be held through the UN General Assembly, where countries from different regional groups vote to select members for two-year terms. India is expected to seek support from nations across regions by highlighting its contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, development partnerships, and initiatives supporting the Global South.

Jaishankar's meeting with the UN chief also comes amid India's push for reforms in global governance structures. New Delhi has repeatedly emphasized the need for a more representative and effective Security Council capable of addressing modern challenges such as conflicts, terrorism, climate change, and economic instability.

The launch of the campaign marks another major step in India's diplomatic outreach efforts. With growing economic and strategic influence, India aims to strengthen its presence in international forums and contribute more actively to shaping global policies.

The coming months will see India engage in extensive diplomatic consultations with UN member states to build support for its candidature and strengthen its case for a seat at the world's top security body.

Merger Claim Sparks Fresh Shiv Sena Row

The political battle within the Shiv Sena has intensified after the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) rejected claims of a merger with the Eknath Shinde faction, calling such assertions baseless and legally invalid. The party has also warned rebel Lok Sabha MPs against seeking recognition based on the alleged merger.

The Uddhav Sena sent letters to MPs who recently moved towards the Shinde faction, stating that the original party leadership had neither initiated nor approved any merger proposal. The party reminded the MPs that they were elected to the Lok Sabha on the Shiv Sena (UBT) symbol and mandate.

The party argued that individual legislators cannot independently declare a merger without approval from the original political organisation. According to the Uddhav faction, any such move would violate the principles of the anti-defection law and could not be accepted without proper legal procedures.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leadership has also informed the Lok Sabha Speaker that it would oppose any request seeking recognition of a separate group or merger by the MPs. The party maintained that elected representatives do not have the authority to decide the future of the organisation on their own.



The dispute comes amid the long-running internal conflict within the Shiv Sena, which witnessed a major split after Eknath Shinde's rebellion in 2022. The political crisis resulted in a change of government in Maharashtra and triggered a prolonged legal battle over the party's name, symbol, and leadership.

The Shinde faction and the rebel MPs have maintained their position, while the Uddhav camp continues to challenge their claims on political and legal grounds. The issue is expected to lead to further debates over constitutional provisions, merger rules, and the rights of elected representatives.

With both factions continuing their fight for legitimacy and control over the Shiv Sena's legacy, the latest development has added another chapter to Maharashtra's ongoing political struggle. The final outcome could have significant implications for the future of the party and state politics.

Karur TVK Leader Held After Woman's Complaint

A functionary of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has been taken into police custody in Karur district, Tamil Nadu, after a woman accused him of harassing her for several months and attempting to abduct her.

According to the complaint filed by the woman, the accused TVK leader allegedly harassed her for around three months. She claimed that he repeatedly followed her, stood near her workplace, and made inappropriate remarks and gestures, causing distress and fear.

The woman reportedly informed her family members about the alleged harassment. Following this, her husband began accompanying her while travelling to and from work as a precautionary measure.

The situation escalated when the woman was returning home from work and the accused allegedly stopped her on the road. She raised an alarm and informed her relatives, who immediately rushed to the spot.

According to police officials, an altercation broke out between the accused and the woman's relatives. The incident has created tensions in the area and triggered discussions over women's safety, law and order, and the responsibility of political party members.



The TVK functionary was allegedly attacked by them before police arrived at the location and took him into custody.

The woman's family has alleged that there was a delay in police response and questioned the handling of the complaint. They demanded strict action against the accused and a fair investigation into the allegations.

Police have stated that an investigation is underway and further legal action will be taken based on the evidence collected. Statements from the complainant, witnesses, and other individuals involved are being examined as part of the probe.

The incident has created tensions in the area and triggered discussions over women's safety, law and order, and the responsibility of political party members.

Assam Repatriates 1,679 Illegal Immigrants in Two Years

The Assam government has said that more than 1,600 illegal immigrants have been repatriated to Bangladesh over the past two years as part of its efforts to address the issue of undocumented migration in the state.

According to the state government, a total of 1,679 illegal immigrants were sent back to Bangladesh during the last two years. The action included deportation, expulsion, and other procedures carried out under existing immigration laws.

The government stated that among those sent back were people declared as foreigners by Foreigners Tribunals operating in Assam. These tribunals are responsible for examining cases where an individual's citizenship status is under question and deciding whether they are Indian citizens or foreigners.

The issue of illegal immigration has remained a major political and social concern in Assam for several decades due to the state's long international border with Bangladesh. Authorities have repeatedly highlighted the need to identify individuals staying in India without valid documents and take action according to the law.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the repatriation process was carried out by following legal procedures. He added that cases pending before courts were handled according to judicial directions and that action was taken only after completing necessary verification processes.

The Assam government has also discussed the status of D-voters, or doubtful voters, in the state. These cases involve individuals whose citizenship documents or nationality are under scrutiny, and many such matters are examined by Foreigners Tribunals.

The issue of migration has frequently triggered political debates in Assam, with different parties raising concerns over border security, citizenship verification, and protection of genuine citizens. The government has maintained that its measures are aimed at preventing illegal migration while ensuring that legitimate residents are not affected.

The latest figures highlight Assam's continued focus on migration-related challenges. With border management and citizenship verification remaining sensitive issues, the government's actions are expected to remain an important political and social topic in the state.



Prashant Kishor Enters Poll Fray With ₹96 Crore Assets

Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor has declared assets worth nearly 96 crore in his election affidavit while filing his nomination for the Bankipur Assembly bypoll in Bihar. The disclosure has drawn significant attention as he enters a major electoral contest after years of working as a political strategist.

According to the affidavit, Prashant Kishor has declared total assets of around 96.06 crore, including movable and immovable properties. His wife Dr. Jahanvi Das has declared assets worth approximately 101.93 crore, taking the combined family wealth close to 198 crore.

The affidavit reveals that a significant portion of Kishor's wealth comes from his business interests, investments, financial assets, and properties. The details provide insight into his financial background before formally entering active politics.

Prashant Kishor, who previously worked as a political strategist for several national and regional leaders, launched the Jan Suraj movement and later transformed it into a political platform. His decision to contest the Bankipur seat has increased the political significance of the bypoll.

Bankipur is considered an important constituency in Bihar politics, and Kishor's entry has turned the contest into a closely watched battle. The election is being seen as a test of whether his political experience, public outreach programmes, and campaign strategy can translate into electoral support.

Kishor has positioned himself as a leader advocating political change in Bihar. His campaign has focused on issues such as better governance, transparency, development, employment opportunities, and improving public services.

While his supporters believe his entry could introduce a new approach to politics in the state, opponents have questioned his electoral experience and ability to build a strong voter base.

The declaration of nearly 100 crore in assets has become a major talking point during the campaign, adding another layer to the political debate surrounding his candidature.

As the Bankipur bypoll progresses, attention will remain focused on whether Prashant Kishor can challenge established political parties and establish Jan Suraj as a significant force in Bihar's electoral landscape.



India Summons Iran Envoy Over Ship Attack

The Indian government has lodged a strong diplomatic protest with Iran after an Indian crew member was killed in a missile strike on a merchant vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz. Following the incident, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned the Iranian envoy in New Delhi to seek an explanation and express India's serious concern over the attack.

According to official reports, two merchant tankers travelling through the southern passage of the Strait of Hormuz were hit during the attack. One Indian sailor lost his life, while several other crew members were injured, including multiple Indian nationals. Some of the injured are reported to be in serious condition.

India strongly condemned the attack and stressed that the safety and security of Indian citizens working on commercial ships remains a top priority. During the meeting with the Iranian diplomat, the government conveyed its deep concern over the loss of life and called for the protection of civilian shipping in one of the world's busiest maritime corridors. The Strait of Hormuz is a critical global shipping route through which nearly one-fifth

of the world's oil supply passes. Any disruption in the region has significant implications for international trade, energy security, and global oil prices.

The attack comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, where military confrontations involving Iran have increased concerns over the safety of commercial vessels operating in the region. The latest incident has further intensified fears about maritime security and the risks faced by international shipping crews.

