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TTD Faces Questions Over Officials' Decisions, Alleged YSRCP Links Amid Administrative Controversies

Suman Babu Veerisettyv

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) administration has come under scrutiny over allegations regarding certain officials' decisions, postings and handling of unauthorized businesses in Tirumala. Critics have questioned whether the temple administration is fully implementing the policies of the present alliance government or whether some officials are influenced by leaders of the previous YSRCP regime.

The controversy intensified after the TTD Engineering Department assigned a key responsibility to P.M.V. Subrahmanyam, an engineering officer who allegedly distributed sweets and made controversial remarks following the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu during the previous YSRCP government. After objections and criticism on social media, the posting order was revised.



The TTD Chief Engineer issued fresh orders relieving Subrahmanyam from the in-charge AE (Assistant Engineer) position of Tirumala North Sub-division and handing over the responsibility to Venugopal.

Questions have also been raised over allegations that some senior TTD officials are sharing information with former Tirupati MLA and YSRCP

leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, who has frequently criticised TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu and the administration. Intelligence inputs reportedly alerted the government about such claims, though officials have not issued any clarification.

Another issue relates to unauthorized shops and hawkers stalls in Tirumala. During the previous government's tenure,

several shops were reportedly allotted to YSRCP associates, while 151 unauthorized hawkers and around 300 others allegedly operated without valid permissions. Allegations have surfaced that efforts are being made to regularize some of these establishments.

Media reports also highlighted unauthorized business activities near Bedi Anjaneyaswamy Temple and the Akhilandam area. A YSRCP activist named Ramesh has been accused of running a tea, bonda-bajji and soft drinks business allegedly violating TTD rules. He was also accused of encroaching on the area and removing a security gate installed for devotees.

Locals have questioned delays in action by TTD Vigilance, Revenue and Panchayat departments against unauthorized stalls. Critics urged the TTD leadership to ensure transparency, accountability and strict enforcement of rules



152 Exam Papers Leaked in 10 Years: RaGa Slams Centre Over Education System

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN News

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that the country's education system has been systematically weakened due to repeated question paper leaks and irregularities in examinations. Addressing a press conference amid opposition pro-

tests over the NEET issue, he claimed that question papers of 152 examinations had been leaked across India over the past decade.

Rahul Gandhi said students demanding a transparent education system were facing police action instead of receiving justice. He alleged that despite a reported 1.4 lakh crore allocation for education,

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CM Invites PM Modi to Inaugurate Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Parliament House in New Delhi and formally invited him to inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram on August 1. During the meeting, Chandrababu Naidu said naming the airport



after freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju is a tribute to his enduring legacy of courage, sacrifice and patriotism.

P3

State Faculty Decry 'Ineligible' Tag in Associate Professor Recruitment

K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Serious concerns have emerged in Andhra Pradesh's higher education sector after thousands of candidates were declared "ineligible" in the ongoing recruitment process for Associate Professor posts in state universities. Many affected candidates include long-serving Contract Faculty, Aca-



demic Consultants and Guest Faculty with 5 to 20 years of teaching experience.

P3

Pawan Kalyan Directs Faster Completion of Palnadu, Prakasam Mega Water Grid Projects

Harshitha Vipparala

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply Pawan Kalyan directed officials to accelerate the Palnadu and Prakasam Mega Water Grid projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Amarajeevi Jaladhara schemes, stressing that clean drinking water should reach every household within the stipulated timeline.

During a review meeting



with Rural Water Supply (RWS) officials, Pawan Kalyan expressed concern over possible drinking water shortages due to the El Niño-induced rainfall deficit.

P3

Lokesh Reaffirms Commitment to Transform Mangalagiri into Model Constituency

Banavath Uday Gopi Naik

Mangalagiri : Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said the NDA coalition government is working to transform Mangalagiri into a model constituency by implementing development and welfare initiatives. Speaking during the second day of the Mana Illu – Mana Lokesh programme at CK Convention Centre, he said the people's support and his 91,000-vote majority helped him secure Central assistance for various projects.

Lokesh recalled his defeat in the 2019 Assembly elections and said it motivated him to serve people through nearly 29 welfare programmes using his



personal resources. These included NTR Sanjeevani Clinics, livelihood support, marriage assistance and funeral aid.

He said permanent land titles are being distributed transparently in phases, with 2,634 beneficiaries receiving pattas in the latest phase, having an estimated market value of nearly 1,000 crore. Lokesh personally handed over pattas and

P3

Seven New COVID-19 Cases Push State Tally to 26

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The state has reported seven new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, taking the total number of active and recorded cases in the state to 26. According to official data, Guntur district registered four new cases, East Godavari reported two, and Bapatla recorded one case. At present, 10 patients are undergo-

ing treatment in hospitals, while nine are in home isolation. Three patients have recovered and been discharged. The total number of COVID-19-related deaths reported in the state so far stands at four. Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation and have urged the public to remain cautious and follow preventive measures.

P3

NEET Protests Intensify as CJP Agitation Continues in Delhi

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The agitation led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) against alleged irregularities in the NEET examination intensified on Wednesday, with large-scale protests at Jantar Mantar and growing political and legal developments.

The issue disrupted proceedings in Parliament, with the government expressing willingness for a discussion while accusing the opposition of obstructing debates. CJP supporters continued their sit-in



protest in Delhi and demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike remained a major focus. He said he would consider ending the

fast only after receiving a clear assurance from the Centre that no action would be taken against students and youth involved in the agitation. His wife Gitanjali Angmo also expressed concern over his health.

The Delhi High Court sought responses from the Centre and Delhi Police on petitions alleging excessive force during a July 20 protest march and directed authorities to preserve CCTV footage and related records.

Several FIRs have been registered, while security has

been tightened around protest locations. CJP has reiterated its willingness for talks with BJP president J.P. Nadda at a neutral venue.

Lawyer Smruti alleged that peaceful student protesters were being portrayed negatively and claimed excessive force was used against demonstrators, including women and children. Meanwhile, a viral video showing an alleged attack on a Rapid Action Force personnel has triggered debate over the nature of the protests and concerns over rising tensions.

Former Minister Seediri Appalaraju Arrested in Road Accident Case

Kasibugga, July 22 | TPN News

Police on Tuesday arrested YSRCP leader and former Minister Seediri Appalaraju from his residence in GME Colony, Kasibugga, in connection with an alleged attempt to shield his son in a fatal road accident case. The arrest led to tension as YSRCP activists gathered outside his residence and raised slogans. According to police sources, the case relates to the death of shepherd Danayya, who was allegedly hit by a motorcycle reportedly ridden by Appalaraju's son, Aarav Varma. Investigators suspect attempts were made to divert the case and protect the accused. Police alleged that Appalaraju conspired to falsely implicate Siddhartha Tyadi and



that efforts were made to influence the victim's family. Officials also claimed the motorcycle was shifted from the accident spot and evidence was tampered with. A case was registered under sections related to death by negligence, destruction of evidence and criminal conspiracy. Appalara-

ju was taken to the police station for questioning. Police said the investigation is continuing and further arrests may follow based on evidence. YSRCP leaders termed the arrest politically motivated, while authorities maintained that the probe would proceed as per law.

AP to Launch Blockchain-Based Land Records System for Transparency

Sravani Badugu

Amaravati : The state government is set to introduce the Mee-Bhumi-Blockchain pilot project aimed at improving transparency, preventing fraud and ensuring permanent security of land records. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu will virtually launch the initiative at the State Secretariat on Thursday.

The system will integrate land data maintained separately by the Revenue, Survey and Registration departments into a single digital platform, creating a "Single Source of Truth" for land records. District Collectors of Kurnool, Chittoor, Bapatla, Krishna, East Godavari, Parvathipuram Manyam and Vizianagaram will participate virtually.

Developed in collaboration with NIC Andhra Pradesh and the Centre of Excellence in Blockchain Technology at NIC Bengaluru using Hyperledger



Fabric technology, the system aims to address discrepancies in existing digital records.

Under the new platform, every land parcel will receive a unique blockchain identity, making transactions secure, tamper-proof and permanently recorded. Details of officials handling transactions, processing time and record versions will also be preserved.

The platform will initially offer eight citizen services, in-

cluding auto-mutation, subdivision and extent correction. Departments such as Agriculture, Fisheries, Mines, Industries, Energy, CRDA and financial institutions will access verified land data.

The pilot will cover Aspari, Penumuru, Repalle, Gannavaram, Kadiyam, Gummalakshampuram and Kothavalasa mandals, involving 89 re-survey villages and 1,37,763 land parcel maps.

Thalliki Vandanam Funds Released to Support Students' Education: Nara Lokesh

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN News

Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh said the Alliance government is committed to ensuring that no child is deprived of education. He made the remarks on social media platform 'X' on the occasion of the release of funds under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme.

The government has started depositing 13,000 into the bank accounts of mothers of eligible students across the state. Lokesh said children are the state's wealth and education is an invaluable investment for their future. He stated that the scheme aims to support every child in a family pursuing education without any restriction on the number of children.



Lokesh said funds are being released for the second consecutive year at the beginning of the academic year. This year, 67.47 lakh students will benefit from the scheme, with 10,120.78 crore being deposited into the accounts of 42.70 lakh mothers. The Minister said the fund transfer process will continue from July 22 to July 24. Extending greetings to mothers supporting their

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Congress Supporting Anti-National Forces, Alleges BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN News

BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav alleged that the Congress party was supporting anti-national forces and said attempts to attack Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence amounted to an attack on the nation. Addressing the media during a protest rally in Vijayawada, he alleged that



protests over the NEET issue had been infiltrated by anti-national elements.

P3

Sharad Pawar's Meeting with PM Modi Sparks NDA Speculation

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN Bureau

NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) chief Sharad Pawar and party MP Supriya Sule met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday, triggering fresh political speculation in Maharashtra. The meeting, held while Opposition MPs were protesting outside Parliament, has fuelled discussions over the possibility of the



Sharad Pawar-led NCP extending support to the NDA.

Although neither the Prime Minister's Office

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ITI Second Phase Admissions Open

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The second phase of admissions for vacant seats in government and private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in NTR district for the academic year 2026-27 has commenced, District Convener and Vijayawada Government ITI Principal M. Kanaka Rao said on Wednesday.

He urged students who have passed Class 10 or Class 8 to utilise the opportunity and apply online through the website itiadmissions.ap.gov.in/iti or by visiting the Government ITI directly

Applications Invited for COE Intermediate Admissions

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society has invited online applications for admission to Intermediate MPC and BIPC courses with free integrated IIT-JEE and NEET coaching at its Centres of Excellence (COEs) for the 2026-27 academic year.

Society Joint Secretary (Academic) Dr. I. Sridevi said admissions are available at Meghadrigadda (Visakhapatnam), Amaravati-Tadikonda (Guntur) and Kota (SPSR Nel-

lore). Students who secured at least 85 per cent in the Class 10 public examinations and 75 per cent in the Junior Intermediate examinations held in March 2026 are eligible to apply.

Selected students will receive free education, expert IIT-JEE/NEET coaching, accommodation, nutritious food and study material. As per government norms, 75 per cent of seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste students and 25 per cent for other categories. Applications can be submitted through apbragcet.apcfss.in by July 30, 2026.

Sanjeevani Digital Health Scheme to Cover Entire State

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the process for implementing the 'Sanjeevani' Integrated Digital Care Coordination and Healthcare Delivery System across the state by inviting tenders for developing and managing the digital healthcare platform.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the government has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to create a comprehensive technology platform that will store and manage the health records of more than 5 crore people. The selected agency will operate the system for five years.

The last date for tender submission is August 14. The technical bid evaluation will be conducted on August 19, financial evaluation on August 31, and the final decision will be announced on September 7.

The minister said companies with experience in digital healthcare services and implementation of national and state health schemes are eligible to participate. The selection will follow a QCBS process, giving 70 per cent weightage to technical capability and 30 per cent to financial strength.

Sanjeevani, which was initially launched as a pilot project in Kuppam, will soon be expanded to all 28 districts. The platform will provide real-time health monitoring, early disease alerts, teleconsultations and continuous care support.

The scheme will integrate around 40 health programmes and focus on 12 key areas, including maternal and child health, chronic diseases, mental health, diagnostics and free medicines. The minister said Sanjeevani will improve healthcare access, especially in rural areas, and reduce medical expenses for citizens.

AP Seeks Centre Support for MSME Growth

New Delhi, July 22: TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has sought greater support from the Central Government for strengthening the MSME sector in the state. During his visit to Delhi, the minister met senior officials of the Union MSME Ministry and discussed measures to promote industrial growth and generate employment opportunities.

The minister requested an increase in margin money subsidy allocations under the Prime Minister Employment Genera-

tion Programme (PMEGP) for Andhra Pradesh. He also sought the establishment of an MSME testing centre in the state to improve product quality and certification facilities.

Kondapalli Srinivas urged the Centre to set up a National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Skill Development Centre in Andhra Pradesh to train young entrepreneurs. He further requested the early re-launch of the PMEGP online portal, faster approval of pending cluster development projects and establishment of livelihood training centres under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Home Minister Visits Brahmam Chowdary in Hospital

Amaravati, July 22: TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha visited Manipal Hospital in Tadepalli and enquired about the health condition of Kamma Corporation Chairman Brahmam Chowdary, who is undergoing treatment there.

The minister spoke with doctors and reviewed his medical condition. Doctors informed her that Brahmam Chowdary's health is stable and that he is responding positively to the

treatment. They also said he is likely to be discharged soon.

Anitha met Brahmam Chowdary and offered words of encouragement, wishing him a speedy recovery and good health. She also interacted with his wife Gouthami Swetha and assured that the government would extend necessary support to the family.

The Home Minister expressed hope that Brahmam Chowdary would recover completely and return to active public service soon.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar Calls for Vigilance Amid El Niño Impact

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed officials to remain on high alert during August, September and October in view of the expected impact of El Niño on power demand and generation. Chairing a review meeting with Energy Department officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday, he stressed the need for coordinated efforts by APTRANSCO, APGENCO and DISCOMs to ensure uninterrupted



power supply. The minister said reduced rainfall has lowered hydroelectric generation, while wind power output has fallen short of expectations, making thermal power crucial. He instructed officials to maintain coal stocks suffi-

cient for at least 15 days of generation and procure imported coal whenever global prices and the dollar value become favourable.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar also called for greater focus on renewable energy, expansion of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), faster construction of coal sheds and use of quality conveyor belts to prevent boiler trips. APGENCO Managing Director S. Nagalakshmi and senior officials from the Energy Department, APTRANSCO and APGENCO attended the review meeting.

Drone Summit to Be Held in Kurnool

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A National Round Table Conference on drones will be organised at the Drone City being developed in Orvakal, Kurnool district, Minister BC Janardhan Reddy said on Wednesday.

The Union Civil Aviation Ministry has decided to conduct the conference on August 18, with the participation of the Union Civil Aviation Minister. Around



30 to 40 drone companies are expected to be invited to the event. BC Janardhan Reddy said the country's first Drone City is cur-

rently under construction in Kurnool district and will provide the world's largest integrated drone testing facility. He said the initiative would boost the drone ecosystem in the state and create employment opportunities.

The minister added that the project is expected to generate around 40,000 jobs in the drone sector, strengthening Andhra Pradesh's position as a hub for emerging drone technologies.

Hajj 2027 Applications Close Soon

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Pilgrims to utilise the extended application period and submit their details before the deadline. The deadline for submitting applications for the Hajj-2027 pilgrimage will end on Friday midnight, Minority and Law Minister NMD Farooq said on Wednesday and urged eligible pilgrims to apply before the deadline. The minister said that 2,421 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh have so far submitted



their applications online to the Central Hajj Committee. He added that 388 pilgrims have opted for the newly introduced "Short Hajj" option, which provides a shortened 20-day pilgrimage.

Farooq said the Vijayawada embarkation centre has received a positive response after the coalition government announced financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for pilgrims choosing Vijayawada as their first preference. He said 517 pilgrims have selected Vijayawada as their first preference for Hajj-2027.

The minister noted that Rs. 3.31 crore was deposited into the accounts of 331 pilgrims who completed Hajj-2026 from Ganavaram Airport. He appealed to intending pi

Ministers Review Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration Plans

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Ministers held a review meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday regarding arrangements for the inauguration of Bhogapuram Airport, with senior officials and the Vizianagaram district administration participating in the discussions.



The meeting discussed key arrangements including public mobilisation, food facilities, parking, transportation and other logistical requirements. Ministers called for active participation of people to ensure the success of the programme.

The meeting was attended by

ministers Atchannaidu, P. Narayana, Payyavula Keshav, BC Janardhan Reddy, Anagani Satyaprasad, Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Vangalapudi Anitha, Satya Kumar Yadav, Gummadi Sandhya Rani, Kollu Ravindra and Gottipati Ravi Kumar.

Special Chief Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu, TDP state president Palla Srinivas, BJP state president PVN Madhav, MLCs B. Ravichandra Yadav, Satyanarayana Raju and Hari Prasad, Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satya and other officials also participated.

Support Sought for Women Entrepreneurs in AP

New Delhi, July 22: TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kondapalli Srinivas has requested the Centre to expedite approvals for sector-based and artisan clusters aimed at transforming self-help groups (DWCRA) women into entrepreneurs. During his meeting with Union Rural Development Ministry Additional Secretary T.K. Anil Kumar, the minister discussed various proposals under the DAY-NRLM

programme.

He sought early approval for projects including Jakkampudi Lakhpati Didi Park, Ponduru Khadi Cluster, Guntur Pickles and Chilli By-products Cluster, Chirala Handloom Cluster, Emiganur Handloom Cluster and Millet Cluster.

The minister said these clusters would provide skill development, value-added product manufacturing, market linkages and employment opportunities for women, supporting the state's

"One Family – One Entrepreneur" initiative. He also requested Centre's support for promoting DWCRA products under the "SWAYAM" brand through marketing and branding assistance.

Kondapalli further sought extension of DAY-NRLM interest subsidy benefits to loans provided through Stree Nidhi, stating that it would reduce financial burden on women and encourage small businesses. The Centre assured support for the proposals.

Relief from 22A Land Issues

Amaravati, July 22: TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued new orders to simplify the process of removing lands from the 22A prohibited list, aiming to protect land rights and provide relief to farmers and property owners, Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad said.

