



Pawan Kalyan Hails Forest Officers Honoured with NTCA Awards



**New Delhi, July 29 | TPN Bureau**  
Two Forest Beat Officers from the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) have been conferred the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Awards for Excellence during the Global Tiger Day celebrations held in New Delhi on July 29. S. Ismail and G. Sudhakara Rao received the prestigious awards from Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, in recognition of their outstanding service in wildlife conservation and protection. According to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, the recognition reflects their unwavering commitment, dedication, and exemplary contributions towards safeguarding tigers and preserving wildlife. The department described the achievement as a matter of pride and an inspiration for others working in the field of conservation. S. Ismail was honoured in the category of Wildlife Crime Detection, Investigation and Prosecution for his exceptional efforts in identifying wildlife offences, conducting investigations, and ensuring effective legal action against offenders. G. Sudhakara Rao received the award in the category of People's Participation and Eco-Development Activities for his work in mobilising tribal communities, removing wildlife traps, supporting conservation operations, and promoting eco-development initiatives around protected forest areas. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan congratulated the awardees in a post on X. He lauded their dedication, courage, and commitment as frontline forest personnel. He also extended his compliments to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department and the NSTR team. He stated that the national recognition reflects the state's strong commitment to tiger conservation and serves as an inspiration to continue protecting the country's rich natural heritage for future generations.

Bhogapuram Airport to Boost North Andhra Tourism Says Durgesh

**Visakhapatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau :** A grand curtain-raiser event for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram was organised by the State Tourism Department at Rushikonda Blue Flag Beach on Thursday. State Minister for Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Kandula Durgesh attended the programme as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Minister Durgesh said the Bhogapuram International Airport would give wings to North Andhra's dreams and accelerate regional development. He said improved connectivity through air, rail, road and waterways would attract industries, promote tourism and create large-scale employment opportunities for youth. He recalled that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu had described the airport project as "Wings to North Andhra's Dreams" and said the government was committed to realising the aspirations of people. The event featured sand sculptures depicting the Bhogapuram Airport, cultural performances, selfie points and tourism displays. Minister Durgesh appreciated the inclusion of the "Thanks Farmers" message in the sand artwork, acknowledging farmers who contributed their lands for the project. Highlighting Rushikonda Beach's Blue Flag certification, the Minister appealed to tourists to maintain cleanliness and avoid plastic pollution. He assured that the government would protect the interests of small-scale vendors dependent on the beach for their livelihood. Cultural programmes, including tribal dances and Kolatam performances, attracted visitors. Minister Durgesh signed the signature wall in Telugu and interacted with tourists at the venue. Swachh Andhra Corporation Director Nagalakshmi, Tourism and Travel Association President Vijaya Mohan, Hotel Association President Pavan Karthik, DVM Jagadeesh, Janasena Party leaders Sandeep and Srinivas, tourism officials, local leaders and tourists attended the event.



DGP Reviews Security Arrangements for PM Modi's Bhogapuram Visit

**Vizianagaram, July 31 | TPN Bureau :** DGP Harish Kumar Gupta inspected security arrangements at the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport on Thursday ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate the airport on August 1. The DGP reviewed security measures at key locations, including the Integrated Command and Control Centre, terminal building, Prime Minister's public meeting venue and the area designated for the Dhimsa dance performance. He was briefed by 'Eagle' IG Ake Ravikrishna that around 3,000 CCTV cameras had been installed at various locations and connected to LED screens at the command centre. Officials informed the DGP that the Integrated Command and Control Centre would monitor crowd movement, traffic management, parking areas and the meeting venue through live CCTV feeds. He also inspected access routes and interior areas of the terminal building. District SP AR Damodar explained the security arrangements made by the district police. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta directed senior officers and personnel deployed for security, bandobast and traffic duties to coordinate effectively. He instructed police officials to allow people into the venue only after thorough security checks and ensure smooth traffic movement after the programme. He also directed officials to install clear signboards on routes leading to the airport and guide vehicles to designated parking areas. The DGP was accompanied by Additional DGP (Law and Order) N. Madhusudhan Reddy, IG (Greyhounds and OCTOPUS) Srikanth, IG (Eagle) Ake Ravi Krishna, Visakhapatnam Range IG Gopinath Jetty, District SP AR Damodar and other senior police officials.



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Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration to Showcase AP's Cultural Grandeur

**Sravani Badugu/Sreeja Rachabathuni Vizianagaram:** The state government has made extensive arrangements for the grand inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the airport, marking a major step forward in strengthening air connectivity and infrastructure development in the state. The inauguration ceremony will reflect Andhra Pradesh's rich cultural traditions and heritage. As part of the welcome programme, around 13,500 tribal women will perform the traditional Thimsa dance to greet the Prime Minister. The airport premises have been decorated with special displays representing the state's art, history and cultural identity. A large Etikoppaka artwork has been installed at the airport entrance to highlight the craftsmanship of Andhra Pradesh artisans.

The airport interiors feature exhibits showcasing leather puppetry, the famous Bobbili Veena and the geographical significance of Banganapalle mangoes, giving visitors a glimpse of the state's unique heritage. The celebrations have been planned under the theme "Wings to North Andhra Dreams", reflecting the aspirations and development potential associated with the new airport. Several cultural programmes will be organised as part of the inauguration festivities. A spectacular drone show is also scheduled on Visakhapatnam Beach Road on Friday evening as part of the celebrations. Meanwhile, Air India has announced its flight schedule from the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, officially marking the beginning of air services from the new facility. The airport is expected to provide better connectivity, boost tourism, encourage investments and accelerate economic growth in North Andhra Pradesh.

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Polavaram Canal Works Speed Up, Water to Reach Anakapalli Soon



**Annayaram, July 31 | TPN Bureau :** Water Resources Minister Dr. Nimmala Ramanaidu said the government is committed to completing the Polavaram project by 2027 as per the direction of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He added that efforts are underway to ensure water supply to North Andhra even before the project's full completion. He highlighted that the Purushothapattanam Lift Irrigation Scheme is already serving irrigation, drinking water and industrial needs in the region. (The Minister recalled that substantial progress had been achieved earlier and said timely execution would benefit both North Andhra and Rayalaseema regions. He also expressed concern over delays by executing agencies and directed them to expedite the remaining works to meet deadlines. Ramanaidu briefly criticised the previous YSRCP government over delays in canal works and pending dues in the Irrigation Department. He also took exception to remarks by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy regarding development projects, while reiterating the government's focus on infrastructure and water resource management.

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Dhimsa Dance Creates Guinness World Record

**Bhogapuram, July 31 | TPN Bureau :** The state has created history as 13,000 tribal girls performed the traditional Dhimsa dance at Bhogapuram, earning a place in the Guinness World Records. The record was achieved under the leadership of Minister for Tribal Welfare and Women & Child Welfare Gummidi Sandhya Rani, who received the Guinness World Records certificate after representatives verified that all prescribed standards were met. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sandhya Rani said the achievement was not just a world record but a global recognition for Dhimsa, an art form deeply connected with tribal life, traditions and culture for centuries. She said the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu was taking several initiatives to showcase tribal heritage, arts and traditions on international platforms. The Minister congratulated the 13,000 tribal girls who participated in the performance and appreciated their months of disciplined practice. She also thanked teachers, wardens, Tribal Welfare Department officials, district administration personnel, police officials and volunteers for their support in making the event a success. Sandhya Rani said the record reflected the talent and cultural strength of tribal communities and would bring greater recognition to Dhimsa dance across the country and globally. She expressed confidence that the achievement would encourage further promotion of tribal arts and traditions. She thanked Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Education Minister Nara Lokesh and all departments involved in organising the historic event. The Minister said the government would continue efforts to preserve and promote tribal culture at national and international levels.

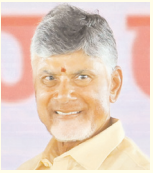


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PM Modi, CM Naidu Highlight Bhogapuram Airport's Development Potential

**Visakhapatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the significance of the upcoming inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, stating that the project would provide a major boost to infrastructure development and strengthen connectivity in the region. In a social media post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the airport would play a key role in accelerating growth and creating new opportunities through improved infrastructure. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reposted the Prime Minister's message and expressed his readiness to welcome Narendra Modi for the inauguration programme. He said the Bhogapuram airport would mark a major milestone in the development



journey of Andhra Pradesh and propel the growth of North Andhra to new heights. The Chief Minister stated that the airport would emerge as a catalyst for economic progress by improving connectivity, supporting industries, promoting tourism and creating new employment opportunities. The inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport is scheduled to be held on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the programme.

PM Modi to inaugurate Bhogapuram Airport today

**Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district on Saturday and launch development projects worth over Rs.17,900 crore in Andhra Pradesh. PM will arrive The Greenfield airport, developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode at a cost of over Rs.5,640 crore, has been designed to handle six million passengers annually. Equipped with advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, biometric passenger processing and automated baggage systems, the airport also features sustainable initiatives such as solar power generation and rainwater harvesting. The Prime Minister will also lay foundation stones for the ASIP Semiconductor Project in Visakhapatnam, renewable energy transmission projects worth thousands of crores, and National Highway projects worth over Rs.1,880 crore. Later, Modi will inaugurate the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Youth Centre-Viveka Smaraka at Mysuru, Karnataka.