The Indian government is also closely monitoring the condition of the injured crew members and remains in contact with relevant authorities to provide all possible assistance. Officials have assured that every effort is being made to support the affected Indian nationals and their families.

India has reiterated its call for restraint and emphasized the importance of ensuring freedom of navigation through international shipping lanes. The government has urged all parties involved in the regional conflict to avoid actions that could endanger civilian lives or disrupt global maritime trade.



Man Claiming to Be US Citizen Held at Nepal Border

A 36-year-old man claiming to be a US citizen has been arrested near the India-Nepal border in Uttar Pradesh after allegedly attempting to cross into Nepal without carrying valid travel documents. The incident has prompted a detailed investigation by Indian security agencies.

The man identified himself as Jordan Brown, claiming he is a resident of California and a former US Navy officer. He was intercepted by personnel of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) during a routine patrol near the Sonauli border in Maharajganj district. According to officials, he allegedly tried to flee when asked to stop but was quickly apprehended.

During questioning, Brown reportedly told investigators that he had travelled to Thailand on a tourist visa, where he lost his passport. He further claimed that he entered India through Sri Lanka and had been travelling across different parts of the country before reaching the Nepal border.

Authorities said Brown was not carrying any valid passport, visa, or identity documents at the time of his arrest. His claims regarding his identity, travel history, and former

military service are currently being verified. Indian officials have also informed the US Embassy about the incident as part of the verification process.

Police have registered a case under the Foreigners Act and other relevant legal provisions. Investigators are examining how he entered India without proper documentation, how long he remained in the country, and the purpose behind his attempt to cross into Nepal through the sensitive border region.

The arrest has drawn attention because of the strategic importance of the India-Nepal border, where security agencies remain on high alert against illegal crossings and other cross-border activities. Officials have stressed that the investigation is ongoing, and no conclusions have yet been drawn regarding Brown's intentions.

Further action will depend on the outcome of identity verification and the findings of the ongoing investigation. Authorities are also coordinating with relevant diplomatic and security agencies to establish the complete facts surrounding the case.

Trump Reaffirms Strong US Support for Saudi Arabia

US President Donald Trump has reaffirmed America's strong support for Saudi Arabia as tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate amid the ongoing confrontation involving Iran and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

During high-level discussions with Saudi leaders, Trump reportedly assured the kingdom that the United States would continue to stand by its long-standing ally in countering security threats posed by the Houthis. The renewed commitment comes as the region faces heightened instability following recent military exchanges involving Iran and its allied groups.

The Houthis, who control large parts of Yemen, have carried out repeated missile and drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia in recent years. The rebel group has also expanded its operations by attacking commercial vessels in the Red Sea, disrupting one of the world's busiest shipping routes and raising concerns over global trade and energy supplies.

Trump emphasized the importance of maintaining regional security and safeguarding international shipping lanes. He



reiterated that the United States remains committed to helping Saudi Arabia defend its territory and strengthen its military capabilities against evolving threats.

The renewed US backing is also seen as part of Washington's broader strategy to contain Iran's influence across the Middle East. American officials have repeatedly accused Tehran of providing military and logistical support to the Houthis, allegations that Iran has consistently denied.

Analysts believe stronger US-Saudi cooperation could lead to increased intelligence sharing, enhanced military coordination, and additional defence assistance as both countries seek to counter regional security

challenges. The latest developments come at a time when geopolitical tensions remain high across the Middle East, with conflicts involving Iran and its regional allies continuing to fuel uncertainty. Any further escalation could have significant implications for global oil markets, maritime security, and regional stability.

While diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions are continuing, the United States has made it clear that it will continue supporting its strategic partners in the region. Trump's renewed commitment underscores Washington's intention to maintain a strong security presence in the Middle East while working closely with Saudi Arabia to address emerging threats.

Oil Prices Hit Four-Week High



oil prices elevated in the coming weeks.

The surge in crude prices also affected global financial markets, with investors worried that higher energy costs could fuel inflation and influence central banks' decisions on interest rates. Industries that depend heavily on fuel, including aviation, transportation, and manufacturing, may face increased operating expenses if oil prices remain high.

Analysts believe market volatility is likely to continue until there is more clarity on the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. Any further escalation or disruption to major shipping routes could push crude prices higher, while dip-

lomatic efforts to reduce tensions may help stabilize markets. For oil-importing countries such as India, sustained high crude prices could increase import costs, widen the trade deficit, and create additional inflationary pressure. Rising fuel prices can also impact consumers and businesses by increasing transportation and production expenses.

With global energy markets closely linked to developments in the Gulf region, governments, companies, and investors are keeping a close watch on the situation. The direction of crude prices in the coming days will largely depend on how geopolitical tensions evolve and whether supply risks continue to increase.

UK to Declare IRGC a Terror Group



The United Kingdom is set to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization under new national security legislation, marking a significant shift in Britain's approach toward Tehran.

The move comes after a series of antisemitic attacks and alleged Iran-linked hostile activities in the UK, including suspected plots targeting Jewish communities, Iranian dissidents, journalists, and activists. British authorities believe the IRGC and its affiliated proxy groups have been involved in operations that threaten the country's national security.

Under the proposed measures, supporting the IRGC or acting on its behalf could become a criminal offence, giving law enforcement agencies

broader powers to investigate, arrest, and prosecute individuals linked to the organization. The new framework is intended to close legal loopholes and strengthen Britain's ability to respond to foreign state-backed threats.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's government has argued that the tougher stance is necessary to counter growing security risks posed by hostile foreign actors operating inside the UK. Officials say the legislation will help prevent espionage, sabotage, intimidation, and other activities allegedly carried out through proxy organizations.

The IRGC is one of Iran's most powerful military institutions and plays a central role in the country's defence, intelligence, and overseas operations. Western governments have re-

peatedly accused the force of supporting armed groups and conducting covert operations beyond Iran's borders, allegations that Tehran has consistently rejected.

Security experts believe the UK's decision aligns Britain more closely with several of its allies that have already taken strong action against the IRGC. The move is also expected to increase pressure on Iran at a time of heightened tensions across the Middle East.

The proposed designation is subject to parliamentary approval before it comes into force. If approved, it would provide British authorities with expanded legal powers to crack down on activities linked to the IRGC and other state-backed organizations considered a threat to national security.



UAE Plans Strategic Port to Boost Trade Security

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is moving ahead with plans to develop a new port on its eastern coastline, a strategic project aimed at reducing its dependence on the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important and vulnerable maritime trade routes.

The decision comes amid growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns that any military confrontation involving Iran could disrupt shipping through the narrow waterway. The Strait of Hormuz handles a significant share of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports, making it a critical artery for global energy supplies.

By developing a port on the eastern coast facing the Arabian Sea, the UAE hopes to create an alternative route for trade and energy exports that bypasses the Strait of Hormuz. The project is expected to strengthen the country's supply chain resilience and reduce risks associated with potential regional conflicts.

The proposed port will also complement the UAE's existing infrastructure investments, including pipelines and logistics networks designed to transport oil and other goods without relying entirely on the Strait of Hormuz. Officials believe these measures will enhance the country's long-term energy security and economic stability.

The move reflects growing

concerns among Gulf nations over the vulnerability of maritime trade routes during periods of heightened regional tensions. Recent conflicts and security incidents in the region have reinforced the need for alternative export and shipping corridors.

Industry experts believe the new port could improve the UAE's position as a global logistics and trade hub by providing greater operational flexibility for shipping companies and exporters. It could also attract additional investments in transportation, storage, and industrial infrastructure along the country's eastern coast.

The project is expected to support the UAE's broader strategy of diversifying its economy while strengthening its role in international trade. Improved connectivity to global shipping routes could enhance the country's competitiveness and reduce disruptions caused by geopolitical uncertainties.