The minister stated that unnecessary inclusion of private patta

lands in the 22A list would invite action against responsible officials. He clarified that the government would have to prove whether a land parcel belongs to the prohibited category, not the individual landowner.

Several categories, including certain pre-1954 assigned lands, legally purchased lands, village habitation lands and other eligible properties, will be removed

from the prohibited list. The minister said prior notice and an opportunity to submit objections would be mandatory before adding any land to 22A.

Rejecting allegations over privatisation of registration offices, Satyaprasad said statutory powers would remain fully with government officials and assured protection for document writers' livelihoods.

Vijayawada STPI Supports 133 Startups Under NGIS Scheme

Vijayawada has emerged as a key hub for technology-driven startups, with 133 startups receiving support under the Central Government's Next Generation Incubation Scheme (NGIS), Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry said.

In response to the MP's question in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technolo-

gy Jitin Prasada stated that the NGIS scheme supported 686 startups through 12 Tier-2 and Tier-3 Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) centres across the country.

The scheme provided startups with mentoring, stipends, seed funding, networking opportunities and incubation facilities. Vijayawada STPI-supported startups benefited

across sectors including AgriTech, HealthTech, EduTech, FinTech, CleanTech, DeepTech, Cyber Security, Robotics and E-Mobility.

Balashowry said such initiatives would encourage young entrepreneurs in Andhra Pradesh and urged the Centre to expand similar opportunities to more Tier-2 cities in the state.

Ministers Hold Talks with Employee Groups

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A meeting between the Group of Ministers and representatives of 21 employee associations on issues related to Andhra Pradesh government employees began at the AP Secretariat on Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by ministers Payyavula Keshav, Satya Kumar Yadav and Anagani Satyaprasad. Minister Nandendra Manohar participated virtually. The discussions focused on various issues concerning government employees and their demands.

Chief Secretary G. Sai Pras-

ad, Special Chief Secretaries S.S. Rawat, Shashi Bhushan Kumar and Y.T. Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, Secretaries Vadrevu Vinay Chand, Veerapandyan and other officials took part in the meeting.

Representatives from various employee associations, including AP Secretariat Employees Association president Ramakrishna, APNGO Association president Vidyasagar, Amaravati JAC president Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and AP Government Employees Association president K. Suryanarayana, attended the discussions along with other association leaders.

Animal Husbandry Dept Plans to Prevent Fodder Shortage

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Animal Husbandry Department has prepared a special action plan to prevent fodder shortages in Andhra Pradesh due to the impact of El Niño and deficient rainfall. Department Director Dr. T. Damodara Naidu said on Wednesday. He warned that the state could face severe fodder scarcity by November and directed officials to closely monitor the situation from village to district levels. Awareness programmes are being conducted

to encourage livestock farmers to cultivate fodder crops through pre-monsoon dry sowing.

Fodder monitoring committees will be formed at mandal, division and district levels, along with fodder development committees at every veterinary hospital. The committees will oversee fodder seed utilisation, water availability and silage preparation. Dr. Damodara Naidu said the government is also promoting silage production, establishing fodder banks and taking steps to prevent distress sale of cattle by farmers..

Light to Moderate Rains Likely in Several Districts

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority has forecast light to moderate rains accompanied by isolated lightning in several districts on Thursday (July 23).

According to the agency, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Aluri, Konaseema, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla and Marka-

puram districts are likely to witness scattered thunderstorms with lightning and light to moderate rainfall.

It also stated that isolated light rains are expected in Manyam, Polavaram, East Godavari, Palnadu and Tirupati districts.

The authorities advised people to remain cautious during thunderstorms and follow safety measures to avoid lightning-related incidents.

APCRDA Conducts RTI Training Programme

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) conducted a training programme on the provisions of the Right to Information (RTI) Act for officers of APCRDA, Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) and Amaravati Greenfield Infrastructure Corporation Limited (AGICL) at the APCRDA Project Office on Wednesday.

The programme was inaugurated by First Appellate Authority D. Davi Raju, who highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability in public administration. Assistant Public Information Officer

R. Nageswara Rao welcomed the participants and introduced the resource person.

Dr. Samba Siva Raju, Director, SAPF, explained key provisions of the RTI Act, responsibilities of Public Information Officers, statutory timelines, exemptions and best practices in handling applications through interactive sessions.

Director (HR) B. Mallikarjuna Reddy and Group Director (Social Development) V. Ramulu advised officers to gain proper understanding of the Act and ensure effective implementation. Officers also discussed practical issues related to RTI applications. Dr. K. Suryanarayana coordinated the programme and proposed the vote of thanks.

Employees Seek Resolution of Pending Issues

Amaravati, July 22: TPN Bureau

The AP JAC Amaravati leaders participated in the Joint Staff Council meeting held at the state secretariat and urged the government to resolve pending financial issues of employees, teachers, pensioners, contract and outsourcing staff.

AP JAC Amaravati Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu said employees had been waiting for solutions to long-pending demands, including implementation of the Pay Revision Commission, announcement of Interim Relief (IR), release of pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) and settlement of outstanding dues. He said the union postponed its agitation

programmes following assurances from the government that discussions would be held.

The employees' representatives requested immediate decisions on financial benefits, promotions, compassionate appointments, outsourcing employees' welfare, pensioners' issues and other service-related matters. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav assured that the government understood the concerns of employees and would take their demands to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for consideration.

AP JAC Amaravati announced that it would review the situation and decide future action plans at a state secretariat meeting on August 2.

Delta Prosperity... Amaravati's Vision... How Far Has Development Progressed?



The development story of Andhra Pradesh cannot be painted with a single colour. If North Coastal Andhra (Uttarandhra) has to be understood through the lens of industries, ports and infrastructure expansion, South Coastal Andhra can only be understood by first looking at the delta civilization that has evolved over centuries along the banks of the Godavari and Krishna rivers. Nature bestowed this region with an extraordinary gift long before modern development began—fertile soils, an extensive river system, a vast network of irrigation canals, and a long coastline. These are not merely geographical features; they are the very foundations upon which the social and economic structure of South Coastal Andhra has been built. This article, however, is not intended to glorify the region's natural wealth. Rather, it seeks to answer a more important question: To what extent has this natural endowment been transformed into visible improvements in people's lives over the past twelve years?

Development cannot be measured merely by government announcements or by counting the number of projects inaugurated. The real questions are: Has irrigation reached the farmer's fields? Have employment opportunities increased for the youth? Have towns attracted fresh investments? Has the service sector expanded? How have people's incomes, opportunities and quality of life changed? These are the benchmarks adopted in this "Andhra Pradesh Development Audit" series. A close examination of South Coastal Andhra reveals an interesting reality. Most of the region's basic strengths are not newly created assets; they have existed for generations. The real challenge before successive governments during the past decade has been to expand their potential, integrate them with a modern economy,



and transform them into a comprehensive development model spanning agriculture, industry and services. Therefore, assessing this region requires much more than preparing a list of newly launched projects. One must examine how effectively traditional strengths have been reinforced and how successfully new opportunities have been added. Whenever South Coastal Andhra is discussed, names such as Amaravati, Polavaram, Kakinada Port, Krishnapatnam Port, the aquaculture industry and major energy projects naturally come to mind. Yet none of these, in isolation, can explain the region's development story. The future of South Coastal Andhra depends on the interrelationship between delta agriculture, water security, a port-led economy, industrial investments, the capital region, and the expanding service sector.

Krishna-Godavari Basin: The Real Strength of South Coastal Andhra

The first thing that comes to mind while discussing South Coastal Andhra is its fertile land. But the fertility of this land is not merely a gift of nature. Centuries of silt deposited by the Krishna and Godavari rivers, the evolution of the delta system, and later the construction of dams, barrages and an extensive canal network have collectively transformed this region into one of India's most productive agricultural belts. Therefore, the story of South Coastal Andhra begins not merely with agriculture, but with a remarkable civilization built on water management. The Krishna and Godavari rivers are far more than water resources. They are the lifelines of the region's economy. From crop selection to ru-

ral employment, from food security to aquaculture, from industrial water requirements to urban drinking water supply, nearly every sector of the regional economy depends on these rivers. Any meaningful assessment of South Coastal Andhra's development must therefore begin with an understanding of this water system and its capacity.

A Major Contributor to Agricultural Production

Official statistics continue to show that South Coastal Andhra remains one of the largest contributors to Andhra Pradesh's agricultural production. Yet the real question in any development analysis is this: availability of water is one thing; using that water efficiently to enhance farmers' incomes is quite another. How much has irrigation stability improved during the past twelve years? To what extent have canal systems been modernized? How effectively has the region strengthened its resilience against climate change? These are the questions that will ultimately determine the region's future. Another distinguishing feature of South Coastal Andhra is that water here serves far more than agriculture. The same water that irrigates paddy fields also sustains aquaculture ponds, supports industrial production and ensures drinking water security for rapidly growing urban centres. In other words, a single water resource supports multiple economic activities. Therefore, the value of water cannot be measured merely in terms of irrigated acreage; it must be assessed through the total economic value it generates.

Despite this robust water infrastructure, however, the region continues to face signifi-

cant challenges. Increasingly erratic floods, prolonged dry spells, canal maintenance, growing pressure on groundwater resources, and the intrusion of seawater into coastal aquifers are likely to become even more important in the years ahead. Consequently, South Coastal Andhra's development should not be viewed merely as a story of past achievements, but also as a responsibility to ensure the sustainable management of its water resources. Against this backdrop, major irrigation projects undertaken during the past decade—including canal expansion, river-linking initiatives and, above all, the Polavaram Project—must be examined in terms of how far they have strengthened the region's economy. For in South Coastal Andhra, the story of water does not end with irrigation. It is where the story of economic security truly begins.

From Water Security to Economic Security: How Strong Has the Delta Become?

Discussing water in South Coastal Andhra is not simply discussing irrigation. It is discussing an integrated economic system. Water here nourishes not only paddy cultivation but also aquaculture, food-processing industries, rural employment, urban drinking water systems and industrial production. In this region, effective water management is virtually synonymous with development management. During the past twelve years, policy efforts have largely moved in two directions. One has been the strengthening of the existing delta irrigation system; the other has been the creation of new water resources. Canal modernization, pumping schemes, repairs to barrages, flood-control measures and the expansion of drinking water supply together represent a comprehensive effort to strengthen the region's water infrastructure. In this context, the Polavaram Project naturally occupies centre stage.

Viewing Polavaram merely as a construction project would diminish its true significance. Conceived as a multi-purpose

national project, it aims to provide irrigation, drinking water, flood control and integrated river-water management on a large scale. However, like every major infrastructure project, Polavaram must ultimately be judged not by announcements or construction milestones, but by the benefits delivered to the people. How much additional water has become available? How much new agricultural land has benefited? How many farmers have experienced higher incomes? These are the real indicators of success. Another important reality cannot be ignored. Agriculture in South Coastal Andhra today is experiencing the growing impact of climate change.

Water Management Capacity: The New Measure of Development

On one hand, the region faces intense rainfall and devastating floods; on the other, recurring drought conditions. Under such circumstances, development is no longer measured merely by the availability of water but by the efficiency with which water is managed. Releasing water into canals is not enough. The true measure of success is whether it reaches the last farmer's field at the right time. Yet water security alone cannot guarantee economic security. Farmers need reliable markets, value-added processing facilities, storage infrastructure, efficient transportation systems and access to export opportunities. That is why the story of water in South Coastal Andhra does not end with agriculture. It extends into food processing, aquaculture, port-led trade, manufacturing and the expanding service economy. At this stage, another important question emerges. To a region whose prosperity has historically rested on its delta civilization, the past decade introduced a new dimension—the vision of Amaravati.

Amaravati was conceived not merely as a new city, but as a new administrative, service-sector and knowledge-based economic hub for Andhra Pradesh.

152 Exam Papers Leaked in 10 Years: RaGa Slams Centre Over Education System

continued

nearly 7.5 crore students were affected by examination irregularities, while no major accused had been effectively punished. He criticised the rising cost of education and said unemployment among youth, industrial challenges and job losses due to automation and artificial intelligence were adding to students' concerns.

CM Invites PM Modi to Inaugurate Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport

continued

The Chief Minister stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's civil aviation sector has undergone significant transformation, making air travel more accessible and affordable for millions. He expressed confidence that the inauguration of the Bhogapuram airport would boost connectivity, tourism, trade and economic growth across Uttarandhra while creating new employ-

ment and investment opportunities. Chandrababu Naidu also said Andhra Pradesh remains committed to contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat by building Swarna Andhra Pradesh. Photographs released from the meeting showed the Chief Minister presenting a bouquet and a memento to the Prime Minister and holding discussions on the upcoming inauguration and the state's development initiatives.

State Faculty Decry 'Ineligible' Tag in Associate Professor Recruitment

continued

In a representation submitted to the Union Ministry of Education, APSTPIEA President Dr M.V. Bramhananda Reddy alleged "systemic injustice" and violations of established regulations. He said several candidates with Ph.D. degrees, teaching experience and research publications were disqualified on technical grounds. Speaking to True Point, Bramhananda Reddy said, "This is not merely an administrative lapse; it is a violation of natural justice and equality before law. Faculty who have served universities for years are now being denied recognition of that experience." The representation cited provisions of the

UGC Act, 1956, including Sections 14 and 26, and referred to UGC Regulations, 2018, stating that teaching experience should be considered irrespective of employment nature. He questioned the decision to deny eligibility based on non-implementation of UGC pay scales, saying universities cannot use their own failure to disqualify candidates. APSTPIEA urged the Centre to constitute an independent review committee, reassess eligibility criteria, and provide affected candidates an opportunity to submit objections. The association said a transparent review is necessary to protect experienced educators and maintain academic standards.

Pawan Kalyan Directs Faster Completion of Palnadu, Prakasam Mega Water Grid Projects

continued

interacted with beneficiaries. The Minister said projects including a 100-bed hospital, underground drainage, drinking water supply, pipeline gas, parks, community halls, crematoriums, Anna Canteens and temple development are underway. He added that the Nidamaru Railway Over Bridge works have been expedited. Lokesh highlighted wel-

fare schemes including Talliki Vandanam, 4,000 pensions, free LPG cylinders, Stree Shakti, fishermen support and free electricity for handloom weavers. He said efforts are on to resolve pending land issues and provide permanent titles to eligible families by 2029. Senior TDP leaders Nandam Abbayya, Pothineni Srinivasa Rao, Vallabhaneni Venkata Rao and Padala Mahesh attended the programme.

Seven New COVID-19 Cases Push State Tally to 26

continued

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Sharad Pawar's Meeting with PM Modi Sparks NDA Speculation

continued

nor the NCP disclosed the agenda of the meeting, political circles speculated that issues including the Centre's proposed delimitation bill may have figured in the discussions. Reports suggested the party could consider extending conditional support to the legislation. However, no official an-

nouncement has been made regarding the NCP joining the NDA or any political alliance with the ruling coalition. It also remains unclear whether the meeting was merely a courtesy call or an indication of future political realignments. The development has generated widespread interest and debate in Maharashtra's political landscape.

Centre Responds Positively to Farmers' Issues, Says Atchannaidu

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the Alliance government's efforts to resolve the problems of tobacco and aqua farmers are yielding positive results, with the Centre responding favourably to key demands. Addressing the media at the Telugu Desam Party central office in Mangalagiri, he said that, following

the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, discussions were held in Delhi with Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, Lal Singh and Shivraj Singh Chouhan. He expressed confidence that decisions on reducing GST on raw tobacco, extending 15 per kg assistance through Tobacco Board cess funds and regulating aqua feed prices would be announced soon.

Thaliki Vandanam Funds Released to Support Students' Education: Nara Lokesh

continued

children's education, Lokesh said the government's objec-

tive is to strengthen access to education and encourage students to continue their studies.

Congress Supporting Anti-National Forces, Alleges BJP State President P.V.N. Madhav

continued

Madhav claimed that 'Urban Naxals' and other forces were involved in protests led by Sonam Wangchuk in Delhi. He criticised Congress and Communist parties for allegedly supporting groups opposing the abrogation of Article 370 and raising divisive slogans. He said the BJP would continue its fight to protect national unity and democracy. Madhav alleged that Congress workers attacked BJP activists during a peaceful protest in Vijayawada using eggs and sticks. He also defended the

Centre's action on the NEET paper leak issue, saying arrests were made and the examination process was completed. Led by Madhav, BJP leaders took out a rally on Eluru Road. BJP leaders alleged attempts were made to obstruct the rally near the Congress office. BJP State General Secretary Matta Prasad, Chaitanya Sharma and others participated along with State Secretaries Bhogi Reddy Adilakshmi and Boddur Nagalakshmi, State Spokespersons Mullapudi Renuka, Shaik Baji and Chiruvolu Buchi Raju, among others.

Kapu JAC to Hold Condolence Meet for Mudragada in Guntur on July 25

Guntur, July 22 | TPN Bureau

State Kapu Joint Action Committee (JAC) leaders announced that a condolence meeting for Kapu movement leader and former minister Mudragada Padmanabham will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Venkateswara Vignana Mandiram in Guntur. The leaders appealed to people from all political backgrounds to attend the meeting, describing it as a non-partisan tribute.

Addressing a media conference, JAC leaders Dasari Ramu, Chandu Janardhan, Madha Radha, Pakanati Ramadevi, Miriyala Srinivasa Rao, and Maliseti Subbarao recalled Padmanabham's contributions to society and the Kapu community. They stated that he led a sincere and corruption-free political life, consistently striving to secure the



rights of people through democratic struggles and mass movements. Dasari Ramu said, "Mudragada Padmanabham dedicated his life to the welfare of the Kapu community and weaker sections. His commitment to justice and fearless leadership will continue to inspire future generations." Chandu Janardhan added, "He was a symbol of integrity in public life. The movements he led brought attention to key

issues affecting the community, and his legacy will remain a guiding force for us." The leaders emphasized that the meeting would bring together people cutting across party lines to pay homage to Padmanabham's service and ideals. Amma Srinivas Naidu, Lakshmana Rao, Ragam Sada, Erragopu Nageswara Rao, Bokkiasam Sivaram, and others were present at the media interaction.