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Bhogapuram Airport Decked Up for PM Modi's Inauguration

**Bhogapuram, July 31 | TPN Bureau**  
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to give special focus to crowd and traffic management arrangements for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitaramaraju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Reviewing the arrangements with officials, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu instructed authorities to ensure smooth vehicle movement and prevent traffic congestion during the inauguration programme. He stressed the need for systematic monitoring and directed the police department to ensure that every person attending the event leaves safely and happily without facing difficulties related to traffic or parking. The state government has made elaborate arrangements to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the airport inauguration. More than 10,000 tribal women will perform the traditional Dhimsa dance to showcase the rich cultural heritage of North Andhra tribals during the event.

The airport premises have been decorated with displays reflecting the art, culture and heritage of Andhra Pradesh. Traditional attractions including Etikoppaka toys, Bobbili Veena and puppet show displays have been arranged as part of the cultural presentation. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said the Bhogapuram airport would become a major milestone in the development of North Andhra and usher in a new phase in the state's aviation sector. He stated that the airport would be developed as an aviation and aerospace hub, creating new opportunities for growth and investment. Meanwhile, the massive Dhimsa dance performance organised by the Department of Tribal Welfare, Andhra Pradesh, at the Alluri Sitaramaraju International Airport entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest Dhimsa dance performance. The record was achieved with the participation of thousands of tribal women ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

India Clinches Two Judo Golds at Commonwealth Games 2026



**Glasgow, July 31 | TPN Bureau**  
India registered an impressive performance in judo at the Commonwealth Games 2026, with Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh winning gold medals in their respective categories. Asmita Dey created history by clinching gold in the women's 48kg category, becoming the first Indian woman to achieve this feat at the Commonwealth Games. She secured victory against Canada's Heidi Quach in a closely contested final that extended into the Golden Score phase, marking a significant milestone for Indian judo. Harsh Singh added to the country's success by winning gold in the men's judo category, continuing India's strong showing in the sport. His performance was part of a broader effort by the Indian judo contingent, which ensured multiple podium finishes at the event. The twin victories highlight India's growing strength in judo, a discipline traditionally dominated by other nations. The achievements of Asmita and Harsh reflect improved training standards and rising competitiveness among Indian athletes on the global stage. These results are expected to boost the profile of judo in India and inspire more athletes to take up the sport, strengthening the country's prospects in future international competitions.

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Lokesh Welcomes Australian Minister Julian Hill in Amaravati Visit



**Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau**  
Amaravati Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh and State Minister for Industries TG Bharat welcomed Australian Assistant Minister for International Education, Citizenship, Customs, and Multicultural Affairs Julian Hill at Gannavaram Airport on Friday night. Lokesh extended a warm welcome to Hill and presented him with a bouquet. The Australian Minister was also felicitated with a traditional shawl during the occasion. Several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are scheduled to be signed between the University of New South Wales and the State Education Department on Saturday in the presence of Minister Nara Lokesh.

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## Bhogapuram Airport to Transform North Andhra



**Bhogapuram, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

The Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram will bring a major transformation in the future and development landscape of North Andhra, said Information and Public Relations and Housing Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi. Speaking to the media at the airport premises, Parthasarathi said the Bhogapuram airport would be a game changer for the region, boosting economic growth, employment, transport, tourism and cultural development. He said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is giving priority to the comprehensive development of North Andhra.

The minister said arrangements have been completed for the airport inauguration, which is expected to witness the participation of over three lakh people. Around 5,000 to 6,000 buses have been arranged for public transportation. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate projects worth Rs 17,900 crore. Parthasarathi added that the airport's 25,000 metric tonne cargo terminal would provide a major boost to exports from North Andhra and create new employment opportunities. He also said the Polavaram left main canal water supply programme to North Andhra would be launched on August 14, benefiting agriculture, industries and drinking water needs.

## Bhogapuram Airport Opens New Gateway for AP Growth

**Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

BJP president PVN Madhav welcomed PM Narendra Modi's visit for the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, describing the project as a historic milestone in the state's development journey. Madhav said the airport is not just an infrastructure project but a new gateway for the economic growth of Andhra Pradesh and the progress of North Andhra. He stated that the airport would boost investments, industrial development, tourism, IT, exports and create employment opportunities for lakhs of youth. He said the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been giving priority to infrastructure development in Andhra Pradesh through projects in roads, railways, national highways, ports and aviation sectors.



Madhav expressed confidence that the Bhogapuram airport would strengthen international connectivity, attract foreign investments and support industrial expansion and tourism growth. He called upon people of Andhra Pradesh to welcome the inauguration as a historic moment and a symbol of a developed Andhra Pradesh.

## CBI Raids Multiple Locations in AP, Telangana Over Bank Fraud Case

**Hyderabad/Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at multiple locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in connection with an alleged Rs 105.44 crore fraud case involving Punjab National Bank. The CBI registered a case based on a complaint from Punjab National Bank against directors of NCS Sugars Limited and certain government employees for allegedly obtaining loans

using forged documents. Searches were carried out at several locations in Hyderabad, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. The CBI teams inspected the NCS Sugars factory, company offices and residences of the directors as part of the investigation. During the searches, officials reportedly collected important documents and digital evidence related to the case. Further investigation is underway to examine the alleged financial irregularities and the role of individuals involved.

## Two-Day Training Programme for Judicial Magistrates Begins

**Mangalagiri/Guntur, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

A two-day awareness programme for 45 Special Judicial Magistrates of Second Class from Anantapur, Kadapa, Krishna, Kurnool and Prakasam districts began at the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy in Mangalagiri on Friday. The programme was organised as per the directions of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Amaravati. Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge and Board of Governors member of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy Justice Avadhanam Hari Haranadha Sharma delivered the inaugural address and provided

valuable guidance to the participants. He advised the officials to make the best use of the training programme and gain knowledge that would help them in their judicial responsibilities. AP Judicial Academy FAC Director L. Sridhar expressed gratitude to the High Court, Chief Justice, Academy authorities and the committee of judges involved in the appointment process of Special Judicial Magistrates for their guidance and support. Senior faculty members P. Kesavacharyulu and Dr. Y. Bindu Madhavi, along with Administrative Officer M. Srinu, supervised the arrangements of the training programme.

# SRM University-AP Receives Three EDex Awards 2026

**Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

SRM University-AP, Amaravati, has bagged three prestigious EDex Awards 2026 at the 6th Edition of the EDex Awards held in Chennai, recognising its contribution to education, innovation, empowerment and academic excellence. The university's three academic schools - School of Engineering and Sciences (SEAS), Easwari School of Liberal Arts (ESLA), and Paari School of Business (PSB) - received awards for their achievements in their respective fields. The School of Engineering and Sciences was honoured with the Best Engineering College of the Year 2026 - South India award for its industry-oriented pedagogy, research excellence, placement achieve-



The Easwari School of Liberal Arts received the Best Liberal Arts School of the Year

## APSRTC Introduces Digital Privilege Bus Passes for Employees

**Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

APSRTC has introduced a computerised Privilege Bus Pass system for its employees from August 1, 2026, to make the process faster, transparent and convenient. The RTC management said the new system will be implemented through the Human Resource Management System (HRMS), eliminating manual applications and long waiting times for employees. Under the existing rules, regular employees will continue to receive three sets of privilege bus passes every calendar year, while eligible

contract and casual drivers and conductors will continue to get passes as per prevailing norms. Employees have been advised to verify and update family details, dates of birth and contact information in the HRMS before applying for passes. In the new system, eligibility details will appear after entering the staff number, and the pass will be generated online after approval by the concerned PD supervisor. APSRTC said manual issuance of privilege bus passes will be completely stopped from August 1. The management stated that the move is another step towards digitalisation and improved employee services.

## APSCPCR Seeks RTC Buses for Kondapalli Girls School

**Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

AP State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) Chairperson Vetukuri AVS Surya Narayana Raju has urged APSRTC officials to operate buses according to the timings of PM Sri ZP Girls High School Plus at Kondapalli in Ibrahimpatnam mandal of NTR district. In a letter to RTC authorities, he highlighted the transportation difficulties faced by students of the school and requested immediate action to ensure safe and convenient travel facilities. During a recent Mega PTM held at the school, APSCPCR member Challa Madhusudana Rao received a representation from the headmistress, School Management Committee chairperson and parents regarding the issue. Around 786 girl students from nearby villages, studying from Class 6 to Intermediate, depend mainly on RTC buses for commuting. Parents informed that lack of buses during school hours was causing hardships, with some students even discontinuing education due to travel problems and safety concerns. The APSCPCR chairperson requested RTC officials to provide buses between 8 am and 9 am and from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, with stops directly in front of the school.

# Godavari Flood Levels Rise, APSDMA Issues Alert

**Rajamahendravaram, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has alerted people in Godavari basin districts as flood levels continue to rise due to heavy upstream rains. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the river is expected to reach the first danger warning level by Friday night and the second by Saturday. As of 7 PM, the water level stood at 49.8 feet at Bhadrachalam, 16.35 metres at Kunavaram and 10.26 metres at Polavaram. Floodwaters are surging at the Dowleswaram Cotton Barrage, where the level touched 10.90 feet. All 175 gates have been lifted, releasing about 2.25 lakh cusecs into the sea, while earlier inflow and outflow were recorded at 5,39,934 cusecs. The river is flowing in spate at Devipatnam

near the Polavaram project, with floodwaters reaching the gopuram of the Gandipochamma Temple. Officials indicated that a first-level danger warning may be issued soon. Authorities in East Godavari, Konaseema, Kakinada, West Godavari, Eluru and Polavaram districts have been put on high alert. Three NDRF and three SDRF teams are on standby. Officials have been directed to evacuate residents of low-lying and Lanka villages if required. People have been advised to avoid flooded roads, streams and culverts and stay away from river activities.



