



BUZZ POINTS



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Can a New Gold Scheme Reduce India's Import Burden?

Ravi Podili

Gold has long occupied a unique position in India's economic and cultural landscape, but its growing demand is now posing a serious macroeconomic challenge. India spends a substantial portion of its foreign exchange reserves on gold imports—often comparable to its expenditure on petroleum. During periods of global uncertainty, such as wars or geopolitical crises, gold prices surge unpredictably, further straining the country's finances. Despite repeated efforts by successive governments, curbing gold consumption has proven to be a complex task rooted in deep cultural traditions and financial behaviour.

India's affinity for gold extends beyond ornamentation. It is an essential part of weddings, festivals, and social customs, making it a preferred store of value for households. As a result, India ranks among the top global consumers of gold, second only to China. However, with limited domestic production, the country relies heavily on imports, resulting in significant foreign exchange outflows and contributing to the current account deficit.

Over the decades, the government has introduced multiple measures to reduce gold consumption and imports. The Gold Control Act of 1968 and



the Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS) launched in 2015 under the Narendra Modi government are notable examples. However, these initiatives have largely fallen short of expectations. The 2015 scheme, aimed at mobilizing idle gold held by households and institutions, managed to attract only about 38 tonnes over nearly a decade—far below its potential.

In response, the government is now preparing to introduce a revamped gold monetization initiative, reportedly within the next few weeks. This move comes amid continued global uncertainties and a renewed push to conserve foreign exchange. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already appealed to citizens to reduce gold purchases, though the response has been limited so far. The

new scheme aims to mobilise up to 1,000 tonnes of gold by addressing shortcomings in earlier efforts.

One of the key changes under consideration is the inclusion of jewellery traders as implementation partners. Unlike the previous model, which relied primarily on banks, the new approach would allow individuals to deposit gold through trusted local jewellers. This shift is expected to improve accessibility and public participation. Industry bodies such as the All India Jewellers and Goldsmiths Federation have welcomed the proposal, stating that it could significantly enhance convenience for consumers.

Economists estimate that if even 5% of the gold held by Indian households—estimated at

around 25,000 tonnes—is brought into the formal economy, it could unlock liquidity worth \$80-90 billion. Such a move would not only reduce dependence on imports but also strengthen the rupee and improve overall economic stability. The failure of the earlier Gold Monetization Scheme offers important lessons. Low interest rates, ranging between 2.25% and 2.50%, failed to attract investors. Additionally, emotional attachment to heirloom jewellery discouraged people from melting their assets. Concerns about taxation, documentation requirements, and lack of awareness further hindered participation. Banks, too, showed limited enthusiasm due to low profitability.

The proposed scheme seeks to address these challenges by offering better incentives, simplifying procedures, and leveraging the trust factor associated with jewellers. If successfully implemented, it could transform idle household gold into a productive financial asset, reduce import dependency, and stabilize domestic gold prices.

However, the ultimate success of the scheme will depend on public trust, attractive returns, and effective execution. Without these, even the most well-designed policy may struggle to change deeply ingrained cultural habits.



CM Bats for P4 Model to Achieve Zero Poverty

Kuppam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said the State government is implementing the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership for Prosperity) programme as a long-term solution to eradicate poverty through public participation. Addressing a meeting with P4 mentors and 'Golden Families' in Kuppam, he stated

that the initiative aims to transform the lives of the poor into "golden lives" marked by stability and prosperity.

Explaining the concept, the Chief Minister said the 'Golden Families-Mentors' model focuses on economic and social upliftment by pairing underprivileged families with mentors who guide them towards sustainable growth. Representatives from Mega, Adani, and TVS Motor



CM Naidu says river interlinking should be like Golden Quadrilateral

Kuppam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday said river interlinking should be taken up on the lines of the Golden Quadrilateral highway project, stating that linking major rivers such as Ganga, Cauvery, Godavari and Mahanadi could ensure long-term water security for the country. He was addressing an interactive meeting with farmers in Kuppam.

Naidu said water security and tourism development are being taken up simultaneously in Kuppam. He noted that Handri-Neeva waters have already been diverted to the region and reached up to Kangundi from Srisailem. He added that efforts are underway to bring water from Srisailem Dam to Kalyani Dam near Tirupati and to improve groundwater recharge through better water conservation structures. The Chief Minister said agreements were signed in the presence of him between Kuppam Area Development Authority and ITC to help farmers market fruits and vegetables in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad. Another agreement with Visalakshi Innovations Sustainable Value Chain focuses on modern agricultural practices and value addition.

Naidu said ITC plans to cultivate and export 10,000 tonnes of tomatoes from controlled farming across 1,000 acres in Kuppam, with an investment of 8 crore. He added that projects worth 10,000 crore have already come up in the region with participation from companies such as ABIS, Mother Dairy and ITC. He said Rayalaseema has emerged as a leading region in horticulture production.

He said under the Purvodaya initiative, investments worth 40,000 crore from government and 60,000 crore from private sector will be mobilised for infrastructure and food processing development.

Promoting natural farming, Naidu said pesticide-free cultivation can set a global example and ensure healthy lifestyles. He referred to international recognition for farmers' efforts and said support price incentives, including 4 per kg bonus for Totapuri mangoes, had benefited farmers earlier.

He also visited stalls, interacted with natural farming practitioners, and showed interest in Millet Chef bakery products made without maida and sugar, suggesting establishment of two outlets in Kuppam. He said even professionals are returning to agriculture, reflecting growing confidence in natural farming practices.

ISKCON to Host Grand Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra on July 16

Sravani Badugu

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Vijayawada, is all set to celebrate the Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra 2026 on July 16, marking the sixth consecutive year of organizing one of South India's largest and Vijayawada's oldest continuously held Jagannath Rath Yatra celebrations. The annual festival is expected to draw thousands of devotees from Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states. The grand chariot procession will commence from Sitara Grounds, Bhavanipuram, and conclude at Seethammavari Paadalu Grounds, opposite the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Office. The beautifully decorated chariot carrying the deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Baladeva,



and Devi Subhadra will pass through the city amidst devotional chants, melodious kirtans, and enthusiastic participation by devotees. Pulling the sacred chariot is regarded as an act of immense spiritual significance in the Vedic tradition, and devotees believe it brings divine blessings and

prosperity. Alongside the Rath Yatra, ISKCON Vijayawada will organize the Sri Jagannath Rath Mela 2026, a three-day spiritual and cultural exhibition from July 16 to 18 at Seethammavari Paadalu Grounds. The exhibition will feature devotional displays, spiritual literature, cultural

performances, traditional arts and crafts, interactive exhibits, children's activities, family-friendly attractions, and the distribution of sanctified prasadam. The event aims to introduce visitors to the timeless philosophy and cultural heritage of Sanatana Dharma while offering an engaging experience for people of all age groups. A distinctive feature of ISKCON Vijayawada is its professionally managed leadership. The temple's management includes accomplished professionals and alumni of premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), who dedicate their expertise to spiritual and social service. The temple is led by its President, His Grace Chakradhari Das, a B.Tech graduate from IIT Kharagpur, whose leadership has significantly

expanded the organization's spiritual, educational, cultural, and community outreach activities in the region. The organizers have extended a warm invitation to devotees, families, students, and the general public to participate in the celebrations. They encouraged everyone to join the Rath Yatra, experience the uplifting atmosphere of devotional music, pull the sacred chariot, visit the Rath Mela exhibition, and receive the blessings of Lord Jagannath. With its unique blend of devotion, culture, and community participation, the ISKCON Vijayawada Sri Jagannath Rath Yatra has emerged as one of the city's most prominent annual spiritual festivals, celebrating India's rich traditions while fostering unity and spiritual awareness among people from all walks of life.

Lokesh Invites Global Investments to Andhra Pradesh

Seoul (South Korea), July 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh described Non-Resident Andhras as "brand ambassadors" of the state and called upon them to promote its growth story globally. Addressing a Telugu diaspora meeting in Seoul, he said the state takes pride in their success and urged them to highlight Andhra Pradesh's investment opportunities, transparent governance, and rapid approval systems.

Lokesh emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is ready to collaborate across sectors and welcomed investors and innovators willing to partner with the state. He noted that Telugu people are present across the world and continue to uphold Indian culture and traditions, adding that their achievements enhance the nation's global reputation.

Praising South Korea's development, Lokesh said its progress demonstrates how innovation, hard work, and scientific thinking drive prosperity. He cited global giants like Samsung, Hyundai, LG,



and Kia as examples and said India-South Korea ties are rooted in trust, democratic values, and shared focus on youth and technology. He highlighted cooperation in sectors such as electronics, automobiles, semiconductors, green energy, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing.

Referring to Kia's investment in Andhra Pradesh, Lokesh said the state ensured transparency, speedy approvals, and infrastructure support, transforming the project

into a thriving automobile ecosystem generating thousands of jobs. He expressed confidence in replicating similar success stories across emerging sectors including semiconductors, mobility, battery technologies, and green hydrogen.

Lokesh underlined that under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, Andhra Pradesh has regained investor confidence through its '3S' model—Speed, Stability, and Service. He said the government is aligning



Naidu Alleges Smear Campaign by YSRCP

Kuppam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday accused leaders of the "Axe Party," referring to YSRCP, of funding a sustained smear campaign against his government. Interacting informally with the media during his three-day tour of Kuppam, he alleged that substantial funds are being routed to certain social media groups to target him and Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan. He claimed the

party thrives on violence, abusive language, and promotes factionalism and rowdiness.

Naidu asserted that development activities are progressing extensively across Andhra Pradesh and will continue despite attempts to create obstacles. He said Kuppam constituency is witnessing an unprecedented influx of industrial projects, supported by improved connectivity in roads and communication networks. He expressed confidence that people would



Clashes intensify in PoK as Pakistani Rangers open fire

Muzaffarabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Protests escalated in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Sunday as security forces cracked down on demonstrators opposing the Pakistan government. Pakistani police and Rangers opened fire on protesters, leading to casualties and injuries.

Sources said one person was killed and 14 others injured during the firing. Protests were reported from Muzaffarabad and Dadyal, where large crowds gathered demanding an end to restrictions and release of detained leaders. Pakistani Rangers reportedly opened fire on protesters at the Dadyal-Mirpur bridge, with credible inputs indicating the

use of AK-47 rifles. Police used tear gas to disperse crowds.

In Muzaffarabad, Rangers also opened fire on protesters, though the exact number of injured is not known. Videos of the clashes are circulating on social media.

The unrest follows days of protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which has been demanding restoration of communication services, supply of essential goods, and implementation of a 38-point agreement. Authorities have reportedly banned JAAC under anti-terror laws and arrested around 600 leaders and activists. Restrictions on food, medicines and transport have further intensified tensions in the region.



EESL launches school energy efficiency drive in Delhi

Vijayawada, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power, has joined hands with the Foundation for Agricultural Resources Management and Environmental Remediation (FARMER) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to implement an energy efficiency programme in schools under Delhi's Civil Lines Zone.

As part of the initiative, EESL will install energy management systems and distribute BEE Star-rated super-efficient BLDC fans, LED tube lights and bulbs through the UJALA programme. The pro-

ject aims to encourage energy conservation, climate awareness and sustainable practices among students, making Delhi the first municipal corporation in India to launch a large-scale school energy efficiency initiative.

EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit said the programme would help develop students as climate change champions while supporting India's Sustainable Development Goals. Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Kumar noted that it would significantly reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. EESL highlighted that the UJALA programme saves 19,153 crore annually nationwide.

Minister Vasamsetty Subhash Conducts Job Mela

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

A Job Mela and Praja Darbar organised under the leadership of Labour Minister Vasamshetty Subhash was held successfully at Bikshapathi Yadav Kalyana Mandapam in Hyderabad to provide employment opportunities and address the grievances of Andhra Pradesh residents living in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, Vasamshetty Subhash said the government was committed to creating more employment opportunities for youth and expressed satisfaction over facilitating jobs through the mela in various organisations. He reiterated that the welfare of Andhra Pradesh people remains a priority for the government irrespective of where they reside.

During the Praja Darbar, residents presented personal, social and administrative issues before the minister, who as-



sured them that each grievance would be examined and resolved promptly in coordination with the concerned departments.

The minister said similar initiatives aimed at employment generation and public grievance redressal would be expanded further in the future.

Dr B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district TDP president Gutthula Sai, district general secretary Gandham Balaraju, Rajesh Angati, Revu Srinu, Telangana TDP president Kasani Gnaneshwar Mudiraj, public representatives, Andhra Pradesh government officials and ministerial staff attended the programme.

AP Introduces Zonal SADAREM Slot Booking From July 8

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The state government has announced key reforms in the SADAREM disability assessment and certification process to enhance transparency and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav said zonal slot booking, mandatory self-declaration and online attendance registration would be introduced from July 8.

Under the new system, applicants can book assessment slots only within their designated zones, reducing travel burdens and administrative issues. Disability assessment tests will commence from July

13 at selected hospitals.

For the first time, applicants will be able to book slots directly through the AP Seva portal using a citizen login without paying any fee. Self-declaration regarding the nature of disability will be mandatory, while applicants unable to identify their disability category must obtain certification from a qualified general physician.

The minister said the reforms would reduce pressure on medical personnel and improve slot utilisation. Director of Secondary Health KVN Chakradhar Babu has directed officials to create awareness among beneficiaries and ensure smooth implementation of the revised system.

Govt Sanctions ₹90.20 Cr to Complete 14 Long-Pending Bridges

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The state government has sanctioned 90.20 crore for completing 14 long-pending bridge projects spread across nine districts and 13 Assembly constituencies, Roads and Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy announced on Saturday.

The minister said several bridge projects had remained incomplete for years due to delays in land acquisition, funding constraints and the expiry of assistance under schemes such as NABARD. He noted that the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, had taken special initiative to revive these stalled projects.

According to the minister, the pro-

jects include 12 bridges under Major District Roads (MDRs) and two under State Highways (SHs). Eleven bridges require completion of approach roads, while three projects involve construction of both bridges and approach roads.

The projects are located in constituencies including Madugula, Anakapalli, Payakaraopeta, Pithapuram, Kaikaluru, Bhimavaram, Gannavaram, Penamaluru, Darsi, Satyavedu, Gudur, Pulivendula and Nandigama-Jaggayyapeta.

Janardhan Reddy said the government was committed to completing the stalled infrastructure works despite financial challenges, with the objective of making them operational for public use at the earliest.

CM Naidu concludes successful week-long district tour

Kuppam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is set to return to Amaravati on Monday after a week-long tour across Nellore, Tirupati, Kadapa and Chittoor districts, during which he inaugurated projects, laid foundation stones, signed MoUs and reviewed welfare programmes.

In Nellore district, at Punnapuvaripalem in Gudur constituency, Naidu participated in a welfare programme and distributed pensions, including NTR Bharosa widow pension to Padmamma and disability pension to Thulasamma. He said pensions worth 68,598 crore have been disbursed so far and expressed confidence that Nellore would emerge as a development hub. He also announced a mega furniture park and completion of the Veligonda project.

In Tirupati district, he laid the foundation stone for Hero Motors Corporation's Global Parts Center 2.0 at Madannapalem in Satyavedu along with



Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman of Hero Motors Corporation. He also launched the "Heroes of Tomorrow" scholarship programme.

Later, Naidu, along with Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, launched the VBJ-RAMJ scheme at Railway Kodur, making it operational nationwide. He also attended a workshop on "Economic Intelligence for Governance" under Swarnandhra-2047.

In Kadapa district, he laid the foundation stone for the JSW Rayalaseema Steel Plant with JSW Chairman Sajjan Jindal. The project involves an invest-

ment of 16,350 crore and includes a renewable energy component.

During his Kuppam tour, Naidu oversaw 30 projects worth 9,322 crore, including investments from Adidas and other firms. He also launched a 118 crore model bus station, resolved a long-pending land issue in Kangundi, and distributed DKT pattas to 322 beneficiaries.

He interacted with farmers, poultry growers and P4 beneficiaries, and signed agreements with ITC and Visalakshi Innovations. He will travel to Velagapudi Secretariat on Monday for RTGS review and regional economic zone meetings.

Jana Sena Aims to Build Strong Grassroots Leadership, Says Durgesh

Vijayawada, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh said Jana Sena Party's primary objective is to strengthen its organisational structure and nurture effective grassroots leadership across all levels.

Speaking after the successful completion of the six-day 'Membership to Leadership' application process for the Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency at his camp office in Vijayawada, the minister said the programme received an overwhelming response from party cadres and supporters. Thousands of Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas submitted applications for various committees, including Lok Sabha,



Assembly, district, mandal and village-level bodies, besides several affiliated wings.

Durgesh felicitated members of the Jana Sena Party organisational information collection committee for their efforts in conducting the programme. He said the enthusiastic participation reflected people's confidence in Jana Sena president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and the party's ideology.

Visakha Fishermen Rescued Safely Off Odisha Coast

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said all 10 fishermen from Visakhapatnam, including boat owner Danayya, who were stranded off the Odisha coast, were rescued safely following swift intervention by authorities.

The minister said that upon receiving information about the incident, he immediately contacted officials of the Odisha Marine Police and Fisheries Department and urged them to expedite rescue operations.



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also responded promptly to the incident and closely monitored the rescue efforts. According to Atchannaidu, the Odisha Marine Po-

AP Secretariat to Host Special SIR Camp for Employees

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

A special camp on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will be conducted at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat from July 6 to 8 for the convenience of Secretariat employees.

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad will inaugurate the camp at 10.30 a.m. on Monday at the APSA Hall in the third building of the

process.