Pawan Kalyan Directs Faster Completion of Palnadu, Prakasam Mega Water Grid Projects

continued

He instructed officials to give priority to drought-prone areas, particularly Palnadu and Prakasam districts, and complete the projects without compromising quality. Officials informed that the two projects, with a combined cost of nearly 2,500 crore, are progressing steadily. The 1,290-crore Prakasam Mega Water Grid will provide drinking water to 593 habita-

tions across seven Assembly constituencies. Over 40 per cent of intake well works have been completed, while pipeline laying and construction of treatment plants, sumps and reservoirs are underway. The 1,200-crore Palnadu Mega Water Grid project aims to supply water to 235 habitations. Officials said 152 km of pipeline has been completed, with intake wells, reservoirs and overhead tanks under construction. Pawan

Kalyan said the projects would provide permanent drinking water security to people who have faced shortages for decades. He directed officials to resolve issues related to pipeline works and forest clearances. He also said he would personally inspect the projects after recovering from shoulder surgery. The projects are expected to benefit over 16 lakh people across nearly 10 Assembly constituencies in Palnadu and Prakasam districts.

Alliance Govt Reaffirms Commitment to Restore GO-3

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The state government has reiterated its commitment to restoring GO No. 3 by enacting a legally sustainable law that safeguards the rights and employment opportunities of tribal communities.

Tribal Welfare Minister Gummidi Sandhya Rani made the assurance after holding a meeting with representatives of around 40 tribal associations at the Tribal Welfare Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada on Wednesday. The meeting, held on the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, focused on issues including GO No. 3, the 1/70 Act, tribal land rights, education, employment and welfare schemes.

Addressing the media, the Minister said the coalition government is fully committed to protecting the constitutional rights of tribals and restoring GO No. 3 through legislation capable of withstanding judicial scrutiny. She said merely reissuing the earlier Government Order would not survive legal challenges, and therefore the government is working on a comprehensive legal framework after consulting tribal organisations, Joint Action Committees and experts across all ITDAs.

Krishna Municipalities Win Swachh Andhra Honour

Machilipatnam, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Krishna district has earned state-level recognition for successfully transforming garbage-prone "black spots" into clean and green public spaces under the Operation Clean Sweep campaign, with Machilipatnam and Uyyuru municipalities receiving awards from the Swachh Andhra Corporation.

District Collector D.K. Balaji said the initiative was implemented from May 23 to June 26 as part of the state government's Swachh Andhra programme, a key component of its vision to achieve Swarnandhra Pradesh 2047. The campaign was carried out across all five municipalities in the district. The Collector said officials identified locations where garbage frequently accumulated, addressed gaps in door-to-door waste collection, and launched public awareness drives. The cleaned sites were then beautified by planting saplings, painting murals, installing benches and displaying cleanliness messages to discourage future dumping.

Applications Invited for COE Admissions

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (APSWREIS) has invited online applications for admission into its prestigious Centres of Excellence (COE) for the 2026-27 academic year. The institutions offer Intermediate education integrated with free coaching for IIT-JEE and NEET, providing quality education to meritorious students.

In a statement, Dr. I. Sridevi, Joint Secretary (Academic), said admissions are open for Junior and Senior Intermediate (MPC and BIPC) courses at the Society's three co-educational Centres of Excellence located at Meghadrigadda in Visakhapatnam District, Amaravati-Tadikonda in Guntur district and Kota in SPSR Nellore district.

Students who secured at least 85 per cent marks in the Class 10 public examinations are eli-



The Minister alleged that the previous government failed to defend GO No. 3 before the Supreme Court and did not file a review petition, leading to its setback. She recalled that former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao introduced GO No. 275 in 1986, while N. Chandrababu Naidu brought GO No. 3 in 2000 to reserve 100 per cent teacher posts in Agency areas for local tribals.

Sandhya Rani also clarified that the 1/70 Act protecting tribal land rights remains in force and urged tribal communities not to believe rumours regarding its repeal. She said the Alliance government is giving top priority to tribal welfare by strengthening ITDAs and improving education, healthcare and employment opportunities, while also accusing opposition parties of spreading misinformation among tribal youth.

Tribal Welfare Department Secretary M.M. Naik, Director Sada Bhargavi, Agency area legislators and senior officials attended the meeting.



A total of 141 black spots across the district were transformed into attractive green spaces. Balaji said the initiative received an enthusiastic response from residents, many of whom appreciated the efforts during his field visits. Recognising the district's innovative approach, the Swachh Andhra Corporation selected Machilipatnam and Uyyuru among nine municipalities across the state for special awards.

The Collector congratulated sanitation workers, municipal staff, commissioners, public representatives and citizens for their collective efforts and assured that cleanliness, greenery and environmental protection initiatives would be intensified across Krishna district in the coming months.

Palnadu Collector Reviews Arrangements with Political Parties

Palnadu, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Palnadu District Collector Kruthika Shukla held a re-

view meeting with representatives of various political parties at the District Collectorate on Tuesday. The meeting focused on adminis-



Krishna University Gets ₹20 Crore Under PM-USHA Scheme: Balashowry

Machilipatnam, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry has welcomed the Centre's decision to sanction 20 crore to Krishna University under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme. The information was provided by Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Sukanta Majumdar in a written reply to a question raised by the MP in the Lok Sabha.

According to the Centre, the funds will be utilised for infrastructure development, building repairs, procurement of modern equipment and other academic development initiatives.

Minister Calls for Green Drive in Machilipatnam

Machilipatnam, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra has called upon citizens to actively participate in tree plantation and environmental conservation programmes, stating that greenery is the foundation of sustainable development.

The Minister planted saplings near the Government Hospital in the 13th Division of the Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation on Wednesday along with public representatives, voluntary organisations and students. He said protecting saplings is as important as planting them and urged people to take responsibility for nurturing every tree.

Ravindra said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrab-



It also clarified that all proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh government have been examined and approved, with no proposals currently pending.

The Centre has sanctioned 378.75 crore for 33 units across Andhra Pradesh under the PM-USHA scheme, covering seven universities, 21 colleges and five districts. In Krishna district,

three of four proposals were approved, including 20 crore for Krishna University, 5 crore for Government Degree College, Bantumilli, and 10 crore for gender inclusion and equity initiatives. Balashowry said the funds would strengthen higher education infrastructure, academics and research opportunities in the district.



abu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is conducting large-scale plantation drives during the monsoon to enhance green cover across Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting recent civic achievements, the Minister said the Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation received the Clean Sweep Award from the state government for its sanitation initiatives. He added that garbage-prone "black spots" are being transformed into green

spaces through beautification and landscaping.

The Minister announced that an 18-acre urban forest will be developed near Dharmacheruvu and Moodu Sthambala Centre after resolving legal issues. He also said the Island Park near the railway station is nearing completion, while parks, burial grounds and other public facilities are being developed with 12 crore under the 15th Finance Commission.

He further stated that 75 crore has been sanctioned for strengthening the town's drainage network, including sewage treatment plants and pumping systems, and announced that an entry gate costing 1 crore is being constructed to give Machilipatnam a distinct identity. He urged the public to support the government's efforts by planting and protecting more trees.

PB Siddhartha College Signs MoU with NISM

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Department of Commerce at P.B. Siddhartha Arts and Science College, Vijayawada, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) to strengthen industry-oriented education and enhance students' employability in the finance sector.

College Dean Prof. Rajesh C. Jampala said the MoU was signed on Wednesday in the presence of NISM Assistant Manager Barkha Nigam. The collaboration aims to provide students with national-level certification programmes, skill development initiatives and practical exposure to the securities and financial markets.

College Director Vemuri



Baburao said the partnership would help students acquire industry-relevant knowledge and improve career prospects in banking, finance and capital markets. He noted that the initiative would bridge the gap between classroom learning and industry requirements.

Under the agreement, students will receive expert training in securities markets, stock markets, mutual funds, investment man-

agement, financial planning and capital markets. The collaboration will also facilitate workshops, seminars, faculty development programmes and other professional learning opportunities.

Head of the Commerce Department K. Narayana and faculty members P. Subhakar, E. Suvarnanjali, Burra Phanikrishna, M. Hanumaiah and Gabbeta Anjaneya Sastry, among others, attended the programme.

MEPMA Employee Alleges Workplace Harassment

Narasaraopet, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A woman employee working with the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA) in Palnadu district has levelled serious allegations of workplace harassment against a junior assistant, demanding immediate action from the authorities.

Padmaja, an IB (Community Organiser) at the Palnadu MEPMA office, alleged that Junior Assistant Roja Rao subjected women

employees to mental harassment and made derogatory remarks about their attire, appearance and personal habits. She claimed that biometric attendance was being recorded only after payment of bribes and that salaries of employees who refused to comply were deducted illegally.

According to Padmaja, a week's salary was deducted despite her attending an official meeting at the head office. When she questioned the action, she alleged that Roja Rao verbally abused and insulted her. She further claimed that com-

plaints had been raised about the official's behaviour during his previous posting in Guntur and urged the authorities to conduct a thorough inquiry into the matter.

Padmaja said she would submit a formal complaint to the Palnadu Superintendent of Police and other senior officials seeking strict action. She also stated that she intends to pursue legal remedies.

No response from the accused official or the concerned department was immediately available. The allegations are yet to be independently verified.

Pawan Kalyan Pays Tribute to Meher Ramesh's Sister

Tadepalli, July 22 | TPN Bureau



and well-wishers in grief.

Soon after learning of her demise, Pawan Kalyan visited the hospital and offered his respects. He also met Meher

Ramesh and other bereaved family members, conveying his heartfelt condolences and expressing solidarity with them during the difficult time.

Family members, friends and several well-wishers gathered at the hospital to pay their last respects to the deceased.

The untimely demise of Meher Jyothi has cast a shadow of sorrow over the family, with members of the film fraternity and political leaders expressing condolences and praying for strength to the bereaved family.

Energy Infrastructure Gets Major Boost in Penamaluru: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

Penamaluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Wednesday launched and inaugurated key power infrastructure projects in Yanamalakuduru and Pedapulipaka villages of Penamaluru Mandal in Krishna district, reaffirming the government's commitment to providing quality and uninterrupted electricity supply. Penamaluru MLA Bode Prasad, alliance leaders, local public representatives and senior officials of the Electricity Department participated in the programmes.

At Yanamalakuduru, the minister laid the foundation stone for a 33/11 kV electrical substation to be constructed at a cost of 4.20 crore with HUDCO funding. He said the project would significantly improve the quality and reliability of power supply to Yanamalakuduru and nearby villages.

Later, Gottipati Ravi Kumar inaugurated a solar rooftop unit established in the Pedapulipaka SC Colony at a cost of 1.50 lakh. Describing it as a model initiative, he said the project reflects the government's commitment to promoting renewable energy and sustainable power solutions. The minister also inaugurated a newly completed 33/11 kV electrical substation at Pedapulipaka,

built with 4.20 crore under HUDCO funding. The facility is expected to strengthen power distribution capacity and ensure better service delivery to consumers in the surrounding areas.

Addressing the gathering, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the state government is continuously investing in strengthening electricity infrastructure to meet the growing demand for quality power. He assured that more development projects would be taken up to improve the power network across the state.

APCPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Pulla Reddy, Director (Technical) Muralikrishna Yadav, Director (Projects) T.V.N.S. Murthy, Superintending Engineer Hanumayya, Executive Engineers Visweswara Prasad and R. Ravikishore, Deputy Executive Engineer Bodepudi Naveen, Assistant Engineers, department officials, alliance leaders and residents attended the programme.

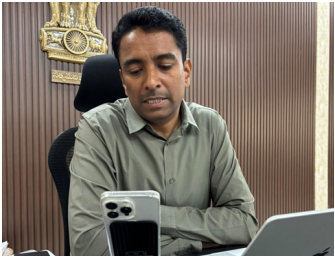
Collector Reviews Mega PTM Arrangements

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for the successful conduct of the Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) 3.1 across 910 government schools in NTR district on July 24.

During a teleconference with Education Department officials on Wednesday, the Collector said the programme aims to improve students' academic performance, strengthen parent-teacher coordination and encourage greater community participation in the development of government schools. He instructed officials to ensure active participation of parents, teachers, School Management Committee members, public representatives, alumni, donors and village elders.

The Collector said parents should be provided with detailed information on their children's academic progress, attendance, examination results, learning levels and special talents. Teachers were asked to collect parents' feedback and incorporate suitable changes to improve students' learning outcomes. He also stressed the need to create awareness about the LEAP mo-



bile application, enabling parents to monitor their children's academic performance.

Schools have been directed to organise exhibitions showcasing students' science projects, innovative models, artwork, cultural activities, sports achievements and eco-friendly initiatives. Awareness programmes on drug prevention under the "Say No to Drugs, Bro" campaign will also be conducted. Later, the Collector inspected preparations at the Zilla Parishad High School in Vinagadapa, Gampalagudem mandal. He interacted with students, encouraged them to utilise government facilities effectively, set clear career goals and strive for academic excellence. He instructed officials to ensure the event is conducted in a festive atmosphere with adequate hygiene, seating, drinking water and mid-day meal arrangements.

Tax Awareness Drive Held at KBN College

Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau



The Income Tax Department organised a tax awareness programme for students at KBN College on Wednesday as part of the 167th Income Tax Day celebrations, highlighting the importance of tax compliance in nation-building.

Dr. P. Vijaya Deepan (IRS), Joint Commissioner of Income Tax (Range-1 & 2), attended the event as the chief guest. He said taxes play a vital role in funding public welfare programmes and essential services such as education, healthcare, roads, drinking water, electricity, defence and social welfare schemes.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Principal Commissioner of Income Tax Ch. V. Gopinath to create awareness among students about taxation and encourage responsible citizenship. Dr. Vijaya Deepan said paying taxes is not only a legal responsibility but

also a meaningful contribution to the country's development.

Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax Sahana explained the basics of income tax, return filing procedures and the use of digital services. Chartered Accountant G. Gangadhar encouraged students to become responsible taxpayers in the future.

A short film on income tax was screened during the programme, followed by a quiz competition in which students participated enthusiastically. Hindu High School Committee Administrative Officer Dr. V. Narayana Rao appreciated the department's initiative. KBN College Principal Dr. Sri Krishnaveni, Income Tax officials and faculty members were also present.



Uma Appears in Court Over 2022 Case

Rajamahendravaram, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao appeared before the Second Additional Junior Civil Magistrate Court in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday in connection with a case registered in 2022 during the YSRCP government's tenure. The case, registered under Section 269 as Crime No. 447/2022, is currently under trial.

Rajamahendravaram Urban MLA Adireddy Vasu and Kakinada Urban MLA Vanamadi Venkateswara Rao accompanied Umamaheswara Rao to the court.

Speaking to the media after the hearing, Umamaheswara Rao alleged that the case had been illegally registered as part of political vendetta by the then YSRCP government. He said the previous government attempted to intimidate opposition leaders fighting for public issues by filing false cases, but those efforts had failed. He asserted that the party's fight on behalf of the people continued despite such cases and claimed that the public had ultimately delivered a historic verdict against the previous government. He also reaffirmed his respect for the law and said he would fully cooperate with the judicial process.

Rs 500 Crore Drinking Water Project Cleared

Narsipatnam, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has issued G.O. Ms. No. 93 granting administrative approval for a Rs. 500 crore drinking water project aimed at providing safe drinking water to every household in the Narsipatnam Assembly constituency.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu described the project as a historic milestone for the constituency, stating that it was the largest-ever investment sanctioned for a single drinking water scheme in the region. He said the project became possible following sustained efforts to find a permanent solution to the constituency's long-standing drinking water problem.

The Speaker said the project would be implemented in accordance with the guidelines of



the Central government's Jal Jeevan Mission and that an action plan had been prepared to complete the works by June 2028. He added that the government had directed officials to execute the project with high quality standards and ensure speedy completion so that every household receives improved drinking water supply.

Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for supporting the project on behalf of the people of the constituency.

Chain Snatcher Held for Targeting Elderly Fish Vendor

Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Eluru Rural Police arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly snatching a gold chain from an elderly woman after pretending to buy fish near Siriparru Bridge in Eluru Rural mandal.

According to police, the accused approached the elderly fish vendor under the pretext of purchasing fish and fled after forcibly snatching her gold nanu thadu chain, valued at around Rs. 1 lakh.

Acting under the supervision of Eluru District Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shivakishore, Deputy Superintendent of Police D. Sravan Kumar, and following the directions of Inspector K. Ramakrishna, a special team led by Sub-Inspector V.



Venkateswara Rao launched a search operation and arrested the accused, Agollu Naga Karthik (25), a resident of Bhairavapatnam in Mandavalli mandal, on Wednesday.

Police recovered the stolen gold chain and a Hero Fashion Pro motorcycle allegedly used in the offence. The accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody after completing the necessary legal formalities.

Student Groups Demand Minister's Resignation



Vijayawada, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Student and youth organisations on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging failure of the Central government in addressing issues related to examination irregularities and students' concerns.

A media conference was held at Balotsav Bhavan where leaders announced a "Chalo Lok Bhavan" programme on July 23 and called for a statewide educational institutions bandh on July 24.

SFI State secretary K. Prasanna Kumar alleged that the future of lakhs of students was being affected due to the Centre's policies and condemned the action taken by Delhi Police during a student protest in Parliament. He

demanded accountability from the government and called for the removal of Dharmendra Pradhan from the Union Education Ministry.

AIASF State president G. Valaraju alleged that more than 50,000 students in the state were affected due to NEET paper leak issues and demanded a response from ruling and opposition leaders.

DYFI State secretary G. Rammanna claimed that 152 examination paper leaks occurred across the country in the last 14 years, while PDSU State secretary Rajesh alleged that the government was suppressing student protests.

AIYF State treasurer Subhani, AISF leader Mahesh, SFI leaders Ravi and Venkateswara Rao, PDSU State vice-president Sunil and DYFI district secretary Shiva participated in the meeting.

More 4G Towers Planned for Eluru

Delhi/Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Pemmasani Chandrasekhar informed the Lok Sabha that 56 4G mobile towers have been established in Eluru district under the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) scheme in the last five years.

The Minister gave the details in response to a question raised by Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar seeking information on mobile connectivity projects in Andhra Pradesh. He said 2,058 4G towers were installed across the state, providing services to 4,047 villages.

In Eluru district, 56 towers have enabled 4G connectivity in 65 villages and uncovered areas. Putta Mahesh Kumar highlighted the signal problems in rural regions and said a proposal for 175 more towers had been submitted to the Centre.

The Union Minister said delays in some areas were due to land, road, forest and permission-related issues, which were being addressed in coordination with the state government.