Although construction timelines and investment details have not yet been officially disclosed, the proposed port is viewed as a significant strategic initiative. As regional tensions continue to influence global energy markets, the UAE's efforts to develop alternative trade routes are expected to play an increasingly important role in ensuring stable exports and uninterrupted commercial activity.



Six Dead After PoK Protest Turns Violent

At least six civilians were killed after Pakistani security forces allegedly opened fire during violent clashes in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), further escalating tensions in the region.

The incident reportedly took place near Rawalakot, where large groups of people had gathered to protest against the authorities. The demonstrations soon turned violent, leading to confrontations between protesters and security personnel. According to reports, the forces opened fire to disperse the crowd, resulting in multiple fatalities and several injuries.

Among those killed were several local residents, while many others sustained injuries during the clashes. The violence has intensified unrest in the region, where public resentment against Islamabad has been growing over political, economic, and administrative issues.

Eyewitnesses claimed that security personnel used live ammunition after the protests spiralled out of control. Videos and images circulating on social media appeared to show chaotic scenes, with protesters running for safety and injured civilians being rushed to near-

by hospitals.

The latest violence follows weeks of demonstrations in several parts of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, where protesters have been demanding greater rights, improved governance, and relief from economic hardships. Civil society groups have also voiced concerns over the handling of public protests by the authorities.

The incident has drawn attention to the volatile situation in the region, with observers warning that continued unrest could further destabilize the area. Calls have been made for restraint and an impartial investigation into the firing that led to the civilian deaths.

Authorities in Pakistan have yet to provide a detailed official account of the incident or announce whether an inquiry will be launched. Meanwhile, tensions remain high as security forces continue to maintain a heavy presence in the affected areas.

The latest clashes add to growing concerns over law and order in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, where recurring protests and confrontations have kept the region on edge in recent weeks.

Sensex, Nifty End Lower Amid Global Worries

Indian benchmark equity indices ended lower on Tuesday as weak global cues and rising geopolitical tensions weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Selling pressure in IT, financial and auto stocks dragged the markets lower, while pharma stocks emerged as the biggest gainers during the session.

The BSE Sensex declined 561 points to close at around 77,055, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped nearly 159 points to settle close to 24,052, after witnessing a

volatile trading session. Both indices recovered from their intraday lows but failed to end in positive territory.

Investor sentiment remained under pressure due to escalating tensions in the Middle East, which pushed global crude oil prices higher. Rising oil prices have renewed concerns over inflation and India's import bill, prompting investors to adopt a cautious approach. Weak global markets further added to the negative mood.

Among sectoral indices, IT stocks witnessed heavy selling, with several frontline technology companies ending lower. Banking, financial services, automobile and metal stocks also remained under pressure throughout the day.

On the positive side, the pharma sector bucked the broader market trend. Pharmaceutical stocks attracted buying interest as investors shifted towards defensive sectors amid growing market uncertainty. Healthcare shares

also ended with notable gains.

The broader market also reflected weakness, with both the mid-cap and small-cap indices closing in the red. Market breadth remained negative, indicating that declining stocks outnumbered advancing ones across the exchanges.

Analysts believe that volatility is likely to continue in the coming sessions as investors closely monitor geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, global market trends and upcoming corporate earnings.

The progress of the earnings season will play a crucial role in determining the market's near-term direction.

Despite the day's decline, market experts maintain that the long-term fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. However, they advise investors to remain cautious in the short term, avoid aggressive positions during periods of heightened volatility, and focus on fundamentally strong companies.

With global uncertainties



continuing to dominate investor sentiment, market participants are expected to keep a close watch on international developments, institutional investment flows, crude oil prices, and quarterly earnings for fresh market cues.

Pharma Stocks Shine Amid Market Weakness

The Nifty Pharma index outperformed the broader market on Tuesday, rising nearly 1% even as benchmark indices ended the day in the red. Strong buying interest in pharmaceutical stocks helped the sector emerge as one of the top performers, with Biocon and Divi's Laboratories leading the gains.

Several frontline pharma companies, including Sun Pharma, Cipla, and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, also traded higher, reflecting renewed investor confidence in the healthcare sector. The rally stood out against a weak overall market, where concerns over global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions weighed on sentiment.

According to market analysts, three key factors drove the sharp rise in pharma stocks.

First, India's pharmaceutical market recorded over 13% year-on-year growth in June sales, marking the strongest monthly growth since October 2023. The



healthy demand outlook has improved investor confidence in the sector's earnings potential.

Second, investors shifted towards defensive sectors amid increased market volatility. With global uncertainties, rising crude oil prices, and geopolitical concerns affecting broader equities, pharmaceutical companies were viewed as relatively safe investments due to their stable earnings and resilient business models.

Third, expectations of strong quarterly earnings and continued export demand encouraged fresh buying in pharma stocks. Analysts believe improving domestic sales, steady global demand, and a healthy product pipeline could support revenue growth for leading pharmaceutical companies in the coming quarters.

Biocon and Divi's Laboratories emerged among the biggest gainers during the session,

while other major players such as Sun Pharma, Cipla, and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories also posted healthy gains. The broad-based buying indicated growing optimism across the pharmaceutical sector rather than interest in just a few individual stocks.

Market experts believe the pharma sector could continue to attract investor attention if domestic demand remains strong and global healthcare spending stays resilient. At the same time, investors are expected to closely monitor upcoming quarterly earnings for further confirmation of the sector's growth momentum.

While the broader equity market continues to face headwinds from global developments, the pharmaceutical sector's defensive nature and improving business fundamentals have positioned it as one of the preferred investment themes in the current market environment.

Devson Catalyst IPO Allotment Today

The basis of allotment for the Devson Catalyst SME IPO is set to be finalized today, following overwhelming investor demand during the subscription period. Investors who applied for the issue can check their allotment status through the registrar's website or the BSE portal using their PAN or application number.

The 42.34-crore SME IPO received an exceptional response from investors, with the issue being subscribed over 205 times overall. Strong participation was witnessed across all investor categories, reflecting robust confidence in the company's growth prospects. Retail investors led the demand, with their reserved portion subscribed nearly 244 times, while the non-institution-



al investor (NII) and qualified institutional buyer (QIB) segments also recorded heavy oversubscription.

According to grey market trends, the IPO is commanding a Grey Market Premium (GMP) of around 49 per share, indicating a potential listing gain of approximately 41% over the upper price band of 118. However, mar-

ket experts caution that GMP is an unofficial indicator and actual listing performance may differ depending on market conditions and investor sentiment.

The public issue consisted of a fresh issue worth 39.39 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of 2.95 crore. The proceeds from the fresh issue are expected to be used for business expansion, working capital requirements, and other corporate purposes.

Investors who receive allotment can expect the shares to be credited to their demat accounts before the scheduled listing. Those who do not receive shares will have their blocked funds released as per the IPO timetable. The company's shares are slated to list on the BSE SME platform on July 16.

The massive oversubscription and strong grey market premium have made Devson Catalyst one of the most closely watched SME IPOs in recent weeks. Market participants will now closely track the listing performance to see whether the stock lives up to the high expectations generated during the subscription process.

SK Hynix Set to Gain From Rule Changes

South Korean memory chip giant SK Hynix is expected to benefit from proposed regulatory changes after the country's ruling party announced plans to relax capital-raising rules for listed companies. The move is aimed at making it easier for businesses to secure funding while strengthening South Korea's competitiveness in key industries such as semiconductors.

The proposed reforms are designed to simplify the process of raising capital through equity offerings and other financing methods. Policymakers believe the changes will help companies respond more quickly to growing investment needs, particularly in high-tech sectors that require significant capital expenditure.

SK Hynix, one of the world's largest manufacturers of memory chips, is expected to be among the biggest beneficiaries. The company has been investing heavily in advanced semiconductor technologies, including high-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips that are witnessing strong global demand due to the rap-



id growth of artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

Industry experts believe easier access to capital would allow SK Hynix to accelerate investments in manufacturing capacity, research and development, and next-generation chip technologies. This could strengthen its competitive position against global rivals in the rapidly evolving semiconductor market.