## Centre Reviews AP Disaster Management Systems



**Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

A high-level Central government team reviewed Andhra Pradesh's disaster management preparedness and response systems at the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) office on Friday. APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the team, comprising NDMA Joint Advisor Naval Prakash and 14th Battalion NDRF Commandant P.K. Tiwari, held discussions with state officials on strengthening emergency preparedness. The review focused on action plans for handling heatwaves, lightning incidents, improving SDRF capabilities, procuring modern equipment and expanding fire services. The team also examined updates of state and district disaster management plans, compensation data management through the NDMIS portal and effective use of the IDRN portal by district authorities. Prakhar Jain said the Centre and state governments are working together to strengthen disaster management systems as per national standards and ensure quick assistance to people during emergencies. APSDMA Executive Director K. Kausar Bano and other officials attended the meeting.

## Sanskrit Saptah to Begin Across AP from August 25



**Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

Telugu and Sanskrit Academy Chairman R.D. Wilson alias Sarath Chandra said Sanskrit plays a key role in strengthening national values and efforts are being taken to make the language accessible to common people. Addressing a press conference at the Academy office in Vaddeswaram, he said Sanskrit is often perceived as a language limited to scholars and the Academy is working to remove that notion. He stressed the need for adequate government funding for the development and promotion of Sanskrit. Wilson said he met officials in Delhi, including Central Sanskrit University Vice-Chancellor Professor Srinivas Varakhedi, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti Chairman Krishna Swamy and Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi, seeking support for Sanskrit Academy development. He announced that Sanskrit Saptah celebrations will be held across Andhra Pradesh from August 25 to 31. Programmes will be organised in districts including Srikulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Tirupati, Kurnool and Vijayawada. The concluding programme will be held at hantasala Venkateswara Rao Government Music College in Vijayawada. Quiz competitions based on Indian epics and recognition programmes for those contributing to Sanskrit will also be conducted. He added that awards will be presented on August 29, on the occasion of Gidugu Ramamurthy's birth anniversary, to personalities who made significant contributions to Telugu language and culture.

## Handloom Product Diversification to Boost Weaver Incomes

**Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

Andhra Pradesh Handlooms and Textiles Commissioner Rekha Rani stressed the need for product diversification in the handloom sector to meet changing market demands and improve weavers' incomes. During her visit to Angara and Pulugurtha Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies in East Godavari district, she reviewed the products, functioning of societies and marketing practices. She advised weavers to develop new designs, colours and patterns based on consumer preferences. Rekha Rani suggested converting sarees into dress materials and introducing innovative products to increase market demand. She directed officials to focus on product development, design improvement, quality standards and better marketing facilities. She said regular studies on consumer tastes and market trends were essential for creating successful products. The Commissioner added that training programmes would be organised to



help weavers improve designs and diversify products. She noted that handloom products currently fetch prices ranging from

## Suggestions Invited on Juvenile Justice Act Amendments

**Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau**

The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (APSCPCR) has invited suggestions and recommendations on proposed amendments to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. APSCPCR Chairperson Vetukuri AVS Surya Narayana Raju said the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development is reviewing the Act with the objective of strengthening legal procedures related to child care, protection and rehabilitation. He requested officials from concerned departments, organisations, stakeholders, child welfare NGOs and the

public to submit their suggestions and proposals in the prescribed format within the stipulated time. The APSCPCR Chairperson said state-level suggestions should be submitted by August 7 through email at apscpcr2018@gmail.com. He also stated that suggestions in Word or PDF format can be directly sent to the Central government through cw2section-mwcd@gov.in by August 14, 2026. The initiative aims to improve the effectiveness of child protection mechanisms and address emerging requirements under the Juvenile Justice framework.



# A Symbol of Rayalaseema's Transformation : Where Economic Strength and Spiritual Values Converge

Chennu Peddiraju  
Senior Journalist

The development of a region cannot be measured solely by its roads, industries and investments. The mindset of its people, education, healthcare, service organisations, spiritual institutions and social values together shape its true identity. Viewed from this perspective, Rayalaseema's transformation is not merely an economic story-it is a broader process of social reconstruction. Once known primarily for drought, migration and underdevelopment, Rayalaseema is today earning a new identity. Tirumala has emerged as a global spiritual destination, Puttaparthi as an international symbol of humanitarian service, the Rural Development Trust (RDT) as a model for rural development, national educational institutions as centres of excellence, and super-speciality hospitals as providers of world-class healthcare. "From Tirumala to Puttaparthi, a new Rayalaseema is taking shape-where spirituality, service, education and healthcare together are building a stronger society." This transformation did not happen overnight. It is the result of decades of sustained efforts by government institutions, religious organisations, voluntary agencies, educational institutions and the healthcare sector, all of which have helped create a strong social infrastructure. Rayalaseema demonstrates that regional development becomes sustainable only when economic growth is complemented by human development. This article therefore examines Rayalaseema not merely as a geographical region, but as an evolving society where economic strength, spiritual values, social service, education and healthcare are deeply interconnected. The journey begins with Tirupati, because any attempt to understand Rayalaseema's social, economic and spiritual evolution must begin there.

**Tirupati:** A Spiritual Compass for Economic Development  
The story of Rayalaseema's development cannot be understood solely through industries, irrigation projects or mineral resources. The region possesses another unique asset-spiritual capital. Tirupati offers one of the world's finest examples of how faith can generate economic activity, strengthen the service sector, improve education and healthcare, and



drive infrastructure development. Every year, nearly 25 to 30 million devotees from India and abroad visit the sacred shrine of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. The economic impact of this enormous pilgrimage extends far beyond the temple itself. It supports railways, airports, road transport, hotels, guest houses, restaurants, flower cultivation, dairy farming, fruit supply chains, prasadam preparation, small businesses, tourism services and local transportation, generating economic activity worth thousands of crores of rupees. For this reason, Tirumala is far more than a pilgrimage centre. It is arguably the largest growth engine of Rayalaseema's service economy. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has evolved into one of India's most efficiently managed religious institutions. With an annual budget exceeding R.5,000 crore, substantial donations, hundi collections, prasadam sales, accommodation services and professionally managed investments, TTD has developed into a highly sophisticated institutional ecosystem. It directly employs thousands of permanent and contractual staff across diverse sectors, including temple administration, engi-

ly or indirectly to the continuous flow of pilgrims. Hotel owners, taxi operators, auto-rickshaw drivers, travel agencies, flower growers, dairy farmers, small traders, artisans and countless service providers all benefit from Tirumala's pilgrimage economy. This is a classic example of a multiplier economy. Every pilgrim who visits Tirumala generates economic activity across multiple sectors. Every rupee spent by a devotee circulates through numerous hands, strengthening the local economy. Therefore, Tirumala's economic contribution cannot be measured merely by the temple's income; it must be assessed through the vast service economy that has developed around it. The influence of Tirumala extends far beyond the sacred hill. Across India, TTD operates temples, Kalyana Mandapams, information centres, Vedic educational institutions, religious publications and large-scale Annadanam (free meal) programmes. These initiatives have transformed TTD from a regional religious institution into a nationally significant spiritual and social organisation. A Centre for Education, Healthcare and Human Development

Tirupati has also established itself as one of southern India's important centres of education and healthcare. Institutions such as Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, IIT Tirupati, IISER Tirupati, the National Sanskrit University, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) and Sri Venkateswara Medical College have

transformed the city into a major knowledge hub. These institutions are enhancing the quality of Rayalaseema's human capital through higher education, advanced medical services, scientific research and skill development. Over the past two decades, the expansion of Tirupati Airport, improved national highways, stronger railway connectivity, better pilgrim accommodation and the introduction of digital services have elevated Tirupati into an international-standard spiritual city. Its proximity to the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and the Sri City industrial zone has further strengthened investment opportunities alongside its rapidly growing service economy. The spiritual light that shines atop the Tirumala hills also illuminates the livelihoods of millions of families living below. Tirupati stands today as one of India's most successful institutional models-transforming faith into service, service into economic activity, and economic activity into regional development. That is why any serious attempt to understand Rayalaseema's transformation must begin with Tirupati.

TTD directly provides employment to thousands of people across temple administration, education, healthcare, engineering, transportation, forestry, horticulture, security and the Anna Prasadam programme. Beyond direct employment, millions of livelihoods in hospitality, transportation, taxi services, flower cultivation, dairy supply, prasadam production, small businesses and tourism are sustained by the steady flow of pilgrims. The influence of Tirumala does not stop at the hill shrine. Through its temples, Kalyana Mandapams, information centres, Vedic education programmes and religious outreach activities across several Indian states, TTD has grown from a regional temple administration into a nationally respected religious institution. Tirumala is far more than a temple. It represents one of India's most successful institutional models-where faith has been transformed into an economic ecosystem, the economy into social service, and social service into sustainable regional development. "Puttaparthi and the Rayalaseema Development Trust (RDT) prove to be no different either. Stay tuned for their story in tomorrow's edition."