Farmers, Workers Protest Proposed India-US Free Trade Deal

Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Farmers, agricultural workers and labour unions staged a protest in Eluru on Wednesday opposing the proposed India-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA), alleging that it would severely impact the country's agricultural sector. The demonstration was organised near the Dr B.R. Ambedkar statue at the Old Bus Stand Centre under the banner of the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Organisations District Coordination Committee as part of the nationwide protest call given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

Addressing the gathering, Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham district secretary K. Srinivas, AIKMS district president Porandla Srinivas, BKMU district secretary Bandi Venkateswara Rao, Congress Kisan Cell district leader Rajanala Rammohan Rao and AIYUKS district leader Sirikonda Rama Rao urged the Central government not to sign the proposed trade agreement with the United States.

The speakers alleged that the agreement would allow duty-free imports of agricultural products, including dairy products, poultry, maize, soybean, cotton,

fruits and vegetables, adversely affecting Indian farmers already struggling with inadequate remunerative prices. They demanded a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP), a nationwide farm loan waiver, a monthly pension of Rs. 10,000 for poor farmers, tenant farmers and agricultural labourers above 60 years of age, and continuation of the rural employment guarantee scheme in its earlier form.

IFTU district general secretary Badda Venkata Rao, AITUC district general secretary Reddy Srinivasa Dange and Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham district president Katta Bhaskara Rao also addressed the protest, which was attended by leaders and members of various farmers' and workers' organisations.

MLA Inaugurates Newly Constructed Road

Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



A newly constructed cement road built at a cost of Rs. 31 lakh was inaugurated in Rajarajeswari Nagar of Eluru's 13th Division on Wednesday. MLA Badeti Chanti and APSRTC Vijayawada Zone-2 Chairman Reddy Appala Naidu attended the programme as chief guests and formally inaugurated the road by cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque.

Addressing the gathering, Badeti Chanti said the coalition government was committed to improving road infrastructure across the Eluru Assembly constituency and fulfilling every promise made to

the people. He said the newly completed road had resolved a long-pending problem for residents of Rajarajeswari Nagar and assured that additional road development works would be taken up in the coming days. He credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for prioritising development and welfare across the state.

Reddy Appala Naidu said the

Disabled Welfare Body Seeks Action

Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



The Andhra Pradesh Association for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities on Wednesday urged the government to address issues faced by persons with disabilities in obtaining SADAREM certificates at Eluru Government Hospital.

Speaking at a meeting held at the association's office near the New Bus Stand, district secretary Kundeti Jayaraju said the certificate, which is mandatory for availing disability pensions, was becoming difficult to obtain

due to administrative lapses. He alleged that although a dedicated room had been allotted for SADAREM assessments, doctors were not conducting examinations there, forcing persons with disabilities to move across different hospital departments. Jayaraju also demanded that the hospital install signboards

indicating the locations of various medical examination rooms. He said re-verification certificates had not yet been issued to many beneficiaries, causing difficulties in obtaining train and bus passes. He further alleged that temporary certificates were being issued even to persons with permanent disabilities, preventing them from applying for pensions. He urged the government to resolve these issues at the earliest. P. Kishore, K. Madan, G. Bhulakshmi and G. Sharada attended the meeting.

Two Sanitation Tractors Launched

Chirala, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Chirala MLA Madduluri Malakondayya on Wednesday inaugurated two new sanitation tractors allocated for cleanliness works in Chirala Municipality.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said strengthening the sanitation system and developing garbage-free wards and villages were among the key objectives of the government. He said the newly launched tractors would help in door-to-door garbage collection and ensure cleaner and healthier

surroundings across the municipality.

Madduluri Malakondayya urged people to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness as part of the vision of "Mana Ooru - Mana Arogyam" (Our Village - Our Health). He said public

Don't Believe Rumours on Kolleru Says Kamineni

Kaikaluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Kaikaluru MLA Kamineni Srinivas on Wednesday appealed to people not to believe the alleged misinformation being spread about Kolleru and assured that steps were being taken to resolve long-pending issues concerning the region.

Addressing a media conference, the MLA said farmers holding Zirayati lands in Kolleru had been deprived of their rights and alleged that no leader had taken serious steps on

Kolleru issues between 2019 and 2024. He claimed that certain publications and social media platforms were spreading false information, including allegations about biomedical waste being dumped in Kolleru, which he said was untrue.

Kamineni assured that people would hear good news soon

and said the fishermen societies introduced during the tenure of former Chief Minister Jalagam Vengala Rao would also be restored. He urged people not to lose confidence and said nobody should create injustice to Kolleru residents.

He also stated that Kaikaluru received the highest funds in the state for R&B roads and said the government had resolved the 22A land issue in three villages by enabling registrations. He added that similar measures would be taken for the remaining areas soon.

MP Vijay Welcomes CM in Delhi Ahead of PM Invite

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday to invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport on August 1. On his arrival, Telugu Desam Party State General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Chintakayala Vijay, along with fellow Members of Parliament, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Minister at the airport. Chintakayala Vijay presented a bouquet to Chandrababu Naidu and greeted him on behalf of the party.

According to sources, discussions were held on the proposed inauguration of the prestigious

airport and the arrangements for the Prime Minister's visit to Andhra Pradesh. The airport, considered a key infrastructure project for the state, is scheduled to be formally inaugurated on August 1, subject to the Prime Minister's participation.

Several Members of Parliament were also present during the meeting and took part in the reception for the Chief Minister.

Head Constables Submit Memorandum to Speaker

Amaravati, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Head Constables (Civil) from the erstwhile Visakhapatnam Rural district met Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu at his camp office on Wednesday and submitted a memorandum seeking resolution of their service-related issues.

The personnel urged the Speaker to recommend that the government restore the Head Constable (Civil) posts to the zonal cadre following the bifurcation of the erstwhile Visakhapatnam Rural district into Anakapalli and Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) districts. As an alternative, they requested that Anakapalli and Alluri Sitarama Raju districts be

constituted as a contiguous district cadre under Paragraph 3(5) of the Presidential Orders-2025.

The Head Constables also explained the geographical, legal and practical challenges faced by non-tribal employees serving in the agency areas of Alluri Sitarama Raju district. Responding to the representation, Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu assured the delegation that their concerns would be examined positively and appropriate consideration would be given to the issues raised.

Women's Body Demands Crackdown on Drugs and Ganja

Eluru, July 22 | TPN Bureau



Pragathi Nari Mahila Sangham (PNS) State leader M. Nagamani on Wednesday urged the Andhra Pradesh government to take stringent measures to curb the spread of ganja, drugs and other intoxicating substances across the state.

Speaking at the PNS district meeting held at the organisation's office in RR Peta under the chairmanship of Galla Sharada, Nagamani expressed concern over the increasing availability of narcotic substances even in remote areas. She alleged that many students and youngsters were falling prey to addiction and criticised the coalition government, claiming that its promise to act firmly against drugs had not been effectively implemented.

Nagamani also alleged that liquor was freely available and belt shops continued to operate in rural areas. She said substance

abuse was contributing to crimes against women and children and called for strict enforcement to control the menace.

She further demanded immediate implementation of the promised monthly assistance of Rs. 1,500 for women aged between 18 and 50 years, proper credit of benefits under the Deepam scheme for three free LPG cylinders, and an increase in the number of buses to support the free bus travel scheme.

P. Soujanya, L. Bhavani, K. Durga, A. Mahalakshmi and Oggula Rajyalakshmi were among those who attended the meeting.

Rotary Club Promotes Green Drive



Chirala, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Rotary Club of Vetalapalem organised a plantation drive at BBH Junior College as part of its initiative to promote environmental protection and encourage the cultivation of fruit-bearing plants.

The programme was conducted following the directions of the Rotary District Governor, during which 50 guava saplings were planted on the college premises. Saplings were also distributed free of cost to students and teachers.

Rotary Club of Vetalapalem President Uggirala Markandeyulu, who presided over the programme, said protect-

ing the environment was the responsibility of every individual. He stressed the need to plant more trees to reduce pollution and maintain ecological balance. He also highlighted the importance of creating environmental awareness among students and said growing fruit plants would benefit both nature and public health.

Rotary Club Secretary Polakam Chandrasekhar, Treasurer Ande Murali Varaprasad, past presidents Kotha Srinivasa Rao, Karancheti Sivaramakrishna and Patti Venkata Subbarao, along with BBH Junior College Secretary and Correspondent Challa Vasudeva Rao and others participated in the programme.

Centre Details NITI Aayog Research Scheme in Reply to MP Vemireddy

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy raised questions in Parliament on fund utilisation, research quality and monitoring under the NITI Aayog Research Scheme (RSNA) 2021. Responding in a written reply on Wednesday, Union Minister of State for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh said funds allocated under the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26 were effectively utilised.

The Minister said 87 research projects were approved in five years, of which 67 were completed and 42 are under implementation. He stated that projects are



allocated to reputed institutions, universities and researchers based on merit, with no state-wise fund allocation.

Financial assistance was provided to 72 institutions, including IITs, IIMs, ISIs and other research bodies. He added that project quality is monitored and payments are released only after verification.

Use AI Responsibly in Research, Says Apollo University Vice Chancellor



Chittoor, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Artificial Intelligence (AI) should be used responsibly and in line with academic and ethical standards, said Dr. Nitin M. Nagarkar, Vice Chancellor of The Apollo University, while inaugurating a one-day workshop on "AI Use in Research and Manuscript Writing" organised by the Faculty Research Forum of the Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMSR) on Wednesday.

Dr. Nagarkar said AI is transforming research and healthcare by supporting literature reviews, data collection, statistical analysis and scientific writing. However, he stressed that AI should

complement, not replace, a researcher's critical thinking and scientific judgment.

Technical sessions by Dr. Asha B. and Dr. Animesh Jain provided hands-on training on AI-assisted research, manuscript writing, literature search, data analysis and ethical AI practices.

The programme was attended by Dr. Alfred J. Augustine, Pro Vice Chancellor, Anil Kumar S., Registrar, Dr. Ramya Ramakrishnan, Dean, AIMSR, S. Balaram, Unit Head, Dr. Usha Adiga, Associate Dean (Research), Dr. Vijetha, Chairperson of the Faculty Research Forum, faculty members, researchers and healthcare professionals.

Collector Reviews Arrangements for Chief Minister's Kurnool Visit

Kurnool, July 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri on Wednesday reviewed arrangements for Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Aspari in Kurnool district on July 25, where he will launch the Sanjeevani programme, a key state government initiative for public health.

Accompanied by Joint Collector Nurul Qamar, the Collector inspected the helipad, public meeting venue, Primary Health Centre (PHC), parking facilities, drinking water, sanitation, security and traffic arrangements, and issued directions to officials for smooth conduct of the visit.

According to the itinerary, the Chief Minister will inspect ser-



vices at the Aspari PHC, launch the Sanjeevani programme, interact with the public at a Praja Vedika, and attend a meeting with party cadre. He will also review the Safe Motherhood programme, interact with pregnant women and their families, and launch the Aarogya Ratham mobile healthcare initiative to improve access to medical services in rural areas.

Joint Collector Nurul Qamar and other district officials participated in the inspection.

Document Writers Demand Withdrawal of GO 396

Anantapur Urban, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Document writers across Andhra Pradesh continued their indefinite strike on Wednesday, demanding the immediate withdrawal of GO 396, alleging that it threatens their livelihood. As part of the protest, members of the Anantapur Document Writers' Association staged a demonstration at the Urban Registration Office, resulting in the disruption of registration services across the state.

Association leaders said the strike has brought registration transactions to a standstill, causing inconvenience to the public and revenue losses to the government. They alleged that GO 396 would allow private individuals to handle registration-related



work, jeopardising the livelihood of over two lakh document writers.

The protesters said document writers have long assisted the public and government with their expertise in preparing registration documents. Entrusting the work to inexperienced private personnel, they argued, could lead to errors and legal disputes over property records. They urged the state government to immediately withdraw GO 396 and protect the interests of document writers and the public.

Pallavotsavam Celebrated with Grandeur in Tirumala

Tirumala, July 22 | TPN Bureau

TTD celebrated the annual Pallavotsavam with religious fervour in Tirumala on Wednesday to mark the birth anniversary of the Maharaja of Mysore. After the Sahasra Deepalankara Seva, Lord Malayappa Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, was taken in a procession to the Kar-

nataka Choultry, where representatives of the Karnataka Government and the Mysore Royal Estate offered special Harathi. Rituals, Naivedyam and Prasadam distribution were also held. TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, Board members Naresh and Darshan, Peshkar Rama Krishna and other officials attended the celebrations.

Security Lapse Alleged After Movie Poster Carried on Tirumala Walkway

Tirumala, July 22 | TPN News

A security lapse at Tirumala has come under criticism after a woman was seen carrying a poster of the movie Peddi on the pedestrian walkway. A video showing her with the movie poster went viral, sparking concerns among devotees over restrictions on political and cinematic promotions in Tirumala.



Devotees questioned how the poster was allowed inside despite security checks. The incident comes days after allegations that an individual named Raja Reddy entered the Tirumala temple through the Mahadwaram during the Anivara Asthanam event without official permission. Questions have been raised over vigilance procedures and enforcement of security protocols.

Gold Bangle Stolen from Deceased Woman, Ambulance Driver Arrested

Kadapa, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Kadapa Taluk police arrested ambulance driver Gangadhar Naidu for allegedly stealing a gold bangle from the wrist of a deceased woman

while her body was being transported from Annamayya district. The theft came to light after the deceased woman's son lodged a complaint. During the investigation, police identified Gangadhar Naidu as the accused and recovered the stolen

gold bangle, valued at around 2 lakh. He was arrested near Kadapa Build-up Circle. Police described the act as inhuman, as the accused allegedly targeted the deceased during transportation. Further investigation into the case is underway.

NRAs Extend Support for Tirupati Development Initiatives

New Jersey (USA), July 22 | TPN Bureau

Non-Resident Andhras (NRAs) have unanimously extended their support for the proposed Balaji Railway Division and the Tirumala Tirupati Development Trust (TTDT), describing both initiatives as crucial for the long-term development of Tirupati.

Addressing a special meeting in New Jersey, Balaji Railway Division Sadhana Samithi Convenor Kuppala Giridhar Kumar explained the need to establish the TTDT as the 13th trust under



Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to develop Tirupati into an international-standard city. He also highlighted the importance of creating a dedicated Balaji Railway Division to improve railway connectivity and accelerate the development of

Tirupati and the Rayalaseema region.

After detailed discussions, the NRAs assured full support for both proposals and pledged all possible cooperation. The meeting was attended by Muralikrishna Katari, Ravindra Viswanath, Rajesh Kalasapati, Sridhara Chillara, Suresh Bottu, Prasad Yerneni, Guruprasad Irvichetti, Tulasi Somalaraju, Ravinder Akirala and Usharani Kaveri. Giridhar Kumar said global NRA support would strengthen the campaign for both initiatives.

Thalliki Vandanam Funds Credited to Mothers' Accounts: Royal Raju

Anantapur Rural, July 22 | TPN Bureau

TNTUC leader Royal Raju on Wednesday welcomed the disbursement of financial assistance under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme, stating that the initiative has brought joy to thousands of families across the state. He said the scheme reflects the Alliance government's commitment to supporting education and easing the financial burden on parents.

Royal Raju appreciated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan



Kalyan, and Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitamma for ensuring the successful implementation of the scheme. He said the government continues to balance welfare with development while extending support to students and their families.

Job Mela Poster Unveiled in Tirupati

Tirupati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Wednesday unveiled the poster for a Job Mela scheduled to be held on August 3 at SVCC Degree College, Balaji Colony, under the joint auspices of APSSDC, the Employment Exchange and SEEDAP. Addressing the gathering, he said over 1,029 vacancies across



15 multinational companies in Sri City, Menakuru SEZ, EMC Cluster (Tirupati) and Chennai would be filled through the drive. He urged educated unem-

ployed youth who have completed Class 10, Intermediate, ITI, Diploma, Degree or PG to participate. Candidates can register through the APSSDC portal until August 2, while spot registration will also be available. District Skill Development Officer R. Lokanatham, Placement Officer Suleman Basha, Senior Placement Officer Ganesh and public representatives attended the programme.

Govt Giving Top Priority to Sports Development: TG Bharat Gupta

Kurnool, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing TG Bharat Gupta said the Alliance government is giving top priority to sports development by creating modern infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh. He inaugurated a newly built pickleball court at the outdoor stadium in Kurnool on Wednesday.

KUDA Chairman Somishetti Venkateswarlu, Bondili Corpo-



ration Chairman Vikram Singh, State Haj Committee member Mansoor Ali Khan, Municipal Commissioner Challa Obulesu, DSDO Bhupathi Rao and others attended the programme.

The Minister said a synthetic

walking track and a volleyball court are being developed at the stadium at a cost of 2.5 crore. He credited Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh for promoting sports infrastructure. TG Bharat Gupta assured that additional funds would be allocated, if required, to further upgrade the stadium and said encroachments on the STBC College grounds would also be removed.

Collector Orders Field Verification of Mango Farmers' Details

Chittoor, July 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Sumit Kumar on Wednesday directed Agriculture, Horticulture and Marketing Department officials to conduct field-level verification of every mango farmer to ensure government subsidies reach genuine beneficiaries.

Reviewing mango procurement, e-Crop registration and crop insurance at the Collectorate, he instructed officials to intensify awareness programmes on the impact of El Niño and en-



courage farmers to utilise horticulture subsidies. He also ordered the speedy completion of e-Crop registrations through joint verification by Agriculture, Horticulture and Rythu Seva Kendra staff.

The Collector stressed that physical verification should complement e-Crop records and directed officials to register eligible farmers wherever crops exist but remain unregistered. He also called for extensive awareness on the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme and directed officials to ensure all eligible farmers, including tenant farmers, are enrolled.

District Agriculture Officer Murali, District Horticulture Officer Satish and other officials attended the meeting.

Hanuman Idol Theft in Tirumala Solved Within 15 Hours, Accused Held

Tirumala, July 22 | TPN News

Police solved the theft of the Anjaneya Swamy idol from the Sri Prasannanjaneya Swamy temple on Tirumala's first Ghat Road within 15 hours and took the accused into custody at Ongole Railway Station.

The one-foot-tall Hanuman idol, located near the seventh milestone, was reportedly stolen around 3 AM on Wednesday. The incident was captured on CCTV, following which Tirumala police, TTD vigilance staff and special teams launched a search operation. SP Subbarayudu formed 20 teams and alerted police units across districts.