The proposed policy changes also reflect South Korea's

broader strategy of supporting its semiconductor industry, which remains a key pillar of the country's economy and export growth. The government has been introducing several initiatives to encourage investment and maintain the nation's leadership in the global chip industry.

Market participants welcomed the proposal, noting that more flexible fundraising regulations could improve financial efficiency for large corporations while also benefiting smaller technology companies looking to expand their operations.

The reforms come at a time when semiconductor companies worldwide are increasing investments to meet rising demand for AI processors, data centers, and high-performance computing solutions. Easier capital access could help South Korean firms respond more effectively to these opportunities.

Although the proposal has generated positive sentiment in financial markets, the regulatory changes are still subject to the legislative process before they can be implemented. Investors will closely monitor further developments and assess how the new framework could influence corporate fundraising and long-term growth across South Korea's technology sector.

If approved, the reforms could provide a significant boost to companies like SK Hynix, enabling them to raise funds more efficiently and strengthen their position in the highly competitive global semiconductor industry.

Baroda BNP Launches Services Fund

Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund has launched the Baroda BNP Paribas Services Fund, a new thematic equity scheme aimed at helping investors benefit from the rapid expansion of India's services sector. The New Fund Offer (NFO) is now open for subscription and seeks to capitalize on one of the country's fastest-growing economic segments.



The open-ended equity fund will invest in companies operating across a wide range of service-oriented industries, including banking and financial services (BFSI), information technology, telecommunications, healthcare, retail, hospitality, logistics, media, and e-commerce. Unlike a sector-specific fund that focuses on a single industry, the scheme aims to provide diversified exposure to businesses driving India's expanding services economy.

India's services sector has become a major pillar of the country's economic growth, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, exports, and digital transformation. Rising consumer spending, rapid urbanisation, increasing internet penetration, and the government's focus on digital infrastructure have further strengthened the long-term prospects of service-based businesses.

The fund aims to identify companies with strong growth potential across multiple ser-

vice industries, allowing investors to participate in long-term structural growth rather than relying on the performance of a single sector. This diversified approach is expected to reduce concentration risk while capturing opportunities across various segments of the economy.

According to the fund house, the scheme is suitable for investors with a long-term investment horizon who are willing to accept the risks associated with equity investments. As a thematic fund, its performance will largely depend on the growth trajectory of companies operating in the services ecosystem.

The launch comes at a time when thematic investing is gaining popularity among retail investors seeking focused exposure to sectors expected to benefit from India's long-term economic expansion. With services accounting for a substantial share of the country's GDP,

the new fund is positioned to benefit from evolving consumption patterns, technological advancements, and increasing demand for quality services.

Market experts believe India's services sector is likely to remain one of the key drivers of economic growth over the coming years. Businesses in areas such as financial services, healthcare, technology, and digital commerce are expected to play an increasingly important role, creating attractive investment opportunities.

While the Baroda BNP Paribas Services Fund offers exposure to a promising theme, financial advisors recommend that investors evaluate their risk appetite, investment goals, and portfolio diversification before investing in thematic mutual funds. Such funds can offer significant long-term growth potential but may also experience higher volatility compared to diversified equity schemes.

Wealth Company Launches Mid Cap Fund



The Wealth Company Mutual Fund has announced the launch of its new Mid Cap Fund, an open-ended equity scheme designed to help investors participate in the growth of India's fast-expanding mid-sized companies. The New Fund Offer (NFO) opens on July 15 and will remain available for subscription until July 29.

The fund will invest predominantly in mid-cap stocks, aiming to identify businesses that have already established themselves but still possess significant potential for future expansion. Mid-cap companies are often viewed as the next generation of market leaders, offering investors an opportunity to benefit from long-term wealth creation.

The scheme will be benchmarked against the Nifty Mid-cap 150 Total Return Index (TRI), allowing investors to compare the fund's performance with a widely followed mid-cap benchmark.

According to the fund house,

India's economic growth, rising domestic consumption, digital transformation, and increasing formalisation of businesses are creating a favourable environment for mid-cap companies. Many of these firms are expanding rapidly, improving profitability, and strengthening their market presence, making them attractive long-term investment opportunities.

The fund aims to build a diversified portfolio by investing across multiple sectors and industries. The investment strategy will focus on companies with strong business models, capable management teams, healthy financials, and sustainable earnings growth.

Mid-cap stocks have historically delivered attractive returns over long investment horizons, although they tend to experience higher volatility than large-cap stocks. Because of this, the fund is best suited for investors with a long-term investment horizon and a higher tolerance for market

fluctuations.

The launch comes amid growing investor interest in mid-cap mutual funds, as many investors look beyond established blue-chip companies to identify businesses that could become tomorrow's industry leaders.

Fund managers believe India's structural growth story, supported by infrastructure development, manufacturing expansion, technological innovation, and rising consumer demand, provides a strong foundation for quality mid-cap businesses to flourish in the coming years.

While the Wealth Company Mid Cap Fund offers exposure to a high-growth segment of the equity market, financial experts advise investors to assess their financial goals, risk appetite, and overall portfolio allocation before investing. A disciplined long-term approach and proper diversification remain essential when investing in mid-cap-oriented mutual funds.

Student's ₹81,000 France Budget Goes Viral

An Indian student studying in France has gone viral after sharing a detailed breakdown of her monthly expenses, revealing that she spends nearly 81,000 every month to manage her life abroad. While many viewers appreciated the transparency of her financial planning, others questioned whether some of the figures—particularly her grocery expenses—were realistic, sparking a lively debate on social media.

The student, Reine, a 20-year-old pursuing her bachelor's de-

gree in the French city of Lille, posted a video on Instagram explaining how she manages her monthly budget. According to her, housing is by far the biggest expense. She pays approximately 60,000 per month for shared accommodation that includes a private bathroom, making rent the largest portion of her overall spending.

Apart from rent, Reine said she spends around 10,900 on groceries every month. She explained that the relatively low food bill is possible because she prepares most of her meals at

home instead of eating out frequently. Her disciplined approach to cooking and meal planning, she said, helps her keep grocery costs under control.

Transportation is another essential expense. Reine purchases a student travel pass that costs about 3,500 per month, allowing her to commute conveniently within Lille. In addition, she allocates 5,400 to 7,600 every month for personal expenses such as shopping, meeting friends for coffee, dining occasionally at Indian restaurants,

and enjoying weekend outings. The student also clarified that living expenses can differ significantly depending on the city, accommodation choices, and individual lifestyle. She stressed that her figures reflect her personal experience and are meant to give prospective students a realistic idea of what everyday life in France might cost.

Her video quickly attracted thousands of comments. While several viewers praised her budgeting skills and found the expense breakdown useful,

many questioned how she managed to keep her monthly grocery bill below 11,000 in France. Others argued that her rent appeared unusually high for shared accommodation in Lille, with some claiming they had rented private studios for considerably less.

Some users responded humorously, with one commenting that her monthly budget exceeded their entire annual budget, highlighting the stark contrast in living costs and spending habits across countries. Others pointed out that international



students often have vastly different experiences depending on their accommodation, city, and personal lifestyle choices. The discussion has once again drawn attention to the financial realities of studying

abroad, reminding aspiring international students that careful budgeting, location, and lifestyle decisions play a crucial role in managing expenses while pursuing higher education overseas.

Loyal Dog Dies After Owner's Funeral

In a deeply emotional incident from Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, a 15-year-old pet dog reportedly died moments after accompanying the funeral procession of its beloved owner, leaving family members and onlookers in tears. The heartbreaking story has gone viral on social media, with many calling it a powerful example of the unconditional bond between humans and their pets.

The owner, Pradeep Jain (67), passed away while undergoing treatment at AIIMS Bhopal. After his body was brought back to his home in Betul, the family's pet dog, Duggu, refused to leave his owner's side. According to family members, the dog appeared restless and distressed throughout the night, barking continuously and trying to get close to Pradeep's body.