## Jagan Pays Last Respects to Anandh Reddy

Pulivendula, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Pulivendula on Friday and paid his last respects to Y.S. Anandh Reddy, who passed away at the age of 87. Anandh Reddy, paternal uncle of Kadapa MP Y.S. Avinash Reddy, died in Pulivendula on Thursday after reportedly suffering from age-related health issues for some time. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accompanied by his wife, visited the residence of the deceased and offered floral tributes to the mortal remains. He expressed his condolences to the bereaved family members and shared their grief. Jagan also interacted

with the family and extended his support and strength to them during the difficult period. He conveyed his heartfelt sympathies and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. The visit was marked by a sombre atmosphere as family members, relatives and well-wishers gathered to pay their final respects to Anandh Reddy. Anandh Reddy's passing has brought grief to the family and relatives in Pulivendula. The YSRCP president's visit reflected his personal association with the bereaved family and his gesture of standing by them during their hour of sorrow. Jagan later participated in the final rites and offered prayers for the departed soul.



## Jana Sena Leaders Allege Political Motive Behind Jagan's Visit

Mangalagiri, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party leaders alleged that former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent North Andhra visit was aimed at creating political tension ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to inaugurate Bhogapuram airport. Addressing the media at the Jana Sena central office in Mangalagiri on Friday, Kakinada Rural MLA Pantam Nanaji alleged that the incident involving a woman Sub-Inspector was part of an attempt to disturb peace in the region. He demanded strict action against those accused of misbehaving with the police officer. Nanaji criticised Jagan over his

alleged failure to meet former minister Sidiri Appalaraju and accused YSRCP of supporting individuals facing criminal allegations. AP MSIDC Chairman Chhillapalli Srinivasa Rao alleged that YSRCP activists surrounded and behaved improperly with the woman police officer. He questioned Jagan's silence over the incident and alleged insensitivity towards BC, SC and ST communities. The leaders also criticised former minister Ambati Rambabu over his alleged conduct towards police personnel during a recent event. Srinivasa Rao claimed that people would reject YSRCP in the next elections.

## YSRCP Leaders Seek Lokesh's Resignation

Ongole, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Under the directions of Prakasam District YSRCP President and Darsi MLA Dr. Buchepalli Siva Prasada Reddy, party leaders submitted a representation to the Administrative Officer at the District Collector's office in Ongole, demanding the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. The protest cited alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment, issues with the fee reimbursement scheme, and the failure to provide unemployment allowance. The programme was attended by Ongole Parliamentary Constituency Observer Bathula Brahmananda Reddy, Giddalur Assembly In-charge Kunduru Nagarjuna Reddy, Ongole Assembly In-charge Chunduri Ravibabu, Addanki Assembly In-charge Chintalapudi Ashok Kumar, constituency observers, former MLA Kasukurthi Adhenna, District Youth Wing President Gongati Srikanth Reddy, District Student Wing President Palnati Ravindra Reddy, other party leaders, and YSRCP activists.

## Perni Nani Seeks CBI Probe into Mega DSC-2025

Machilipatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Krishna District president and former minister Perni Venkatramiah (Nani) demanded a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in the Mega DSC-2025 recruitment process and sought the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. Perni Nani submitted a representation to the Krishna District Joint Collector, alleging violations in Sports Quota appointments. YSRCP constituency in-charges Simhadri Ramesh Babu, Uppala Ramu, Devabhaktuni Chakravarthi and YSRCP Students Wing State Working President Ravichandra participated. He alleged that G.O. Nos. 74 and 75 were replaced with G.O. Nos. 4 and 47 before the DSC notification, removing degree qualification, TET and DSC examination requirements for Sports Quota appointments. He claimed over 380 appointments were made based on participation certificates. Perni Nani questioned the exemption from TET and DSC requirements and demanded cancellation, review of appointments and a comprehensive CBI probe into the recruitment process.

## Botsa Alleges Political Misuse of Police Machinery

Visakhapatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Legislative Council leader Botsa Satyanarayana accused the coalition government of misusing police machinery to target political opponents. Addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Friday, he said police restrictions could not prevent former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's Srikakulam programme from becoming successful. Botsa alleged that police stopped his convoy while he was travelling to Ampolu despite prior information, calling it a protocol violation. He said the vehicles carried family members of former minister Seediri Appalaraju, security personnel and staff. He denied threatening police and alleged that attempt-to-murder and other cases were being registered against YSRCP leaders for political reasons. He demanded withdrawal of the cases and said he would bring the alleged protocol violation to the Governor's notice. On Bhogapuram airport, Botsa claimed the project was conceptualised during former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure and said major progress was achieved during Jagan's government. He also alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment and sought an inquiry.



## YSRCP Leaders Booked Over Alleged Misbehaviour with SI

**Srikakulam:** Amadalavalasa police registered a case against YSRCP Amadalavalasa in-charge Chintada Ravikumar and 20 others for allegedly behaving inappropriately with Burja Sub-Inspector (SI) Pravalika during YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Srikakulam district. Police alleged that Ravikumar and his followers acted aggressively towards the woman police officer during the programme. A total of 21 individuals were booked in connection with the incident, with Chintada Ravikumar named as the prime accused (A1).

## CID Registers Case Against Ambati Rambabu Over AI Video

**Amaravati:** CID police registered a case against YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu over an alleged AI-generated video targeting Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar. Ambati reportedly posted the video on social media, showing Pemmasani in handcuffs. TDP leader Maddirala Manny lodged a complaint with the DGP's office, following which the case was registered at the CID office in Mangalagiri. Further details of the case are awaited.

## Lakshmi Parvathi Challenges Bhuvaneswari Over Assembly Remarks

Tadepalli, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State General Secretary Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi challenged Nara Bhuvaneswari to prove her allegation that she was insulted in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, stating that the ruling TDP government could release Assembly records to establish the facts. Addressing the media at the YSRCP Central Office in Tadepalli on Thursday, Lakshmi Parvathi alleged that Bhuvaneswari's remarks during her Kuppam tour were politically motivated. She said the government should make the relevant records public if the allegation was genuine. Lakshmi Parvathi alleged that Bhuvaneswari was brought into active politics by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh for political reasons. She claimed that YSRCP had never made personal remarks against Bhuvaneswari. She questioned Bhuvaneswari's alleged silence over abusive posts and morphed images targeting her by ITDP activists. She also criticised Chandrababu's claims on fulfilling promises, alleging delays in welfare schemes. Lakshmi Parvathi demanded that Bhuvaneswari apologise to people over what she described as the coalition government's "Red Book governance" and alleged misrule.

## Sajjala Calls for Stronger Digital Campaign by YSRCP Activists



Tadepalli, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy urged party social media activists to work like a "one-man army" and communicate the party's message through factual and responsible digital campaigns. Addressing the YSRCP State Social Media Committee, district, Assembly and city presidents at the party's Central Office in Tadepalli on Friday, Sajjala advised activists to function as disciplined digital representatives. He asked them to avoid abusive language, morphed content and misinformation, stressing that every post should be based on facts and evidence. The meeting resolved to intensify campaigns demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in DSC-2025, resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, implementation of the promised 73,000 monthly unemployment allowance and release of pending fee reimbursement dues. Sajjala called for strengthening the party's digital network at the village level and suggested maintaining a "Digital Diary" to document alleged political harassment cases. MLC Lella Appi Reddy, State Media General Secretary Pudi Srihari and State Social Media President Dodda Anji Reddy attended the meeting.

## Kharif Crop Insurance Deadline Extended to August 15

Amaravati, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has announced a 15-day extension for Kharif crop insurance registration under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), moving the deadline from July 31 to August 15. The extension applies to all notified crops except paddy and comes in response to farmers' difficulties caused by rainfall deficits and the El Niño effect. The state government sought the extension after consultations with insurance companies and the Union Agriculture Ministry. The Minister said the decision would provide significant relief to farmers and emphasized the importance of crop insurance in safeguarding against losses due to natural calamities. He urged



both loanee and non-loanee farmers to enroll for insurance coverage for every acre cultivated. Farmers can register

through banks, Common Service Centers, Rythu Seva Kendras, or the NCIP mobile app before the revised deadline.

## False Cases to Dilute Jagan's Tour Success: Ravikumar



Srikakulam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP Amadalavalasa constituency coordinator Chintada Ravikumar alleged that false cases were registered against him to divert attention from former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent tour of Srikakulam district. In a video statement, he said the tour received an overwhelming response from the public. Ravikumar denied allegations of attacking a woman police sub-inspector during the programme. He claimed that he only tried to move the officer away from the crowd amid loud slogans, and alleged that footage of her covering her ears was projected as an attack. He demanded the release of complete video footage of the incident and questioned the registration of serious charges, including attempt to murder, stating that no assault had taken place. Ravikumar alleged that the coalition government and supportive media were targeting him politically to divert attention from Jagan's tour. He said he would not be deterred by cases and would continue working for YSRCP.

## Appalanaidu Condemns SI Misconduct

Eluru, July 31 | TPN Bureau

APSRCT Vijayawada Zonal Chairman and Janasena Party Eluru Constituency In-charge Reddy Appalanaidu condemned the alleged rude behaviour of YSRCP leaders towards woman Sub-Inspector Pravalika during former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Reddy's visit to Srikakulam district. He alleged

that Amadalavalasa YSRCP In-charge Chintada Ravikumar and his supporters behaved inappropriately with the police officer while she was on duty. Addressing the media, Appalanaidu alleged that YSRCP was encouraging those involved in criminal activities and criticised the party's approach towards law and

order. He said disrespecting a woman police officer reflected a lack of regard for women and public institutions. He demanded strict legal action against those allegedly involved in the incident, stating that behaviour compromising the dignity and safety of women should not be tolerated under any circumstances.