Police identified the suspect



through CCTV footage and said he was wearing Govinda Mala attire and travelling without luggage. Railway police at Ongole apprehended him based on information shared by Tirupati police. Former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy termed the incident a grave sacrilege and questioned the TTD administration over security lapses.

Paritala Ravindra's Dream Realized with Girls' Junior College Inauguration

Raptadu, July 22 | TPN Bureau:

The long-cherished dream of former Minister Paritala Ravindra was fulfilled with the grand inauguration of the Nasanakota MJP Residential Girls' Junior College. BC Welfare Minister Savitha inaugurated the institution under the leadership of MLA Paritala Sunitha. The Minister distributed sports equipment, uniforms, shoes, and textbooks to 680 students and assured support for new educational institutions in Peruru and Atmakur.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Paritala Sunitha said the college was sanctioned through the efforts of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh, and Minister Savitha, fulfilling Paritala Ravindra's



vision of expanding educational opportunities for girls in the backward Ramagiri region.

Minister Savitha praised Sunita's leadership and alleged that Jagan Reddy had neglected the Education and BC Welfare departments during his tenure. She highlighted the Alliance government's initiatives to strengthen residential education and BC welfare. Later, the Minister visited the Paritala Ravindra Ghat in Venkatapuram and paid tributes.

Kurnool Aims for Top Spot in Cleanliness: Pattabhiram

Kurnool, July 22 | TPN Bureau

State Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram has called for coordinated efforts to make Kurnool the cleanest city in the state. During a review meeting with Municipal Commissioner Challa Obulesu and officials on Wednesday, he inspected bio-mining works at Joharapuram and Gargeyapuram dump yards and reviewed plans for a Waste-to-Energy plant and an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant.

Pattabhiram said the proposed Waste-to-Energy plant at Gargeyapuram will generate 12 MW of electricity using waste from 12 municipalities across Kurnool, Nandyal and Anantapur districts. He also announced plans to provide government-



sponsored breakfast to sanitation workers in collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation and distribute 91 e-autos to Kurnool by August 15.

He directed officials to install GPS devices in all private septic tank vehicles, ensure waste is dumped only at the Devanagar STP and take strict action against illegal dumping. Three new garbage compactors were also sanctioned for Kurnool Municipal Corporation.

Collector Reviews SC/ST Welfare, Calls for Speedy Resolution of Atrocity Cases

Tirupati, July 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector and District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee Chairperson Dr. S. Venkateswar on Wednesday directed officials to expedite pending SC/ST atrocity cases and ensure prompt resolution of issues affecting Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Chairing the second-quarter District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting at the Collectorate, he instructed officials to conduct regular field inspections and observe Civil Rights Day every month.

The Collector reviewed pending decisions and ordered faster disposal of housing pattas, land disputes, allocation of land for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavans and sanction of hous-



es under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He also directed installation of RO plants in schools and welfare hostels, replacement of dilapidated buildings, filling of Anganwadi vacancies and improvement of roads.

MLC Balli Kalyan Chakravarthy, MLAs Koneti Adimulam and Nelavala Vijayasree highlighted key issues concerning SC/ST communities. District Revenue Officer G. Narasimhulu, Additional SP Srinivasulu, RDOs and senior officials attended the meeting.

YSRCP Demands Withdrawal of GO 396, Backs Document Writers' Protest

Kadapa, July 22 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Kadapa District President Ravindranath Reddy and former Deputy Chief Minister Amzath Basha demanded immediate withdrawal of G.O. Ms. No. 396, alleging that it threatens property rights and the livelihood of document writers.

They extended support to the mass relay hunger strike organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Document Writers' Welfare Association at the Balaji Nagar Sub-Registrar Office near ITI Circle in Kadapa.

The leaders said document



writers have been serving people for decades and alleged that the order would encourage privatisation of registration services, affecting public interests. They urged the government to review the GO and assured continued support to document writers. Former Kadapa Mayor and YSRCP CEC member K. Suresh Babu participated in the protest.

Editorial

When Will the Revenue System Be Reformed?

The recurring land-related controversies in Andhra Pradesh once again expose the deep-rooted flaws in the state's revenue administration. As long as officials continue to function under political influence and treat those in power with unquestioning obedience, land records will remain vulnerable to manipulation. The result is a system where influential individuals allegedly acquire, alter, or encroach upon land with ease, while ordinary citizens struggle to protect what is rightfully theirs.

The latest allegations involving the family of former Minister and former Speaker Tammamneni Sitaram have once again brought the issue of land grabbing and forged records into public focus. Similar accusations have also been levelled against former MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy over the alleged encroachment of government land, while former Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy is facing a case relating to alleged encroachment of forest land. These cases suggest that land disputes and record manipulation were not isolated incidents but part of a larger administrative failure during the previous YSRCP regime.

However, it would be unfair to assume that the problem is confined to one political party. Even under the present TDP-led government, reports of land-related irregularities continue to surface in several places. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has repeatedly promised to cleanse the revenue system and restore transparency. Yet, for the common citizen, little appears to have changed. Many landowners discover that their online records have been altered without their knowledge, forcing them to make endless rounds of government offices and political leaders in search of justice.

A revenue system is the foundation of property rights and public trust. If land records can be manipulated through political influence, confidence in governance inevitably erodes. Genuine reform will not come merely through promises or digitisation. It requires an administration free from political interference, strict accountability for officials, and equal treatment for every citizen. Until bureaucrats function independently and elected representatives stop behaving like unquestionable rulers within their constituencies, meaningful reform of the revenue system will remain an elusive goal.

Editor

Outspokenness vs Tight-lipped stance

P Subba Rao



Veteran Journalist

Human beings live between two impulses—the urge to speak and the wisdom to remain silent. Outspokenness is often celebrated as courage, a declaration of identity and presence. Silence, however, is revered as restraint, reflection, and sometimes resistance. The tension between these two is not a flaw but a defining feature of human communication.

Outspokenness as Courage and Risk

Philosophers from Aristotle to Sartre saw speech as the medium of freedom. To speak is to act, to shape reality. Outspokenness becomes a moral duty when injustice prevails. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches mobilized millions, proving that words can be weapons of liberation.

Yet, outspokenness carries risks. Nietzsche warned that endless chatter can drown wisdom, turning speech into noise. In today's social media age, loud voices dominate timelines, but not always with truth. Outspokenness can slip into vanity, where speaking becomes more about visibility than meaning.

Silence as Depth and Defiance

Silence is often mistaken for weakness, but in many traditions, it is revered as strength. In Advaita Vedanta, silence is the highest teaching—Ramana Maharshi conveyed truth without words, suggesting that ultimate reality transcends language. Silence here is fullness, not emptiness.

Silence can also be defiance. Dissidents under oppressive regimes often refused to echo propaganda, and their silence became resistance. Václav Havel's refusal to conform was louder than any speech. Sometimes, not speaking is the most powerful form of protest.

The Balance of Timing

The art lies in knowing when to speak and when to remain silent.

Outspokenness is vital when truth must be defended.

Silence is profound when words would trivialize or distort reality. The Bhagavad Gita captures this balance: Arjuna's silence in despair is broken by Krishna's counsel, reminding us that both speech and silence must serve dharma—righteous action.

Cultural Lessons

Culture shapes the balance. In India, silence often signals respect for hierarchy, while outspokenness reflects community values.

In Japan, silence is considered a virtue, embodying thoughtfulness and harmony. In the West, outspokenness is prized as individuality. Each culture teaches us that neither pole is absolute; context defines meaning.

Modern Society's Tilt

In today's hyperconnected world, outspokenness dominates. Social media rewards immediacy, punishes hesitation, and glorifies loudness. Yet, the tight-lipped minority reminds us of the value of pause. Silence allows reflection, prevents impulsive harm, and restores dignity to dialogue.

The philosophical lesson is clear: speech without silence becomes noise; silence without speech becomes void. Together, they create harmony in human communication.

Takeaway

Outspokenness asserts presence; silence deepens meaning. The wise person knows when to speak and when to remain silent. In a world of endless chatter, silence may be the rarest form of eloquence.

The balance between the two is not just a communication skill—it is a philosophy of life. When you are trying to impress people with words, the more you say, the more common you appear, and the less in control you seem. Even if you are saying something banal, it will seem original if you make it vague and open-ended. Powerful people impress and intimidate by saying less. The more you say, the more likely you are to say something foolish. Once the words are out, you cannot take them back. Keep them under control. Be particularly careful with sarcasm. The momentary satisfaction you gain from your biting words will be outweighed by the price you pay. In conversations, short answers and silences will put others on the defensive, and they will nervously fill the silence with all kinds of comments that will reveal valuable information about them and their weaknesses. Their extra attention to your brief comments adds to your power.



Yoga Beyond the Mat: The Wisdom Hidden in Everyday Life

Swathi Dev



Researcher in Indian Knowledge System

When we think of yoga today, most of us picture mats, stretching postures, or fitness classes. Yet yoga is far older and far deeper than this modern wellness image. Long before it became a global practice, yoga was quietly woven into everyday life—into the words we speak, the gestures we use, and the traditions we inherit. In Telugu households especially, echoes of yogic wisdom appear in familiar expressions and customs, reminding us that yoga is not confined to the mat but lives in the rhythm of daily existence.

Breath and Vital Energies in Language

Consider the phrase often exclaimed in moments of shock or pain: "Naa pai pr lu paine poy yi"—"My upper prana has gone." In yogic philosophy, the body functions through the Pancha Pranas: Prana, Apana, Samana, Udana, and Vyana. A sudden fright can disturb Udana Vayu, producing breathlessness or disorientation. This familiar Telugu expression reflects the yogic understanding of how our vital energies respond to stress.

Parents often express deep affection by saying, "Naa Pan-

cha Pranalu Nee Meedane Pet-tukuni Batukutunnanu"—"My five vital energies rest with you." Here, the Pancha Pranas symbolize life itself. The Bhagavad Gita (4.29) speaks of offering breath into breath, emphasizing the awareness cultivated through pranayama. Even our instinct to take a deep breath when anxious reflects this timeless insight.

Fingers, Elements, and Everyday Gestures

In many Telugu families, simple finger gestures communicate everyday needs. A raised little finger signals the need to urinate, while the little and ring fingers together indicate the need to use the toilet. In yogic mudras, the little finger represents Jala (Water) and the ring finger represents Prithvi (Earth). Whether these gestures originated from yogic symbolism or developed independently, the parallels are striking and reveal how elemental ideas have long been part of Indian culture.

Acts of Care and Seva

Another cherished tradition is gently pressing the calf muscles of elders before bedtime—a gesture of affection and respect. The calves are often



called the body's "second heart" because they help pump blood back to the heart. In yoga and Ayurveda, the lower limbs are associated with Apana Vayu, the grounding force in the body. Beyond its physical benefits, this practice embodies seva—selfless service—and strengthens family bonds. The Bhagavad Gita (6.16-17) reminds us that yoga flourishes

through moderation and balance.

Discipline Through Everyday Exercise

Many of us grew up hearing elders say, "Do ten gunjeellu!" or being asked to hold a wall sit as discipline. What appeared to be punishment also promoted strength, balance, endurance, and mental resilience. These simple practices encouraged

patience, self-control, and steady breathing under discomfort—qualities that lie at the heart of yoga.

Rediscovering Yoga in Daily Life

These examples remind us that yoga is not merely a collection of postures but a way of understanding the body, mind, and our relationships. The Bhagavad Gita (2.50) declares,

"Yoga karmasu kau alam"—"Yoga is excellence in action." That excellence is found not only on the yoga mat but also in the way we breathe through stress, care for our elders, discipline ourselves, and express love through everyday words and actions.

Yoga begins with awareness. When we recognise the wisdom hidden in our language,

gestures, and traditions, we rediscover that yoga is already part of our lives. It is the rhythm of our breath, the tenderness of our actions, the discipline of our routines, and the compassion we extend to others. To live yoga is to realize that the wisdom of centuries is quietly woven into everyday life, waiting only for our awareness to bring it to light.

Bihar Showcases Sahyog Programme

As the Bihar government approaches its first 100 days in office, it is highlighting the Sahyog Programme as one of its major governance initiatives. The programme has been introduced to improve grievance redressal and ensure that people receive government services in a faster and more transparent manner. According to the state government, Sahyog aims to reduce the gap between citizens and the administration by allowing unresolved complaints to reach the highest level of government.

The initiative is designed for

people whose problems remain unresolved despite approaching local authorities. Such citizens can take their grievances directly to the state government, where Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary personally reviews pending cases at the Sahyog Hall in the Bihar Secretariat in Patna. After hearing the complaints, he directs the concerned departments to take immediate action and ensure timely resolution.

The grievance redressal process begins at the village level. On the first and third Tuesday of every month, Sahyog camps are organised in panchayats

across the state. Government officials visit villages, receive applications and listen to public grievances. Complaints that cannot be resolved locally are forwarded to the state government for further action.

On the second Tuesday of every month, or on the 14th, the Chief Minister reviews these pending cases and issues directions to the concerned departments. Officials say the programme is intended to reduce repeated visits by citizens to government offices and make the administration more accountable. The Sahyog Programme covers a wide range

of public service issues. These include land mutation, land measurement disputes, ration card applications, benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, caste and income certificates, electricity billing problems and social security pension matters. The government has instructed departments to resolve complaints received under the programme within 30 days.

To improve transparency and efficiency, the government has introduced a digital Sahyog portal that allows applications to be tracked in real time. Officials have also been direct-

ed not to reject applications merely because documents are incomplete. Instead, they have been asked to guide applicants in completing the required formalities. The government has warned that officials who fail to handle complaints responsibly could face disciplinary action.

Apart from the Sahyog Programme, the Bihar government has highlighted several welfare measures taken during its first 100 days. It said more than Rs 1,423 crore has been transferred directly to nearly 98 lakh beneficiaries under social security pension



schemes for senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities. The administration has also promised to ensure pension payments are made by the 10th of every month. The government is also expanding the Chief Minister Solar Scheme, under which eligible households can receive bene-

fits, including up to 125 units of free electricity through rooftop solar installations. As it nears the 100-day milestone, the Bihar government says the Sahyog Programme reflects its commitment to responsive governance, transparency and quicker delivery of public services.

Opposition Seeks Minister's Resignation Before NEET Debate

The Opposition on Wednesday reiterated its demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan before any discussion on the alleged NEET paper leak in Parliament, even as the Centre said it was fully prepared to debate the issue.

The standoff led to heated exchanges in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session. Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition would not participate in a discussion on the NEET issue unless the Education Minister stepped down.



"For a fair discussion on NEET, there will be no debate until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns," Kharge said while addressing the House.

Responding to the demand, Leader of the House and Union Minister JP Nadda said the government had never avoided discussing the matter. He stated that the Centre was ready to debate the NEET paper leak and any other issue raised by the Opposition.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also stressed that the government had been willing to discuss the issue since the beginning of the Monsoon Session. He rejected allegations that the Centre was avoiding a debate.

"If you are looking for excuses to not have a discussion, then it is not right. The government is 100 per cent ready for a discussion on the NEET paper leak," Rijiju said.

He added that the government's willingness had been conveyed to Congress leaders and representatives of other political parties. According to Rijiju, the schedule and format of the discussion would be decided by the Chair after consultations with all parties.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also backed the Opposition's stand. He said the demand of students protesting over the issue was that the Education Minister should resign before any discussion takes place.

"The students have demanded that the resignation come first, followed by a discussion. An assurance must be given that the resignation will take place," Akhilesh Yadav said. The NEET controversy has triggered widespread protests across the country in recent weeks. Demonstrations gained momentum

after activist Sonam Wangchuk joined the agitation with a prolonged hunger strike demanding accountability over the alleged paper leak. He was later shifted to a hospital by police.

Earlier this week, thousands of protesters gathered in New Delhi demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. Police used tear gas to stop protesters marching towards Parliament, leading to clashes in which several protesters and police personnel were injured.

The continuing deadlock between the government and the Opposition over the minister's resignation has prevented a discussion on the issue in Parliament. While the Centre maintains it is ready for a debate, Opposition parties insist that the Education Minister must resign first before any meaningful discussion can take place.

Wangchuk Sets Condition to End Fast

Social activist Sonam Wangchuk has said he is prepared to end his hunger strike if the Centre gives a clear assurance that no legal action will be taken against students who participated in protests over the alleged NEET paper leak. Without such a commitment, he said he would have no option but to continue his fast indefinitely.

In a letter addressed to Union Ministers J.P. Nadda and Jitendra Singh, Wangchuk requested the government to protect students from any punitive or retaliatory action. He said the young protesters were only demanding transparency, accountability and fairness in the country's education system.

"I respectfully request an unequivocal assurance from the government that none of the young protesters will face legal action for participating in this movement," Wangchuk said in his letter.

The activist is currently on the 25th day of his hunger strike. He was shifted from the protest site at Jantar Mantar to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after police removed him from the demonstration last week. Despite receiving medical care, Wangchuk has refused to end his fast.

He thanked the two Union ministers for visiting him at the hospital and said they had assured him that the government would consider compensation for the families of NEET aspirants who allegedly died by suicide following the paper leak controversy. According to Wangchuk, the ministers also indicated that the issue could be discussed in Parliament, including demands related to accountability.



However, Wangchuk stressed that protecting students from legal consequences remained his foremost concern. He said more than 65 Members of Parliament had urged him to call off his fast, and while he wished to return to his educational work, he could not do so without securing the safety of the students who had joined the movement. He also described Monday's march to Parliament as peaceful and alleged that excessive force had been used against protesters. Wangchuk appealed to the government to ensure that police do not take further action against students participating in the demonstrations.

The hunger strike began on June 28 as part of the nationwide campaign seeking accountability over the NEET paper leak controversy. The issue has sparked widespread protests across the country, with students and opposition parties demanding a thorough investigation and action against those responsible.

Wangchuk reiterated that his protest is not driven by personal demands but by concern for students and the future of India's education system. He said he would immediately end his fast if the government publicly assures that no participant in the movement will face legal or disciplinary action.

Lalit Modi Eyes India Return After Tribunal Relief

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi has announced that he plans to return to India by the end of 2026 or early next year after receiving major relief from the Appellate Tribunal in the long-running 2009 IPL South Africa Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case.