Officials have advised employees attending the camp to carry their 2002 voter details, a recent photograph, current Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Aadhaar card and proof of residential address.

The initiative is part of the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision exercise to ensure comprehensive and updated electoral rolls.

Adutu Padutu Panichestunte ...



Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu visited shrimp ponds at Agarthipalem in Palakollu Mandal, West Godavari district, where he stepped into aqua farming activities, mixed feed, scattered it in the pond, and interacted with local shrimp farmers while inspecting cultivation practices.

CM Visits TDP Leader Chengachari's Residence

Kuppam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

TDP chief and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, currently touring his home constituency Kuppam in Chittoor district, visited the residence of senior TDP leader Chengachari in Shanthipuram on Sunday. While travelling from his residence in Kadapalli to Kuppam, the Chief Minister accepted Chengachari's request to visit his home. Chandrababu interacted with the leader's family mem-



bers, enquired about their well-being, and posed for a photograph. Chengachari expressed happiness over the Chief Minister's visit before Naidu continued his tour.

Lokesh intervenes to assist Telugu family stranded at Hong Kong airport

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh intervened to help a Telugu family stranded at Hong Kong airport after losing their passports while travelling from Hyderabad to Chicago.

The family of Bolla Rajeshwari posted on 'X' (formerly Twitter) about their ordeal, stating that they had been stuck for 52 hours with their children facing severe difficulties. Responding immediately, Nara Lokesh took note of their situation and sought urgent assistance from External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Following his intervention, the Ministry of External Affairs acted swiftly and contacted the Consulate General of



India in Hong Kong. The Indian mission confirmed that it was in touch with the family and assured that necessary assistance would be provided at the earliest.

Nara Lokesh thanked the Indian mission for its prompt response and coordination in addressing the issue. The swift diplomatic outreach has brought relief to the stranded family.

Govt Sanctions ₹1.21 Crore for Kabristans

Machilipatnam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra has reiterated the coalition government's commitment to the welfare and development of minority communities through improved civic infrastructure. He welcomed the approval of works worth 1,21,62,492 under the 15th Finance Commission funds for the development of prayer halls and kabristans within the Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation limits.

A delegation of minority leaders, led by Minority Corporation Director Dr Hasim Beg and former Government Hospital Director Dr Azeem, met the minister at his camp office in Machilipatnam and thanked him for securing the



funds. They said Kollu Ravindra had taken special interest in identifying the requirements of minority communities and ensuring sanction of the proposed projects. The leaders observed that the coalition government's initiatives reflected its commitment to communal harmony and equal opportunities for all sections of society. Abu Talib Mirza, Syed Khaja, Firoz and other minority leaders attended the meeting.

Rare Skin Disorder Patient Chandrika Admitted to RUIA

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Six-year-old Chandrika from Anamayya district, who is suffering from a rare genetic skin disorder, was admitted to the Ruia Government Hospital in Tirupati on Sunday following the intervention of Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

Acting on the minister's directions, a medical team led by District Medical and Health Officer Lakshminarasayya visited the girl's residence at Molakalacheruvu on Saturday and examined her condition. Doctors identified that Chandrika is affected by Xeroderma Pigmentosum, a rare hereditary skin disease that causes extreme sensitivity to ultraviolet rays from sunlight.

Following the minister's instructions to ensure the best possible treatment, the child was shifted to the paediatric department at Ruia



Hospital in a special ambulance from Molakalacheruvu. Doctors have advised a biopsy to assess swelling near her eye, while specialists in dermatology and oncology are also evaluating her condition.

Treatment for the swelling will be determined based on the biopsy report. Medical experts said the disorder can lead to blistering, pigmentation changes, skin thinning and serious eye complications. Chandrika's family has a hereditary history of the disease.

PVN Madhav Condemns Vandalism of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Statue

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav strongly condemned the vandalism of the statue of Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Kolkata, describing it as a reprehensible and anti-democratic act.

Madhav said Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, dedicated his life to safeguarding India's unity and national integrity, and attacking his statue amounted to an assault on patriotic values. He alleged that anti-national forces were behind the incident despite the West Bengal government's efforts to install the statue as a

prestigious initiative.

Expressing concern that the vandalism occurred just a day before the proposed unveiling of the statue, he termed the act highly unfortunate and disturbing.

The BJP leader urged the West Bengal government to immediately identify those responsible, take stringent action against the perpetrators and bring to justice all those involved in the alleged conspiracy behind the incident.

Madhav asserted that no act of vandalism or intimidation could erase the ideals of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to advancing his nationalist vision with renewed determination.

Naidu Alleges Smear Campaign by YSRCP

soon see a transformed Kuppam, adding that the alliance government aims to replicate similar growth across all constituencies through decentralised development.

Highlighting investments, Naidu said the government is focusing on attracting projects in quantum computing and semiconductor sectors, with a quantum computing centre in Amaravati expected to commence operations by December. He added that advanced power supply systems are being introduced alongside solar and wind energy initiatives. Major companies like Arcelor-Mittal and JSW are setting up projects in the state, with equal emphasis on environmental protection and green cover.

He further alleged that the previous administration created controversies around land allocations, affecting projects such as Obulapuram and Anarak, and accused YSRCP leaders of driving industries away while falsely claiming credit for new investments.



BJP Demands Action Against Actor Prakash Raj

Puttaparthi, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Senior BJP leader S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy on Sunday demanded that police register a suo motu case against actor Prakash Raj and arrest him over his alleged remarks concerning Andhra Pradesh and Hindu religious sentiments.

Addressing the media, Vishnuvardhan Reddy alleged that certain individuals were attempting to target Andhra Pradesh by making derogatory comments about Hindu Dharma, Lord Sri Rama and Goddess Sita. He claimed that an audio recording purportedly featuring Prakash Raj had surfaced and alleged that it contained objectionable remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The BJP leader said the alleged recording should be thoroughly investigated and called for legal action if any offences were established.

He also demanded the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe what he described as an alleged conspiracy involving individuals from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana. He urged authorities to identify those responsible and take stringent action in accordance with the law.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy said attempts to create religious discord or make inflammatory statements should be dealt with firmly and called upon law enforcement agencies to conduct a fair and comprehensive investigation into the matter.

No official response from Prakash Raj or the authorities was immediately available regarding the allegations.



YSRCP Criticises CM Over Governance, Personal Remarks

Tadepalli, July 5 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP SC Cell State President and former MLA T.J.R. Sudhakar Babu on Saturday criticised Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that the coalition government had failed to maintain law and order and was resorting to personal attacks to divert public attention from governance issues.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli, Sudhakar Babu objected to the Chief Minister's recent remarks against YSRCP President Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during his Kuppam tour. He said a Chief Minister should focus on governance and public welfare instead of making personal comments against political opponents. The YSRCP leader alleged that the government had failed to curb crime, drug-

related activities and rowdiness, including in Kuppam constituency. He also referred to the Sai Krishna and Kranti Kumar custodial death cases, alleging that the government was not acting firmly against those responsible.

Sudhakar Babu further criticised the government over crimes against women, the alleged attack on YouTuber Ravan, issues relating to the Jindal Steel project and the lack of remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

He urged the Chief Minister to concentrate on implementing election promises, addressing farmers' concerns and improving governance rather than targeting opposition leaders through personal remarks.

The Andhra Pradesh government had not responded to the allegations at the time of publication.

Lokesh Invites Global Investments to Andhra Pradesh

continued

education with industry needs by restructuring curricula around industrial clusters to equip youth with global skills and employment readiness.

Later, Lokesh met Indian Ambassador to South Korea Gauranglal Das and sought co-operation in attracting Korean electronics and semiconductor companies to Andhra Pradesh under the India Semiconductor Mission and AP Electronics Policy 4.0. He highlighted ready industrial clusters in Sri City, Naidupeta, Kopparthi, and Visakhapatnam, and proposed skill development collaborations in VLSI, ATMP/Packaging, SMT, and display technologies with institutions such as IIT Tirupati, IIT Sri City, and Andhra University.

He also proposed a 'plug-and-play' township for Korean SMEs in Sri City and discussed expanding the Kia/Hyundai Mobis Auto-EV cluster in Anantapur. Lokesh suggested exploring a greenfield shipyard on the AP coast and advancing battery and green hydrogen projects. He announced plans for an AP-Korea desk to strengthen institutional ties and urged proactive efforts to secure G2G MoUs during the Seoul Investor Roadshow scheduled on July 10.



United Farmers' Movement Urged Against Anti-Farmer Policies

Eluru, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State Secretary V. Srinivasa Rao on Sunday alleged that the development claimed by the Centre and the State government remains a "mirage" and called for a broad-based farmers' movement to safeguard the interests of cultivators. Addressing the third day of the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham's 23rd General Conference at DCMS Function Hall in Eluru, Srinivasa Rao said farmers are facing growing challenges due to land disputes, inadequate prices for produce, and policies favouring corporate interests. He alleged that acquired agricultural lands remain unused for industries while compensation is still pending in several areas. He urged the government to return unused acquired lands for cultivation if industries are not established within six months. Stressing the importance of the cooperative sector, he said cooperative sugar factories, dairy units and spinning mills must be protected to ensure inclusive development.

Srinivasa Rao further alleged that farmers are effectively subsidising governments and corporate entities while receiving meagre returns. He also criticised proposals involving irrigation projects and alleged attempts to privatise water resources.

Calling upon youth to actively participate in farmers' struggles, he said raising public issues through democratic movements is essential to protect agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham State President V. Krishnaiah and other state leaders also participated in the general conference.

YS Jagan to Visit Bhimavaram in Support of Aqua Farmers

Tadepalli, July 5 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP President and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit Bhimavaram in West Godavari district on July 15 to express solidarity with aqua farmers and hear their grievances, party leaders announced on Sunday.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP Central Office, West Godavari District YSRCP President and former MLA Mudunuri Prasada Raju said Jagan would interact directly with aqua farmers, discuss their problems with farmers' associations and announce the party's future course of action.

Prasada Raju alleged that the aqua sector has been facing a severe crisis during the coalition government's tenure. He claimed that while feed prices had increased significantly, shrimp prices had declined sharply, pushing farmers into financial distress. He also accused the government of favouring feed syndicates, exporters and middlemen instead of protecting farmers' interests.

The YSRCP leader further alleged that the government had failed to fulfil its promise of substantially reducing feed prices and had not implemented the promised electricity subsidy for aqua farmers. He claimed that no new subsidised power connections had been provided, adding to farmers' difficulties during the summer.

Stating that many farmers were considering a crop holiday because of mounting losses, Prasada Raju said the YSRCP would continue its agitation under Jagan's leadership until the concerns of aqua farmers are addressed.

The Andhra Pradesh government had not responded to the allegations at the time of publication.



Janasena receives 2,100 applications for party posts

Anakapalli Town, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Janasena Party constituency observer Pendum Dorababu said that over 2,100 applications have been received from Janasainiks and Veera Mahilas in the Anakapalli parliamentary constituency for party organisational responsibilities.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday evening, Dorababu said the applications were collected as per the directions of Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, to give opportunities to long-standing party workers who have been associated with the organisation since its inception.

He said constituency-wise meetings were conducted from June 30 to July 5, during which applications were received on different days, including 110 on June 30, 377 on July 1, 482 on July 2, 762 on July 3, 197 on July 4 and 120 on July 5. He said all applications would be submitted to the party high command.

Dorababu said the party leadership would scrutinise the details and finalise appointments for organisational posts as well as for upcoming local body elections.

He also lauded Pawan Kalyan for strengthening the Panchayat Raj system during his tenure as Deputy Chief Minister and said development works worth 600 crore were sanctioned for Pithapuram constituency. He added that temple development works worth 27 crore were also taken up in the constituency.

Members of the Jana Sena 'Nirmana Sarathulu' organisational data collection committee participated in the programme.

CM Bats for P4 Model to Achieve Zero Poverty

continued

Company, which have adopted several families under the programme, attended the meeting.

Naidu emphasised that the goal is not merely financial assistance but long-term empowerment. He urged mentors to design customised action plans based on each family's needs and to monitor their progress consistently with the support of 'Golden Mitras'. He added that the programme is being implemented under the 'MBK-10:20' model, where the top 10% of society supports the bottom 20%.

Highlighting the scale of the initiative, the Chief Minister said 12 lakh Golden Families have been identified across the State, with 1.1 lakh mentors voluntarily coming forward. In Kuppam constituency alone, 9,000 families have been assigned to Adani, TVS, and Mega groups for support and monitoring.

Naidu said the government aims to achieve 'Zero Poverty' through this initiative and stressed the importance of increasing incomes and reducing economic disparities. He also noted that success stories of families benefiting from the programme would be showcased to inspire others.

Chittoor MP Daggamalla Prasad, local public representatives, and senior district officials were present.

Free meal programmes running in 62 temples, says Minister Anam

Nellore, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy said the alliance government has been implementing daily free meal programmes in 62 temples across the State since coming to power.

He said monthly financial assistance of 10,000 is being provided to 6,200 temples for conducting daily rituals such as dhupa, deepa and navedyam. The Minister made these remarks while touring Chejarla region in Nellore district on Sunday and participating in several temple-related programmes.

He laid foundation stones for Nagalingeswara Swamy temple in Perumullapadu, Chennakesava Swamy temple in Chejarla and another Chennakesava temple in Chittalur village.

Addressing the gathering, Anam Ramnarayana Reddy said restoration of ancient temples is a matter of pride and described it as a blessing earned through good deeds. He stated that all election promises related to temples are being fulfilled.



YSRCP Alleges Misuse of Police Machinery in State

Vijayawada, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party on Sunday levelled serious allegations against the Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of misusing the police machinery to suppress political dissent while failing to effectively address crimes affecting ordinary citizens. In a strongly worded statement titled "Hey Ram... Save Andhra Pradesh," the party alleged that the police were prioritising action against social media critics instead of focusing on issues such as missing children, crimes against women and custodial deaths. The YSRCP cited the disappearance of a young girl from Tuni, the alleged delay in registering a sexual assault case involving a mentally challenged girl in Peddapuram, and the alleged assault on a tribal woman in Kavali as examples of what it described as administrative failure. It also referred to alleged custodial death cases and questioned the government's handling of those incidents. The party further alleged that stringent legal provisions were being invoked against social media activists and YouTubers, including journalist KVR and YouTuber Joseph, to silence criticism of the government. It claimed such actions undermined constitutional rights and democratic values.

Calling for an impartial and law-bound policing system, the YSRCP urged the government to focus on ensuring public safety, protecting victims' rights and maintaining equality before the law. The Andhra Pradesh government had not issued an official response to the allegations at the time of filing this report.





Yoga promotes healthy lifestyle and mental strength: Manthena

Pamaruru, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Government Advisor Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju on Sunday praised the week-long yoga training programme for physical education teachers organised by Samagra Shiksha at Pragathi Junior College in Pamaruru. He described it as a model initiative for the entire State and said yoga promotes a healthy lifestyle, improves concentration, self-confidence, mental strength and helps prevent lifestyle-related diseases.

He appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for promoting yoga and

lauded Krishna district for taking the lead in implementing the training programme.

Meanwhile, Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji directed physical education teachers to ensure that students in all schools practise yoga for at least 20 minutes every morning. He instructed teachers to send daily photographs of yoga sessions to the District Educational Officer and stressed their role in the holistic development of students.

Krishna University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Koonam Ramji, District Educational Officer U.V. Subbarao, education officials, yoga instructors and students participated in the programme.

High Court to Hear Vijayawada Press Club Case on July 6

Vijayawada, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court will hear a petition on July 6 regarding delays in acting on an inquiry report into the Vijayawada Press Club. The petition was filed by senior journalist Kastala Nammaiah, alleging that no final decision has been taken despite the report being submitted to the NTR District Collector in December 2023.

The inquiry, conducted by the then Vijayawada Sub-Collector, reportedly found that the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) failed

to produce documents proving ownership of the Press Club. It stated that the land belongs to the Irrigation Department and that the lease period had expired.

The petitioner also alleged that Irrigation officials issued notices to recover about 12 lakh in lease arrears and sought action under the Revenue Recovery Act, but no steps were taken.

The court has impleaded the NTR District Collector, Engineer-in-Chief of the Irrigation Department and APUWJ. The case will be heard by Justice Bhanumathi Singh.



Digitisation of voter forms under close watch: Collector Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr G. Lakshmisha said special focus is being placed on the digitisation of enumeration forms as part of the comprehensive revision of electoral rolls, with continuous monitoring to prevent lapses.

On Sunday, Lakshmisha conducted extensive field visits in Singh Nagar and Devi Nagar areas under Vijayawada Central constituency. Reviewing the ongoing process, he directed officials and staff to ensure error-free digitisation and smooth execution of the programme at the field level.

The Collector inspected special drive activities, assessed help desks set up for voter assistance, and issued guidelines to strengthen implementation. He instructed officials to create awareness among voters on utilising help desks for filling and submitting enumeration forms.

Officials informed that 16,80,998 enumeration forms,

accounting for 98.11%, have been distributed across the district, while digitisation of 8,43,301 forms, or 49.22%, has been completed so far.

Providing constituency-wise progress, authorities said Tiruvuru recorded 1,36,700 forms digitised (65.50%), Vijayawada West 95,602 (37.20%), Vijayawada Central 1,10,622 (39.82%), Vijayawada East 1,13,481 (42.07%), Mylavaram 1,69,551 (59.46%), Nandigama 1,16,272 (56.04%), and Jaggayyapeta 1,01,073 (48.70%).