# Bharatanatyam Captivates Devotees at Indrakeeladri

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

A Bharatanatyam performance organised as part of the "Dharmapatham" cultural programme at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam on Indrakeeladri captivated devotees on Friday evening.

The cultural programme was organised with the objective of promoting spirituality and devotion among devotees visiting the temple. A Bharatanatyam troupe led by Saritha Nehru of Gudivada presented a series of devotional performances on the temple premises.

The artistes showcased classical dance movements and expressive interpretations based on various spiritual and devotional themes. Their performances glorified the deities through traditional dance and were accompanied by devotional hymns, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere at the tem-



ple. Devotees who had gathered to have darshan of Goddess Durga watched the performances with keen interest and appreciated the artistes with applause. The combination of classical dance, devotional music and the sacred temple setting added to the grandeur of the evening programme.

The artistes displayed remarkable skill through their expressions, rhythmic movements and coordinated presentation, drawing appreciation from the audience. The temple officials congratulated and felicitated the members of the dance troupe for their performance. As a mark of honour, the artistes were presented with the Goddess's Shesha Vastram and prasadam.

The "Dharmapatham" programme continues to provide devotees with opportunities to experience spiritual and cultural traditions alongside their temple visit.

## Sujana Foundation Launches Free Health Screening for Pregnant Women

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdary has launched a special initiative to provide free health screening services to pregnant women through the Sujana Foundation, with a focus on early detection of heart-related complications during pregnancy.



The programme, inaugurated at Chittinagar Primary Health Centre in the presence of Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), fellow MLAs and NDA alliance leaders, will offer free cardiac examinations and maternal cardiac risk screening. The initiative aims to identify pregnancy-related heart conditions at an early stage and prevent serious complications affecting mothers and babies. The Sujana Foundation stated that advanced diagnostic services would be provided free of cost, particularly benefiting economically weaker women. The programme is expected to be extended to more areas in the coming days. Meanwhile, TDP national vice-president and former MLC Budda Venkanna said the NDA coalition government was providing transparent and people-oriented governance in Vijayawada West. Participating in the "Intintiki Telugu Desam" programme in Bhavanipuram's 42nd Division, he explained the government's welfare and development initiatives during the past two years. Venkanna said MLA Sujana Chowdary was focusing on strengthening education and healthcare, providing free medical services and improving infrastructure in the constituency. He said the 45-day public awareness programme would take the government's welfare schemes and achievements directly to households. Party and alliance leaders, including Prathipati Sridhar, Yedupati Ramaiah, Tirupati Anusha, Patthi Nageswara Rao and others, participated in the programme.

## Balashowry Raises Fishermen, Fertilizer Issues in Lok Sabha

Machilipatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry has urged the Central Government to take special measures to protect fishermen's livelihoods and ensure uninterrupted availability of fertilizer raw materials. Raising the concerns of fishermen under Rule 377 in the Lok Sabha, he highlighted the importance of the fisheries sector to the Machilipatnam parliamentary constituency. Balashowry said the region, with a population of around 20-22 lakh, is known for boat building, fisheries and shrimp and seafood exports. He requested the Union Fisheries Ministry to increase the unit cost assistance for small fishing boats from ₹5 lakh to ₹7.5 lakh, fishing-net assistance from ₹70,000 to ₹1 lakh, and boat-engine assistance

from ₹1.35 lakh to ₹2 lakh, citing rising costs. In another intervention, Balashowry sought details from the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on ammonia and sulphur imports and alternative sources. The Centre clarified that Russia is not a major supplier of ammonia to India and that only 1.47 lakh tonnes, or 6.8 per cent, of India's 21.4 lakh tonnes of sulphur imports in 2025-26 came from Russia.

The government attributed rising sulphur prices mainly to the West Asia crisis, higher transportation costs, marine insurance premiums and supply-chain disruptions. It said steps were being taken to



secure domestic sulphur supplies, while green ammonia production is being promoted under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Balashowry urged the Centre to continue strengthening measures aimed at protecting farmers and fishermen and reducing dependence on imports.

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha directed officials to show special initiative in resolving public grievances received through the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) and ensure that complaints are not repeatedly reopened. He said officials should thoroughly examine each petition and conduct field visits wherever necessary to provide permanent and meaningful solutions.

The fourth phase of the special PGRS programme under the "One Month-One Constituency-Four Visits" initiative was held at Nallurivari Kalyana Mandapam in Patamata on Friday. Collector Lakshmisha, Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao and Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya received petitions

from the public.

The Collector said 241 petitions were received during the first three phases held on July 3, 10 and 17, while another 137 petitions were received in the fourth phase, taking the total to 378. He instructed officials to prioritize quality resolutions.

MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao said several grievances had already been resolved through the programme. He announced that house-site pattas would soon be distributed under the Chief Minister's supervision.



Meanwhile, Collector Lakshmisha announced that ₹98.12 crore in NTR Bharosa social pensions would be distributed to 2,24,793 beneficiaries across the district on August 1. Officials were directed to deliver pensions at beneficiaries' homes promptly and respectfully.

## Draft Voter List Published in Krishna

Machilipatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The draft electoral roll for Krishna district was published on Friday under the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2026 programme, with District Election Officer and In-charge Collector M. Naveen urging voters and political parties to verify the details and submit claims or objections within the stipulated deadline. The draft list contains 14,05,580 voters, including 6,79,271 men, 7,26,266 women and 43 third-gender voters, besides 537 service voters. The Collector said the list was prepared after a door-to-door enumeration conducted by Booth Level Officers between June 15 and July 24. Of the earlier 15,43,242 voters, enumeration forms for 1,37,662 persons were not received. These included deceased voters, persons registered elsewhere, those who had permanently migrated and others who could not be traced. Naveen said claims and objections would be accepted until August 30. Form-6 can be used for new voter registration, Form-7 for deletion or objections, and Form-8 for corrections and changes. The draft list has been made available at polling stations, Tahsildar and election offices, while digital copies have been provided to recognized political parties. Officials will examine claims, objections and suspicious or "no-mapping" cases by September 28. The final electoral roll will be published on October 3, the Collector said, appealing to voters to verify their names and details.



## Heartfelt Farewell to Retiring Police Officers

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu, IPS, bid a heartfelt farewell to 10 police personnel who retired from service on Friday after rendering 30 to 35 years of dedicated service. A farewell programme was held at the Police Commissioner's office, where the Commissioner honoured the retiring personnel with shawls and police protocol and conveyed his best wishes for their retired life. He appreciated their discipline, sincerity and commitment in serving the public. The retired personnel included DCP A.V.R.P.B. Prasad, Additional DCP M. Raja Rao, Administrative Officer P. Sunitha, Inspector I.D. Suvarna Raju, SI G. Lachiram, Reserve SI V. Veeraraju, ASIs M.S. Ramakrishna and J. Manmadha Rao, Reserve Head Constable T. Veeraraju and Home Guard P. Bhaskara Rao. Addressing the gathering, Raja Sekhara Babu said serving and protecting the public for decades was a blessing. He noted that the police department provides a unique opportunity to understand society, assist victims and deliver immediate help and justice. The Commissioner urged the retirees to prioritize their health and spend quality time with their families. He also advised them to safeguard their retirement benefits and avoid risky investments or handing over their savings to others based on unsolicited advice. Senior police officials, Police Association representatives, staff and family members attended the programme.



## I Won't Fear Legal Notices, Will Reveal Truth: Yarlagadda

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao strongly reacted to the ongoing political debate over legal notices reportedly issued to former MLAs, stating that he would not be intimidated by such notices and would bring the facts before the people. Yarlagadda clarified that he had not received any legal notice so far and asserted that even if one was served, there was no question of apologising as he had committed no wrongdoing. He alleged that those who had looted Gannavaram and obstructed its development should instead publicly apologise

to the people. The MLA said he had never indulged in illegal soil excavation or politics based on collecting donations. He stated that his political journey began in Gannavaram and that he would complete nine years in politics by November 17. Claiming a thorough understanding of constituency affairs, he said his priority was resolving public problems and developing Gannavaram. Yarlagadda demanded a comprehensive investigation into alleged irregularities and corruption in the past Polavaram canal works and action against those found responsible. Referring to free motorbikes distributed to farmers at his office in Prasampadu, he questioned the controversy surround-



ing their subsequent removal and demanded that those responsible explain the matter to the public.

He said he was not afraid of legal notices and would continue to place the truth before the people.

## Police Counsel Vendors to Ease Traffic



Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Police conducted an awareness and counselling programme for small vendors and fruit shop owners near Kaleswara Rao Market as part of the "Tactical Urbanism" initiative aimed at improving traffic management and pedestrian convenience. The special drive was conducted on Friday on the directions of City Police Commissioner S.V. Raja Sekhara Babu, IPS, and Traffic DCP Shirin Begum, IPS. The programme was carried out by One Town Traffic Inspector A. Umamaheswara Rao and his team under the supervision of One Town Traffic ACP Ramachandra Rao. Police counselled vendors operating near Kaleswara Rao Market, Sivalayam Street and Bhavannarayana Street, advising them not to obstruct traffic by placing stalls and pushcarts outside the permitted limits. During the drive, shops and pushcarts that had encroached beyond their designated boundaries were moved back within the allotted space. Vendors were instructed to conduct their business without causing inconvenience to motorists, pedestrians and other members of the public. Police officials explained that Kaleswara Rao Market attracts customers from different areas and that maintaining clear roads and pedestrian movement is essential for the convenience and safety of everyone. The police appealed to vendors to cooperate with traffic authorities and follow the designated boundaries while conducting their businesses. RSI Sridhar and other police personnel participated in the awareness programme.