The tribunal recently set aside most of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) findings and penalties against Lalit Modi, bringing an important chapter in his 16-year legal battle to a close. Modi, who has been living abroad since leaving India in 2010, welcomed the verdict and said it had vindicated his long-held position that he had done nothing wrong.

In a video message, Modi expressed happiness over the tribunal's decision, saying he had always maintained that every action taken during the 2009 IPL season was in the best interests of Indian cricket and the tournament. He said he was looking forward to returning home after spending more than a decade outside the country.

"I have fought this battle for 16 years. Everything I have been saying has now emerged as the truth. I am looking forward to coming back to India, probably by the end of this year or early next year," Modi said. He added that he plans to return after the birth of his grandson, expected later this year.

The case relates to the 2009 IPL season, which was shifted to South Africa because it coincided with the Lok Sabha elections in India. The Enforcement Directorate had alleged that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) violated FEMA rules while transferring funds abroad for organising the tournament.

In 2018, the ED imposed penalties



on the BCCI, Lalit Modi, former BCCI president N. Srinivasan, M.P. Pandove, the State Bank of India and its former chief manager A.K. Nazeer Khan over the alleged violations.

However, the Appellate Tribunal partly allowed the appeals filed against the ED order. While it upheld two findings against the BCCI regarding excess remittance of funds and delayed repatriation of ticket sale proceeds, it reduced the penalty on the cricket board from Rs 4 crore to Rs 1 crore.

The tribunal also completely set aside the penalty imposed on Lalit Modi concerning delayed repatriation of funds. It observed that he had already been suspended as IPL commissioner when the money was brought back to India and therefore

could not be held responsible for the delay.

In its 105-page judgment, the tribunal noted that the penalty imposed on Modi was "wholly erroneous" and deserved to be overturned.

Reacting to the verdict, Modi said the judgment was not only a personal victory but also an affirmation of due process and the rule of law. He said allegations must ultimately be tested through evidence and legal scrutiny rather than public perception.

The tribunal's ruling marks a significant development in one of Indian cricket's most closely watched legal disputes. While the judgment has cleared Lalit Modi of key allegations in the FEMA case, it also paves the way for his planned return to India after nearly 16 years abroad.

Channi Rift Puts Congress Under Pressure

The Congress party in Punjab is facing renewed internal tensions as differences between former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and the party leadership continue to draw political attention. The disagreement over retaining Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as Punjab Congress Committee (PCC) president has triggered speculation about the party's unity ahead of future electoral battles.

Channi and his supporters had reportedly urged the Congress high command to appoint a new state president, arguing that broader representation within the party was necessary. However, the leadership decided to continue with Raja Warring, a move seen as an attempt to maintain support among the influential Jat Sikh community, which accounts for a significant share of Punjab's electorate.

Although Channi publicly stated that the party high command's decision would be respected and reiterated his loyalty to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, political observers believe the issue may not be fully settled. They argue that the differences could resurface during candidate selection for future elections, potentially deepening factionalism within the state unit.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quick to respond to the developments. Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon publicly invited Channi to join the party, saying he would receive respect and an opportunity to represent all communities. While Channi has repeatedly denied any plans to leave the Congress, the BJP's invitation reflects its interest in expanding its influence by attracting prominent opposition leaders.

Political analysts believe Channi's



political importance extends beyond his role as a former chief minister. As Punjab's first Dalit Chief Minister, he continues to enjoy considerable support among Dalit voters, particularly in the Doaba region, where the community forms a substantial part of the electorate. His victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by a margin of over 1.75 lakh votes further reinforced his political standing.

Experts suggest that if Channi were to leave the Congress, it could significantly weaken the party's organisational strength and electoral prospects in Punjab. Besides his own support base, he is backed by several senior Congress leaders, making him an influential figure within the state unit.

During his tenure as Chief Minis-

ter, Channi introduced several welfare initiatives aimed at Dalits and economically weaker sections, including loan waivers, electricity bill relief and measures related to property rights. These initiatives continue to contribute to his popularity among sections of the electorate.

Despite the ongoing speculation, Channi has maintained that he remains committed to the Congress. However, the leadership dispute has highlighted underlying divisions within the party. Whether the Congress succeeds in resolving these internal differences could play a crucial role in shaping Punjab's political landscape and may also determine whether rival parties, particularly the BJP, gain an opportunity to strengthen their position in the state.

Trump Warns Iran Over Hormuz Attacks

US President Donald Trump has issued a stern warning to Iran, declaring that the United States will carry out military strikes on Iranian infrastructure if Tehran targets ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz. The statement comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, where recent military confrontations have raised fears of a wider regional conflict.

In a post on X, Trump said the United States would retaliate each time Iran attacks a ship in the Strait of Hormuz. He stated that the mode of at-

tack—whether by missile, rocket, drone or any other weapon—would make no difference to the US response.

"From this point forward, any time the Islamic Republic of Iran shoots at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, whether it be by Missile, Rocket, Drone, or any other device or weapon, the United States will bomb and destroy one bridge or power plant, including those located next to, or in, the capital city of Tehran," Trump wrote.

The warning represents one of the strongest public threats issued by the US President

against Iran in recent months. It reflects Washington's determination to prevent any disruption to maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping lanes.

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It serves as a vital route for global energy supplies, with nearly a fifth of the world's oil exports transported through the narrow waterway. Any military action or disruption in the region can significantly affect international oil

prices, global trade and energy security.

Trump's latest remarks came a day after he said the United States was "not finished" with its military campaign against Iran. He claimed that the recent conflict had caused severe damage to Iran's infrastructure and military capabilities.

"If we left right now, it would take Iran 20 to 25 years to rebuild," Trump said, adding that the United States had no immediate plans to end its operations.

The comments have drawn international attention, with

analysts warning that such rhetoric could further escalate tensions between the two countries. Diplomatic observers say any military exchange involving the Strait of Hormuz could have serious regional and global consequences due to its importance for international shipping.

Iran has not immediately responded to Trump's latest statement. However, previous confrontations between Washington and Tehran have often resulted in increased military deployments and heightened security measures in the Gulf



region.

As tensions continue to rise, governments and global markets are closely monitoring the situation. Any disruption to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz could impact energy supplies, push up crude oil prices

and increase geopolitical uncertainty. The latest exchange of warnings has once again highlighted the fragile security situation in the Middle East and the risk of further escalation between the United States and Iran.

US-India Trade Deal Likely In 3-4 Months

A long-awaited bilateral trade agreement between the United States and India could be signed within the next three to four months, according to a senior US official, signalling that negotiations between the two countries are nearing completion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Manila, the official said the agreement was virtually ready and that both sides had largely completed negotiations. "The deal is there. We literally have the paper," the official said, adding that only a few procedural issues remain before the agreement can be finalised.

According to the official, the primary reason for the delay is not any unresolved differences between Washington and New Delhi but the ongoing Section 301 trade investigations being conducted by the United States. Section 301 of the US Trade Act allows Washington to investigate unfair trade practices by foreign countries and impose tariffs or other trade measures if necessary.

One of the Section 301 investigations, covering nearly 60 countries, is expected to conclude within the next week. Once that and other pending investigations are completed, the US administration expects to make progress not only with India but also with several other trading partners.

When asked about the timeline for signing the agreement, the official expressed optimism that it could happen within the next three to four



months.

India and the United States have been negotiating the trade pact for several years as part of broader efforts to strengthen economic and strategic ties. The proposed agreement aims to improve market access for businesses, reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and promote greater investment and trade between the two countries.

Despite the positive developments, some trade-related concerns remain. The United States has already proposed tariffs of up to 12.5 percent on imports from several countries, including India, over allegations that they failed to prevent trade in goods produced using forced labour. These proposals remain under review as part of the ongoing investigations.

Another issue that could affect bilateral trade is the US administration's proposed tariff policy on imported generic medicines. President Donald Trump recently announced

that generic drugs imported into the United States would remain exempt from tariffs for two years beginning August 1. After that period, imports would face tariffs of 100 percent for one year, followed by 200 percent thereafter.

The proposed measure could have significant implications for India's pharmaceutical industry, which is one of the world's largest suppliers of generic medicines. The United States is India's biggest export market for pharmaceuticals, accounting for nearly \$9.7 billion, or around 38 percent, of the country's total pharmaceutical exports valued at \$25.8 billion in 2025.

If concluded as expected, the trade agreement would mark a major milestone in US-India economic relations, opening new opportunities for businesses in both countries while strengthening one of the world's fastest-growing strategic partnerships.

US, Saudi Near Nuclear Deal



The United States is set to announce a landmark civilian nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia, a move that could significantly strengthen strategic ties between the two countries while reshaping the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The proposed agreement comes at a time of heightened tensions in the region, with Washington engaged in an ongoing conflict with Iran over concerns surrounding Tehran's nuclear programme.

According to media reports, the Trump administration is expected to formally unveil the agreement on Wednesday. Officials have described it as a major economic and strategic initiative that could generate billions of dollars for the US nuclear industry while helping Saudi Arabia establish its long-planned civilian nuclear energy programme.

Reports indicate that the proposed 30-year agreement may allow American companies to construct a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia. This aspect of the deal has drawn criticism from several US lawmakers and Israeli officials, who fear that enrichment technology

could eventually be diverted for military purposes despite assurances that the programme is intended solely for peaceful energy generation.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly maintained that it has the right to develop civilian nuclear technology to diversify its energy resources and reduce dependence on oil. Riyadh insists the programme will comply with international safeguards and will be used only for electricity generation and scientific research.

The agreement is expected to be submitted to the US Congress in the coming days, although reports suggest congressional approval will not be required for it to take effect.

For years, Washington has sought to include civilian nuclear cooperation as part of a broader strategic package involving closer security ties with Saudi Arabia, possible defence agreements and efforts to normalise relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. However, the latest proposal appears to move ahead despite the absence of a comprehensive regional diplomatic package.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio declined to officially confirm the

agreement while attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila but stressed that the United States would not enter into any arrangement that could contribute to nuclear weapons proliferation.

The timing of the deal is particularly significant as tensions between the United States and Iran continue to rise. Negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme remain stalled, while military confrontations have heightened fears of a wider regional conflict. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have recently threatened to blockade Saudi ports, raising concerns about disruptions to global energy supplies.

Analysts believe the proposed agreement is aimed at reinforcing America's long-term strategic presence in the Gulf while supporting one of its closest regional allies. If finalised, the deal could strengthen Saudi Arabia's civilian energy infrastructure and deepen bilateral cooperation, but it is also likely to fuel debate over nuclear proliferation risks and regional security at a time when the Middle East remains highly volatile.

Bulgaria Approves US Use of Bezmer Air Base for Middle East Support

Bulgaria's Parliament has approved a government proposal allowing the United States military to use the Bezmer Air Base to support American operations in the Middle East, marking a significant development in NATO cooperation amid heightened regional tensions involving Iran.

The proposal was passed on Wednesday with a decisive 136-13 vote, while two lawmakers abstained. Under the approval, up to eight US KC-135 aerial refuelling aircraft, around 250 military personnel and related support equipment will be stationed at the Bezmer Air Base from July 24 until October 1. The deployment will not require any additional parliamentary approvals during this period.

Bezmer Air Base, located about 260 kilometres southeast of Bulgaria's capital Sofia, operates as a joint-use military facility under a 2006 defence cooperation agreement between Bulgaria and the United States. Although the agreement permits US access to the base, any new operational purpose requires the approval of the Bulgarian Parliament.

The deployment follows a request from the US Embassy in Bulgaria. While Washington has not officially commented on the latest decision, the move comes as the United States continues military operations and logistical activities linked to the ongoing security situation in the Middle East.

The proposal sparked debate within Bulgaria, with some lawmakers expressing concern that permitting the deployment could draw the coun-



try into the escalating conflict involving Iran. Responding to those concerns, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev stressed that the country would not allow its territory to be used for combat missions.

Speaking ahead of the parliamentary vote, Radev said it was "categorically out of the question" for military operations in the Middle East to be launched from Bulgarian soil. He clarified that the deployment was strictly intended to support logistical operations, particularly aerial refuelling missions conducted outside Bulgarian airspace.

Defence Minister Dimitar Stoyanov also sought to reassure lawmakers, stating that the government had secured guarantees from the United States to minimise any risks to Bulgaria's national security. He said the deployment had been care-

fully coordinated within NATO's allied framework and would not involve Bulgaria directly in any military conflict.

"The aircraft will be used exclusively for logistical support and refuelling operations," Stoyanov said, adding that all necessary security measures had been implemented before approving the deployment.

The decision reflects Bulgaria's continued commitment to its strategic partnership with the United States and its obligations as a NATO member, while attempting to balance domestic concerns about becoming entangled in the ongoing Middle East crisis. The temporary deployment is expected to strengthen logistical capabilities for US operations without altering Bulgaria's declared position of avoiding direct involvement in regional hostilities.

15 Injured in Rotterdam Tram Crash



At least 15 people were injured, including one seriously, after two trams collided on Rotterdam's iconic Erasmus Bridge on Wednesday, prompting a large-scale emergency response and the closure of one of the Dutch city's busiest transport links.

The accident occurred on the Erasmus Bridge, a major landmark spanning the Maas River and a vital route connecting different parts of Rotterdam. Authorities said one tram crashed into the rear of another while both were travelling across the bridge, causing significant damage to the vehicles and scattering debris across the roadway.

Webcam footage from the bridge captured the moment of impact, showing the trailing tram striking the one ahead with considerable force. The collision damaged both trams, while fragments of metal and glass were seen flying across the bridge, temporarily bringing traffic to a standstill.

Emergency services, including ambulances, firefighters and police, rushed to the scene within minutes

of the accident. Several injured passengers were evacuated using stretchers and wheelchairs as medical teams provided immediate treatment on the bridge before transporting the victims to nearby hospitals.

Officials confirmed that one person sustained serious injuries, while the remaining victims suffered minor to moderate injuries. Authorities have not yet released details about the identities of those injured or the circumstances leading to the collision.

Rotterdam authorities initially reported that 18 people had been hurt but later revised the figure to 15 after further assessments. The updated casualty count was also confirmed by Dutch public broadcaster NOS. Following the accident, officials closed the Erasmus Bridge to all traffic in both directions to allow emergency crews to assist victims, clear damaged vehicles and begin an investigation into the cause of the collision. Public transport services across the affected route were also suspended, leading to significant disruption during peak travel

hours. The Erasmus Bridge is one of Rotterdam's most recognisable landmarks and serves as a critical transport corridor for trams, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Any disruption on the bridge typically has a widespread impact on movement across the city.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine what caused the rear-end collision. Investigators are expected to examine operational records, signalling systems, tram speed data and statements from the drivers and witnesses.

The incident has raised fresh concerns about tram safety in one of Europe's busiest urban transport networks. Officials said restoring normal traffic on the bridge will depend on the completion of rescue operations, damage assessment and clearance work.

Further updates are expected once investigators establish the cause of the crash and authorities complete their assessment of the damaged infrastructure and rolling stock.



Eternal Shares Recover After Q1 Results

Shares of Eternal rebounded during Wednesday's trading session after the company announced its financial results for the first quarter of FY27 and addressed growing competition in the quick commerce and food delivery space. Despite reporting lower-than-expected profits, the stock recovered from early losses and ended the session in positive territory as investors responded to the company's confident outlook.

The Gurugram-based company, which operates the food delivery platform Zomato, reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 92 crore for the quarter ended June 30. Although the figure fell short of market expectations, investor sentiment improved after the company stated that competition from emerging platforms has had only a limited impact on its business so far.

Eternal specifically addressed concerns regarding Swiggy's Toing and Rapido's Ownly, both of which have intensified competition in the food delivery segment. According to the company, these platforms currently offer the same restaurant network, similar or even longer delivery times, and lower menu prices that are largely supported by reduced commissions and delivery charges.

The company believes that such pricing strategies may not be sustainable over the long term, as they are driven mainly by discounts rather than creating a fundamentally different customer experience. It also noted that no significant new use case has emerged from these competing platforms, suggesting that customer interest remains largely price-driven.

Investor confidence was further supported by Eternal's continued focus on expanding its in-house food delivery initiative, Bistro. The company indicated that it remains committed to strengthening its market position by improving customer experience and operational efficiency rather than engaging in aggressive price wars.

Market experts believe the stock continues to attract investor attention despite short-term pressure on earnings. Technical analysts suggest that the stock could witness fresh buying interest if it manages to break decisively above the Rs 307 level. On the downside, Rs 280 is considered an important support level that traders are expected to watch closely.

The company's latest commentary has eased some concerns over rising competition, although analysts continue to monitor profitability and growth trends in the highly competitive online food delivery market. Future performance will depend on Eternal's ability to maintain customer loyalty, improve margins and successfully scale its newer business initiatives.

With competition intensifying across the sector, investors are expected to keep a close watch on the company's strategy and quarterly performance. While the latest earnings fell short of expectations, the positive management outlook helped the stock recover, reflecting continued confidence in Eternal's long-term growth prospects.

Sagility India reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, posting healthy growth in profit and revenue. However, despite the impressive earnings, the company's shares slipped over one percent during Wednesday's trading session as investors reacted cautiously to the results and a revised target price from a brokerage firm.

The stock was trading at Rs 41.32 on the NSE, down 1.24 percent during the day, even as the company delivered double-digit growth across key financial metrics.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, Sagility India reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 217 crore, registering a 46 percent increase compared to Rs 149 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The strong growth reflected improved operational performance and continued business expansion.

Revenue from operations also recorded a significant rise, increasing 27.6 percent year-on-year to Rs 1,963 crore from Rs 1,539 crore in the same period last year. The company's healthy revenue growth was supported by higher business volumes and strong demand for its healthcare-focused business process management services.

Operating performance remained robust as well. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew 26.6 percent to Rs 438 crore, compared to Rs 346 crore a year ago. However, the EBITDA margin narrowed slightly to 22.3 percent from 23 percent in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, indicating a modest increase in operating costs.

During the quarter, Sagility strengthened its client portfolio by adding 27 new customers, including CareSeed. With these additions, the company's total client base increased to 109, highlighting its continued success in expanding business relationships and securing new contracts.

Despite the encouraging quarterly performance, market sentiment remained cautious. Brokerage firm Nomura retained its 'Buy' rating on the stock but reduced its target price to Rs 52, prompting some investors to book profits after the recent rally.