On the morning of the funeral, the family allowed Dug-



gu to spend a few final moments beside his owner. The elderly dog quietly sat near Pradeep Jain's body, as if bidding him a last farewell. Those present were moved by the emotional scene.

As the funeral procession began, Duggu reportedly walked alongside the bier for a short distance. However, moments later, the dog suddenly collapsed and died. Family members believe the loyal pet

was unable to bear the grief of losing the person with whom it had spent the last 15 years. Pradeep Jain's younger brother, Dilip Jain, said Duggu had been a cherished member of the family since he was a puppy. The dog would eagerly wait for Pradeep to return home every day, eat meals with him, and even become unwell whenever his owner fell sick. Their close companionship had become well known

among relatives and neighbours. Following the emotional incident, the family decided to give both owner and pet a final farewell together. While Pradeep Jain was cremated according to Hindu traditions at Ganj Mokshdham, Duggu was buried nearby with full respect and dignity.

The story has resonated with thousands online, with social media users expressing grief and admiration for Duggu's unwavering loyalty. Many described the incident as a reminder that the bond between humans and animals often goes beyond words, with pets offering unconditional love and companionship throughout their lives.

The touching farewell has become a symbol of loyalty and devotion, leaving many people emotional and reinforcing the belief that pets are not just animals but cherished members of the family.

₹7 Lakh Salary, Yet No Financial Peace

A 29-year-old IT professional earning nearly 7 lakh a month has sparked an intense discussion online after revealing that, despite his impressive income and substantial savings, he still doesn't feel financially secure. His story has resonated with thousands, highlighting the growing struggle between chasing wealth and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

The techie, identified as Rohit, shared his story in a video posted by personal finance coach and wealth manager Anshuman Sharma. Rohit explained that he works two full-time jobs—one during the day for an Indian company and another at night for a US-based firm. Together, the two roles require him to work nearly 16 hours a day, leaving little time for himself or his family.

Despite earning around 7 lakh every month, Rohit admitted that he constantly worries about money. He recently became a father and has taken on



several financial commitments, including purchasing an 85 lakh two-bedroom apartment and a new car. His monthly expenses include a 60,000 home loan EMI, a 28,000 car EMI, and household expenses of around 1.3-1.4 lakh, making him feel the need to keep earning at his current pace.

What surprised many viewers was that Rohit has already built an impressive financial portfolio at just 29 years of age. He revealed that he has around 70 lakh invested in mutual

funds, 2 lakh in stocks, and 10 lakh in fixed deposits, taking his total savings to more than 80 lakh.

Financial coach Anshuman Sharma questioned whether continuing such an exhausting lifestyle was really necessary. He pointed out that Rohit has no wedding-related debt, owns two properties, and has savings equivalent to nearly four years of his current expenses. Sharma suggested that instead of aggressively saving 4 lakh every month, Rohit could choose

to save 2 lakh, spend more time with his newborn child, and still retire only a few years later than originally planned.

Rohit responded that his long-term goal is to accumulate 7-8 crore within the next five to six years. Once he reaches that target, he plans to quit his day job and continue working only in his higher-paying night role. The story has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many professionals saying it reflects the silent pressure faced by high-income earners. While financial success is often viewed as the ultimate goal, many users noted that time with family, personal well-being, and mental health can be just as valuable as a growing bank balance.

The incident has also reignited conversations about modern work culture, with experts emphasizing that financial independence should ideally come without sacrificing physical health, relationships, and overall quality of life.

Viral Post Warns Youth Against EMIs

A social media post advising young people to avoid falling into the trap of Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) has ignited a heated debate online. The post argues that while EMIs may make expensive purchases seem affordable, they often end up restricting financial freedom and forcing people into years of repayments.

The man behind the viral post urged youngsters to think carefully before financing lifestyle purchases such as smartphones, cars, luxury gadgets, and other non-essential items. According to him, taking loans for depreciating assets can lead to unnecessary financial stress and reduce one's ability to save or invest for the future.

He explained that many young professionals begin their careers with multiple EMIs, leaving a significant portion of their monthly salary committed to repayments. As a result, they often struggle to build an emergency fund, invest consistently, or pursue personal goals because a large share of their income is already earmarked



for loan obligations. The post emphasized that financial independence is achieved not by earning a high salary alone but by controlling expenses and avoiding unnecessary debt. Instead of buying everything on credit, the man encouraged youngsters to save first and purchase items only when they can comfortably afford them.

He also advised prioritizing investments, emergency savings, and long-term wealth creation over lifestyle upgrades. According to his message, avoiding debt early in life provides greater flexibility to

switch careers, start a business, travel, or handle unexpected financial emergencies without the burden of monthly repayments.

The advice quickly went viral, attracting mixed reactions from social media users. Many agreed with the message, saying that consumer culture and easy financing options have encouraged people to live beyond their means. Several users shared personal experiences of feeling trapped by multiple EMIs despite earning good salaries.

However, others argued that not all loans are harmful. Many

pointed out that home loans and education loans are often necessary investments that can improve long-term financial stability and career prospects. Some also said that responsible borrowing, when managed within one's income, can help individuals build assets without waiting for years to save the entire amount.

Financial experts also note that the key lies in distinguishing between productive debt and lifestyle debt. Loans taken to acquire appreciating assets or improve earning potential may be worthwhile, whereas borrowing for luxury purchases that quickly lose value should be approached with caution.

The discussion has once again highlighted the growing concern over lifestyle inflation among young professionals. While EMIs can make expensive purchases more accessible, many believe financial discipline, careful budgeting, and responsible borrowing remain essential for achieving long-term financial security.

₹2.1 Crore Job Offer Sparks Online Debate

A 21-year-old Indian engineering student has gone viral after sharing screenshots of an unexpected job offer that allegedly came from a Pakistan-based company. The offer, promising an annual salary of up to 2.1 crore along with visa sponsorship, has triggered widespread debate online, with many questioning whether it was a genuine opportunity, a recruitment scam, or simply an attempt to gain attention on social media.

The student, identified as Aditya, posted screenshots on X showing a WhatsApp conversation with a recruiter claiming to represent a company headquartered in Karachi, Pakistan. According to the messages, the recruiter reached out after finding Aditya's profile and offered him an onsite position with a salary ranging between \$180,000 and \$220,000 per year (approximately 1.7 crore to 2.1 crore). The recruiter also claimed that the role included visa sponsorship and that most of the company's employees worked in the UK time zone.

Sharing the screenshots, Aditya asked social media users whether he should consider accepting the offer. His post quickly went viral, attracting thousands of reactions, comments, and shares.

The unusually high salary package and the fact that the company was allegedly based in Pakistan immediately caught people's attention. While some users responded with humour, joking that they too would relocate for such a lucrative package, others remained highly sceptical.

Many social media users pointed out that unsolicited job offers promising exceptionally high salaries, overseas relocation, and visa sponsorship are common warning signs associated with recruitment scams. Several advised the stu-



dent to thoroughly verify the company's background, recruiter credentials, and employment details before responding.

Others questioned whether the post itself was authentic, suggesting it might be an example of "engagement farming"—a strategy where users post sensational or controversial content primarily to generate likes, comments, shares, and online visibility rather than provide genuine information. As the discussion intensified, many users urged job seekers to remain cautious while dealing with unsolicited offers received through messaging platforms. They stressed the importance of conducting background

checks, verifying company websites, confirming recruiter identities, and avoiding sharing personal or financial information until the legitimacy of an offer is established.

So far, the authenticity of the recruiter, the company, and the job offer has not been independently verified. Whether it was a genuine recruitment attempt, a scam, or simply a viral social media experiment remains unclear.

The incident has nevertheless sparked an important conversation about online recruitment, digital scams, and the need for greater caution as high-paying international job offers continue to circulate across social media platforms.

Labrador Rescued After Cannabis Poisoning

A five-year-old black Labrador named Tokyo had a terrifying experience after reportedly consuming discarded cannabis while hiking on Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the United Kingdom. The incident led to a dramatic mountain rescue operation and has sparked concern among pet owners about hidden dangers on popular hiking trails.