## CITU Workers Stage Protests Across AP Seeking Wage Hike

Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Scheme workers under the banner of CITU staged protests at 27 district Collectorates across Andhra Pradesh, demanding higher wages and social security benefits. The workers, including Anganwadi, ASHA, mid-day meal, VOA, RP, school sweepers, Samagra Shiksha, National Health Mission, MGNREGA and Velugu personnel, sought a minimum monthly wage of ₹26,000 along with pensions, PF, ESI and gratuity. They also demanded withdrawal of the Navachetana app for Anganwadi workers, reduction of workload for ASHA workers, cancellation of smart kitchens and payment of pending wages. CITU State President Ch. Narasinga Rao and General Secretary A.V. Nageswara Rao alleged police repression during the protests and warned of intensified agitation if wage demands were not addressed. Reports from districts including Anakapalli, Krishna, Srikulam, Parvathipuram and Palnadu mentioned clashes, injuries and arrests during the protests.



## Special Rice Counters to Open in NTR District



Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Civil Supplies Department has decided to make quality rice available at affordable prices through special sales counters across NTR district from August 1, following a recent rise in rice prices. The move follows a state-level review meeting held on July 23 under the chairmanship of Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar and Commissioner Kannababu. BPT and KNM Steam Rice will be sold at ₹52 per kg, while Raw Rice will be available at ₹50 per kg through government-supported counters at Rythu Bazaars and designated rice mills. District Joint Collector Smt. Ilakkiya (IAS) said arrangements had been completed to establish special counters at 14 Rythu Bazaars and 30 rice mills across NTR district. She directed Civil Supplies officials, rice millers and traders to coordinate effectively and ensure uninterrupted sales from August 1. She said every ration card holder could purchase quality rice at the reduced prices. Consumers have been advised to carry their Aadhaar card and registered phone number while visiting the counters. Officials were instructed to monitor the functioning of the counters and ensure that consumers receive rice smoothly without inconvenience. The initiative is aimed at providing relief to the public amid the recent increase in rice prices.



# Rammohan Naidu's Role Highlighted in Bhogapuram Airport Completion

**Botta Swathi Chowdary Srikakulam:** Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu played a key role in expediting the construction of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, which is scheduled to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1. The greenfield airport, developed as a major growth engine for North Andhra, was completed ahead of the deadline set by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Rammohan Naidu closely monitored the project while simultaneously overseeing the expansion of India's aviation sector. During an inspection of the airport construction along with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on July 12, 2024, around 28 per cent of the works had been completed after intensive land-levelling activities. The Chief Minister later set a target to complete the project by December 2026. However, under the supervision of Rammohan Naidu, the construction reached completion by July 2026, six months ahead of schedule. Rammohan Naidu conducted 12 on-site reviews over 24 months and maintained continuous coordination with the



Ministry of Civil Aviation and representatives of GMR, the company executing the project. He monitored various aspects of construction, including infrastructure development, terminal design and passenger facilities. The airport terminal reflects the cultural identity of North Andhra while incorporating modern aviation facilities. Designed in the shape of a flying fish, the terminal includes 40 check-in counters, DigiYatra kiosks, advanced security systems and a cargo terminal with a capacity of 20,000 metric tonnes. The

3,800-metre runway is capable of handling wide-body aircraft. The airport's first phase is designed to handle six million passengers annually and is expected to boost tourism, exports, logistics and industrial growth in the region. International flight operations, aircraft maintenance facilities and an Aviation Edu-City are also planned as part of the long-term vision. The Bhogapuram airport is expected to emerge as a major aviation and aerospace hub, transforming the economic landscape of North Andhra.

# Andhra State 1st Ranking Carrom Tournament-2026 Inaugurated Grandly

**Nellore, July 31:** The Andhra State 1st Ranking Carrom Tournament-2026 for men and women commenced at Nellore Club under the supervision of the Andhra State Carrom Association (ASCA). Around 200 players from across Andhra Pradesh are participating in the tournament. Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy inaugurated the event by making the ceremonial opening strike. Addressing the gathering, he said the State

Government is promoting sports by providing cash incentives of up to ₹10 lakh to outstanding athletes and encouraged players to excel at national and international levels. Tournament Co-Chairman and former Ranji cricketer Malireddy Kotareddy stressed the importance of discipline and dedication in sports. Andhra State Carrom Association General Secretary Shaik Abdul Jaleel said the top six players in



both men's and women's categories would be selected to represent Andhra Pradesh at the national level. Free accommodation and food have been arranged for participants throughout the tournament.

# SP Felicitates Retiring Police Officers



**Eluru, July 31 | TPN Bureau** District SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore bid a heartfelt farewell to seven police personnel who retired in June 2026 after serving the Eluru district police department. During a ceremony held at

the District Police Headquarters, the SP felicitated the retired officers with shawls and appreciated their years of dedicated service. Addressing the gathering, K. Pratap Siva Kishore said their discipline, commitment, and dedication to duty would remain an inspiration for young police personnel. The retired officers recalled their years of service with emotion and expressed gratitude for the support of their colleagues. SB Inspector Malleswara Rao, Eluru Women's Police Station Inspector M. Subba Rao, RI Pawan Kumar, District Police Officers' Association President R. Nageswara Rao, and other officials attended the farewell ceremony.

# YSRCP Seeks CBI Probe into DSC



**Bapatla, July 31 | TPN Bureau** YSRCP leaders submitted a representation to Bapatla District Joint Collector Bhavana on Friday, demanding a CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the state's DSC recruitment process. They also sought the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues and unemployment allowance for eligible youth. The delegation included Chirala Constituency YSRCP In-charge Karanam Venkatesh Babu, former MP Nandigam Suresh, Bapatla Constituency In-charge Kona Raghupathi, Repalle Constituency In-charge Pilla Mohan Krishna, and Vemuru Constituency In-charge Varikuti Ashok Kumar.

Addressing the media, the leaders alleged that the government had failed to ensure transparency in the DSC recruitment process, affecting the future of unemployed youth. They said an impartial CBI investigation was necessary to bring out the facts. The leaders also stated that delays in releasing fee reimbursement dues were putting the education of thousands of poor students at risk. They urged the government to immediately clear the pending reimbursements and provide unemployment allowance as promised. They said YSRCP would continue its agitation until justice was ensured for students and unemployed youth.

# SBI Donates 15 High-End Computers To District Police

**Eluru, July 31 | TPN Bureau** The State Bank of India (SBI) has donated 15 state-of-the-art computers worth R.13,71,750 to the Eluru District Police Department under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, aiming to strengthen the department's technological infrastructure and improve public service delivery. The computers were formally handed over at a programme held at the District Police Headquarters by SBI Regional Manager P. Kalidasu, Chief Manager S.K. Md. Imtiyaz, and Deputy Manager B. Narasinga Rao to District SP K. Pratap Siva Kishore. Speaking on the occasion, K. Pratap Siva Kishore highlighted the growing importance of technology in modern policing, stating that digital tools play a crucial role in crime prevention, investigation, and efficient public service delivery. He appreciated SBI for extending support through its CSR initiative and said the new computers would help improve administrative efficiency and speed up



complaint registration and other services at police stations across the district. The SP described the initiative as a significant step towards strengthening the digital transformation of the police department and ensuring faster, more efficient services for the public. Reserve Inspector Pawan Kumar and other police personnel were present at the event.

# Konaseema Administration on Flood Alert



**P. Gannavaram, July 31 | TPN Bureau :** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Joint Collector Yaikhom Naidia Devi said the district administration has been placed on high alert as the flood level in the Godavari River continues to rise. During an inspection of the temporary road near Ganti Pedapudi in P. Gannavaram Mandal that was washed away by floodwaters, she reviewed the situation and the preparedness of officials. She said flood-prone mandals in the district had been identified and revenue staff from Ainavilli, Mummidivaram, Sakinetipalli, and P. Gannavaram had been deployed to monitor the situation. With

the river level increasing every hour, she noted that a second danger warning at Dowleswaram could be issued by early Saturday. Yaikhom Naidia Devi directed Tahsildars to keep revenue and medical teams on alert and ensure rehabilitation centres are ready for use. She also instructed Rural Water Supply (RWS) officials to maintain an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water in affected areas. The Joint Collector added that holidays for schools and colleges in flood-affected regions would be declared if required and urged the media to remain vigilant and assist in spreading public awareness.

# APSLA Dy Secretary Assesses Implementation of Legal Aid Services

**Eluru, July 31 | TPN Bureau** Acting on the directions of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), Deputy Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority Justice Dr. H. Amara Rangeswara Rao conducted a review meeting at the Legal Services Authority building in the undivided West Godavari district to assess the implementation of legal aid services. Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Amara Rangeswara Rao said discussions focused on the delivery of legal services at the state and district levels and the challenges in ensuring public access. Suggestions and feedback were invited from panel lawyers, mediators, para-legal volunteers, advocates, victims, and the public for submission to NALSA. The review also covered legal services clinics, compensation for acid attack victims, human trafficking issues, and child-friendly legal services to improve the effectiveness of these schemes.



District Legal Services Authority Secretary N. Srilakshmi, Eluru Bar Association President Kone Sitaram, panel lawyers, mediators, para-legal volunteers, and representatives of voluntary organisations attended the programme.