Lakshmisha emphasised that Booth Level Officers are being provided necessary support and guidance to carry out their responsibilities effectively. He directed officials to ensure that BLOs and field staff adhere strictly to Election Commission of India norms and guidelines.

He underscored that the survey and digitisation process must be conducted with commitment, impartiality, and without any external influence to ensure accuracy in the electoral roll revision exercise.

'Manasa Sarovaram' Spiritual Old Age Home Inaugurated

Machilipatnam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Mines, Geology and Excise Kollu Ravindra and Krishna District Collector D.K. Balaji on Sunday inaugurated the newly constructed 'Manasa Sarovaram' spiritual old age home at Rajupeta in Machilipatnam.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed hope that the facility would emerge as a model old age home by providing quality care and a spiritual environment for senior citizens. He appreciated the founders for their commitment to social service and said the government would continue to encourage organisations working for the welfare of society. He also noted that Machilipatnam is witnessing rapid development through various government initiatives.

District Collector D.K. Balaji



said the home would enable elderly people to lead a peaceful and dignified life in a spiritual atmosphere. He urged citizens to spend time with residents of old age homes whenever possible, stating that such interactions provide emotional support and companionship to senior citizens.

The old age home was established by Ghantasala Gurunadha Babu and Mahalakshmi, along with Ghantasala Bhaskara Srinivasa Rao and Uma Devi, with a spirit of community service.

Inspired by the Om Shanti organisation, the institution has been set up to provide accommodation, spiritual guidance and essential facilities to elderly people at a nominal fee.

Machilipatnam Municipal Commissioner Bapiraju, former District Library Authority Chairman Gorrepati Gopichand, Urban Bank Chairman Dileep, former Municipal Chairman Motamarri Baba Prasad, R.D. Prasad and several other dignitaries attended the inaugural programme.

Journalists Seek Early Launch of Amaravati Housing Project

Amaravati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Senior journalists have appealed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to immediately begin the long-pending journalists' housing project in Amaravati. The demand was made through a unanimous resolution adopted at a meeting of the Amaravati Journalists' Housing Society held in Vijayawada on Sunday.



Society Secretary Patibandla Naga Srinivasa Rao recalled that the then State Government had allotted 30 acres of land to the society in 2019 through G.O. Ms. No. 67. He said the land was later handed over to the government for the construction of multi-storey apartments under the supervision of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA). He added that G.O. Ms. No. 107 had proposed construction of the housing complex on the lines of the Happiness project.

Society Director and Visalaandhra Bureau Chief Chava Ravi urged the Chief Minister to prioritise the journalists' housing project, noting that other residential projects in Amaravati are progressing rapidly. The meeting welcomed the accelerated development of Amaravati and thanked the Centre for granting statutory capital status to the city. It also highlighted that several journalists have retired or passed away since 2019, leaving their families awaiting the project.

Participants urged the government to establish a modern journalists' colony befitting a world-class capital. Several senior journalists from print, television and digital media attended the meeting and extended their support to the resolution.

APSSDC, BNI to host Mega Job Mela on July 12

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

A Mega Job Mela will be organised jointly by Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) and Business Network International (BNI) in Vijayawada on July 12 to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in the district.

District Skill Development Officer S. Srinivasa Rao, along with BNI representatives J.H. Desai, Executive Director (Vijayawada & Achanta), and Meghana, Chairperson (Vijayawada), announced that the job fair will be

held at P.B. Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Moghalrajapuram, from 8 a.m.

Speaking on the occasion, J.H. Desai said the Mega Job Mela is being organised as part of celebrations marking 10 years of BNI. He noted that over 100 companies, including multinational firms such as Genpact and Teleperformance, will participate in the recruitment drive.

Candidates aged between 18 and 35 years who have completed 10th standard, Intermediate, ITI, Polytechnic, Degree, B.Tech, Post-Graduation, or Pharmacy are eligible to attend. Desai said selected candidates could secure

jobs with salaries ranging from Rs. 12,000 up to Rs. 50,000 per month, along with additional benefits. Recruitment will be carried out through on-the-spot interviews.

Officials stated that interested candidates must register online at the Naipunyam portal prior to attending the job mela. Applicants are required to carry their resume or bio-data, Aadhaar card, Aadhaar-linked mobile number, PAN card copy, and educational certificates.

For further information, candidates can contact Kalyan (83339 08080), Naresh (90326 33548), or Kishore (99857 59304).

Meekosam grievance programme to be held on July 6

Vijayawada, July 6 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr G. Lakshmisha announced that public representations will be received on Monday, July 6, at the Collectorate under the 'Meekosam' Public Grievance Redressal System.

He said that, as per government directives, petitions aimed

at resolving public grievances will be accepted through the PGRS platform. Officials will be available to receive petitions at the Pingali Venkayya Conference Hall in the Collectorate, as well as at divisional, municipal, and mandal headquarters across the district. Lakshmisha urged citizens to utilise the opportunity to present their grievances and seek timely resolution. He as-

sured that necessary steps would be taken to address issues raised by the public.

The Collector also stated that applicants can register their petitions online through the Meekosam portal and track the status of their submissions. He added that citizens can call the toll-free number 1100 to obtain updates or further information regarding their petitions.

Ravuri Bharadwaja centenary celebrated

Nandigama Rural, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh State Social Welfare Board Chairman Pothula Balakotaiah said Nandigama region, located on the banks of the Krishna River, has produced many distinguished personalities, including Jnanpith awardee Ravuri Bharadwaja.

He was speaking as chief guest at the centenary celebrations of Ravuri Bharadwaja organised by Bhalari Raghava Kala Samithi



on Sunday. Balakotaiah noted that Ravuri, born in Moguluru of Kanchikacharla mandal, rose to literary prominence despite having only primary education, authoring 37 novels and over 100

short story collections.

Highlighting the region's contribution to art, theatre and cinema, he urged the government to organise 'Nandigama Kala Vaibhava Utsavalu' at the earliest.

Event organiser Bobbillapati Gopala Krishna Sai said artists should be granted pensions in recognition of their contribution, and not merely based on age above 60. Responding, Balakotaiah assured that efforts would be made to amend the relevant Government Order.

YouTuber Prashna Ravana remanded till July 18

Gannavaram, July 6 | TPN Bureau

A Gannavaram court on Sunday remanded YouTuber Bachalakuri Joseph, alias 'Prashna Ravana', to judicial custody till July 18 in connection with a case involving alleged derogatory remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The case was registered at Gannavaram police station following a complaint lodged by Jana Sena leader Garikapati Siva Shankar. In his complaint, Siva Shankar alleged that Ravana made objectionable comments against Pawan Kalyan and was involved in subversive activities and other unlawful acts.



Police said Ravana was taken into custody in the early hours of Sunday while travelling to Hyderabad, shortly after being released on bail in another case by a court in Yelamanchili. He was brought to Gannavaram police station for questioning and later produced before the court.

According to police, cases were registered under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Sections 147, 148, 152, 197, 197(1)(d),

and 353(1)(b), along with provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The UAPA charges relate to alleged support to terrorist organisations.

During the hearing, Director of Prosecutions Baira Ramakoteswara Rao presented arguments on behalf of the police, while Senior Advocate Jada Sravan Kumar represented the accused. The arguments continued for nearly an hour.

After hearing both sides, the judge ordered judicial remand. Following the court's directions, Ravana was shifted to Nellore Central Jail.



Heavy Rush of Devotees at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Thousands of devotees thronged the hill shrine of Goddess Sri Kanaka Durga atop Indrakeeladri on Sunday, taking advantage of the holiday to offer prayers. The rush increased significantly from 9 a.m., prompting temple authorities to implement special crowd management measures to ensure smooth darshan.

Under the supervision of Deputy Executive Officer Kishore Kumar, along with Assistant Executive Officers Chandrasekhar and Ramesh Babu, elaborate arrangements were made to handle the heavy influx. To facilitate faster movement of general devotees, Antaralaya Darshan was temporarily suspended from 10.30 a.m., while all VIP darshan was cancelled between 10.30 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

Temple authorities also introduced a new drinking water distribution system, supplying

chilled water directly to devotees waiting in queue lines through mobile water containers. The initiative received an enthusiastic response, with devotees appreciating the relief provided during the hot weather. Free prasadam and annadanam were served continuously throughout the day. Members of the Temple Trust Board personally inspected the queue lines, interacted with devotees, and monitored the arrangements to ensure their comfort.

Assistant Commissioner Ranga Rao supervised crowd management, while Temple Executive Officer V.K. Sheena Naik coordinated operations through wireless communication, issuing real-time instructions to staff.

The heavy rush gradually eased after 2.15 p.m. Devotees expressed satisfaction with the temple administration for ensuring peaceful and hassle-free darshan despite the large turnout.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu to arrange VIP break darshan for 116-year-old pilgrim

Tirumala, July 5 | TPN Bureau

TTD Chairman BR Naidu has responded to the remarkable devotion of Navaneethamma, a 116-year-old pilgrim who walked to Tirumala through the Alipiri footpath for the darshan of Lord Venkateswara. He announced that VIP break darshan will be arranged for her and her family members on Monday morning.

In a post on 'X' (formerly Twitter), BR Naidu said the devotion of the elderly pilgrim is an inspiration to all. He stated that special arrangements have been made to ensure darshan along with her family and prayed for her good health and longevity.

Navaneethamma reached Tirumala on Saturday, and her journey quickly went viral on social media. Initially, her identity was unclear, with speculation that she was from Karnataka. Following this, TTD Chairman BR Naidu sought information publicly through 'X', requesting details



about her origin.

Subsequently, TTD vigilance officials traced her identity and confirmed that she belongs to Tamil Nadu and is currently staying with relatives at Jeevakona in Tirupati. The information was communicated to the TTD Chairman, following which arrangements were confirmed for VIP break darshan.

The incident has drawn widespread appreciation for both the devotion of the elderly pilgrim and the prompt response of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams administration.



We Will Build Houses for Everyone Who Is Eligible: MLA Paritala Sunitha

Ananthapuram Rural, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha stated that the coalition government holds the complete responsibility to build and provide houses to every single eligible person. She conducted an official review meeting with housing department officials at her camp office located in Venkatapuram within Ramagiri mandal. The high-level meeting primarily focused on the structured implementation of the Prime Minister Awas Yojana scheme across the constituency.

During the session, the legislator inquired about the total number of homeless individuals and the volume of applications received so far. Officials informed her that approximately 11,000 beneficiaries have been identified as primarily eligible candidates across six distinct mandals within the Raptadu constituency boundaries. Following this update, Sunitha directed that regular

gram sabhas must be organized in strict accordance with the instructions issued by the government to systematically identify remaining beneficiaries. She emphasized that this ambitious program must maintain absolute transparency without allowing any room for administrative errors.

Sunitha explicitly instructed that the beneficiary selection process must follow government guidelines and happen purely on the basis of merit. She remarked that unlike the practices seen during the previous government, partisan politics should not find any place in this selection. She assured citizens that no homeless person needs to worry about missing out on the opportunity. She further explained that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is actively implementing this welfare scheme throughout the state with the direct support of Prime Minister Modi.

Jeevani Old Age Home Handed Over to CR Foundation

Siddavatam, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Takkoli Machireddy and Sanjeevamma generously merged the Jeevani Old Age Home, built with their life's earnings at Nekanapuram in Siddavatam mandal, with the CR Foundation. The transfer ceremony took place on Sunday under the auspices of K. Narayana.Rajampet MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy praised the couple's dedication and allocated Rs 10 lakhs from MP funds for the home's development. Rajampet MLA Akepati Amaranath Reddy promised full future support. CPI nation-

al leader K. Narayana noted this is the first ashram under the CR Foundation in Andhra Pradesh since the state bifurcation. Officials revealed the ashram will now shelter both the elderly and orphaned children, while organizing training programs for poor women and unemployed youth. The retired couple originally established the ashram in 2022 on a three-acre plot using their retirement money and personal savings.

Peddireddy Mithun Reddy, Akepati Amaranath Reddy, and Gujjala Eswaraiah participated.

Rowdy-Sheeteer Detained Under PD Act for Repeated Offences

Tirupati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati District Police have invoked the Andhra Pradesh Prevention of Dangerous Activities (PD) Act, 1986 against a 20-year-old rowdy-sheeteer, G. Srinivasulu alias Srinu, for repeatedly engaging in criminal activities that threatened public order and the safety of devotees in Tirumala.

The detention order was issued by S. Venkateshwar, District Collector and District Magistrate, following a proposal submitted by L. Subbarayudu, Superintendent of Police, Tirupati District.

According to the police, the accused was involved in five criminal cases over the past year, including theft, assault, attacking police personnel on duty, harassment of women, criminal intimidation using weapons, and other offences that created fear among the

public. Despite repeated arrests and legal action, his criminal behaviour reportedly continued, prompting authorities to initiate preventive detention under the PD Act.

Following the detention order, the accused was shifted to Kadapa Central Jail.

SP L. Subbarayudu said the district police remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of devotees visiting Tirumala and maintaining public order. He warned that rowdiness, assaults, harassment of women, obstruction of government officials in the discharge of their duties, and other activities disturbing law and order would not be tolerated.

The SP further stated that the police would continue taking stringent legal action against habitual offenders and would invoke the PD Act wherever necessary to prevent repeat offences and safeguard the peaceful environment of the temple town.



Sri Sundararaja Swamy Avatara Mahotsavams Begin with Grandeur

Tirupati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The annual Sri Sundararaja Swamy Avatara Mahotsavams commenced with religious fervour and grandeur at the Sri Sundararaja Swamy Temple, an associated shrine of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams-managed Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanoor on Sunday. A large number of devotees participated in the inaugural celebrations and received the blessings of the deity.

The festivities began with a grand Maha Abhishekam held at the Sri Krishna Swamy Mukha Mandapam at 3 p.m. Priests performed the sacred ritual using milk, curd, honey, coconut water, turmeric, sandalwood and other holy substances amid the chanting of Vedic hymns, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere for devotees.

Later in the evening, the Unjal Seva was conducted with traditional rituals. At 7 p.m., Sri Sundararaja Swamy was taken out in a majestic procession on the Pedda Sesha Vahanam through the four Mada streets surrounding the temple, where thousands of devo-



tees gathered to witness the divine procession and seek the Lord's blessings.

As part of the ongoing festivities, the deity will be taken out in a procession on the Hanumantha Vahanam on Monday night, offering devotees another opportunity to participate in the sacred celebrations. According to historical and traditional accounts, the Utsava idols of Sri Sundararaja Swamy were brought from the ancient Azhagiri Perumal Temple in Madurai to Tiruchanoor during a period of inva-

sions. The presiding deity was later consecrated during the Mahants' administration. The Avatara Mahotsavams, observed annually from the Shatabhisha star to Uttara Bhadra in the Jyestha month, commemorate the Lord's arrival at Tiruchanoor.

Temple Deputy Executive Officer Harindranath, AEO Devarajulu, Temple Inspector Chalapathi, chief priest Babu Swamy, other officials and a large gathering of devotees participated in the inaugural celebrations.

Anivara Asthanam Scheduled at Tirumala Temple on July 17

Tirumala, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The ancient annual traditional ritual of Anivara Asthanam will be observed at the Tirumala temple on July 17. The ritual beautifully symbolizes the formal submission of temple accounts and keys to Sri Venkateswara Swamy, thereby marking divine ownership and sacred governance

over the institution.

In the evening, the Pushpa Pallaki ritual will be observed, during which Sri Malayappa Swamy along with Sridevi and Bhudevi takes a celestial ride to bless His devotees along the four mada streets. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled various arjita sevass scheduled for the day in connection with this tradition-

al fete. The cancelled services include Kalyanotsavam, Unjal-Seva, arjita Brahmotsavam, and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva. Devotees are expected to plan their pilgrimage in accordance with these ritual schedules. Sri Venkateswara Swamy, Sri Malayappa Swamy, and devotees participated.



Water Will Be Provided to Every Acre: Minister Payyavula Keshav

Boodigumma, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The coalition government's 'Two-Year Trust - Development and Welfare' victory meeting was held on Sunday in Boodigumma, Beluguppa mandal, Urvakonda constituency. State Minister Payyavula Keshav and Anantapur MP Ambika Lakshminarayana participated in the event.

During the meeting, the

foundation stone was laid for the construction of an 18-kilometer road and a new bridge at Ramasagaram, Boodigumma at a cost of Rs 91 crore. The minister stated that the bridge would be completed within a year using the latest technology. He promised that a program to provide irrigation water for every acre will launch soon, aiming to irrigate 40,000 acres in Beluguppa mandal alone. He highlighted that despite the

state's difficult financial situation, promises like pensions and free cylinders are being fulfilled due to "Brand Chandrababu." Additionally, he called for eligible citizens to register to vote before the July 14 deadline and urged the public to thwart opposition conspiracies trying to create a rift in the alliance.

Payyavula Keshav, Ambika Lakshminarayana, and alliance leaders participated.

Tirumala Police Conduct Awareness Programme for Taxi Drivers

Tirupati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Tirupati District Police organised a special awareness programme for taxi drivers in Tirumala to enhance services for pilgrims while preserving the sanctity and spiritual atmosphere of the temple town.

The programme was conducted on the directions of L. Subbarayudu, Superintendent of Police, Tirupati District. Officials emphasised the vital role taxi drivers play in creating a positive experience for the lakhs of devotees visiting Tirumala every year.

Addressing the participants, Tirumala Traffic Circle Inspector Hariprasad highlighted the religious significance of Tirumala and urged drivers to uphold its spiritual values through disciplined conduct and a service-oriented attitude. He encouraged taxi drivers to voluntarily wear Sri Vaishna-



va namams as a mark of respect for the sacred traditions of the temple town.