Tokyo was hiking with her owner, Christina Bluhme, an experienced dog trainer from Surrey, England, along with her son and another pet dog. The group had climbed several hours up the mountain when Tokyo suddenly began behaving unusually. She started staggering, lost the use of her legs, and drifted in and out of consciousness, leaving her owner fearing the worst.

With the dog unable to walk and the weather deteriorating rapidly, Christina called for emergency assistance. Fortunately, members of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, who were already returning from another rescue mission, reached the group and immediately stepped in to help.

The rescue team carefully placed the 25-kilogram Labrador on a stretcher and carried her down the steep, rocky mountain trail. Tokyo was



then rushed to a veterinary clinic in Fort William, where doctors initially suspected a spinal injury. However, after further examination and consultation with a poison control centre, veterinarians concluded that the dog's symptoms were consistent with cannabis toxicity, likely caused by ingesting cannabis discarded along the hiking route.

Veterinarians treated Tokyo with activated charcoal and supportive care. Thankfully, she responded well to treatment and made a full recovery by the following day.

Relieved after the ordeal, Christina expressed heartfelt gratitude to the rescue volunteers and veterinary staff, saying their quick response saved Tokyo's life. She also urged fellow dog owners to remain vigilant, warning that harmful

substances can sometimes be found even in remote and scenic outdoor locations. Experts say dogs are significantly more sensitive to cannabis than humans because they possess a higher concentration of cannabinoid receptors in their brains. Even a small amount can cause symptoms such as disorientation, loss of balance, vomiting, lethargy, seizures, and, in severe cases, unconsciousness or coma.

The incident has also highlighted the dedication of volunteer mountain rescue teams, whose timely intervention prevented the situation from turning into a tragedy. It serves as an important reminder for hikers and pet owners alike to remain cautious and ensure outdoor spaces are kept free of litter and potentially dangerous substances.

India Plans ODI Rotation Ahead of World Cup

With the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup drawing closer, the Indian cricket team management is reportedly working on a comprehensive rotation policy aimed at keeping senior players fresh and injury-free for the marquee tournament. The strategy is expected to balance the workload of experienced stars while providing promising youngsters with valuable international exposure in the lead-up to the World Cup.

According to reports, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), in consultation with the team management, is

considering resting key players during selected bilateral ODI series over the next year. The primary objective is to avoid player burnout, manage fitness more effectively, and ensure that India's senior cricketers are in peak physical and mental condition when the World Cup begins.

One of the biggest challenges in implementing the plan is expected to be convincing veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to sit out selected matches. Both stalwarts have consistently expressed their preference for playing regularly to main-

tain rhythm and match fitness. Their commitment to representing India in every available opportunity could make workload management a delicate balancing act for the coaching staff.

The proposed rotation policy is not intended to reduce the role of the senior duo but rather to maximize their effectiveness during the World Cup. With both players in the later stages of their careers and the international calendar becoming increasingly demanding, managing their workload has become a priority. The team management believes carefully planned

breaks could help extend their longevity and ensure they remain at their best during crucial ICC events.

The strategy is also expected to strengthen India's bench. Giving younger cricketers more opportunities in bilateral ODI series will allow selectors to assess their abilities under international pressure and build a larger pool of match-ready players. Developing reliable backup options for every position could prove vital if injuries or loss of form affect the squad during major tournaments.

India has successfully used

similar workload management strategies in Test cricket, particularly with fast bowlers and all-rounders, who have often been rested during less important series. Extending a structured rotation policy to the ODI format reflects the team's long-term planning and its focus on sustained success in global competitions.

Despite the emphasis on resting players, maintaining team balance and momentum will remain equally important. The management will have to identify the right matches in which senior players can be rested



without disrupting the team's preparation or competitive rhythm.

Although no official announcement has been made, reports indicate that discussions are progressing as India begins

its roadmap towards the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup. Player fitness, squad depth, and long-term success are expected to remain at the heart of the team's planning as it aims to reclaim the coveted World Cup title.

Dilip Set to Leave India Coaching Staff



India's fielding coach T. Dilip is reportedly set to step down from his role after the ongoing ODI series against England, bringing an end to a successful stint with the national team. According to reports, Dilip has already informed the BCCI of his decision and is expected to leave the support staff once the series concludes.

T. Dilip has been an integral part of India's coaching setup over the past few years, earning widespread praise for transforming the team's fielding standards. Under his guidance, India introduced several innovative methods to improve fielding performance, fitness,

and player involvement.

One of his most popular initiatives was the "Best Fielder" medal ceremony, presented after every match. The unique tradition became a fan favourite, boosting team morale and encouraging healthy competition among players to excel in the field.

During his tenure, several Indian cricketers showed noticeable improvement in their athleticism and fielding efficiency. The coaching staff consistently emphasized that fielding could be the difference between winning and losing close matches, making it a major focus area.

Reports suggest that Dilip's decision is a personal one, and he has already communicated his intentions to the board. However, neither the BCCI nor the coach has issued an official statement confirming the departure.

His possible departure comes at a time when the Indian team is preparing for a busy international calendar, including major ICC tournaments. The BCCI is expected to begin the process of identifying a suitable replacement if the resignation is officially accepted.

T. Dilip's contribution has extended beyond technical

coaching. He played a key role in building a positive dressing-room atmosphere through innovative team-building activities and motivational initiatives, earning the respect of players across generations.

If the reports prove accurate, his exit will mark the end of a significant chapter in India's support staff. While the team will continue its preparations for upcoming assignments, Dilip's efforts in raising India's fielding standards are likely to leave a lasting impact on the national side.

An official confirmation from the BCCI regarding his future is still awaited.

Argentina to Wear Blue Against England



Defending world champions Argentina are set to add another fascinating chapter to one of football's greatest rivalries after reportedly receiving FIFA's approval to wear their iconic dark blue away kit for their upcoming FIFA World Cup clash against England. While the decision is primarily based on kit regulations, it has sparked widespread discussion among fans, many of whom believe the famous blue jersey carries a psychological advantage against their old rivals.

The blue strip holds a special place in Argentine football history, particularly because of its association with the memorable 1986 FIFA World Cup quarter-final against England. On that occasion, Diego Maradona produced one of the greatest individual displays in World Cup history, scoring both the controversial "Hand of God" goal and the breathtaking solo effort later named the "Goal of the Century." Argentina went on to win the tournament, cementing the blue jersey's place in football folklore.

Because of that historic triumph, many Argentine supporters regard the blue kit as a symbol of confidence, resilience, and success. Reports suggest that its return against England has generated excitement among fans, who believe revisiting those famous colours could provide an emotional lift to the defending champions ahead of another

high-stakes encounter.

FIFA's approval reportedly allows Argentina to wear the away strip despite England's traditional white home kit. The governing body determines kit selections based on colour contrast guidelines to ensure both teams are easily distinguishable during matches. Although the decision follows standard regulations, it has become a major talking point because of the rich history shared by the two footballing nations.

The development has triggered lively debate across social media platforms. While some supporters see the blue jersey as a clever psychological weapon capable of reviving memories of past victories, others dismiss such theories, arguing that modern football is decided by tactics, preparation, teamwork, and performances rather than the colour of a team's shirt.

The Argentina-England rivalry remains among the fiercest in international football, shaped by decades of unforgettable World Cup meetings and dramatic moments. Every encounter between the two nations attracts enormous global attention, and even seemingly minor details, such as the choice of jerseys, often become subjects of intense discussion.

Ultimately, the outcome of the match will be determined by what happens on the pitch rather than by history or symbolism. Nevertheless, the return of Argentina's iconic blue kit has added another intriguing subplot to an already captivating contest. As fans eagerly await the World Cup showdown, many will be watching to see whether the famous jersey once again becomes part of Argentine football history or whether England can write a memorable chapter of its own.