# SP Felicitates Retiring Police Personnel

**Prakasam, July 31 | TPN Bureau** Prakasam District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju felicitated and bade a warm farewell to Administrative Officer V. Venkata Ramamohan, Head Constable SK. Khasim Vali, and AR Head Constable E. Narayana Reddy, who retired after rendering long and distinguished service. At a programme held at the District Police Office, the retirees were honoured with shawls, bouquets, and silver mementoes. The SP wished them a healthy and happy retired life with their families. Speaking on the occasion, V. Harshavardhan Raju described the Administrative Officer's role as crucial to the district police administration, overseeing personnel records, salaries, transfers, promotions, leave, retirement matters, and daily administrative functions. He appreciated the retirees for their dedication and years of selfless public service. The SP assured that retirement benefits would be processed without delay and said the retirees would



always remain part of the police family. He also thanked their family members for their constant support throughout their service. SB Inspector Srinivasarao, DCRB Inspector Devaprabhakhar, RI Sitarami Reddy, RSI Tirupati Swamy, police personnel, DPO staff, and family members attended the farewell programme.

# Church Road to Undergo Fresh Repairs as Sewage Crisis Worsens



**Chirala, July 31 | TPN Bureau** Church Road, one of Chirala's busiest roads, has turned into a public health concern as sewage continues to overflow due to a damaged drainage system. Residents, traders, and motorists have expressed anger over the worsening conditions, while students at the Government School are forced to walk through stagnant sewage to reach their classrooms. Civic groups have questioned the decision to dig up the road again less than a year after major drainage repairs, alleging poor planning by municipal engineering officials. Responding to the criticism, municipal engineering officials said temporary pumps and vacuum suction machines have been deployed to clear the sewage. They explained that collapsed old drainage pipes near the Government Hospital road caused the recurring problem. New drainage pipes have been procured, and excavation work will begin within three days to replace the damaged pipeline and provide a permanent solution.

# RTC Driver Removed for Using Mobile While Driving



**Annamayya, July 31 | TPN Bureau** Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy ordered strict action against an RTC bus driver after a passenger recorded a video showing him using a mobile phone while driving a hired bus (AP39 UY 9691) on the Palamaner-Madanapalle route. The driver, K. Ganesh Kumar of the Palamaner Depot, was removed from duty after an inquiry confirmed the violation. The Minister said the government and RTC would not compromise on passenger safety, describing mobile phone use while driving as a serious safety violation. He warned that negligence endangering passengers' lives would not be tolerated and directed officials to continue taking strict disciplinary action against employees who violate safety norms. He also urged the public to report such incidents immediately to the authorities.

# Padmavathi Inaugurates Development Works Worth R.89.69 Lakh



**Narsipatnam, July 31 | TPN Bureau** Chintakayala Padmavathi, wife of Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, inaugurated 13 development works worth ₹89.69 lakh in the 12th Ward of Narsipatnam. The projects, funded through the 15th Finance Commission and VMRDA, include roads, drains, and other civic infrastructure. She also visited local temples, interacted with residents, and reviewed civic issues with municipal officials. Addressing the gathering, Padmavathi said, "We are not four MLAs, but four public servants," stressing that their family remains committed to serving the people. She stated that development works worth ₹242 crore are being implemented in the municipality, including drinking water, road, sanitation, and streetlight projects. She also highlighted the municipality's upgrade to Grade-1 status and the implementation of welfare schemes such as ₹4,000 pensions and free gas cylinders. Market Committee Chairman Gavireddy Venkataramana, former Municipal Chairperson Adilakshmi, local leaders, municipal officials, residents, women, and youth attended the programme.



## Editorial

### Credit War Should Not Overshadow Development

The tendency of political parties to claim credit for every success and shift blame for every failure has become a common feature of Indian politics. Whenever a major development project is completed, a credit war begins. If a project faces delays or difficulties, the same parties immediately indulge in a blame game. Public welfare often takes a back seat while political mileage becomes the primary objective.

The latest example is the controversy surrounding the Bhogapuram International Airport. On the occasion of its inauguration, both the YSR Congress Party and the Telugu Desam Party have been competing to establish ownership of the project. YSRCP claims that the airport became a reality because of its government, while TDP maintains that it is entirely its brainchild.

The facts, however, present a broader picture. The Bhogapuram Airport project was announced by N. Chandrababu Naidu in 2015. The actual construction process gathered momentum during the tenure of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy after 2019. Following the return of the TDP-led government, the pace of the works was accelerated under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. Similarly, the efforts of Ashok Gajapathi Raju during his tenure as Union Civil Aviation Minister and the contributions of the present Union Minister, Kinarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, also deserve recognition.

At the same time, allegations have been raised that both political parties played their own games with contractors during different phases of the project. Such allegations, if true, should be investigated transparently rather than becoming another political weapon.

Instead of fighting over who deserves the credit, political leaders should concentrate on ensuring that the airport functions efficiently and delivers the promised economic benefits. Employment opportunities, improved connectivity, tourism, industrial growth, and better livelihoods for the people of North Andhra should remain the real priorities. Development should never become a political trophy; it should always remain a public asset serving the interests of the people.

Editor

## Be the Change: Bring Change Through Foster Care

BVS Kumar



Former Chairman  
Child Welfare Committee  
Krishna district

A child may survive in an institution, but a child truly grows in a family. Love, affection, individual attention and a sense of belonging are essential for the emotional and psychological development of every child. This is the spirit behind the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which emphasizes that, for the full and harmonious development of a child, every child should grow in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Unfortunately, thousands of children in India continue to grow up without the warmth of a permanent family. Many are orphaned, abandoned or otherwise in need of care and protection. While adoption is one solution, its limited reach and lengthy waiting period make it difficult for many children, particularly those above two or three years of age, to find permanent families. This is where foster care can make a transformative difference.

The Government of India, being a signatory to the UNCRC, has been encouraging adoption and foster care to ensure that children without parental care are provided with family-based care wherever possible. The objective is clear: children should not spend their formative years in institutional care when they can safely and responsibly grow in a family environment. A family plays a decisive role in shaping the destiny of a child. Children learn their first lessons in love, discipline, responsibility, culture and morality from their parents and family members. The emotional security provided by a caring family helps a child develop confidence and become a responsible citizen. A child who grows up

with affection and guidance is better equipped to face life's challenges. Adoption is a legal process through which an individual or couple assumes permanent parental responsibility for a child. Through legal adoption, the rights and responsibilities relating to the child are permanently transferred to the adoptive parents. To regulate adoption in the country, the Government of India established the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in 1990 under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. However, adoption rates in India remain low. In-country adoptions through CARA numbered 5,693 in 2010 but declined to 3,351 in 2019-20. Although India has a large number of childless couples, only a small proportion approach the formal adoption system. Traditional preferences for biological children and the desire to preserve family genes and lineage continue to influence decisions. Even among those who opt for adoption, there is a strong preference for children below two years of age. Many prospective adoptive parents believe that very young children will adapt more easily to their family traditions, customs and environment. As a result, older children often find it difficult to secure adoptive families. Many of them continue to live in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) during the most important years of their emotional and social development. India has Sishu Gruhas, CCIs and Specialized Adoption Agencies caring for orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children. Once a Child Welfare Committee declares a child legally free for adoption, the child's details are placed on the CARA



website. However, the number of children available for adoption is much lower than the number of prospective adoptive parents. Consequently, prospective parents often wait for years to adopt a child.

### Foster care provides an important and practical alternative

Under the foster-care system, Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCIP) between six and 18 years of age may be placed temporarily with an approved foster family or caregiver. The foster family is expected to provide the child with shelter, education, healthcare, nutrition, emotional support and a secure family atmosphere. The child's well-being is monitored periodically by the competent authorities. Foster care offers children the opportunity to experience family life, individual attention and emotional bonding. It can help them move away from institutional care and experience the love and security that every child deserves. At the same time, foster care allows families to provide care and protection to a child who needs a home. Importantly, foster care can sometimes become a pathway to permanent family life. If the child and foster parents develop a healthy and lasting relationship, and the applicable legal requirements are fulfilled, the foster parents may, in appropriate cases, become the child's permanent adoptive parents under the provisions of law. Thus, foster care can serve as a bridge between temporary care and permanent family life. It has been reported that approximately 379,191 children were residing in more than 9,500 Child Care Institutions (CCIs)

across India before the COVID pandemic. However, a significant number of children were restored to their parents or guardians in 2020, following the Supreme Court's directions in April 2020 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to UNICEF, nearly 64 per cent of children living in institutional care were restored to their families. Even if only a portion of these children can be placed safely with suitable foster families, the impact would be enormous. Foster care is not merely about providing a roof over a child's head. It is about giving a child a childhood. It is about allowing children to experience family affection, personal attention, social relationships and the confidence that comes from knowing that someone genuinely cares for them. The Government must therefore give greater publicity to foster care, simplify procedures, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and provide necessary support to foster families. Civil society organizations, voluntary agencies and responsible citizens must also play an active role in creating awareness and encouraging more families to come forward. Every child has the right to grow up in a safe, loving and caring family environment. By encouraging foster care, India can ensure that thousands of children do not spend their childhoods in institutions waiting for a future that may never arrive. A loving family can change the destiny of a child and a child given a family can, in turn, help build a more compassionate and responsible nation. Foster care is not charity. It is a concern and an investment in the future of a child, a family and the nation.