The officials instructed drivers to treat pilgrims with courtesy, strictly adhere to traffic regulations, and avoid charging excessive fares. They stressed that transparency, honesty, and a commitment to public service are essential while transporting devotees.

Police also reminded the drivers that ensuring safe, comfortable, and hassle-free

travel for pilgrims is a shared social responsibility and contributes significantly to maintaining Tirumala's reputation as one of the world's most revered pilgrimage destinations. The awareness programme was attended by Traffic CI Hariprasad, traffic sub-inspectors, police personnel, and a large number of taxi drivers, who were encouraged to reflect the values of discipline, devotion, and hospitality in their daily services.

MLA Nelavala Vijayasri to Interact with Public via Special Program

Sullurpet, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Sullurpet MLA Nelavala Vijayasri will participate in a special interactive program titled "Samadhanamistharu MLA" organized by Way2News. The initiative aims to bring governance closer to the citizens, allowing the legislator to understand public grievances directly and take necessary steps toward their swift resolution.

The live interactive session is scheduled to take place on July 6, Monday, from 11:00 am

to 12:00 pm. During this hour, residents of the constituency can directly call and talk to the MLA regarding various public issues, regional development matters, government welfare schemes, or other public interest topics to get their doubts officially cleared. The public note requests the people of Sullurpet constituency to actively take advantage of this opportunity by calling the designated telephone number 9505331350 to bring their local problems to the immediate attention of the legislator.



VenkayyaNayaku Autobiography Book Launched Grandly at VPR Conventio

Nellore, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy stated that the life of former Vice President Muppavarapu Venkayya Naidu is an ideal for everyone, describing his autobiography as a Bhagavad Gita for political leaders. She launched the book at the VPR Convention in Nellore on Sunday.

Prashanthi Reddy praised Venkayya Naidu for rising from a simple farmer family to become a national leader. She

recalled his historic 1978 assembly victory in Udayagiri against a strong Congress wave. She emphasized that his principles of dedication, discipline, determination, and dynamism are essential for today's politicians. She also highlighted his ongoing service programs through the Swarna Bharat Trust and noted that the Central Government honored him with the Padma Vibhushan in 2024. She congratulated the book's author, senior journalist Maa

Yadav Community Holds Huge Bike Rally with Film Hero Nikhil

Tirupati, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The 'Sarabhayya Yadav Yuva Shakti Samvetam' event commenced in Tirupati city on Sunday under the organization of prominent Yadava community leader R.R. Yadav. The youth gathering generated a massive response, culminating in a huge bike rally featuring approximately 1,000 Yadava youths showcasing community solidarity across the city streets.

Famous Tollywood film hero Nikhil participated as the chief guest for the occasion, serving as a major attraction

by riding in the rally itself to motivate the young participants. During the convention, R.R. Yadav raised an official demand urging the government to restore the historic Sarabhayya Math located at the holy shrine of Tirumala and install a commemorative statue. He stated that community elders and key leaders held comprehensive discussions regarding local welfare issues, confirming plans to bring these specific community grievances to the direct attention of the state government for swift resolution.



Complete Voter Revision Program Transparently Within Stipulated Time: Joint Collector Nurul Qamar

Kurnool, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Joint Collector Nurul Qamar directed officials to work with special care to complete the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program transparently, impartially, and expeditiously to ensure every eligible person is registered. On Sunday, he visited special voter revision camps across the district, including the Swarna Ward-47 Secretariat near Ramachandra Mission, Kendriya Vidyalaya School, Bishop Church St. Joseph School, Somiseti Nagar Water Tank area, and Doctors Colony.

Nurul Qamar advised that applications and necessary

certificates submitted by citizens must be examined according to rules and immediately digitized on the relevant portal. He ordered steps to resolve each application within the stipulated time following the Election Commission guidelines. He advised officials to conduct wide campaigns in villages, wards, and colonies so every eligible voter utilizes the opportunity. He added that assistants from ICDS, MEPMA, DWAMA, and DRDA departments have been assigned to help each Booth Level Officer complete the registration process quickly. Anjaneyulu, and Booth Level Officers participated.



A Bone

Fear frightens the unafraid
Fear removes morality
Fear endears selfishness
Fear engulfs in self-centred nature.
To drive this fear

We need a bone
We need a bone

Where,
A bone in the brain,
To understand pain
A bone in the heart,
To understand hurt
A bone in the tongue,
For the response to flung
An extra bone in the back
To stand firm without quivering.

A bone in the shoulder
A bone in the Biceps
A bone in the shin
A curved mustache
At the end of every finger

What, much could we,
We, expect from a living soul
But for one more bone

The bone
That bone, which stops from stopping
Stooping, to be in good books
Stooping in fear of answering
Stooping to be in a comfort zone
Stooping, for not knowing what to do

What more do people need than a bone?

B Suneela Jyotsna
TGT English, KV Waltair
Visakhapatnam



C. Narayana Reddy's Viswambhara: The Epic of Humanity and the Earth

Varala Anand
Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation

Poetry is born when the inner weather of a poet overflows into language. Sometimes it arrives as a clear stream, moving with effortless grace; at other times it unfolds like an ocean, vast, layered, and profound. Simplicity in poetry is never simple to achieve—obscurity is often easier. Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, one of the most luminous voices in modern Telugu literature, mastered the rare art of uniting accessibility with depth. His poetry sings in a language that appears transparent, yet beneath its lyrical surface lie philosophical currents that continue to reveal themselves with each reading.

Born on 29 July 1931 in Hanumajipeta, a village in the erstwhile Karimnagar district of Telangana, Narayana Reddy emerged from a modest rural background to become one of the foremost literary figures of contemporary India. Though educated initially in Urdu, he developed an abiding fascination for folk traditions, language, and literature. That passion eventually led him to Osmania University, where scholarship and creativity would find a lifelong meeting place.

His literary career traversed multiple genres—poetry, film lyrics, essays, criticism, and public discourse. Millions knew him through his unforgettable film songs, yet the immense popularity he enjoyed never diminished the seriousness of his literary pursuits. Throughout his life, he remained fundamentally a poet, committed to exploring the human condition in all its complexity and wonder.

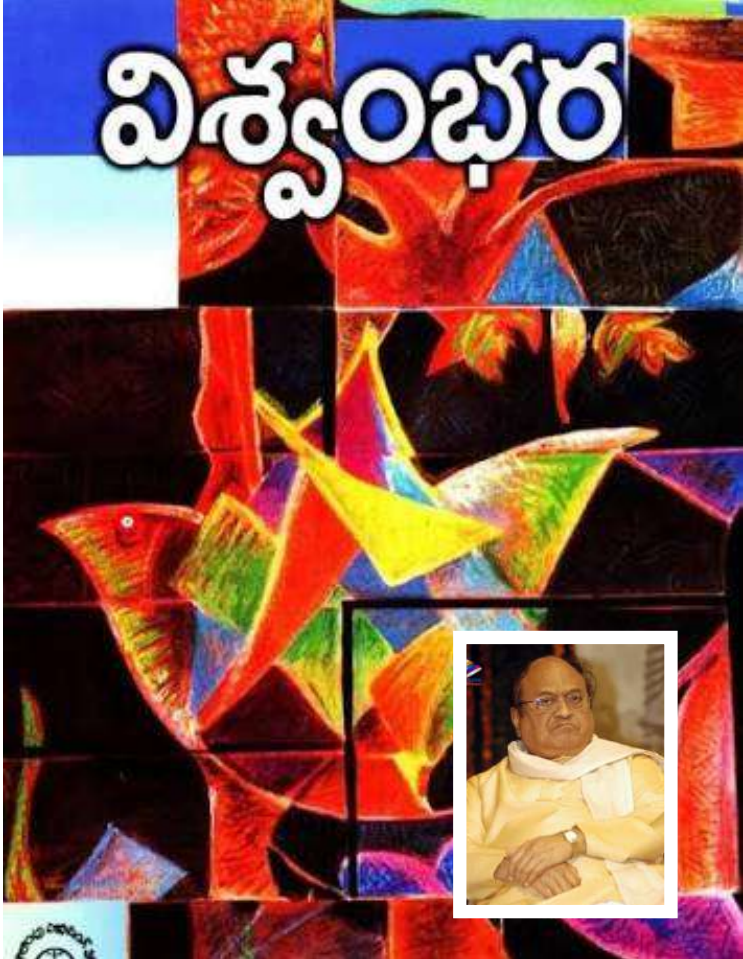
At the heart of Narayana Reddy's oeuvre lies a profound humanism. His poetry consistently transcends the boundaries of caste, religion, nationality, and

language, affirming the essential unity of humankind. For him, the human being is not merely a social entity but a universal presence, participating in a larger cosmic drama. Equally central to his vision is nature—not as a backdrop to human existence but as an inseparable companion in the journey of life. Earth appears repeatedly in his poetry as mother, witness, nurturer, and eternal source.

These concerns find their grandest expression in Viswambhara, the monumental work that earned him the prestigious Jnanpith Award. The title itself is a magnificent metaphor. "Viswambhara" signifies the Earth—the bearer of the world, the sustaining force of existence. In Narayana Reddy's hands, the Earth ceases to be a geographical entity and becomes a living archive of human experience, carrying within her memory the story of civilization itself.

Unlike conventional epics, Viswambhara does not revolve around a heroic individual. Its protagonist is humanity. It does not narrate a story in the traditional sense; instead, it unfolds the drama of human evolution across the immeasurable expanse of time. There are no fixed chronological boundaries, only the ceaseless movement of history. The poem flows like a vast river of collective memory, tracing humanity's journey from primitive existence to modern consciousness.

Narayana Reddy envisions this journey through three broad stages: humanity's submission to nature, its creation of civilization, and its gradual awakening into self-awareness. These stages are not merely historical; they are spiritual and philosophical. The evolution of humanity be-



comes, in essence, a search for self-knowledge.

From the cave-dweller who first confronted the mysteries of existence to the modern citizen inhabiting towering cities, humanity has struggled, created, invented, and transformed the world around it. Yet, despite astonishing achievements in science, technology, and culture, one question remains unresolved—has humanity truly understood itself?

This question forms the philosophical centre of Viswambhara. The poem is less concerned with external progress than with inner awakening. It asks whether material advancement alone can fulfil human destiny, or whether a deeper consciousness is required to complete the journey.

The humanism of Viswamb-

hara resonates strongly with the ancient Indian ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world as one family. Narayana Reddy challenges all forms of division that separate one human being from another. Nations, religions, and social identities appear transient when measured against the larger truth of shared humanity.

At the same time, the poem offers a profound ecological insight. Humanity may imagine itself the conqueror of nature, yet it remains an inseparable part of the natural order. The Earth that nourishes civilization can also remind humanity of its limitations. Narayana Reddy's vision anticipates many contemporary concerns about ecological balance and environmental responsibility, making Viswambhara remarkably relevant even today.

Symbolism plays a vital role in the architecture of the poem. Earth becomes the symbol of origin and continuity; humanity embodies creative consciousness; nature represents harmony and equilibrium; and the city emerges as an emblem of civilization's achievements and contradictions. Through these symbols, Narayana Reddy elevates the poem beyond historical narration into the realm of universal reflection.

Yet the greatness of Narayana Reddy cannot be measured solely through his writings. As a scholar, professor at Osmania University, cultural ambassador, and member of the Rajya Sabha, he contributed significantly to the growth of the Telugu language and literature. He encouraged younger writers with exceptional generosity. A manuscript arriving from an unknown poet in a remote village would often receive a personal response filled with appreciation and encouragement. Such gestures reveal a literary personality as remarkable as the poet himself.

His life reflected the discipline he celebrated in his work. Even amid public engagements, literary gatherings, and cultural responsibilities, he maintained a simple daily routine. Rain or shine, he would set out for his morning walk, umbrella in hand—a quiet image of a man deeply connected to life and its rhythms.

Honoured with the Jnanpith Award, the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan, and numerous other distinctions, Narayana Reddy occupies a permanent place in the history of Indian literature. He passed away on 12 June 2017, but his voice continues to resonate across generations.

For poets do not survive through biography alone. They survive through the worlds they create in language. And in Viswambhara, C. Narayana Reddy created not merely a poem but a universe—an epic of Earth, humanity, and consciousness that continues to illuminate the path of human self-discovery.

In the Ashes of War, He Searched for Humanity The Enduring Legacy of Czesław Miłosz

Chitikena Kiran Kumar

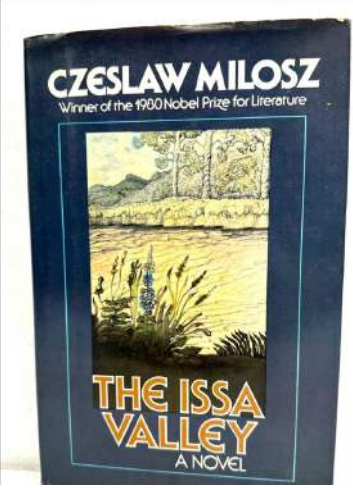


Eminent Poet, Writer & Member: IBRF

A true writer does not merely belong to his own time; he shapes the thoughts of generations yet to come. When a person who has witnessed oppression, endured the horrors of war, and longed for freedom takes up the pen, literature rises above artistic expression and becomes a testimony to history and a guiding light for humanity. One such extraordinary literary figure is Czesław Miłosz, whose place in world literature remains timeless. On the occasion of his birth anniversary, observed on June 30, it is worth reflecting on how a poet became one of the world's strongest moral voices.

A Childhood Shaped by History

Czesław Miłosz was born on 30 June 1911 in what was then part of the Russian Empire, in the region now known as Šeteniai in present-day Lithuania. The area was a cultural crossroads where Polish traditions, Lithuanian heritage, and the political currents of Eastern Europe intersected. Growing up amidst diverse languages, cultures, and shifting political landscapes, Miłosz developed a deep understanding of the complexities of human civilisation.



The twentieth century witnessed two devastating World Wars, authoritarian regimes, and unprecedented violence. These historic events profoundly influenced not only Miłosz's life but also his literary vision. He understood that war destroys far more than cities and nations—it wounds the human conscience and erodes the moral values that sustain civilisation.

Poetry as a Dialogue with History

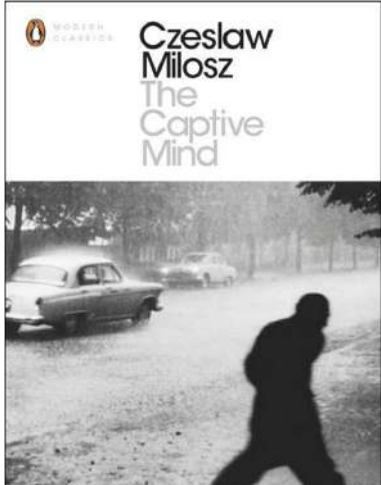
For Miłosz, poetry was never confined to emotion or aesthetic beauty. While his works celebrate nature, love, and memory, they also explore the inner struggles of individuals living under political oppression and moral uncertainty. His poetry reflects the constant tension between the human desire for freedom and the pressures imposed by authoritarian systems. He believed that literature carried an ethical responsibility. A poet's duty was not merely to create beauty but to speak the truth, however uncomfortable it might be. This conviction gave his writings remarkable intellectual depth and enduring relevance.

The Literary Voice of Freedom

The political climate in post-war Eastern Europe severely restricted freedom of thought and expression. Many writers were compelled to conform to official ideologies, but Miłosz refused to compromise his principles. He remained steadfast in his belief that truth must never become a casualty of power. His essays and poems consistently champion human dignity, individual liberty, and democratic values. As a result, his writings transcended national boundaries and were translated into numerous languages, earning admiration across the world.

The Nobel Prize: A Recognition of Moral Courage

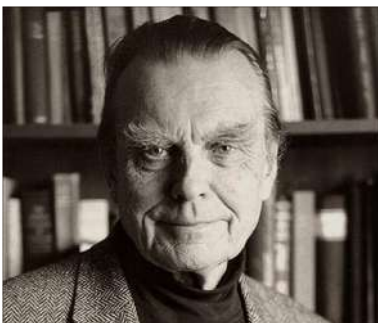
In 1980, Czesław Miłosz was award-



ed the Nobel Prize in Literature, an honour that recognised far more than literary excellence. It acknowledged a lifetime devoted to exploring the moral complexities of modern history and defending the values of truth and freedom through literature. The Nobel Committee recognised his exceptional ability to illuminate the human condition with intellectual honesty, poetic brilliance, and profound historical insight. His work continues to inspire readers who seek literature that challenges both the heart and the mind.

Why Miłosz Still Matters Today

Despite remarkable technological progress, the modern world continues to grapple with war, intolerance, misinformation, and threats to demo-



cratic values. In such times, Miłosz's writings remain strikingly relevant. They remind us that silence in the face of injustice is dangerous and that safeguarding human dignity requires both courage and moral clarity. His message extends beyond writers and scholars. It speaks to every citizen who values freedom, justice, and compassion in an increasingly complex world. The life and works of Czesław Miłosz demonstrate that literature possesses the power not only to record history but also to preserve humanity. His pen became an instrument of conscience, reminding the world that truth and freedom must never be surrendered, even during the darkest chapters of history.

As we commemorate his birth anniversary on June 30, we honour not merely a Nobel Laureate but a writer whose legacy continues to inspire generations to defend human values with integrity and courage. That remains the most meaningful tribute to Czesław Miłosz.