Spain Unfazed by France's Mind Games

The build-up to the FIFA World Cup semi-final between Spain and France has seen the psychological battle begin well before kickoff, with both teams looking to gain every possible advantage ahead of one of the tournament's biggest matches. While France have praised Spain's impressive form throughout the competition, the Spanish camp insists it is not paying attention to what it views as pre-match mind games.

In recent days, members of the French squad and coaching staff have described Spain as one of the strongest teams in the tournament, acknowledging the quality of their performances. However, Spanish players believe the compliments may be part of a strategy to shift pressure onto their opponents before the crucial knockout clash.

Speaking ahead of the semi-final, one senior Spanish player dismissed the discussion, saying the team was "not falling into that trap." He stressed that the players are fully focused on their preparation and have no intention of being distracted by comments made outside the dressing room. According to the Spanish camp, success will depend on performance on the pitch rather than psychological tactics in the media.

Spain have been among the standout teams of the tournament, impressing with their disciplined defending, quick



passing, and attacking style of play. Their consistency has established them as serious contenders for the World Cup title, and confidence within the squad remains high heading into the last four.

France, meanwhile, have once again shown why they are regarded as one of international football's strongest sides. Packed with experienced stars who have excelled on the biggest stages, the French squad possesses both quality and depth. Their ability to thrive under pressure has made them one of the favourites to lift the trophy.

Mind games have long been

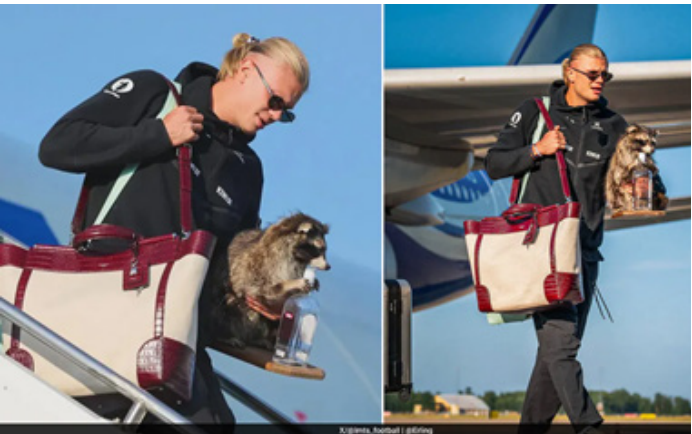
a feature of major international tournaments. Coaches and players often use public comments to ease expectations on their own teams or place additional pressure on opponents. Such psychological tactics are considered part of elite-level competition, particularly when a place in the World Cup final is at stake.

Despite the media attention surrounding the exchange of comments, Spain have maintained that they remain focused solely on executing their game plan. The players believe maintaining composure, staying mentally strong,

and delivering another disciplined performance will be the keys to overcoming the French challenge.

Football fans around the world are eagerly awaiting what promises to be one of the most exciting matches of the tournament. With two European giants battling for a place in the FIFA World Cup final, the contest is expected to feature tactical brilliance, world-class talent, and high-intensity football. Regardless of the pre-match psychological battle, the outcome will ultimately be decided by which team performs better when the whistle blows.

Haaland's Raccoon Souvenir Goes Viral



Norwegian football star Erling Haaland has become an internet sensation for an unexpected reason after returning home from the 2026 FIFA World Cup carrying a taxidermied raccoon instead of a trophy. The unusual souvenir quickly grabbed attention on social media, with fans amused by the striker's quirky choice of keepsake following Norway's memorable campaign.

As the Norwegian squad landed back home after an impressive run in the tournament, supporters welcomed the players with cheers. However, it was Haaland who stole the spotlight after he was seen stepping off the team plane holding a stuffed raccoon. Images of the bizarre item spread rapidly across social media platforms, leaving football fans curious about how and why the Manchester City striker ended up bringing it home.

The story behind the souvenir turned out to be as entertaining as the images themselves. During the World Cup in the United States, Haaland reportedly visited a western-themed souvenir shop in Dallas, Texas. While browsing the store, he spotted a taxidermied raccoon holding a whiskey bottle on display. Amused by the unusual item, the striker decided to purchase it for around \$750 and keep it as a memorable reminder of his World Cup

experience.

After pictures of the raccoon went viral, fans flooded social media with questions and jokes about the unexpected purchase. Staying true to his playful personality, Haaland responded with humour, joking that "It followed me home." He also invited supporters to help name the raccoon through an online poll, further entertaining fans and keeping the conversation alive.

Although Norway's impressive World Cup journey ended in the quarter-finals, the team returned home to a warm reception from supporters. Haaland was one of the standout performers during the tournament, producing several memorable displays and reinforcing his reputation as one of the world's leading footballers. His unusual souvenir has now be-

come an unexpected highlight of Norway's campaign.

The stuffed raccoon has since emerged as one of the most talked-about keepsakes from the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Fans across social media praised Haaland's light-hearted nature, with many saying the quirky purchase perfectly reflects his sense of humour away from the football field.

While Haaland will primarily be remembered for his goals, leadership, and performances during the World Cup, his unexpected "travel companion" has ensured he also leaves the tournament with one of its most entertaining off-field stories. The viral raccoon has become a symbol of the striker's fun-loving personality and has added a memorable chapter to an already remarkable World Cup journey.



Balakrishna, Anil Ravipudi Reunion on Cards

A fresh buzz in Tollywood suggests that Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Anil Ravipudi could be joining hands once again after the success of Bhagavanth Kesari. While there has been no official announcement yet, reports indicate that discussions for a second collaboration are underway.

The duo's previous film, Bhagavanth Kesari, was both a commercial and critical success. The emotional action drama received widespread appreciation for its engaging storyline, Balakrishna's powerful performance, and its strong message on women's empowerment. The film also showcased a different side of the actor, making it one of the most memorable films in his recent career.

According to industry buzz, the proposed project is being planned as a Sankranthi 2028 release, with the festive season expected to provide a strong platform at the box office. However, the project is still in the discussion stage, and the makers are yet to make an official



announcement.

At present, Anil Ravipudi is busy directing a multistarrer featuring Venkatesh and Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. The filmmaker is expected to complete that project before taking up his next venture.

Meanwhile, Balakrishna also has a packed schedule with multiple films in the pipeline. Despite his commitments, reports suggest that the actor is interested in collaborating with Ravipudi once again, given the success of their previous outing.

The news has already generated excitement among fans on social media, with many ex-

pressing hope that the successful actor-director duo will reunite for another entertaining commercial film. Anil Ravipudi's knack for delivering family entertainers blended with mass appeal, coupled with Balakrishna's strong screen presence, has raised expectations for what could be another blockbuster.

As of now, the project remains a speculation, and fans will have to wait for an official confirmation from the production team. If the collaboration materialises, it is likely to become one of the most anticipated Telugu films slated for the Sankranthi 2028 season.



Naila Grewal Raises Hopes for Raaka

Actress Naila Grewal has raised expectations for Allu Arjun's upcoming pan-India film Raaka with her glowing praise for the ambitious project. Speaking about her experience working on the film, Naila described it as a unique cinematic venture that is set to redefine storytelling and large-scale filmmaking.

Naila, who plays a key role in the film, said being part of Raaka has been nothing short of a "masterclass." She credited director Atlee for creating an environment where every actor gets to learn and grow, praising his vision and meticulous approach to filmmaking.

According to the actress, the film has been crafted on a scale that is unlike anything she has experienced before. She said Raaka stands out not only because of its grand production values but also for its fresh storytelling style and unique cinematic treatment. She expressed confidence that audiences will witness something truly extraordinary when the film reaches theatres.

Naila also revealed that working alongside stars like Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone has been an enriching experience. She described the project as a major

milestone in her career and said sharing screen space with such accomplished performers has motivated her to push her own creative boundaries.

Without revealing any plot details, the actress hinted that Raaka will offer a fresh cinematic experience with a blend of cutting-edge technology, larger-than-life visuals, and emotionally engaging storytelling. She believes the film has the potential to set new benchmarks for Indian commercial cinema.