Analysts believe the company's strong earnings and steady client additions underline its long-term growth potential. However, they also note that investors will closely monitor future margin trends, client growth and the broader demand environment for healthcare outsourcing services.

Sagility India continues to benefit from rising demand for technology-enabled healthcare solutions and business process management services. While the stock witnessed short-term weakness after the earnings announcement, the company's solid financial performance and expanding customer base suggest that its long-term growth outlook remains positive.

Sensex Drops 715 Points, Nifty Slips Below 24,000

Indian stock markets extended their losing streak for the third consecutive session on Wednesday, with benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid weak investor sentiment. Rising crude oil prices, a weakening rupee and profit booking in heavyweight stocks triggered broad-based selling across sectors, dragging the Sensex and Nifty to significant losses.

The BSE Sensex closed 715.06 points, or 0.92 percent, lower at 76,755.05, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 191.45 points, or 0.79 percent, to settle at 23,996.25, slipping below the crucial 24,000 mark. Markets remained under pressure throughout the trading session despite a slight recovery towards the close.

The weakness was not limited to benchmark indices. Broader markets also witnessed heavy selling, with the Nifty Midcap 100 declining around one percent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 falling 1.5 percent, indicating cautious investor sentiment across the board.

Sector-wise, most indices ended in the red. Media and realty stocks emerged as the worst performers, registering losses of more than 2.5 percent. Banking, IT, pharmaceutical, private bank, PSU bank, infrastructure, consumer durable, metal, oil and gas, and energy stocks also ended lower. However, FMCG stocks managed to outperform the broader market, while the auto sector also recorded modest gains.

Among the Nifty stocks, InterGlobe Aviation, Jio Financial Services, Infosys, State Bank of India and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories were among the major losers. On the positive side, Bajaj Auto led the gainers after a strong rally, followed by Nestle India, Tata Consumer Products, Power Grid Corporation and ONGC.

The Indian rupee also weakened during the day, closing at 96.57 against the US dollar, adding to concerns over foreign fund flows and increasing import costs. Rising global crude oil prices further dampened market sentiment as higher energy costs could put pressure on inflation and corporate earnings.

Despite the weak overall market, a few individual stocks attracted buying interest after posting strong quarterly earnings. Emami Paper surged after reporting a sharp rise in first-quarter profit, while Cyient DLM and TVS Holdings also gained on the back of encouraging financial results. On the other hand, Bandhan Bank witnessed a steep decline despite reporting higher profits, reflecting cautious investor expectations.

Market analysts believe the near-term outlook remains weak as benchmark indices have slipped below key technical support levels. According to experts, the Nifty could face further downside if it remains below the 24,100 level, while a sustained move above that mark may help revive positive momentum. Investors are expected to remain cautious in the coming sessions as they closely monitor global trends, crude oil prices, currency movements and the ongoing corporate earnings season.



Emami Paper Shares Jump 20% After Strong Q1 Results

Shares of Emami Paper Mills witnessed a sharp rally on Wednesday, hitting the 20 percent upper circuit after the company reported an impressive financial performance for the first quarter of FY27. The strong earnings boosted investor confidence and also lifted sentiment across the paper sector, with several peer companies recording notable gains during the trading session.

The company's stock closed at Rs 118.63 on the NSE after surging 20 percent, reflecting strong buying interest from investors following the quarterly results.

Emami Paper Mills reported a significant rise in its net profit for the June quarter. The company's profit increased more than six times to Rs 38.61 crore, compared to Rs 6.31 crore recorded during the same period of the previous financial year. The sharp improvement in profitability highlighted the company's stronger operational performance and better financial health.

Revenue also showed healthy growth during the quarter. The company's revenue from operations rose 21.84 percent year-on-year to Rs 560.37 crore, compared to Rs 461.36 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The increase in revenue, coupled with higher profitability, strengthened market confidence in the company's growth prospects. The upbeat earnings had a positive impact on other paper stocks as well. Investors extended buying to companies in the same sector, leading to gains in shares of Huhtamaki India and JK Paper.

Market participants viewed Emami Paper's strong results as a positive indicator for the paper industry's overall performance, triggering a broader rally in the segment.

The sharp movement in paper stocks came despite a weak overall market, where benchmark indices ended lower due to profit booking, rising crude oil prices and concerns over global economic conditions. While most sectors remained under pressure, the paper industry stood out as one of the few areas attracting strong investor interest.

Analysts believe that companies delivering robust earnings continue to receive positive market attention despite broader volatility. Strong revenue growth, improved profitability and better operational efficiency remain key factors influencing investor decisions during the ongoing earnings season.

The rally in Emami Paper Mills also reflects the market's focus on fundamentally strong companies capable of delivering consistent financial growth. Investors are expected to closely monitor upcoming quarterly results from other paper manufacturers to assess whether the positive momentum can continue across the sector.

With strong first-quarter numbers and renewed investor confidence, Emami Paper Mills has emerged as one of the standout performers in the latest earnings season, while the broader paper sector has also received a boost from the company's encouraging financial performance.

IndiaMART Shares Fall Despite Strong Q1 Earnings

Shares of IndiaMART InterMesh declined more than 5 percent on Wednesday after the company announced its first-quarter financial results for FY27. Although the online B2B marketplace reported healthy growth in profit and revenue, investors remained concerned over the continued decline in its paid supplier base, leading to selling pressure on the stock.

The company's shares fell to around Rs 1,820 during the trading session, extending their weak performance for the year. So far in 2026, IndiaMART's stock has declined nearly 17 percent, underperforming the broader market.

For the quarter ended June 30, IndiaMART reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 172 crore, registering a year-on-year growth of 12.2 percent. Revenue from operations also increased 11.4 percent to Rs 414.4 crore, reflecting steady demand for the company's digital business services.

The company's operating performance also remained positive. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) rose 9.7 percent to Rs 146.5 crore. However, the EBITDA margin slipped slightly to 35 percent from 36 percent in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, indicating a marginal increase in operating costs. Despite the encouraging financial performance, market participants focused on the continued decline in the number of paying suppliers, which remains a key growth indicator for the company. Analysts believe that a shrinking subscriber base could affect future revenue growth if the trend continues over the coming quarters.

IndiaMART said its revenue growth during the quarter was mainly driven by improved realisation from existing paying suppliers rather than an increase in subscriber numbers. Customer collections from its standalone business grew 8 percent year-on-year to Rs 402 crore, while deferred revenue increased 14 percent to Rs 1,858 crore, reflecting healthy advance collections.

The company also reported strong user activity on its platform. During the June quarter, it recorded around 26 million unique business enquiries, while supplier storefronts increased 5 percent year-on-year to 8.8 million. However, the total number of paying suppliers stood at 218,000 at the end of the quarter, continuing a trend that has drawn attention from brokerages.

Several analysts maintained a cautious outlook despite the earnings beat, highlighting that sustained growth in paid subscribers remains essential for long-term business expansion. Investors are expected to closely monitor whether the company can reverse the decline in its subscriber base while maintaining strong financial performance.

Although IndiaMART continues to deliver steady revenue and profit growth, the market's reaction indicates that future subscriber growth will remain the key factor influencing investor confidence and the company's stock performance in the coming quarters.



Adani Green Profit Rises 19% in Q1, Stock Slips



Adani Green Energy Ltd reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, posting healthy growth in profit, revenue and operating earnings. Despite the encouraging quarterly numbers, the company's shares declined during Wednesday's trading session as investors booked profits after recent gains.

The renewable energy major reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 983 crore for the quarter ended June 30, registering a year-on-year growth of 19.3 percent. The improved performance was driven by higher revenue and stronger operational efficiency, reflecting continued growth in the company's renewable energy business. Revenue from operations rose 16.6 percent to Rs 4,431 crore during the June quarter, compared with Rs 3,800 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The steady increase in revenue highlights the company's expanding power generation capacity and improved business performance.

Operating profit also witnessed robust growth during the quarter. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) climbed 31 percent year-on-year to Rs 3,985 crore from Rs 3,042 crore recorded a year earlier. The company's EBITDA margin improved significantly to 90 percent, compared to 80 percent in the same quarter last year, indicating better operational efficiency and stronger profitability.

While the consolidated financial results remained positive, the standalone business reported a quarterly loss of Rs 51 crore due to higher expenses. At the same time, standalone revenue from operations increased 29 percent, reaching Rs 6,472 crore, reflecting continued growth in the company's core business activities despite the higher cost burden. Despite reporting a strong set of earnings, the company's stock came under pressure during the trading session. Market participants attributed the decline to profit booking and cautious investor sentiment, even as the financial performance remained largely in line with expectations.

Adani Green Energy continues to be one of India's leading renewable energy companies, with a strong focus on expanding its solar and wind power portfolio. The company has been steadily increasing its installed capacity while supporting the country's clean energy transition. Analysts believe the healthy growth in revenue, profit and operating margins demonstrates the company's strong business fundamentals. However, investors are expected to keep a close watch on future capacity additions, project execution and overall market conditions, which could influence the stock's performance in the coming quarters.

The latest quarterly results reinforce Adani Green Energy's growth trajectory, even though short-term movements in the share price reflected broader market sentiment rather than the company's underlying financial performance.

Tata Communications Shares Fall After Q1 Profit Drops

Shares of Tata Communications declined by as much as 6 percent on Wednesday after the company reported a sharp fall in its net profit for the first quarter of FY27. While the company posted healthy revenue growth during the quarter, a decline in earnings and the impact of one-time costs weighed on investor sentiment.

The Tata Group company's stock came under selling pressure after it announced that its net profit for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, had fallen 29 percent compared to the same period last year. The weaker bottom line prompted investors to book profits despite continued growth in the company's core business. Revenue from operations, however, showed steady improvement. Tata Communications reported revenue of Rs 6,583 crore for the June quarter, marking a 10 percent increase from Rs 5,960 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The growth reflects stable demand across the company's digital infrastructure and communication services business. The company said its quarterly earnings were affected by a one-time cost of Rs 106 crore, which had an impact on overall profitability.

In a regulatory filing, Tata Communications explained that the implementation of four new Labour Codes by the Government of India led to changes in the definition of "wages," requiring the company to reassess employee benefit obligations such as gratuity and long-term compensated absences.

Earlier, the company had made a provision of Rs 60.58 crore based on the revised wage definition. During the June quarter, after further discussions with experts and a fresh actuarial assessment, Tata Communications revised its estimates and reversed Rs 18.52 crore of the earlier provision. Despite this adjustment, the one-time costs continued to affect the company's quarterly profit.

Market participants reacted cautiously to the earnings announcement, focusing more on the decline in net profit than the company's revenue growth. The stock's fall also reflected broader market weakness, as benchmark indices ended lower amid profit booking and global concerns.

Analysts believe Tata Communications continues to maintain strong business fundamentals, supported by steady revenue growth and expanding digital services. However, they note that investors will closely monitor the company's profitability and margin trends in the coming quarters, particularly after the impact of exceptional expenses subsides.

Although the stock witnessed a sharp decline following the quarterly results, the company's continued revenue growth indicates resilience in its core operations. Investors are expected to watch future earnings closely to assess whether profitability improves as one-time costs reduce and operational performance strengthens further.



India Eye Winning Start Against Zimbabwe

India will be aiming to bounce back from a disappointing run in T20 internationals when they take on Zimbabwe in the first match of the three-match T20I series in Harare on Thursday. The series offers skipper Shreyas Iyer an opportunity to register his first victory as India's T20 captain and help the young side regain confidence after recent setbacks.

Iyer has endured a difficult start to his captaincy, with India losing six of his first seven T20Is, including series defeats

against Ireland and England. A successful tour of Zimbabwe is expected, but another poor performance could raise fresh questions about the team's direction ahead of future assignments. The Indian squad features several young players, with 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi attracting plenty of attention. The teenage opener is expected to partner Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order, while Sanju Samson has not been included

in the squad. Harare holds special memories for both openers. Abhishek Sharma made his international debut at the venue and later scored his maiden T20I century there. Earlier this year, Sooryavanshi also produced a memorable hundred on the same ground during the Under-19 World Cup final, making him one of the players to watch in the series. The team will be guided by VVS Laxman, who has taken charge as stand-in head coach

in the absence of Gautam Gambhir. Unlike Gambhir's aggressive approach, Laxman is expected to focus on stability while giving youngsters opportunities to establish themselves. India's batting order remains a key talking point. Vice-captain Tilak Varma has struggled in the middle order, while Ishan Kishan is likely to continue at No. 3. Rinku Singh is seen as a strong finisher, but the team management will need to strike the right balance in the batting

lineup. The all-rounder's slot is another area of interest, with Shivam Dube, Harsh Dube and Suryansh Shedge competing for places. Their performances could play an important role in determining the team's balance. Zimbabwe, led by experienced all-rounder Sikandar Raza, are expected to provide a tough challenge despite being underdogs. Fast bowlers Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava have the pace and bounce to trouble India's young batting



unit on the lively Harare pitch. India's pace attack is likely to feature Prince Yadav and Mayank Yadav, while the third seamer could be either Ashok Sharma or Yash Thakur. Spinner Ravi Bishnoi is expected to lead the spin department. With a young squad, a new captain and several players eager to cement their places, India will look to begin the series on a winning note, while Zimbabwe will hope to capitalise on home conditions and test the visitors throughout the contest.

Messi's Tunnel Gesture Wins Hearts After World Cup Final

CWG 2026 Fewer Sports Could Slash India's Medal Count

Fresh footage from the FIFA World Cup 2026 final has offered fans a closer look at Lionel Messi's actions moments before Argentina walked onto the field for the title clash against Spain. The extended tunnel video has gone viral, highlighting the Argentine captain's calm leadership and sportsmanship after reports of tension inside the team's dressing room.

Earlier reports suggested that there had been an emotional moment in Argentina's dressing room before the final in New York, with Messi urging his teammates to put everything behind them and focus on the match. The newly surfaced footage appears to support that image, showing the veteran forward leading his teammates out with composure.

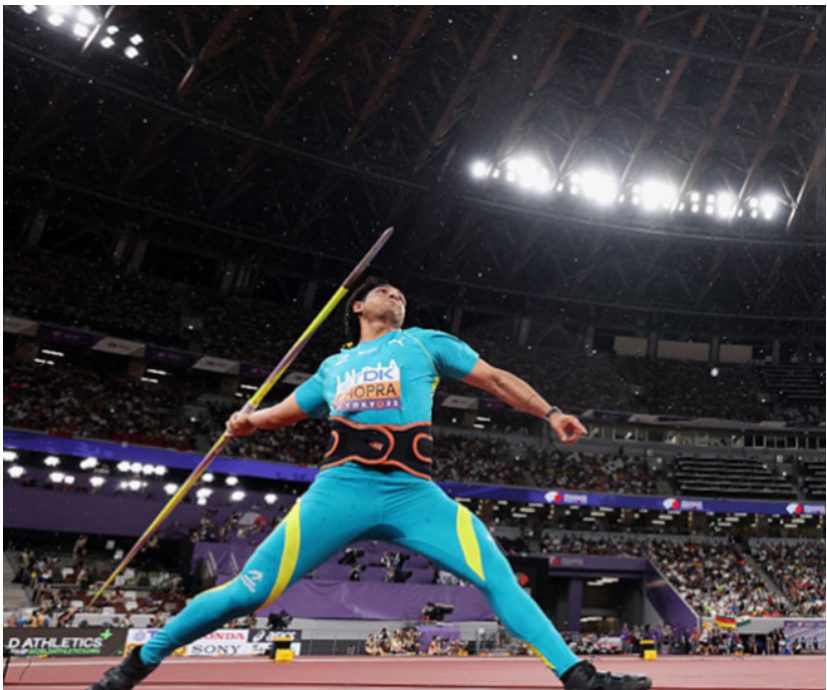
In the video, Messi is seen leaving the dressing room wearing a white Argentina jacket over his match kit as team staff cheer the players. He leads the squad through the tunnel towards the waiting area where both teams line up before entering the stadium. One of the most talked-about moments comes when Messi approaches the Spain players before kickoff. Instead of walking straight into position, he takes time to greet several members of the opposition, shaking hands, patting shoulders and exchanging



brief hugs with a number of Spanish footballers. Many of those players have close ties to Barcelona, the club where Messi spent the majority of his legendary career. The footage has drawn widespread praise on social media, with fans applauding the Argentine captain's respect for his opponents despite the enormous pressure surrounding the World Cup final. Many described the gestures as a reflection of Messi's character and leadership during one of the biggest matches of his career. Following Argentina's defeat in the final, Messi returned home to Argentina with his family. His private jet landed near his hometown of Rosario, where supporters gathered in large numbers hoping to welcome their captain. However, Messi did not make a public appearance after arriving. In an emotional message shared af-

ter the tournament, Messi admitted the defeat was deeply painful and said the disappointment would take time to overcome. At the same time, he thanked the Argentine people for their unwavering support and expressed pride in the team's journey to another World Cup final. Messi travelled home with his wife, Antonela Roccuzzo, and their three children, who had accompanied him throughout the tournament. His father, Jorge Messi, who is undergoing medical treatment, was also waiting for him in Rosario. While Argentina narrowly missed out on lifting another World Cup trophy, the latest tunnel footage has reminded fans why Messi continues to be admired around the world—not only for his footballing brilliance but also for his humility, leadership and respect for the game.