Commitment Vs Casting Couch

The skin show celebrates curves and niches
Now--
commitment cuddles the casting couch
perhaps,
The body speaks its own language
Off the bed and off the wardrobe

'commitment' guises its virginity
It's no longer a promise
But just a surrender
Who dares to define immaculacy?
Some name it 'submission'
For some it is 'integrity'

Casting couch is a welcoming host
It lingers between offers and experience
Sleep...sleep...sleep
The offers languish between thighs and currency bills
Our destiny is redefined here
here -
in the World of skin & sin

Dr Srinivas Vasudev
Academic Director,
Krishnaveni Talent School,
Hyderabad



India Slams Khawaja Asif Over Remarks on Modi's Seychelles Honour

India has strongly rebuked Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Asif over his controversial remarks regarding Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving Seychelles' highest civilian honour. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) dismissed Asif's comments as baseless and irresponsible, stating that they reflected a lack of understanding and were driven by negativity.

The controversy arose after Prime Minister Modi was conferred the prestigious "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" award during his recent visit to the island nation of Seychelles. The honour, regarded as the country's highest civilian award, was presented in recognition of Modi's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations, promote maritime security, and deepen cooperation in the Indian Ocean region.

Reacting to the award, Khawaja Asif made objectionable remarks, alleging that the honour had been deliberately arranged. His comments drew sharp criticism from India, which described them as unfounded and inappropriate.



Responding to the remarks, senior officials in the Ministry of External Affairs said the Pakistan minister was making "meaningless comments on issues he does not understand." They added that Asif appeared to have no constructive work and was wasting time making irresponsible statements. The officials further remarked that such comments reflected frustration and jealousy rather than facts.

The MEA also said that hatred and constant criticism of others never yield positive outcomes and instead encourage negativity. Officials noted that responsible public figures should refrain from making provocative statements that undermine diplomatic goodwill between sovereign nations.

Prime Minister Modi's recognition in Seychelles marks a significant milestone in India-Seychelles relations. Notably, he is the first recipient of the Guardian of the Blue Horizon award. The Seychelles Cabinet approved the institution of the honour on June 24, just weeks before the Prime Minister's official visit, making the recognition particularly significant.

During his visit, Modi held high-level discussions with Seychelles' leadership on expanding cooperation in maritime security, climate resilience, the blue economy, capacity building, and sustainable development. Both countries reiterated their commitment to strengthening strategic ties and ensuring peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

The award is seen as a reflection of the growing partnership between India and Seychelles, built on mutual trust and shared regional interests. India has consistently supported the island nation through infrastructure development, defence cooperation, healthcare initiatives, and capacity-building programmes.

With its strong response, India made it clear that it rejects what it called politically motivated and unfounded comments aimed at diminishing the significance of an honour bestowed by a sovereign nation. The government reaffirmed that international recognition earned through diplomacy and cooperation speaks for itself and does not require validation from critics.

SIT to Reveal More in Maharashtra TET Paper Leak Case

Maharashtra Minister Pankaj Rajesh Bhoyar on Sunday said that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) paper leak case would soon reveal more details as the investigation progresses.

Addressing the media, Bhoyar said the TET examination was originally scheduled for June 28. However, three days before the exam, police received intelligence that a group was attempting to leak and sell the question paper. Acting swiftly, the police launched an operation and initially detained three suspects. Further investigations led to the arrest of four more individuals, while three additional accused were arrested on Saturday.

"The police acted promptly after receiving credible information. An SIT has been formed to investigate the case thoroughly, and the findings will soon bring all the facts to light," Bhoyar said.

The latest arrests came after three accused—identified as Mithun, Sonu and Kapil Dahiya—were produced before a court on July 3. The court remanded them to police custody until July 9. The arrests were made by the Thane Police as part of the ongoing investigation.



According to sources, the SIT has uncovered an interstate network involved in the alleged examination scam. Investigators have identified a resident of Bihar as the suspected mastermind behind the operation. Officials believe the network was engaged in leaking examination papers and selling them to candidates for financial gain.

Following the revelation of the alleged leak during a police probe in Bhiwandi, the Maharashtra State Council of Examination (MSCE) postponed the TET to ensure the integrity and fairness of the recruitment process. The decision was announced through an official statement issued by the Council.

The postponed examination was scheduled to be conducted at 1,028 centres across Maharashtra, with thousands of aspiring teachers expected to appear for the test.

Authorities have assured candidates that a fresh examination date will be announced only after the investigation is completed and adequate safeguards are put in place to prevent any recurrence of such incidents.

The SIT continues to examine digital evidence, financial transactions and the wider network of individuals allegedly involved in the paper leak. Officials have indicated that more arrests are possible as the investigation expands.

The Maharashtra government has reiterated its commitment to ensuring a transparent recruitment process and has warned that strict action will be taken against all those found guilty of compromising the integrity of public examinations.

Protest over exam irregularities enters 16th day at Jantar Mantar

The protest led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi entered its 16th day on Sunday, with demonstrators continuing to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and greater government accountability over alleged examination irregularities. At the same time, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk's indefinite hunger strike reached its eighth day.

According to a health bulletin issued by the medical team monitoring Wangchuk, his blood pressure was recorded at 112/70 mm Hg while lying down, his heart rate at 72 beats per minute, and his blood sugar level at 67 mg/dL. Doctors stated that his hydration levels remained satisfactory and that he was mentally alert despite losing nearly six kilograms since beginning the fast. His current weight was reported to be 60.95 kilograms.

The protesters reiterated their demand for action over alleged examination irregularities and paper leaks, claiming



that such incidents have severely affected the future of students and caused immense distress to their families.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said the parents of NEET aspirant Riya Kumari Thapa visited the protest site on Sunday. According to the organisation, the family appealed for reforms to ensure that no other students or parents experience similar hardship. The CJP said it stands in solidarity with the family and called for a transparent and accountable examination system.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), originally conducted on May 3 for admission to medical colleges, was cancelled following allegations of a paper leak. A fresh examination was subsequently held on June 21.

The protest has also received support from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), which announced that its delegation would visit the demonstration on July 7 after revising its earlier schedule. The farmers' organisation has expressed solidarity with the students, stating

that every candidate deserves a fair, transparent and credible examination process and that ensuring accountability is the responsibility of the government.

Meanwhile, members of the Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) continued their own indefinite hunger strike at a separate stage near the protest venue. Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union joint secretary Danish Ali was admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital after her blood sugar level reportedly dropped significantly during the fast. Other student protesters, including Neha, Manish, Hrishikesh, Deepak Kumar Verma and Aameen, continued their hunger strike.

The agitation, which began on June 20, has drawn support from several political leaders, student groups, activists and civil society organisations, with participants continuing to press for reforms aimed at strengthening transparency and public confidence in the country's examination system.

Akal Takht sets 10-day deadline, warns of action against Punjab govt

The confrontation between the Akal Takht and the Punjab government intensified on Saturday after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj accused the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of running an organised social media campaign against Sikh religious institutions. He warned that the Panth would take direct action if the government failed to act within 10 days.

Addressing a Panthic congregation organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Gargaj alleged that two centres located in Mohali and Chandigarh were being used to spread content targeting the Akal Takht and other revered Sikh institutions. He claimed that individuals operating from these locations, including people "from Delhi," were attempting to create a negative narrative against Sikh religious bodies.

The Jathedar said the issue had been raised with the Punjab government several times and announced a 10-day ultimatum for action.

"We have repeatedly brought this issue to the government's notice. If no action is taken within 10 days, the Panth will march to these centres and ensure that these operations are



shut down," he said while addressing the gathering.

No evidence was presented publicly to support the allegations. However, the statement marks one of the strongest warnings issued by the Akal Takht during its ongoing dispute with the Bhagwant Mann-led government.

The congregation also passed a Gurmata reaffirming the authority of the Akal Takht as the highest temporal institution of the Sikh community. Participants resolved to organise similar Panthic gatherings across Punjab to mobilise support on issues concerning Sikh religious and community interests.

Rejecting the allegations, AAP spokesperson Baltej Panu denied that the party operated any such centres or an IT

cell targeting Sikh institutions.

"We don't have any such centre or an IT Cell which was referred to by the Akal Takht Jathedar," Panu said.

The latest exchange follows a series of disagreements between the Akal Takht and the Punjab government involving Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and resolutions adopted by the Sikh temporal authority.

With the Akal Takht setting a clear deadline and warning of direct intervention if its concerns remain unaddressed, the standoff appears likely to deepen. Political observers believe the dispute could have significant religious and political implications in Punjab, where Assembly elections are scheduled next year.

Heavy Rain Disrupts Mumbai Airport, Flights Delayed

Heavy rain, strong winds and poor visibility disrupted flight operations at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Sunday, forcing authorities to suspend runway operations for one hour and causing widespread delays for passengers.

According to Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL), runway operations were halted from 10:17 a.m. to 11:17 a.m. after adverse weather conditions, including gusty winds reaching 42 knots and significantly reduced visibility, made aircraft operations unsafe.

In a statement, the airport operator said the temporary suspension was implemented as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of passengers, flight crews and ground personnel. Normal runway operations resumed after weather conditions improved.

The disruption affected both arriving and departing flights, with passengers facing considerable delays. Live flight-tracking platform Flightradar24 reported that nearly 87 per cent



of departing flights and 62 per cent of arriving flights were delayed during the disruption. Average departure delays extended to around 75 minutes, while arriving flights were delayed by at least 28 minutes.

Airport authorities did not specify the exact number of flights delayed or cancelled. However, flight-tracking data indicated that around 3 per

cent of inbound flights to Mumbai were cancelled because of the adverse weather.

According to Air Traffic Control (ATC) sources, Mumbai airport is among the country's busiest aviation hubs, handling approximately 980 to 1,000 flights every day. Under normal conditions, the airport manages around 48 aircraft movements every hour, includ-

ing 24 arrivals and 24 departures.

The temporary closure created a cascading effect on flight schedules throughout the day, with airlines working to restore normal operations after services resumed. Passengers were advised to check the latest flight status with their respective airlines before travelling to the airport.

The disruption comes as Mumbai continues to experience heavy monsoon rainfall, with weather authorities warning of intermittent showers and strong winds over the coming days. Aviation officials said flight operations would continue to be closely monitored, and necessary safety measures would be implemented whenever weather conditions pose risks to aircraft operations.

Despite the temporary suspension, airport authorities emphasized that passenger safety remains the highest priority and that all operational decisions were taken strictly in accordance with established aviation safety protocols.

Sikkim Releases Draft Electoral Roll, 37,000 Names Deleted Under SIR

The Draft Electoral Roll prepared under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 was released in Sikkim on Sunday, with electoral authorities announcing that nearly 37,000 names have been deleted while about 43,000 new voters have been added during the revision process.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Raj Yadav handed over the draft roll to representatives of recognised political parties and assured that every eligible citizen would be given an opportunity to establish their eligibility before any final deletion from the voters' list.

Addressing the media, Yadav said the house-to-house survey was conducted between June 20 and June 28, following which the draft electoral roll was prepared from June 28 to July 5. The updated electoral data has also been uploaded to the CEO's website for public verification.

According to the Election Department, Sikkim currently has 4,71,018 electors. Enumeration forms were distributed to 4,69,679 voters, achieving a distribution rate of 99.72 per cent. Officials digitised and verified 4,33,294 forms (91.99 per



cent), while 37,724 forms could not be collected.

Gangtok district recorded the highest number of voters at 1,22,240, followed by Namchi, Pakyong, Soreng, Gyalshing and Mangan. Gangtok also registered the highest percentage of uncollectable forms.

To strengthen the electoral process, authorities created 53 new polling stations, reducing the number of electors per booth to below 1,200. Additional Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant EROs and three Roll Observers have also been appointed to supervise the revision process. The CEO announced that nearly 90,000 notices would be issued to voters whose records require verification. These include

around 38,000 people whose names are absent from the 2002 electoral roll and more than 50,000 voters with discrepancies such as surname mismatches.

Yadav warned that recipients of these notices must appear before electoral officials with the prescribed documents. Failure to respond within the stipulated period could result in permanent deletion from the electoral roll. However, he reassured citizens that anyone whose name is missing from the draft roll can submit a fresh Form 6 along with valid supporting documents for inclusion. Special verification camps will be organised on July 11-12 and July 25-26 to receive claims, objections and corrections.

Meanwhile, Sikkimese Mulniwasi Suraksha Sangh (SMSS) welcomed the revision exercise, calling it an opportunity to remove illegal entries from the electoral roll. The organisation urged strict scrutiny of applications submitted using relatives' credentials and appealed to citizens to report suspected fraudulent voter registrations while ensuring that genuine voters are not inconvenienced during the verification process.

Khamenei Successor Absent at Funeral

Three sons of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei attended his state funeral in Tehran, but the absence of his designated successor, Mojtaba Khamenei, drew widespread attention amid heightened security concerns.

State television showed Mostafa, Meysam and Masoud Khamenei taking part in funeral prayers alongside senior Iranian political, military and religious leaders at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla. The trio stood near their father's coffin, draped in the Iranian flag, as thousands of mourners gathered to pay their final respects.

Mojtaba Khamenei, who succeeded his father as Iran's Supreme Leader earlier this year, did not appear at the ceremony. Iranian officials reportedly said his absence was due to serious security concerns following recent military tensions and fears of potential attacks during the



high-profile funeral.

The funeral marked the beginning of a six-day mourning period, with ceremonies scheduled across several cities, including Tehran, Qom and Mashhad, where Ali Khamenei is expected to be buried. Millions of people are expected to participate in the processions, making it one of the largest public events in Iran in recent years.

The gathering was attended

by top Iranian officials, military commanders and foreign delegations from several countries. Crowds chanted slogans against the United States and Israel as the ceremony reflected both religious mourning and a display of national unity following months of regional conflict.

Mojtaba's absence has sparked speculation because of his position as the country's highest authority. However, Ira-

nian authorities have maintained that the decision was based solely on security assessments and not linked to political or health-related reasons. Officials believe his public appearance could have posed significant risks given the prevailing security situation.

Ali Khamenei, who led Iran for more than three decades, died earlier this year during the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States. His death marked the end of one of the longest tenures of any Middle Eastern leader and triggered a carefully managed leadership transition.

As Iran continues nationwide mourning, the funeral ceremonies are expected to serve not only as a farewell to the country's former supreme leader but also as a demonstration of continuity under the new leadership despite ongoing regional tensions.

Anti-US Chants Mark Khamenei Funeral



Thousands of mourners gathered in Tehran as Iran began the funeral ceremonies for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with the event marked by loud chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" amid heightened tensions in the Middle East.

The state funeral at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla drew massive crowds, senior government officials, military commanders and religious leaders. Many mourners carried Iranian flags, portraits of Khamenei and red banners symbolising martyrdom and revenge.

As the ceremonies began, the crowd repeatedly chanted slogans against the United States and Israel, reflecting Iran's long-standing political rhetoric and the anger following the recent conflict that claimed Khamenei's life. Calls for revenge also echoed through the gathering, turning the funeral into a display of national defiance as well as mourning.

The funeral is part of a six-day nationwide programme that will take place across several cities, including Tehran, Qom and Mashhad. Millions of people are expected to participate in the ceremonies, making it one of the largest public events in Iran in recent years.

Security was exceptionally tight throughout the capital, with authorities deploying large numbers of personnel to manage the crowds and prevent any potential threats. The heightened security follows weeks of regional instability and fears of further attacks.

Several senior Iranian officials addressed mourners, praising Khamenei's leadership and vowing that the country's policies would remain unchanged under the new leadership. The ceremonies also featured religious prayers and tributes honouring those who died during the recent conflict.

The funeral has attracted delegations from several countries, highlighting Khamenei's influence across parts of the Middle East. However, the event has also intensified international attention as anti-

Western slogans dominated the proceedings.

Khamenei, who led Iran for more than three decades, was one of the region's most influential political and religious figures. His death marked the end of an era and triggered a carefully managed transition of power. Despite the atmosphere of mourning, the funeral also served as a political statement, with organisers projecting unity and resilience in the face of external pressure. Images of grieving supporters alongside repeated anti-US and anti-Israel chants underscored the deep political symbolism of the event.

The ceremonies will conclude later this week with Khamenei's burial in Mashhad, his hometown, where thousands more mourners are expected to gather for the final farewell.

Trump Profits as Memecoin Investors Lose

US President Donald Trump reportedly earned around \$636 million from his \$TRUMP memecoin, even as nearly one million investors collectively lost an estimated \$3.8 billion, according to a report based on blockchain analytics and financial disclosures.

The findings revealed that about 988,900 crypto wallets—roughly two-thirds of those who purchased the \$TRUMP token—were holding losses by the end of June. The token, which surged in value shortly after its launch in January 2025, has since fallen dramatically, losing around 97% of its peak value.

Despite the steep decline, Trump's financial disclosure showed that the memecoin generated substantial income through licensing and transaction-related revenue. The token was structured so that Trump-linked entities earned fees whenever investors bought or sold the cryptocurrency, allowing revenue to con-



tinue flowing regardless of price fluctuations.

The memecoin formed part of Trump's broader cryptocurrency portfolio, which reportedly generated billions of dollars in revenue during 2025. Apart from the \$TRUMP token, Trump and members of his family have also been associated with crypto venture World Liberty Financial, another major contributor to his reported earnings.

The report highlighted the stark contrast between Trump's gains and the losses

suffered by many retail investors. While nearly one million wallets ended up in the red, around five million wallets collectively recorded profits, indicating that early investors and experienced traders benefited the most from the token's rapid rise and subsequent volatility.

Among those affected was a crypto trader who reportedly invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the memecoin and lost a significant portion of that investment. The investor accused Trump of using his public profile to pro-

mote the token, calling it a "legal scam."