Directed by Atlee, Raaka marks Allu Arjun's next major project following the blockbuster success of the Pushpa franchise. The film is being mounted on a massive scale and has already generated enormous buzz among movie lovers across the country.

Fans have been eagerly awaiting updates ever since the project was announced, and Naila Grewal's latest comments have only heightened the excitement. With Atlee's reputation for delivering blockbuster entertainers and Allu Arjun's pan-India appeal, Raaka is widely expected to be one of the biggest and most anticipated Indian films in the coming years.

Vanga Calls Rao Bahadur a Must-Watch

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga has showered praise on Satya Dev's latest film Rao Bahadur, calling it a rare cinematic experience that deserves to be watched on the big screen. His heartfelt appreciation has generated fresh buzz around the film and encouraged more audiences to give it a chance.

After watching the film, the Animal director took to social media to share his thoughts. In his post, Vanga described Rao Bahadur as one of those rare, content-rich films that remind audiences why cinema is such a powerful medium. He urged movie lovers to support the film in theatres.



His message read: "Give this film three hours of your life. It deserves your attention, your patience, and your applause." The strong endorsement quickly went viral, with fans and

members of the film fraternity applauding Vanga for backing meaningful cinema.

Rao Bahadur, directed by Venkatesh Maha, features Satya Dev in the lead role. The film

has been receiving appreciation for its unique storytelling, emotionally engaging narrative, and unconventional treatment. Critics and audiences alike have praised its strong performances and thought-provoking screenplay. The film is also presented by Mahesh Babu's GMB Entertainment, adding to its visibility among moviegoers. Since its release, Rao Bahadur has steadily built positive word-of-mouth, with many viewers appreciating its focus on content over commercial formula.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's endorsement has further boosted the film's popularity, prompting many who had not yet watched

it to consider visiting theatres. Given Vanga's reputation as one of the industry's most influential filmmakers, his recommendation carries significant weight among cinema enthusiasts.

As discussions around Rao Bahadur continue to gain momentum on social media, Vanga's heartfelt message has become one of the biggest highlights of the film's promotional journey. His support has reinforced the belief that strong storytelling and quality film-making continue to find appreciation, encouraging audiences to embrace content-driven cinema.

Vishal Mishra Shares Toxic Update

The excitement surrounding Yash's highly anticipated pan-India action drama Toxic continues to grow, and singer-composer Vishal Mishra has now shared a fresh update that has delighted fans eagerly waiting for the film's music.

Speaking about the project, Vishal Mishra expressed his happiness at being associated with Toxic and revealed that the film's soundtrack has been created with immense passion and dedication. He hinted that audiences can expect a memorable musical experience that perfectly complements the film's grand scale and emo-

tional depth.

The composer also said that working on Toxic has been a rewarding experience and praised the vision of the filmmakers. Without revealing too many details, he assured fans that the upcoming songs would leave a lasting impact and play a crucial role in enhancing the film's narrative.

Recently, the film's first song received a positive response from audiences, with fans appreciating its stylish visuals and Vishal Mishra's soulful composition. The success of the track has only increased anticipation for the rest of the album, which is expected to



feature a diverse range of musical styles.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic stars Yash in the lead role alongside Kiara Advani. The film

is being mounted on a massive scale with high production values and is one of the most eagerly awaited Indian films in recent years. Apart from Vishal Mishra,

the soundtrack also features contributions from several renowned musicians, promising a rich and varied musical album. The makers are expected to unveil more songs in the coming weeks as the film's promotional campaign gathers momentum.

With Yash returning to the big screen after the phenomenal success of the KGF franchise, expectations for Toxic are sky-high. Vishal Mishra's latest update has only added to the buzz, leaving fans eagerly waiting for the next musical release and more updates from the much-awaited action entertainer.

Shruti Haasan Performs Housewarming Puja

Actress Shruti Haasan has marked a significant personal milestone by moving into her new home in Chennai. The actress recently performed a traditional Griha Pravesh (housewarming) puja and shared glimpses of the intimate ceremony on social media, much to the delight of her fans. The pictures have since gone viral, with admirers showering her with love and warm wishes as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

The photographs shared by Shruti capture the serene and spiritual atmosphere of the ceremony. Dressed in a simple yet elegant traditional outfit, the actress was seen participating in the rituals with devotion. She also offered fans a glimpse of the beautifully arranged puja setup, traditional sweets prepared for the occasion, and the keys to her new home, making the celebration feel warm and personal.

Unlike many celebrity housewarming events that are often lavish and star-studded, Shruti opted for a quiet and private ceremony. Reports suggest that only a handful of close friends and well-wishers attended the puja, reflecting the actress's preference for keeping important personal



moments away from the spotlight.

Fans quickly filled the comments section of her social media posts with congratulatory messages, wishing her happiness, prosperity, and success in her new residence. Many also praised the tasteful interiors visible in the pictures and appreciated Shruti's graceful traditional appearance, which added to the charm of the occasion.

Interestingly, Shruti's father, veteran actor Kamal Haasan, and other family members were not seen in the photographs shared online. Howev-

er, their absence did little to shift attention from the joyous celebration, as fans focused on celebrating the actress's new beginning and expressing their heartfelt wishes.

Shruti Haasan has often spoken about the importance of having a peaceful and inspiring living space. Alongside her successful acting career, she continues to pursue her passion for music, and her new Chennai home is believed to reflect both aspects of her personality. The residence is expected to serve not only as a comfortable home but also as a creative space where she can

work on her artistic pursuits.

Professionally, Shruti remains one of the busiest actresses in the industry, with multiple projects lined up across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi cinema. While she continues to focus on her film commitments, her latest personal milestone has resonated strongly with fans.

The heartwarming housewarming ceremony has become a trending topic on social media, with admirers celebrating Shruti Haasan's new beginning and wishing her success, peace, and happiness in her beautiful new Chennai home.

Maatrubhumi Likely Pushed to 2027

Fans eagerly awaiting Salman Khan's much-anticipated war drama Maatrubhumi may have to wait longer than expected. According to industry reports, the film's release is likely to be postponed to 2027, raising speculation that the Bollywood superstar may not have a theatrical release in 2026. While there has been no official confirmation from the makers, the reported delay has become a major talking point among fans and industry observers.

Directed by Apoorva Lakhia, Maatrubhumi was originally expected to arrive in theatres in 2026. However, reports suggest that the production has faced several challenges, including script revisions, reshoots, and scheduling issues, which have slowed the film's progress. These factors have reportedly made it difficult for the team to finalize a release date within the planned timeline.

Industry sources indicate that even if the remaining work is completed in the coming months, finding a suitable theatrical window in 2026 could prove difficult. The release calendar for the year is already crowded with several high-profile films, leaving limited scope for another major release. As a result, the makers are said to be considering a Dussehra 2027 release, a festive period



known for attracting large audiences to cinemas.

If the postponement becomes official, it would mark a rare break in Salman Khan's long-standing tradition of appearing on the big screen almost every year. The possibility of not seeing a Salman Khan film in theatres during 2026 has disappointed many of his fans, who have been eagerly waiting for his return after his previous releases.

Despite the disappointment, there is also encouraging news for Salman Khan's admirers. Industry buzz suggests that if Maatrubhumi shifts to 2027, the actor could have two theatrical releases in the same year. Apart from the war drama, another untitled project is also reportedly in the pipeline, potentially giving fans two opportunities to watch the superstar on the big

screen.

Maatrubhumi has attracted considerable attention since its announcement because of its patriotic subject. The film is based on the Galwan Valley conflict and features Salman Khan portraying Colonel B. Santosh Babu, the Indian Army officer who lost his life during the 2020 clash. The role is expected to showcase the actor in an intense and emotionally powerful avatar, making it one of the most anticipated projects of his career.

For now, however, the reported release delay remains speculative. The filmmakers have not issued any official statement regarding a revised release schedule. Until an announcement is made, fans will have to wait for confirmation on when Maatrubhumi will finally make its way to theatres.