India's impressive haul of 61 medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games is unlikely to be repeated in Glasgow this year, largely because the competition has been significantly downsized. With only 10 sports included in the 2026 edition, compared to 19 in Birmingham, India's traditional medal-winning disciplines have taken the biggest hit. Wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and women's cricket—sports that contributed a combined 28 medals in 2022—have all been dropped from the programme. The absence of these events means India faces a major challenge in even crossing the 30-medal mark. Athletics is expected to shoulder much of India's medal hopes. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will lead the challenge in the men's javelin throw, while long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, distance runners Parul Chaudhary and Gulveer Singh, along with athletes in the triple jump and high jump, are also among the country's strongest contenders. Weightlifting remains another key medal-producing discipline for India. Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu headlines the squad, with Bindyarani Devi, Ajaya Babu and Gyaneshwari Yadav also expected to compete for podium finishes across



different weight categories. Boxing is another area where India is expected to perform strongly. Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning world champion Jaisime Lamboria lead a talented contingent capable of winning multiple medals in both men's and women's divisions. India could also add to its tally through judo, lawn bowls and para sports, though the reduced number of events means every medal will carry greater significance as the country looks to maximise its opportunities in Glasgow.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Confident Ahead Of Zimbabwe Series

Communication Gap, Fitness Concerns Put Team India Under Scanner

India's teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has admitted that the last four months have been filled with challenges, but said he remains confident and focused on contributing to the team's success in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe. The 15-year-old, who became India's youngest-ever international cricketer during the T20I series against England, had a difficult start to his senior international career. After making his debut in Manchester, Sooryavanshi played three matches but managed only modest scores before being dropped for the fifth and final T20I following Sanju Samson's return to the playing XI. India eventually lost the series 0-4. His omission drew criticism from several former cricketers, who questioned the team management's decision to leave out the youngster after giving him only three innings to prove himself. Speaking to BCCI.TV ahead of the Zimbabwe tour, Sooryavanshi reflected on the difficult phase and stressed that setbacks are part of a cricketer's journey. "Yes, there have been several



ups and downs in the last four months. It's part of cricket and it will keep happening, but I have to follow the process and give my 100 per cent for the team," he said. The youngster also acknowledged that being dropped after his first few international outings was emotionally difficult, but credited the coaches and support staff for helping him regain confidence. "It's an obvious thing that what-

ever I want, whether it is guidance or practice, the coaches are making it available. Whatever practice I require, I am getting that. I am feeling very good and there is confidence also," he added. Sooryavanshi returns to familiar surroundings in Harare, where he produced one of the finest innings of the ICC Under-19 World Cup earlier this year. The left-hander smashed a stunning 175 off just 80 balls against Eng-

land in the final, guiding India to the U-19 World Cup title. Calling the Harare Sports Club a special venue, Sooryavanshi said the memories of lifting the junior World Cup there would inspire him during the Zimbabwe series. "It's a very memorable ground for me. Four months back, we won the U-19 World Cup here, so it is a very special place. To return here and represent India again is a different feeling altogether," he said. The teenage opener believes his familiarity with the conditions will help him if he gets an opportunity in the playing XI. "I have a fair idea about the pitches and conditions here from the U-19 World Cup. I will try to use those learnings, back the practice I have done and play my natural game. Whatever contribution I can make for the team, I will try to give that," Sooryavanshi said. With India looking to bounce back after disappointing results in recent T20I series, Sooryavanshi will be eager to make the most of another opportunity and translate his immense potential into performances at the senior international level.

India's recurring injury concerns have reportedly exposed shortcomings in the communication between the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), team management and players, raising fresh questions over the national side's fitness system. According to a report, several senior players are finding it difficult to adapt to the revised fitness setup introduced after changes in personnel last year. ODI captain Shubman Gill had also voiced frustration over the growing number of injuries during India's recent tour of the United Kingdom. A BCCI source claimed there is inadequate coordination regarding players' fitness status and workload between the CoE and the team management. The report also noted that the CoE is yet to appoint a new head of medical staff following Nitin Patel's departure, while the standard operating procedures introduced in 2023 have reportedly not been updated. The report highlighted the frequent injury setbacks suffered by Washington Sundar, Nitish Reddy and Harshit Rana. Concerns were also raised over Harshit Rana being cleared to join the national team before fully recovering from his knee injury. Nitish Reddy's efforts to increase his bowling pace under English bowling coach Stefan Jones and Washington Sundar's reportedly hurried return during the T20 World Cup were also cited as factors that may have contributed to the growing injury concerns. The report further claimed that many players receive limited communication from the BCCI medical team when they are away from national duty, leaving them to manage their fitness in-

dependently between international assignments. With fewer cricketers playing across all three formats, players often get extended breaks between series, but the absence of regular monitoring and guidance has reportedly become a concern within the setup. The findings have put the BCCI's injury management system under scrutiny at a crucial stage, with India preparing for a packed international calendar that includes the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka and the road to the 2027 ODI World Cup. While no official response has been issued by the BCCI, the report suggests that improving coordination between the medical staff, the Centre of Excellence and the team management will be essential to reducing injury setbacks and ensuring better player availability in the future.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has introduced a new fitness initiative by making padel training compulsory for cricketers attending long-duration camps at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore. Under the new rule, players will take part in 40-minute padel sessions on alternate days as part of their regular training schedule. The decision has been taken by senior selector and Director of High Performance Aqib Javed, who believes the fast-growing racket sport can help improve players' agility, reflexes, movement and fielding skills. According to him, padel offers an enjoyable yet physically demanding workout that complements cricket training. Aqib said many Pakistan players were already playing padel in their hometowns but often had to travel long distances due to the limited number of courts. To address this, the PCB has built a dedicated padel court at the National Cricket Academy, allowing players to include the sport in their daily training routine without leaving the facility. Padel is a racket sport that combines elements of tennis and squash. It is played on a smaller enclosed court, requiring quick foot-

Pakistan Makes Padel Training Mandatory For Cricketers



work, rapid reflexes, sharp coordination and sustained endurance. These qualities are considered valuable for modern cricketers, especially in fielding and overall athletic performance. The PCB believes the introduction of padel will help players become fitter and more agile while also making training sessions more engaging. Aqib described the sport as simple to learn, enjoyable to play and highly beneficial for improving physical fitness. The new fitness programme is part of a broader plan to upgrade facilities at the National Cricket Academy. Aqib said he wants the academy to become a "second home" for Pakistan's cricketers, where they can develop both their cricketing skills and overall fitness in a professional environment. Apart from the new padel courts, the PCB has also installed an AI-powered bowling machine at the academy to help batters prepare against different bowling styles through advanced technology. The board is also planning to construct basketball courts and an indoor recreation hall featuring games such as snooker to provide additional fitness and recovery options for players. With padel now becoming a mandatory part of training, Pakistan's cricketers will spend around 40 minutes playing the sport every alternate day during extended camps. The PCB hopes the initiative will improve players' athletic standards and translate into better performances on the cricket field.

Ravi Shastri Praises Rohit Sharma's Lord's Century

Rohit Sharma's outstanding century against England at Lord's has won praise from former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who believes the veteran opener answered all questions about his future with a superb performance. Rohit's brilliant 138-run knock came at a time when retirement speculation had intensified, with many believing the Lord's ODI could be his final appearance in Indian colours. Speaking during the opening match of The Hundred 2026 between MI London and Sunrisers Leeds at the Kia Oval, Shastri said Rohit's innings was the perfect response to his critics. Watching the Indian captain in the stands, the former coach recalled the memorable knock that silenced the debate over his future. "There was a lot of noise before that last ODI, but Rohit responded



with the bat. It was a nice, tight slap with the bat. He scored 138 and registered his first ODI hundred at Lord's," Shastri said during commentary. The innings not only guided India to a memorable victory but also reminded everyone of Rohit's ability to deliver on the biggest stages. The experienced opener combined patience with his trademark attacking stroke play, taking

control of the innings after India faced early pressure. His century was widely praised by former cricketers and fans, many of whom felt it proved he still has plenty to offer Indian cricket. Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also came out strongly in support of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Ashwin said players with such remarkable records deserve respect and should not face unnecessary pressure over their careers. "They cannot touch Virat and Rohit if they want to continue playing. Rohit has scored nearly 12,000 ODI runs. Their achievements and experience speak for themselves. They have earned the right to decide their own future," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. Ashwin further explained that Rohit's motivation is not to prove

his critics wrong but to prepare himself for the next ODI World Cup. According to him, the Indian captain still has the hunger to perform at the highest level and wants to play a key role in India's World Cup campaign. "The way Rohit batted showed that he has nothing left to prove. It is about his own desire to represent India and compete in another World Cup," Ashwin added. Rohit's century at Lord's has significantly changed the conversation around his future. Instead of retirement, the focus has shifted to his form and leadership ahead of the upcoming international assignments. With senior figures like Ravi Shastri and Ravichandran Ashwin backing him, Rohit Sharma has once again shown why he remains one of India's most dependable and influential cricketers in the 50-over format.

Allu Arjun Relaxes in Austrian Alps

Icon Star Allu Arjun has taken a short break from the shooting of his upcoming film, Raaka, to spend quality time with his family in the scenic Austrian Alps. The actor is currently enjoying a refreshing vacation with his wife, Allu Sneha Reddy, and their children, Ayaan and Arha, before returning to his busy shooting schedule.

The family getaway came into the spotlight after Sneha Reddy shared a series of pictures and videos on her Instagram Stories. The posts offered fans a glimpse of their peaceful holiday surrounded by snow-capped mountains and breathtaking landscapes. The images quickly went viral on social media, with fans expressing their delight at seeing the star enjoying a well-deserved break.

During their trip, the family visited the famous Seegrube terrace on the Nordkette Mountain Range near Innsbruck in Austria. Situated at an altitude of



around 1,905 metres above sea level, the location is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. It is known for its spectacular panoramic views of Innsbruck city and the winding Inn River, attracting visitors from across the world throughout the year.

The pictures showed the family spending time together while soaking in the natural beauty of the mountains. Allu Arjun kept his look casual in a dark bomber jacket, cargo pants and white sneakers, while Sneha Reddy wore a black knit sweater paired with wide-leg denim. Their children also appeared to be enjoying the cool weather and peaceful surroundings.

The vacation comes at a time when Allu Arjun has been occupied with the filming of Raaka,

one of the most anticipated upcoming Telugu films. Directed by Atlee, the movie marks the first collaboration between the celebrated actor and the blockbuster filmmaker. The project has already created immense buzz among fans, even though the makers have not revealed many details about the storyline.

Fans across social media have welcomed the latest family pictures, praising the couple for taking time away from their professional commitments to create special moments with their children. Many also appreciated the stunning backdrop of the Austrian Alps featured in the photographs.

The holiday is expected to be a short one, with Allu Arjun likely to return to India soon to resume the next schedule of Raaka. Fans are eagerly awaiting fresh updates from the film while wishing the actor and his family a memorable vacation.



Ramayana Team Heads to SDCC Ahead of Trailer Launch

The excitement surrounding Ramayana continues to build as the film's team gears up for a grand international showcase ahead of its much-awaited trailer launch. Lead actors Ranbir Kapoor and Yash were spotted at the airport on Wednesday as they departed for California to attend the 2026 edition of San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), one of the world's biggest entertainment conventions.

The team will unveil exclusive footage from the film during a special panel at SDCC on July 23, just a day before the official trailer is released on July 24. Fans attending the event will get a first glimpse of the highly anticipated mythological epic, making it one of the most significant Indian film presentations at this year's convention.

Joining Ranbir Kapoor and Yash at the event are producer Namit Malhotra and director Nitesh Tiwari, who have been working on the ambitious project for several years. The Ramayana panel is scheduled to be held at 3:15 PM PDT in Ballroom 20, the convention's second-largest venue, which can accommodate nearly 4,800 attendees. The showcase is expected to attract a massive audience, reflecting the growing global interest in Indian cinema.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita, and Yash in the role of Ravana. The film has generated immense curiosity ever since its announcement due to its scale, cast, and visual ambition.

Apart from the lead trio, the film also features an impressive supporting cast that includes Sunny Deol, Rakul Preet Singh, Kajal Aggarwal, Ravie Dubey, and Kunal Kapoor in important roles. The makers have remained tight-lipped about several character details, further adding to the anticipation among movie lovers.

Produced by Prime Focus Studios in association with Monster Mind Creations, Ramayana is one of the most expensive Indian films currently in production. Its visual effects are being handled by Academy Award-winning VFX studio DNEG, raising expectations for a spectacular cinematic experience.

The film is scheduled for a theatrical release during Diwali 2026 and is already being regarded as one of the biggest Indian releases of the year. With its appearance at San Diego Comic-Con and the trailer launch just around the corner, the makers are preparing to introduce the film to a global audience. Fans across India and overseas are eagerly waiting to witness the first official visuals of this ambitious retelling of the timeless epic.

OG 2 Birthday Surprise on Cards

The buzz surrounding OG 2, the much-awaited sequel starring Pawan Kalyan, is growing stronger as the film moves into its pre-production phase. Director Sujeeth is currently working on the script and other key aspects of the project, while fresh industry reports suggest that fans could be in for a special treat on the actor's birthday.

According to the latest buzz, the makers are planning to unveil a special animated video on September 2, coinciding with Pawan Kalyan's birthday. The video is reportedly being developed in Chennai and is expected to serve as an announcement-style teaser, offering fans an exciting glimpse into the world of OG 2.

Birthday releases have become a popular trend in the film industry, with makers unveiling posters, teasers or special promotional content to celebrate the occasion. If the reports are true,



the animated presentation will continue that tradition and build anticipation for one of the most awaited Telugu films currently in development.

Sources indicate that the animated video will not only announce the project in style but may also reveal a few intriguing details about the sequel. While the makers have not officially confirmed the reports, the speculation has already created excitement among Pawan Kalyan's fan base.

OG 2 has entered the initial stages of production, with Sujeeth focusing on finalising the

screenplay and other pre-production work. Expectations are high after the success and popularity of the OG franchise, making every update on the sequel a major talking point among movie lovers.

Adding to the excitement, Pawan Kalyan will reportedly produce the sequel himself, taking an active role in bringing the project to the big screen. Music director Thaman has also been roped in to compose the soundtrack, raising expectations for a powerful background score and chart-topping songs.

Although an official announcement is still awaited, fans are eagerly counting down to September 2 in the hope of witnessing the first glimpse of OG 2. If the animated video is indeed released as planned, it is expected to kick-start the film's promotional campaign and set the stage for one of the biggest Telugu releases in the coming years.

Pooja Hegde in Talks for Ravi Teja Film

A new update surrounding Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu's much-talked-about multistarrer has created excitement among Telugu cinema fans. While the project is yet to receive an official announcement, reports suggest that actress Pooja Hegde is being considered for a key role in the upcoming entertainer.

According to the latest industry buzz, the makers are in discussions with Pooja Hegde to play the female lead opposite Ravi Teja. If the deal is finalised, it will mark the first time that Ravi Teja and Pooja Hegde share screen space, making it a fresh

on-screen pairing for audiences.

The untitled project is reportedly a comedy entertainer and is expected to be directed by Hasith Goli, who is known for his entertaining storytelling. The film has already generated considerable curiosity because it brings together Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu in a multistarrer for the first time.

Reports also suggest that the film has been tentatively titled Veeradhi Veerulanta. Though the title and cast details are yet to be officially confirmed, the project is already among the

most discussed upcoming Telugu films on social media.

Pooja Hegde is currently busy with Sri Sri, starring Dulquer Salmaan, and continues to juggle multiple projects across languages. Her addition to Ravi Teja's film would further strengthen the cast and add star value to the comedy entertainer.

The project is reportedly being backed by noted producer Dil Raju, who is expected to bankroll the film under his production banner. With an experienced production team and an interesting combination of ac-

tors, expectations are steadily rising even before the official launch. If everything goes according to plan, the film is expected to release during the Sankranti 2027 festive season, a period considered highly favourable for major Telugu releases. However, the makers are yet to announce the cast, title and release schedule officially.

Until then, fans will have to wait for confirmation on whether Pooja Hegde will indeed romance Ravi Teja in what is shaping up to be one of the most exciting multistarrers in the Telugu film industry.



SJ Suryah Declined Cameo in Idhayam Murali

A surprising revelation has emerged about the recently released Tamil romantic comedy Idhayam Murali, which turned out to be a successful box-office performer. Director Akash Baskaran has disclosed that actor-director SJ Suryah was originally approached for a key cameo in the film, but he declined the offer.

The role eventually went to Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil, whose special appearance received appreciation from audiences. Speaking about the casting process, Akash Baskaran said SJ Suryah was his first choice for the cameo. However, the actor politely refused the role, explaining that he was not interested in doing cameo appearances.

Following SJ Suryah's decision, the director approached Fahadh Faasil and showed him the business cut of the film. Akash admitted that he initially expected Fahadh to turn down the offer, but the actor surprised him by agreeing to be part of the project.

Due to Fahadh Faasil's busy schedule, filming his scenes required careful planning. According to the director, the actor was available only on Sun-



days, and the entire cameo was completed over four consecutive Sundays. Despite the limited shooting time, Fahadh's performance added significant value to the film and became one of its major highlights.

Idhayam Murali stars Atharvaa in the lead role, with Kayadu Lohar and Preity Mukundhan playing the female leads. The romantic

comedy has been well received by audiences for its entertaining storyline and performances.

The supporting cast includes Natarajan Subramaniam, Niharika NM, singer Jonita Gandhi and music director Thaman, who also composed the film's soundtrack. Their performances contributed to the film's overall success and positive word of

mouth.

The director's latest revelation has generated fresh interest among fans, with many wondering how the film might have looked had SJ Suryah accepted the cameo. Nevertheless, Fahadh Faasil's memorable appearance ultimately proved to be an effective addition, helping Idhayam Murali leave a strong impression at the box office.

Nayanthara's Bold Look in Toxic Goes Viral

Nayanthara has once again grabbed the spotlight with her striking transformation in the upcoming action drama Toxic. The actress, known for portraying powerful women on screen throughout her 23-year career, is set to appear in one of her boldest roles yet, and her latest look from the film has already created a buzz on social media.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic features Nayanthara as Ganga, a fearless and intense character who breaks away from the actress' familiar on-screen image. Sporting a sharp short hairstyle and taking part in high-octane action sequences, she is expected to showcase a completely different side of her acting abilities.

One particular scene from the recently released song Manasaagadhe has become the talking point among fans. In the sequence, Nayanthara is seen smoking a cigar and sharing it with co-star Yash, a moment that has quickly gone viral across social media platforms. The stylish visuals have sparked widespread discussion, with many praising her bold makeover and confident screen presence.



The unconventional portrayal has surprised audiences, as Nayanthara has rarely appeared in such a rugged and edgy avatar during her career. Fans are especially curious about how director Geetu Mohandas convinced the actress to take on such a distinctive role, which marks a significant departure from her previous performances.

While the makers have not revealed many details about Ganga's character, the latest promotional material suggests she will play a crucial role in the film's narrative. The viral response to her look has further increased anticipation for

the action drama.

Toxic stars Yash in the lead role and is one of the most awaited pan-Indian films of the year. The film is jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash, with the makers aiming to deliver a visually grand action entertainer.

Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26, 2026, Toxic will be released in multiple languages. With Nayanthara's bold transformation already creating headlines and the promotional campaign gathering momentum, expectations for the film continue to rise as fans eagerly await its arrival on the big screen.