The White House rejected allegations that Trump profited at the expense of his supporters. Officials defended the president's involvement in cryptocurrency, saying his administration had positioned the United States as a global leader in digital assets and that all policy decisions were made in the public interest.

Trump, who had once criticised cryptocurrencies, embraced the sector during his 2024 presidential campaign. Since returning to office, he has actively supported digital assets while expanding his family's crypto ventures.

The report has reignited debate over the risks of speculative cryptocurrencies and raised fresh questions about ethics and potential conflicts of interest, as Trump's personal financial success has coincided with his administration's efforts to promote the crypto industry.

Trump Warns Iran During Funeral



US President Donald Trump has issued a fresh warning to Iran's leadership, claiming the United States could eliminate the country's top officials with "one shot" as they gathered for the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. However, he said Washington would not take such action because it wanted to keep diplomatic channels open.

Speaking during an interview, Trump said Iran's senior leadership was assembled in one place for the funeral ceremonies in Tehran, presenting what he described as a rare military opportunity. He added that the US was choosing restraint to preserve the possibility of future negotiations with Tehran.

Trump also claimed Iran had requested a temporary pause in nuclear negotiations until the funeral ceremonies concluded. According to him, Washington agreed to delay talks for a week out of respect for the mourning period while insisting that Tehran remained interested in reaching an agreement with the United States.

The remarks came as millions of mourners gathered across Iran for the funeral of Khamenei, whose death marked a major turning

point in the country's political history. The ceremonies have drawn senior government officials, military commanders and foreign delegations, with crowds chanting anti-US and anti-Israel slogans throughout the event.

Trump also questioned the scale of public grief, saying he was surprised by the massive turnout because he believed many Iranians had opposed Khamenei's rule. He suggested the displays of mourning might not fully reflect public sentiment, comments that quickly drew international attention. His statements have further heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, despite ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing hostilities after months of conflict. While Trump maintained that mil-

itary action remained an option, he stressed that negotiations remained the preferred course. Iranian officials strongly criticised the remarks, describing them as provocative and unacceptable. They insisted that threats against the country's leadership would not alter Iran's policies or weaken national resolve during the mourning period.

The funeral ceremonies are expected to continue for several more days across different cities before Khamenei is laid to rest. As Iran observes nationwide mourning, the event has become both a religious occasion and a powerful political display, unfolding against the backdrop of continuing regional tensions and fragile diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington.

Pakistan Minister Faces Resignation Calls

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is facing mounting political pressure after his grandson, Muhammad Raza Dar, was arrested in connection with the alleged abduction and gang rape of two foreign women in Lahore.

The controversy intensified after Senator Faisal Vawda publicly demanded Ishaq Dar's resignation, arguing that the senior minister should step down to protect Pakistan's international image while the investigation continues. Vawda also accused both the federal government and the Punjab provincial administration of attempting to shield the minister's relatives.

The case involves two foreign nationals, one from the Netherlands and the other from Venezuela, who allegedly travelled to Pakistan for business after meeting Raza Dar in Singapore last year. According to investigators, the women were invited to Lahore on business visas arranged



by the accused.

Police say the women were allegedly abducted shortly after arriving in Lahore on June 29. They accused the suspects of holding them captive, sexually assaulting them and demanding money linked to a cryptocurrency venture. Four suspects, including Raza Dar, have been arrested, while another accused remains at large.

Investigators believe the victims and Raza Dar were business partners in a cryptocurrency enterprise. One of the women

alleged that the attackers repeatedly demanded access to digital assets and passwords before demanding a large ransom for their release.

The case gained further attention after one of the victims recorded her statement before a judicial magistrate, describing the alleged assault and the events leading to her escape. Police have since obtained custody of the accused for further investigation and are attempting to recover evidence connected to the case.

Senator Vawda questioned how Ishaq Dar could continue representing Pakistan internationally while such serious allegations involved a close family member. He also criticised the silence of several government leaders, saying they had failed to publicly condemn the incident.

The allegations have triggered widespread debate across Pakistan, with opposition figures and social media users demanding a transparent investigation free from political influence. Many have called for authorities to ensure that the accused receive no special treatment because of their family connections.

The Pakistani government has not announced any action against Ishaq Dar, while the investigation remains ongoing. Authorities have assured that the case will be pursued in accordance with the law as they continue gathering evidence and questioning the accused.

India Hits Back at Khawaja Asif

The Indian government has strongly criticised Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif over his remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the controversy surrounding the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" award conferred on the Indian leader by Seychelles.

Government sources described Asif's comments as baseless and motivated by jealousy, accusing the Pakistani minister of making irresponsible statements on issues he did not fully understand. The sharp response came after Asif questioned the legitimacy of the award and claimed it had been specially created ahead of

PM Modi's visit to Seychelles.

According to government sources, Pakistan's criticism reflected frustration rather than facts. They dismissed Asif's remarks as politically motivated and said such statements only highlighted Islamabad's continued hostility towards India.

The controversy began after reports surfaced on social media pointing to typographical errors in an early version of the award citation. Asif seized on the issue, describing the honour as an "engineered recognition" and calling it an embarrassment. However, the Seychelles government rejected those allegations and clarified

that the Order of the Guardian of the Blue Horizon had been established under the country's National Honours Act before PM Modi's visit. Officials explained that the document circulating online was only an internal draft that had been mistakenly shared before final proofreading. They added that the official citation presented during the ceremony contained no errors. While India has not issued an official statement on the controversy, government sources insisted there was no basis for Pakistan's claims. They maintained that the award reflected international recognition of India's growing role in promoting ocean con-

servation and the blue economy.

The exchange has further strained already tense relations between India and Pakistan, with both countries frequently engaging in diplomatic confrontations over political and security issues. Khawaja Asif has previously made several controversial remarks on India that have drawn strong responses from New Delhi.

Despite the political rhetoric, the Seychelles government has stood by its decision to honour Prime Minister Modi, reiterating that the award was instituted through proper legal procedures and was not created specifically for his visit.



Five Key Triggers for Markets

Indian stock markets are set for an eventful week, with investors closely tracking a series of domestic and global developments that could influence trading sentiment. From the start of the June-quarter earnings season to movements in crude oil prices and global economic cues, several factors are expected to shape the direction of Dalal Street in the coming days.

The biggest focus this week will be the start of the first-quarter earnings season. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS),

India's largest IT services company, will kick off the reporting cycle, and its financial performance will be closely watched by investors. The results and management commentary are expected to provide insights into demand trends in the technology sector and could influence the performance of other IT stocks as well.

Crude oil prices are another major factor likely to keep markets on edge. Any sharp rise in oil prices can increase India's import bill, fuel infla-

tion and impact corporate profitability. Investors will therefore closely monitor developments in global energy markets and geopolitical events that could affect crude supplies and prices.

Global markets will also be guided by the release of the minutes from the latest US Federal Reserve meeting. The document could offer fresh clues about the central bank's future interest rate plans. Any indication of changes in monetary policy may influence global investor sentiment, cap-

ital flows into emerging markets and overall market volatility.

Back home, the progress of the southwest monsoon will remain another important trigger. A healthy monsoon is crucial for India's agricultural output, rural demand and food inflation. Investors will watch rainfall patterns closely, as they often have a significant impact on sectors such as agriculture, consumer goods and automobiles.

Foreign institutional investor (FII) activity and global

market trends will also play a vital role. Recent buying by overseas investors has supported Indian equities, and any shift in their investment strategy could influence market momentum. At the same time, developments in international markets, currency movements and geopolitical events will continue to affect investor confidence.

After ending last week on a positive note, market participants will now look for fresh triggers to sustain the rally. With earnings, macroeconom-



ic indicators and global events all lined up, analysts expect the coming week to be crucial in determining the near-term direction of the Indian stock market.

Top Firms Add ₹1 Lakh Crore in Value

Six of India's 10 most valuable listed companies collectively added more than 1 lakh crore to their market capitalisation last week, reflecting renewed investor confidence amid a positive run in the equity markets. Telecom major Bharti Airtel and financial services giant Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest gainers, benefiting from strong buying interest.

The rally came during a strong week for Dalal Street, with the BSE Sensex advancing 663.44 points, or 0.86 per cent, while the NSE Nifty gained 214.85 points, or 0.89 per cent. The positive momentum lifted the valuations of several blue-chip companies despite mixed global cues.

Bharti Airtel recorded the highest increase in market capitalisation among the top companies, followed closely by Bajaj Finance. Other firms that also registered gains included Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and



Hindustan Unilever. Together, these six companies added over 1 lakh crore to their combined market value during the week.

However, not every heavyweight shared in the market rally. The valuations of HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and LIC declined during the same period, highlighting the mixed performance across sectors. While banking, telecom and financial stocks attracted fresh investments, weakness in select IT counters weighed on the broader list of India's most valuable companies.

Among the top-ranked firms by market capitalisation, Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most valuable listed company. It was followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, TCS, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, LIC and Hindustan Unilever. The rankings continue to reflect the dominance of banking, technology and telecom companies in the Indian equity market.

Market experts believe the latest gains indicate sustained investor optimism, supported by encouraging domestic eco-

nomomic indicators and expectations of a healthy corporate earnings season. Strong participation from both domestic and foreign institutional investors also helped maintain positive sentiment across benchmark indices.

Investors will now shift their focus to the upcoming first-quarter earnings season, beginning with the results of major companies, including TCS. Corporate earnings, global market trends, crude oil prices and foreign fund flows are expected to determine whether the current market momentum can continue in the coming weeks.

With benchmark indices hovering near record levels, analysts expect stock-specific action to remain high. The performance of heavyweight companies will continue to play a crucial role in driving overall market direction, making the upcoming earnings season especially important for investors and market participants alike.

Smallcaps Continue Winning Streak

India's broader equity markets continued to outperform the benchmark indices last week, with smallcap stocks extending their winning streak as investors showed strong interest in mid- and small-sized companies. Positive business updates, healthy domestic liquidity and improving market sentiment helped drive the rally, even as benchmark indices posted relatively modest gains.

The Nifty Smallcap index emerged as the standout performer, registering another week of gains and extending its impressive upward momentum. The Nifty Midcap index also ended the week higher, reflecting sustained buying across a wide range of sectors. Market participants attributed the rally to encouraging first-quarter business updates from companies, optimism surrounding the upcoming earnings season and easing concerns over global economic uncertainties.

While broader markets surged, the benchmark indices also ended the week in positive territory, though with comparatively smaller gains. The Sensex and Nifty benefited from continued buying in heavyweight stocks, supported by declining crude oil prices, improving foreign investor sentiment and expectations that global interest rate pressures may ease. These factors helped maintain confidence in Indian equities despite lingering geopolitical concerns.

Stock-specific action remained a key feature of the



week's trading. Several companies witnessed sharp gains after reporting strong operational performance and favourable business updates. Investors continued to focus on sectors with healthy earnings potential, while domestic institutional investors provided steady support to the markets through consistent inflows. This combination of positive fundamentals and strong liquidity helped broader indices outperform their large-cap counterparts.

Analysts believe that improving corporate earnings expectations are encouraging investors to look beyond blue-chip stocks in search of better growth opportunities. Many mid- and small-cap companies have delivered strong financial performance in recent quarters, making them attractive despite concerns about valuations. However, market experts also caution that selective investing remains important, as sharp rallies can

increase the risk of short-term corrections.

Looking ahead, investors will closely monitor the start of the June-quarter earnings season, beginning with major corporate results, to assess whether current market optimism can be sustained. Global developments, crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor activity and domestic economic data will also influence market direction in the coming weeks.

With the broader market continuing to outperform benchmark indices, investor sentiment remains upbeat. If earnings meet expectations and global conditions remain favourable, mid- and small-cap stocks could continue attracting attention. At the same time, analysts advise investors to remain disciplined, focus on fundamentally strong companies and avoid chasing stocks that have already witnessed excessive rallies.

FOMC Minutes in Focus for Commodities

Commodity markets are expected to remain volatile this week as investors turn their attention to the release of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes. The document is likely to offer fresh insights into the Federal Reserve's outlook on interest rates, especially after weaker-than-expected US jobs data eased pressure for immediate policy tightening.

Recent employment figures have strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve may adopt a more cautious approach to future interest rate decisions. Slower job growth has reduced concerns about persistent inflation, increasing hopes that the central bank could consider rate cuts later this year if economic conditions continue to soften. As a result, traders across commodity markets are closely watching the upcoming FOMC minutes for further guidance.

Gold prices are expected to remain highly sensitive to any changes in the Fed's policy outlook. A softer stance on interest rates generally supports the precious metal by reducing the opportunity cost of holding



non-yielding assets such as gold. If the meeting minutes indicate that policymakers are becoming more comfortable with easing inflation, bullion prices could receive additional support.

Silver is also likely to remain in focus, as it tends to benefit from both investment demand and industrial consumption. Analysts believe the metal could continue to trade with a positive bias if expectations of lower interest rates strengthen in the coming weeks.

Crude oil prices will be another key area of interest. Market participants will monitor global demand trends, supply developments and geopolitical

tensions that could influence energy prices. Any unexpected disruption in oil-producing regions or changes in production policies by major exporters may lead to increased price volatility.

Industrial metals such as copper will also be closely tracked. Copper prices often reflect expectations about global economic growth, particularly demand from major economies like China. Investors will therefore keep an eye on economic indicators and manufacturing data that could influence the outlook for base metals.

Apart from the FOMC minutes, currency movements will play an important role in deter-

mining commodity prices. A weaker US dollar generally makes commodities more attractive for international buyers, while a stronger dollar can put pressure on prices. Market participants will also monitor inflation data, geopolitical developments and broader global economic trends for additional trading cues.

Analysts believe commodity markets could witness short-term fluctuations as investors assess incoming economic data and central bank commentary. While expectations of a more accommodative Federal Reserve have improved sentiment, uncertainty over inflation and global growth remains.

With several important global events lined up, traders are expected to adopt a cautious approach. The FOMC meeting minutes, along with developments in the energy market and key economic indicators, are likely to shape the direction of commodity prices in the days ahead. Investors are therefore advised to closely monitor market developments before making fresh trading decisions.

Laser Power Infra Shrinks IPO

Laser Power & Infra Ltd has reduced the size of its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) to 742 crore, down from the 1,200 crore proposed in its draft papers, as the Kolkata-based company prepares to launch the public issue on July 9. The IPO will remain open for subscription until July 13, marking one of the key mainboard offerings of the month.

According to the company's red herring prospectus (RHP), the IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth 542 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 200 crore by existing promoters. While the issue size has been reduced significantly from the original proposal, the company continues to focus on strengthening its balance sheet and supporting future growth.

A major portion of the funds raised through the fresh issue will be used to reduce debt. Laser Power & Infra plans to utilise 490 crore towards the repayment or prepayment of outstanding borrowings,



with the remaining amount earmarked for general corporate purposes. The company believes lowering its debt burden will improve its financial position and provide greater flexibility for future expansion.

Founded as an integrated manufacturer of power cables, conductors and specialised products for the power transmission and distribution sector, the company operates three manufacturing facilities in West Bengal with a combined installed capacity of more than

85,000 metric tonnes. It serves a wide range of customers in the power infrastructure industry and has built a sizeable order book over the years.

The company has reported steady financial growth in recent years. Improved operational efficiency and stronger profitability have supported its business performance, even as it continues to invest in expanding manufacturing capabilities and strengthening its presence in India's power infrastructure segment. The demand

for transmission and distribution equipment is expected to remain healthy, driven by increasing investments in electricity networks and infrastructure projects across the country.

The IPO's price band will be announced on July 6, while the anchor investor portion is scheduled to open on July 8. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on July 14, with the company's shares likely to debut on the BSE and NSE on July 16, subject to regulatory approvals.

IIFL Capital Services and ICICI Securities are acting as the book-running lead managers for the issue, while MUFG Intime India has been appointed as the registrar. As investors gear up for the public offering, market participants will closely watch subscription levels and valuation details once the price band is officially announced, as these factors are expected to determine the IPO's overall response.

India's equity markets could be entering the early stages of a new long-term bull run as several key macroeconomic indicators begin to improve simultaneously, according to market experts. Unlike previous rallies driven by abundant liquidity or speculative buying, the next phase of growth is expected to be supported by stronger economic fundamentals, improving corporate earnings and sustained domestic investor participation.

Analysts believe the investment landscape has changed significantly over the past few years. India's growing base of retail investors and steady inflows from domestic institutional investors have made the market more resilient to fluctuations in foreign capital. This stronger domestic participation is helping reduce the impact of global volatility and providing a firmer foundation for long-term market growth.

One of the biggest positive developments is the increasing stability of the Indian rupee. A stable currency boosts investor confidence by lowering the risk of capital erosion and helping businesses manage costs more effectively. It also supports macroeconomic stability by easing imported inflation and making India a more attractive destination for global investments.

Geopolitical conditions are also showing signs of improvement. Tensions in key regions had previously pushed up energy prices and disrupted global sup-



ply chains, creating uncertainty for financial markets. As these risks begin to ease, concerns over inflation and input costs are gradually declining, creating a more favourable environment for businesses and investors alike.

Another encouraging factor is the moderation in crude oil prices. Since India imports a large share of its energy needs, lower oil prices help reduce inflationary pressures, improve the country's fiscal position and support corporate profitability. Combined with expectations of stable interest rates and stronger earnings growth, this could provide additional momentum to the stock market.

Experts also point to India's improving economic outlook, supported by continued infrastructure investment, healthy domestic consumption and government reforms. These factors are expected to strengthen corporate earnings over the coming quarters, making equities in-

creasingly attractive for long-term investors. Rather than relying on short-term speculative gains, the next market cycle is likely to be driven by sustainable business growth and improving profitability. While global uncertainties have not disappeared entirely, analysts believe India is better positioned than many other emerging markets to withstand external shocks. The combination of currency stability, easing geopolitical risks, improving earnings visibility and robust domestic participation has created favourable conditions for the next phase of market expansion.

Although market volatility may continue in the short term, experts remain optimistic about the long-term outlook. With multiple macroeconomic indicators moving in the right direction, they believe the foundation has been laid for India's next major bull run, offering promising opportunities for patient, long-term investors.

Lamborghini Dream Comes True for Auto Driver

A routine drive through Bengaluru turned into a life-changing moment for an autorickshaw driver after a local entrepreneur handed him the keys to his Lamborghini, making the driver's long-cherished dream a reality. The heartwarming incident, captured on video and shared online, has won the hearts of millions across social media.

The entrepreneur, Rakesh KNV, was driving his bright yellow Lamborghini when an autorickshaw pulled up beside him at a traffic signal. The driv-

er instantly recognized Rakesh from his social media content and excitedly expressed his admiration for both the entrepreneur and his luxury sports car. During their brief conversation, the auto driver revealed that he had always dreamed of driving a Lamborghini at least once in his lifetime.

Instead of simply thanking him for his kind words, Rakesh decided to do something extraordinary. He asked the driver to stop by the roadside and surprised him by offering the keys to the supercar. In return, Rake-

sh climbed into the autorickshaw while the thrilled driver carefully took the Lamborghini for a short drive. The two vehicles then travelled alongside each other, creating a memorable scene that quickly caught the attention of people nearby.

The emotional exchange meant far more than just a ride in a luxury car. For the autorickshaw driver, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that fulfilled a dream he never imagined would come true. His excitement and gratitude were clearly visible throughout the

experience, making the moment even more touching.

For Rakesh, the experience was equally meaningful. Sharing the video later, he reflected on his own journey and said that driving the autorickshaw reminded him of the struggles he faced before achieving success. He recalled a time when even paying for an auto ride was difficult, making the experience a nostalgic reminder of how far he had come.

The video has since gone viral, drawing widespread appreciation from social media users.

Many praised Rakesh for his generosity, humility and willingness to share such a valuable possession with a complete stranger. Others said the genuine happiness on the auto driver's face was proof that small acts of kindness can create unforgettable memories.

The touching exchange has become a reminder that true wealth lies not only in expensive possessions but also in the ability to spread joy. By turning an ordinary traffic stop into an extraordinary act of kindness, the entrepreneur created a mo-



Image Instagrammed by RAKESH KUMAR

ment that inspired countless people and demonstrated the power of compassion and human connection.

Manali Move Saves Couple ₹30,000 a Month

A corporate couple's decision to swap city life for the peaceful hills of Manali has captured widespread attention after they revealed that the move unexpectedly helped them save more than 30,000 every month while continuing to work remotely.

Anjali and Naman, who share their lifestyle and travel experiences on social media, said their relocation was never about cutting expenses. Instead, they wanted to embrace a slower pace of life without giving up their corporate careers. However, after settling into the Himalayan town, they noticed a dramatic drop in their monthly spending.

According to the couple, the biggest saving came from housing costs. Their monthly rent fell from 45,000 in the city to 28,000 in Manali, reducing their expenses by 17,000. Working from home also eliminated the need for a daily commute, saving them another 3,000 every month.



Image Instagrammed by Anjali and Naman

They also realized that several small but frequent expenses had quietly disappeared. Regular office dinners, coffee runs and snack breaks, which were once a part of their daily routine, no longer added to their monthly bills. Together, these lifestyle changes reduced their spending by another 7,500.

The most surprising saving, however, came from weekends. While living in the city, the couple often spent between 5,000 and 6,000 each month on short getaways to escape the stress of urban life. After moving to Manali, surrounded by mountains and natural beauty, they no longer felt the need to plan expensive weekend trips. The peaceful environment became part of their everyday routine, making those extra travel costs unnecessary.

Despite the financial benefits, Anjali said saving money was never the main goal be-

hind the move. She explained that they chose remote work and life in the hills to enjoy a different lifestyle rather than reduce expenses. The unexpected monthly savings, she added, turned out to be an added bonus.

Their story has sparked conversations online about the hidden costs of living in big cities and the growing appeal of remote work. Many social media users praised the couple for prioritizing quality of life over the fast-paced urban lifestyle, while others pointed out that city living often encourages spending on convenience and stress relief.

As remote work continues to become more common, stories like theirs are encouraging professionals to rethink where they live. For Anjali and Naman, the move to Manali not only brought peace and a better work-life balance but also proved that a change in lifestyle can lead to significant financial savings.

First Flight at 80



Image Credit: travel chatter/instagram

An 80-year-old grandmother's first-ever flight became an unforgettable family milestone after she travelled to the United States and reunited with her loved ones in a deeply emotional moment. A video capturing the heartwarming reunion has gone viral on social media, touching thousands of viewers with its message that it is never too late to fulfil a dream.

The video was shared by her granddaughter, Kripa Joshi, who documented the special occasion on Instagram. It begins with the elderly woman arriving outside her granddaughter's home, where she is welcomed with a warm embrace after what appears to have been a long separation. The touching reunion quickly turns emotional as Kripa hugs her grandmother tightly before respectfully seeking her blessings.

The grandmother is then seen meeting other family members, including young children, who greet her with smiles and excitement. Her joyful expressions throughout the visit reflect the happiness of finally being surrounded by loved ones after making the long journey abroad.

Sharing the video online, Kripa described the experience as one of the most meaningful moments of her life. She revealed that her grandmother had taken her very first flight at the age of 80 to visit her family in America. The heartfelt reunion, she said, reminded her that some dreams have no age limit and that life's most precious memories are often created through simple moments spent with family.

The video quickly gained widespread attention, with social media users praising the family for making the elderly woman's dream come true. Many viewers shared similar stories about their own grandparents travelling for the first time later in life, saying the clip brought back emotional memories of family reunions and special milestones.

Others expressed admiration for the granddaughter's love and respect towards her grandmother, particularly the gesture of seeking her blessings after welcoming her home. Several users commented that the reunion highlighted the importance of cherishing time with elderly family members and creating lasting memories together.

The touching story has resonated with people across generations, serving as a reminder that age should never become a barrier to experiencing new adventures. Whether it is boarding a plane for the first time or reuniting with loved ones after years apart, every milestone carries its own special meaning.

As the video continues to spread online, it has inspired countless viewers to value family connections and celebrate life's simple joys. For this grandmother, her first flight was much more than a journey across continents—it became the beginning of a cherished family memory that will last a lifetime.

Why Mumbai Feels Safe at Midnight

A woman's late-night experience in Mumbai has sparked widespread discussion on social media after she shared why she feels comfortable travelling through the city even after midnight. Her video, praising Mumbai's sense of safety and vibrant atmosphere, has resonated with thousands of viewers and reignited conversations about women's safety in Indian cities.

In the viral video, the content creator recorded herself walking near Marine Lines at around 12:30 am. Rather than finding deserted streets, she was surprised to see the city still buzzing with activity. Local trains continued to operate, commuters were out and about, and several women could be seen travelling alone, creating an environment that made her feel secure despite the late hour.

She pointed out that Mumbai's lively streets, visible police presence and active public transport contributed to her confidence. According to her, these factors create a reassuring atmosphere that allows many people, especially women, to move around the city without feeling isolated. She added that in many other places, stepping out after midnight would require far more cau-



Image Credit: this is adiiti /instagram

tion, making Mumbai stand out for its round-the-clock energy.

Reflecting on the experience, she said she finally understood why Mumbai is often referred to as the "Dream City." For her, the city's appeal goes beyond career opportunities and entertainment. She believed its ability to remain active throughout the night and provide a sense of comfort for residents is one of its greatest strengths.

The video quickly attracted attention online, with many users agreeing with her observations. Several Mumbai residents shared their own experiences, saying they too have felt relatively safe while travelling late at night because of the city's continuous movement and strong public transport network. Others described Mumbai as one of the few Indian cities where women are commonly seen commuting alone even after midnight.

At the same time, some viewers urged caution, pointing out that no city is completely free from safety concerns. They encouraged people to remain

alert, avoid isolated areas and continue following basic safety precautions regardless of the time of day.

The discussion has once again highlighted Mumbai's unique reputation as a city that rarely sleeps. While opinions on safety may differ from person to person, the woman's experience has struck a chord with many, reminding people why Mumbai continues to be admired for its energy, resilience and welcoming spirit even in the early hours of the morning.

How Debt Took Over a ₹90,000 Salary

A financial advisor's viral LinkedIn post has sparked widespread discussion after revealing how a Pune-based professional earning 90,000 a month gradually slipped into a debt trap of more than 15 lakh—not because of reckless spending, but due to a medical emergency and mounting loan repayments.

The case revolves around a 36-year-old operations manager whose finances were initially stable, though tightly managed. According to the advisor, the man's monthly expenses stood at around 82,000, leaving him with a small financial cushion. While his budget was far from comfortable, he was able to meet his obligations without falling into debt.

Everything changed when his father required urgent surgery costing 5 lakh. To cover the medical expenses, the man



took a personal loan with an interest rate of 14%, adding an EMI of 13,663 to his monthly commitments. This pushed his total monthly expenses to nearly 96,000—well above his income—and created a recurring cash shortfall.

To bridge the gap, he began relying on credit cards for routine expenses such as groceries and fuel. What started as a temporary solution soon be-

came a growing burden. Within a year, his outstanding credit card balance had climbed to 4 lakh, attracting interest rates of nearly 40% and requiring hefty minimum monthly payments. In an effort to regain control, he took another loan worth 6 lakh to consolidate his debt. However, by then his credit score had deteriorated, forcing him to borrow at a higher interest rate of

18%. Instead of easing the pressure, the new loan added another large EMI, pushing him deeper into financial distress. Over the next two years, his total debt crossed 15 lakh, with nearly 51,000—about 57% of his take-home salary—going towards debt repayments every month.

Using the example, the financial advisor explained how a debt spiral develops when one loan leads to another, gradually shrinking disposable income until borrowing becomes the only way to stay afloat. He warned that if EMIs exceed 40% of a person's take-home salary, it should be treated as a serious warning sign. His advice was to stop taking fresh loans, list all outstanding debts and interest rates, and focus on clearing the highest-interest loans first to break the cycle.

Bengaluru Is 'India's Europe'

A woman's enthusiastic praise for Bengaluru has sparked a lively debate online after she described the city as "India's Europe," saying its pleasant weather, greenery and career opportunities make it one of the country's best places to live despite its well-known traffic congestion.

In a video shared on Instagram, the content creator explained why she believes Bengaluru stands out from other Indian cities. While acknowledging that the city's traffic is a major inconvenience, she argued that its advantages far outweigh the daily commuting challenges. According to her, Bengaluru offers a unique combination of a comfortable climate, abundant green spaces and excellent job opportunities, making it unlike any other city in the country.

She went on to compare Bengaluru with Europe, saying that people looking for pleasant weather and a balanced lifestyle do not necessarily have to travel abroad when such an experience can be found within India. Calling it "Europe in India," she gave the city a perfect five-out-of-five rating, saying it has almost everything one could ask for in a place to live.

Although she admitted that traffic remains Bengaluru's biggest drawback, she said the city's cool weather makes long commutes more bearable. In



Image Credit: sukoon se beten /instagram

her view, the overall quality of life, career prospects and natural surroundings compensate for the time spent on congested roads.

Her comments quickly gained traction on social media, where users expressed mixed opinions. Many agreed with her assessment, praising Bengaluru for its moderate climate, thriving technology sector and cosmopolitan culture. Several residents said the city continues to attract professionals from across the country because of its employment opportunities and vibrant lifestyle.

However, not everyone shared the same enthusiasm. Some users argued that the city's worsening traffic, rising cost of living and infrastructure challenges make daily life increasingly difficult. Others felt that comparing Bengaluru to Europe was an exaggeration, even if they appreciated its weather and greenery.

The discussion soon expanded beyond the original video, with many people debating what truly defines a great city. While some prioritised climate, career growth and open spaces, others pointed to public transport, civic infrastructure and affordability as equally important factors. The viral video has once again highlighted Bengaluru's unique reputation. Loved by many for its weather and professional opportunities and criticised by others for its traffic woes, the city continues to inspire strong opinions. Whether one agrees with the comparison or not, the conversation reflects Bengaluru's enduring appeal and its place as one of India's most talked-about urban destinations.

Vaibhav's First Post Goes Viral

Young Indian cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has taken social media by storm with his first post after making his international debut for India. The teenage batter shared an emotional message expressing gratitude for achieving one of the biggest milestones of his career, and the post quickly attracted massive attention from cricket fans across the country.

Vaibhav made his much-awaited debut in the ongoing series against England, marking the beginning of what many believe could be a promising international career. Re-

garded as one of India's brightest young talents, the youngster has impressed selectors with his consistent performances at the domestic level and age-group cricket, earning him a well-deserved place in the national squad.

Soon after his debut, Vaibhav took to social media to reflect on the special occasion. Sharing photographs from the memorable day, he described the opportunity to represent India as a dream come true. He thanked his family, coaches, teammates and everyone who had supported him throughout his journey, saying the moment

was one he would cherish forever.

The heartfelt post immediately went viral, attracting thousands of likes, comments and shares within a short time. Cricket fans flooded the comments section with congratulatory messages, wishing the youngster a successful international career. Many praised his humble attitude and determination, while others expressed excitement about watching him grow into one of India's future stars.

Several current and former cricketers, along with members of the cricket fraternity,

also extended their best wishes. Fans appreciated the emotional tone of the message, noting that it reflected the hard work and sacrifices behind the young batter's rise to the highest level of the game.

Vaibhav's journey has inspired many aspiring cricketers. His rapid progress through the ranks highlights the importance of dedication, discipline and consistent performances. Making an international debut at such a young age is considered a remarkable achievement, and expectations are already high for his future in Indian cricket.

While social media celebrated the emotional milestone, the youngster remains focused on performing well for the national team. Coaches and experts have advised him to continue learning from senior players and adapt to the challenges of international cricket step by step.

The viral post has become more than just a celebration of a debut—it represents the fulfilment of a lifelong dream. For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, wearing the Indian jersey is only the beginning of a new chapter, and fans will be eagerly following his journey in the years ahead.



With talent, determination and the support of millions of cricket lovers, the young batter now has the opportunity to establish himself on the biggest

stage. His emotional first social media post has only strengthened the bond between the rising star and his growing fan base, making his memorable debut even more special.

India Must Adapt Better: Kishan Gavaskar Backs Vaibhav Despite Dismissal

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan believes the team needs to adjust more effectively to English conditions after suffering a four-wicket defeat against England in the second T20I at Old Trafford. He stressed that improving the middle-overs scoring rate could make a significant difference in close contests.

India posted a competitive 190/7 after opting to bat first, with Kishan top-scoring with 49. Abhishek Sharma contributed 43 while captain Shreyas Iyer added 37. Despite the strong start, India lost momentum during the middle phase of the innings, allowing England's bowlers to regain control.

Reflecting on the defeat, Kishan admitted that the team must find ways to score more freely once the field spreads out. According to him, batting in England requires a different approach compared to Indian conditions, and players must be flexible enough to adapt their game.

"We have to understand the conditions better and figure out how to get those extra runs during the middle overs," Kishan said after the match. He added that every venue presents unique challenges, and success depends on reading the conditions quickly rather than following a fixed batting



template.

India began aggressively, reaching 65 for 2 in the power-play, but their scoring slowed considerably afterward. The visitors managed only modest returns in the middle overs before adding late runs to reach 190. England, however, chased down the target with six balls remaining, thanks largely to Jacob Bethell's unbeaten 76.

Kishan also defended the team's selection after questions were raised about the absence of an off-spinner. He maintained that the management had picked the right combination based on the conditions and backed every player in the XI.

The left-hander felt that blaming team selection after a defeat would be unfair, insisting that the players simply

needed to execute their plans better. He acknowledged that both batting and bowling departments had areas to improve but remained confident that the squad could bounce back.

India are now searching for their first T20I victory after going winless in their last four matches, including defeats to Ireland before the England series. Kishan believes the team has enough quality to recover but emphasized that learning quickly from mistakes will be crucial.

With the series still alive, India will look to correct their middle-overs approach, adapt better to English conditions and produce a stronger all-round performance in the upcoming matches.

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has defended young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi following his dismissal in his debut international match against England, saying the teenager should not be judged too harshly for getting stumped while playing an attacking shot. Gavaskar believes the youngster's fearless approach is part of his natural game and should be encouraged rather than criticised.

Vaibhav made his much-awaited debut for India amid high expectations after impressing at the domestic and junior levels. The left-handed batter began confidently, playing a few attractive strokes and showing positive intent against the England bowlers. However, his innings came to an end on 14 runs when he stepped out to attack a spinner, missed the delivery and was stumped.

The dismissal sparked debate among cricket fans and experts. While some questioned the youngster's shot selection, Gavaskar offered a dif-



ferent perspective during his analysis of the match. He pointed out that attacking batters often take risks and that such dismissals are part of the learning process, especially for someone playing international cricket for the first time.

According to Gavaskar, the young opener should continue playing with confidence instead of becoming overly cautious after a single setback. He stressed that players with an aggressive mindset need the freedom to express themselves and that experience will help them make better decisions in different match situations.

The batting legend also highlighted that making a debut at the highest level comes with immense pressure. Facing international bowlers in front of large crowds is a significant challenge for any newcomer, and occasional mistakes are inevitable. What matters most, Gavaskar said, is how a player responds, learns and improves over time. Vaibhav's debut may have been brief, but it offered glimpses of his talent and fearless attitude. Cricket experts believe the teenager possesses the technique and temperament needed to succeed at the highest level, provided he is

given time to develop without unnecessary pressure.

Fans on social media largely echoed Gavaskar's views, urging people to remain patient with the youngster. Many praised his positive intent and argued that a single innings should not define his potential. Several users also appreciated Gavaskar's balanced assessment, saying young cricketers need encouragement rather than criticism during the early stages of their careers.

With the series still underway, Vaibhav will hope to make the most of future opportunities if he gets another chance in the playing XI. Every innings at the international level will add to his experience and help him adapt to the demands of top-level cricket.

Gavaskar's comments serve as a reminder that every great cricketer has faced setbacks early in their career. For Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, the debut dismissal is just one moment in what many hope will become a long and successful journey in Indian cricket.



Rayudu Backs Samson After Debut Buzz

Former India batter Ambati Rayudu has urged cricket fans not to forget Sanju Samson's contribution to Indian cricket after young Vaibhav Sooryavanshi made his much-awaited international debut in the second T20I against England. While the spotlight was firmly on the teenage sensation, Rayudu reminded supporters that Samson has played a key role in India's recent successes and deserves respect despite missing out on the playing XI.

India handed 15-year-old Sooryavanshi his first international cap at Old Trafford, replacing Samson at the top of the order. The move generated widespread excitement, with the youngster becoming one of the youngest players to represent India in international cricket. However, Rayudu felt that the celebrations surrounding the debut should not overshadow Samson's achievements.

Taking to social media, Rayudu said fans should "spare a thought" for Samson, who was

instrumental during India's recent T20 success. He highlighted that selection decisions are part of professional sport, but players who have delivered for the country deserve continued appreciation and support.

The decision to leave Samson out has sparked intense debate among former cricketers and fans. While many welcomed Sooryavanshi's inclusion following his impressive domestic and IPL performances, others questioned whether dropping an experienced campaigner was the right move. Several experts believe India should continue backing proven performers while also creating opportunities for talented youngsters.

Sooryavanshi had a brief but lively debut, scoring 14 runs off just 10 deliveries, including two towering sixes before being stumped. Although his innings ended quickly, the fearless approach showcased why he is regarded as one of India's brightest young prospects.

Despite the youngster's prom-

ising start, India were unable to secure victory. England successfully chased down India's target of 190 to register a four-wicket win, with Jacob Bethell producing a match-winning unbeaten knock. The defeat left India searching for answers as they look to level the series.

The debate surrounding Samson's omission is expected to continue as India attempt to strike the right balance between experience and youth in the shortest format. While Sooryavanshi's arrival signals the beginning of an exciting new chapter, Rayudu believes the contributions of established players should not be forgotten.

His message resonated with many fans who acknowledged Samson's consistent efforts for India over the years. As competition for places intensifies, the selectors face the challenge of rewarding emerging talent without overlooking players who have already proved their worth on the international stage.

Pakistan have reinstated star batter Babar Azam as the captain of their Test team, replacing Shan Masood ahead of two crucial ICC World Test Championship assignments against the West Indies and England.

The Pakistan Cricket Board announced the leadership change while unveiling the squads for the upcoming tours. Pakistan will first play a two-Test series against the West Indies starting July 25 before travelling to England for a three-Test series beginning on August 19.

The decision marks Babar's return as Test skipper after he previously stepped down from leadership duties. The PCB is hoping his experience and leadership can help revive the team's fortunes in the longest format after a disappointing run in recent months.

Shan Masood's tenure as captain came under heavy scrutiny following Pakistan's poor performances. He led the side in 16 Test matches but



managed only four victories while suffering 12 defeats. Under his leadership, Pakistan also endured a seven-match losing streak, equalling the team's longest sequence of defeats in Test cricket.

Apart from the captaincy change, the selectors introduced fresh faces into the squad by handing maiden Test

call-ups to four players. Left-arm spinner Ali Usman, batter Muhammad Awaiz Zafar, fast bowler Ubaid Shah and wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Ghazi Ghori have all earned their first opportunities at the highest level.

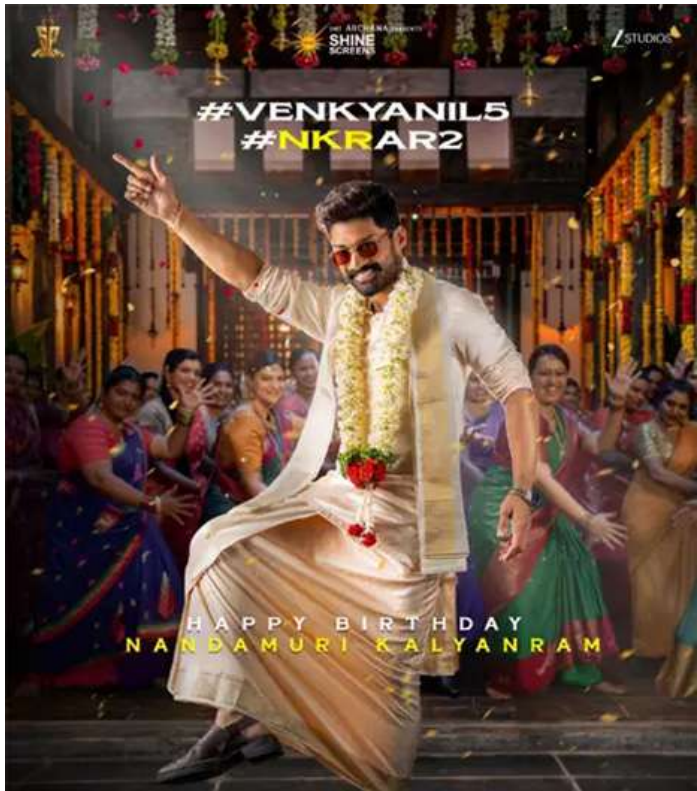
Another notable inclusion is Saud Shakeel, who has been named in the squad for the

England series, subject to clearing a fitness test before the tour. His return is expected to strengthen Pakistan's middle order for the challenging overseas assignment.

The squad also features experienced names including Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Ali Agha, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Abbas, Sajid Khan and Aamir Jamal, giving Pakistan a blend of youth and experience.

Pakistan currently sit at the bottom of the World Test Championship standings and will be aiming for a strong turnaround under Babar's leadership. The upcoming series against the West Indies and England will be crucial in rebuilding confidence and improving their position in the championship table.

With a familiar face back at the helm and several promising newcomers in the squad, Pakistan will hope the latest leadership change signals the beginning of a more successful phase in Test cricket.



Kalyan Ram's Festive First Look Out

The makers of director Anil Ravipudi's upcoming entertainer have unveiled the first-look poster of Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, treating fans to a vibrant birthday surprise. The colourful poster offers a glimpse of the actor's energetic character and has generated excitement among movie lovers eagerly awaiting the much-anticipated project.

The film marks a special reunion for Anil Ravipudi and Kalyan Ram, who previously delivered the successful film Pataas, which also launched Ravipudi's directorial career. More than a decade later, the duo has teamed up once again for a grand family entertainer that also stars Victory Venkatesh in a prominent role, making it one of the biggest multi-starrers currently in production. Released on the occasion of Kalyan Ram's birthday, the first-look poster presents the actor in a lively festive avatar. Dressed in a traditional cream kurta and dhoti, accessorised with stylish sunglasses and a flower garland, Kalyan Ram is seen striking an energetic dance pose with a cheerful smile. The backdrop is filled with colourful decorations, flower petals and celebrations, hinting at the film's festive setting and family-friendly theme.

The poster has been well received by fans, many of whom



Narne Nithiin's NN5 Begins

KVN Productions has officially launched its second Telugu production, tentatively titled NN5, with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. Starring Narne Nithiin in the lead role, the film marks another significant step in the production house's expansion into Telugu cinema and has already generated excitement among movie lovers.

The film is being directed by Radhakrishna Reddy and is described as a youthful commercial entertainer. After announcing the project a few days ago, the makers formally commenced production with a grand launch event attended by members of the cast and crew, along with several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry.

The launch ceremony also confirmed actresses Anikha Surendran and Megha Shetty as the female leads. Both actresses are expected to play important roles in the film, adding freshness and appeal to the project. Their inclusion has further increased curiosity among audiences eager to see the on-screen pairing with Narne Nithiin. Several well-known filmmakers and technicians participated in the inaugural event. Producer Venkat K. Narayana gave the ceremonial opening clap, while acclaimed cinematographer K.K. Senthil Kumar switched on the camera. Director Kalyan Shankar directed the first shot, making the launch a memorable occasion for the entire team.

Backed by Venkat K. Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, NN5 features an experienced technical team. Popular Tamil music composers Vivek-Mervin have been roped in to compose the soundtrack, marking another exciting addition to the project. Cinematography will be handled by Rama Maruti M, while Niranjan Devaramane has been entrusted with editing responsibilities.

The makers are aiming to deliver an entertaining film that appeals to younger audiences while offering a blend of emotions, romance and commercial elements. Although the storyline is being kept under wraps, the production house is expected to reveal more details, including the film's title and shooting schedule, in the coming weeks.

For Narne Nithiin, NN5 represents nother important project as he continues to establish himself as a promising young actor in Telugu cinema. Meanwhile, KVN Productions is strengthening its presence across multiple film industries with an impressive slate of pan-Indian projects.

With the film now officially on floors, expectations are steadily building among fans. The combination of a young cast, experienced technicians and a reputed production banner has created positive buzz, and audiences will now be eagerly waiting for the first glimpse, title announcement and other promotional updates in the months ahead.

Naga Vamsi Ends Jr NTR Rumours

Producer Naga Vamsi has put an end to speculation surrounding Jr NTR's much-discussed collaboration with Tamil filmmaker Nelson Dilipkumar, assuring fans that the project is very much on track. His clarification has come as a major relief to the actor's followers, who were worried after reports suggested the film had been shelved or delayed indefinitely.

Rumours about the project's future gained momentum after Nelson announced a new film with actor Allu Arjun. The announcement led many fans to believe that the director's proposed film with Jr NTR had been dropped. Social media was soon flooded with speculation, with many questioning whether the collaboration would ever materialise.

Addressing these rumours during a recent interaction, Naga Vamsi dismissed the claims and confirmed that there is no truth to reports of the film being cancelled. He explained that both Jr NTR and Nelson have packed schedules, making it difficult to immediately begin work on the project. However, he stressed that the collaboration remains very much alive and will move forward once both of them complete their current commitments.

The producer also urged fans



not to believe unverified reports circulating on social media. He said that there is no reason for concern and that official announcements regarding the film will be made at the appropriate time. His comments have reassured fans who have been eagerly waiting to see the actor and director come together for the first time.

At present, Jr NTR is focused on his upcoming projects, while Nelson is busy with his newly announced film. Once both fulfil their existing commitments, discussions about their collaboration are expected to resume.

The possibility of Jr NTR teaming up with Nelson has generated considerable excitement ever since the project was first reported. Nelson has earned a strong reputation for delivering stylish commercial entertainers, while Jr NTR continues to be one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars with a massive fan following across India. Their combination is widely expected to result in a high-profile pan-Indian film.

Following Naga Vamsi's clarification, fans have expressed relief online, with many welcoming the confirmation that the project has not been shelved. The update has helped silence speculation and renewed anticipation for what could become one of the most awaited collaborations in Indian cinema.

Although the makers have not yet announced a shooting schedule or release timeline, Naga Vamsi's statement makes it clear that the film is still in the pipeline. For now, fans can look forward to an official update once Jr NTR and Nelson complete their ongoing projects and are ready to begin work together.



Rao Bahadur Eyes Strong Weekend

Satya Dev's latest psychological drama Rao Bahadur has made a promising start at the box office, collecting 6.3 crore worldwide in its first two days. While the film witnessed a slight dip in collections on its second day, positive word of mouth has kept expectations high for the crucial Sunday business, which could determine its long-term theatrical run.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Venkatesh Maha, Rao Bahadur has received appreciation from audiences and critics for its unconventional storytelling and technical brilliance. Satya Dev's powerful performance has emerged as one of the film's biggest strengths, with many viewers praising his portrayal in the psychological drama. The movie's unique narrative and visually rich presentation have also been widely discussed since its release.

According to the latest box office figures, the film has earned 6.3 crore gross worldwide after two days in theatres. On its second day, it collected 2.4 crore, registering a drop from its opening-day earnings. Although the decline is typical for many films after the initial release, the makers remain optimistic due to the positive audience response and encouraging reviews.

Industry observers believe Sunday will be a decisive day for the film. A significant jump in collections could strengthen

its box office prospects and help it maintain momentum during the weekdays. Monday's performance will also be closely watched, as it will indicate whether the film can sustain audience interest beyond its opening weekend.

The film features Vikas Muppala, Deepa Thomas and Bala Parasar in important roles alongside Satya Dev. It has been produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, Anurag Reddy, Sharath Chandra and Eshwaran Vijayaraghavan, while Smaran Sai has composed the music.

Rao Bahadur marks another collaboration between Satya Dev and Venkatesh Maha, a director known for his distinctive storytelling style. Unlike conventional commercial entertainers, the film explores psychological themes through an experimental narrative, making it stand out among recent Telugu releases. While its unconventional approach may appeal more to niche audiences, many viewers have appreciated its fresh storytelling and emotional depth.

With positive buzz continuing to spread and audience recommendations growing, all eyes are now on the film's Sunday collections. A strong weekend finish could give Rao Bahadur the momentum it needs to enjoy a successful theatrical run and establish itself as one of the season's most talked-about Telugu films.

Samantha Returns as Talk Show Host



After the blockbuster success of Maa Inti Bangaaram, actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu is reportedly preparing to return to the small screen as the host of a brand-new talk show. The project is expected to stream on Sony LIV and marks another exciting chapter in the actress's career beyond films.

This will not be Samantha's first experience as a talk show host. She previously won praise for hosting Sam Jam on the Aha platform, where she interviewed several leading celebrities from the Telugu film industry. The show received a positive response from viewers, with many appreciating Samantha's warm and engaging interview style. Her return to hosting has therefore generated considerable excitement among fans.

According to reports, Samantha's upcoming show will be presented in Tamil, making it her first major hosting venture in the language. While the makers are yet to announce the show's title, format or guest list, the news has already created a buzz among audiences eager to see the actress in a different role. However, there is still no official confirmation regarding when production

will begin. Samantha is currently expecting her first child and has decided to take a temporary break from acting to focus on her personal life. As a result, the shooting schedule for the talk show is expected to depend on her availability after her maternity break.

The announcement comes at a high point in Samantha's career. Her latest film, Maa Inti Bangaaram, emerged as a major commercial success and reportedly became the highest-grossing female-led Telugu film, further strengthening her position as one of the industry's leading stars. The film's impressive performance has been widely celebrated by audiences and the film fraternity alike. Fans have welcomed the news of Samantha's return to

hosting, expressing excitement on social media. Many believe her natural communication skills and friendly personality make her an ideal choice for a celebrity talk show. Others are eager to see which stars will appear as guests once the series goes into production.

Although an official launch date has not yet been announced, Samantha's reported collaboration with Sony LIV has already raised expectations. With her successful track record as both an actress and host, viewers are hopeful that the upcoming talk show will offer entertaining conversations, memorable celebrity interactions and another successful milestone in her career.

Parasuram-Hrithik Film Buzz Grows



Speculation is growing around a possible collaboration between Telugu filmmaker Parasuram and Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan, with fresh reports suggesting that the two may soon join hands for a major pan-Indian project. While no official announcement has been made, the latest developments have sparked excitement among fans of both the director and the actor.

According to industry reports, leading production house Hom bale Films is keen to bring Parasuram and Hrithik Roshan together for a big-budget entertainer. The banner, known for backing successful pan-Indian films, is said to have initiated discussions with the director after being impressed by his storytelling style and commercial success.

Sources indicate that Parasuram has already narrated a story idea, and the project has reportedly received a positive response in its early stages. However, the film is yet to be officially confirmed, and several formalities, including script development and scheduling, are still pending before the collaboration can move forward.

At present, both Parasuram and Hrithik Roshan have busy professional commitments. Hrithik is occupied with his upcoming projects, while Parasuram is also working on other as-

signments. Because of these packed schedules, the proposed film is expected to take shape only after both complete their existing commitments.

If the collaboration materialises, it will mark Parasuram's first directorial venture with a Bollywood superstar. The director has earned a strong reputation in Telugu cinema for delivering successful commercial entertainers that combine emotion, humour and family drama. Working with Hrithik Roshan could open the door to a larger pan-Indian audience and represent a significant milestone in his career.

For Hrithik Roshan, teaming up with a successful Telugu filmmaker would continue the growing trend of collaborations between Bollywood stars and South Indian directors. In recent years,

such partnerships have gained popularity as filmmakers increasingly aim to create films with nationwide appeal.

The reports have generated considerable buzz on social media, with fans expressing enthusiasm about the potential combination. Many believe Parasuram's entertaining storytelling style and Hrithik Roshan's screen presence could make for an exciting cinematic experience if the project goes ahead.

For now, the collaboration remains at the discussion stage, and the makers have not issued an official statement. Until then, fans will have to wait for a formal announcement. If everything falls into place, the Parasuram-Hrithik Roshan project could become one of the most anticipated pan-Indian films in the coming years.