## Service Above Self

# Mandali Krishna Rao's Footprints Inspire Diviseema



In times of crisis, true leadership reveals itself not through position or power, but through compassion, action, and unwavering commitment to people. The life of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao stands as a powerful example of selfless service and dedication, inspiring generations to place humanity above all else.

The centenary celebration of the birth of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao is an occasion to remember the noble deeds he accomplished in his life. Early in life, he was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's political philosophy of truth, nonviolence, and service to people. Having been convinced of the truth of Bapu's gospel, he adapted it to shape his own life. He led a simple, sincere, and active life. His political journey was long and fruitful as an MLA, MP, and as a Minister in the Cabinets of three Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh.

Two unforgettable events come to mind in which he played a crucial role. He was an admirer of the Telugu language, literature, and fine arts. When he became Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs, he fulfilled his vision by organising the first World Telugu Conference in April 1975. Invitations were extended to Telugu people living in other states and abroad. For the first time, Telugus from across the globe gathered for a week-long grand event. The public also enthusiastically participated in this cultural festival. Eminent persons from literature and fine arts, including movie stars, were honoured. The conference created a sense of identity, unity, and pride in the glorious heritage of the Telugu people. The success of this historic conference was entirely due to the vision and organising abilities of M.V. Krishna Rao. The next event was when the Andhra coast was devastated by the fury of a

cyclone. Its concentrated impact was on Diviseema, resulting in a serious disruption to life. Villages were wiped out, dwellings uprooted, and human lives and livestock decimated. The material, economic, and environmental losses were enormous. The State Government, under the able leadership of Chief Minister Jagalam Vengal Rao, was prompt in providing succour to the hapless victims. M.V. Krishna Rao happened to be in Avanigadda when the storm hit the area. Though overwhelmed by the calamity, with a strong will to provide prompt service, and oblivious to his status as a Minister, he worked tirelessly like a volunteer. He moved to every village, often on foot, as roads were clogged with debris, fallen trees, corpses, and carcasses. The cyclone resulted in the loss of 8,000 lives, nearly 73 crore worth of livestock, and the devastation of 91 villages. The economic loss was estimated to be in thousands of crores. The response from the public was prompt and swift, coming from across the country and abroad. Several voluntary service organisations and individuals stepped in to rehabilitate the severely affected villages. Prominent organisations like RSS, Tata Trusts, Singareni Collieries, OPDR, RTC, and many others, including the Police Department, were involved in rebuilding villages on a war footing, as people were provided shelter in temporary structures. As the Superintendent of Police of Krishna district, I mobilised local police, Armed Reserve, and APSP personnel and entrusted them with multiple tasks. They cleared roads by burning corpses and carcasses, as burial was impractical due to wet conditions. This task was carried out at great speed to prevent outbreaks of epidemics. The police, in addition to their multiple duties, adopted Sorlagondi, one of the

worst-affected fishermen villages, and built 365 houses through shramadan. It may be mentioned that all government departments rendered tireless service to restore normalcy. I may here mention an incident. Exasperated by the slow pace of relief work and annoyed at ill-informed criticism from a section of the press and public, M.V. Krishna Rao submitted his resignation as Minister. However, Chief Minister J. Vengal Rao refused to accept it, request-

S. Veeranarayana Reddy



IPS (Retired)

new and improved houses, with better facilities than before, would have provided a deep sense of fulfilment to Krishna Rao. He played a prominent role at every

stage of rehabilitation. As we mark his centenary, we not only remember the milestones of his life but also celebrate the values he stood for-compassion, ded-

ication, and selfless service. The State Government has decided to officially observe the birth anniversary of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao every year, a move that has been widely welcomed by the people of Diviseema.

(The centenary year celebrations of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao, which began in August 2025, will conclude on August 4, 2026. This article was written by the author at the commencement of the celebrations.)





## CA Earns Rs 12 Lakh During Tax Season



A Pune-based chartered accountant has become the centre of attention after a social media post claimed that he earned around Rs 12 lakh by filing income tax returns (ITRs) for 400 clients during the busy tax season.

According to the viral post, the CA charged Rs 3,000 per client for filing their income tax returns. With the growing demand for tax-related services during the filing period, he reportedly managed a large number of clients within a few days and generated significant earnings. The post also claimed that the accountant hired two interns to help handle the increased workload and ensure smooth completion of the filing process. The support helped manage documentation, client communication, and other related tasks during the peak season. The success story attracted attention on social media, with many users discussing the opportunities available in professional services. Several people highlighted how specialised knowledge, efficient work management, and strong client relationships can help professionals build successful practices.

Apart from income tax return filing, the CA reportedly received further business opportunities from clients who later approached him for services such as business registrations, account-

ing support, and compliance-related assistance. Tax filing season is considered one of the busiest periods for chartered accountants and financial professionals across the country. During this time, individuals and businesses seek expert assistance to complete their tax-related responsibilities, understand regulations, and avoid errors in submissions. The incident has also sparked discussions about the earning potential in the accounting profession. While tax filing is a routine service offered by many professionals, the ability to handle a large client base efficiently can significantly increase revenue during peak periods. Social media users reacted differently to the claim, with some praising the accountant's business approach and others pointing out the importance of building trust and providing quality services to sustain long-term professional growth.

The viral post has highlighted how professional expertise, proper planning, and effective use of resources can create opportunities for growth in fields such as taxation and financial consulting. It also reflects the rising demand for qualified professionals who can help individuals and businesses navigate complex compliance requirements.

## Candidate Cancels Interview After Bad Reviews Goes Viral



A job applicant's decision to cancel an interview after reading negative online reviews about a company has sparked a discussion on workplace culture and employer reputation. The candidate reportedly researched the company before attending the interview and found several reviews highlighting concerns about the organisation's work environment. After considering the feedback, the applicant informed the recruiter that they no longer wished to continue with the hiring process.

The candidate's decision was followed by a strong response from the company representative. The recruiter's reply, which was described as defensive, was later shared online along with screenshots of the conversation. The post quickly gained attention, with many users debating whether the applicant made the right choice. Several social media users supported the candidate, saying that researching a company before joining is an important step in today's job market. They noted that employee experiences and workplace culture can have a major impact on career satisfaction and professional growth. Others argued that online reviews should be viewed carefully, as indi-

vidual experiences may not always represent the complete picture of an organisation. They suggested that candidates should evaluate multiple factors before making decisions.

The company owner reportedly stated that the organisation had recently undergone a change in ownership and that previous reviews may not reflect the current situation. The owner also claimed that steps were being taken to improve the workplace environment.

The incident has highlighted the growing importance of online reputation in recruitment. In the digital age, companies are increasingly evaluated not only on their business performance but also on employee satisfaction, leadership style and workplace practices. Experts believe that both job seekers and employers need to approach such situations thoughtfully. Candidates should conduct proper research before accepting opportunities, while companies should focus on maintaining transparency and addressing employee concerns. The viral conversation has once again raised questions about the influence of online reviews in career decisions and the way organisations respond to criticism.

# UK Work Culture Surprise For Indian Techie

An Indian software engineer's viral social media post has sparked a conversation about the differences between Indian and UK workplace cultures, especially around work-life balance. The tech professional shared how a senior British colleague encouraged him not to respond to work messages after office hours.

The engineer, identified as Om, revealed that his colleague warned him after noticing that he was replying to work-related messages late in the evening. The senior developer reportedly told him not to make a habit of working beyond his scheduled hours and jokingly said he might speak to his manager if it continued. Om said the interaction left him surprised because the colleague appeared more con-



cerned about his personal time and wellbeing than he was himself. He explained that he has since started waiting until the next working day before replying to non-urgent messages. The post highlighted the contrast between workplace expectations in India and the UK. In India, employees who work late hours are often viewed as highly committed, while those who maintain strict office timings may sometimes face questions about their dedication.

However, in many Western workplaces, maintaining a healthy work-life balance is considered important, and regularly working outside office hours can be seen as a sign of poor workload management rather than commitment. Om's post received widespread attention online, with many professionals sharing their own experiences of workplace cultures across different countries. Several users said the incident showed how companies are increasingly focusing on employee wellbeing and preventing burnout. The discussion also highlighted the importance of understanding cultural differences when working in global teams. As more professionals collaborate across borders, expectations around communication, availability and working hours continue to evolve. For Om, the experience became a valuable lesson in setting boundaries and recognising that dedication to work does not always mean being available around the clock.

## Bihar's 'Cockroach Cafe' Grabs Attention With Unique Name

A newly opened cafe in Bihar has become a social media sensation because of its unusual name. The "Cockroach Cafe", located on the Hilsa Bypass in Nalanda district, has attracted curious visitors and sparked humorous reactions online.

Many social media users shared pictures of the cafe, joking about its name and making light-hearted comments. However, behind the quirky branding is a clear marketing strategy aimed at attracting young customers and creating a memorable identity.

Despite its unusual name, the cafe offers a modern and comfortable ambience. The interiors feature a stylish black theme with yellow hanging lights, decorative artificial plants, black rattan sofas, red cushions and glass tables. The space has been designed to pro-

vide a relaxing environment where youngsters can spend time with friends, enjoy snacks and create social media content. The cafe owner said the name was chosen intentionally to make the establishment different from the many common cafe names. According to him, unique branding helps attract attention in the competitive food business. He explained that while people may initially visit because of curiosity about the name, the quality of food, cleanliness and service will encourage them to return. The owner also emphasised that hygiene is a major priority at the cafe.

The unusual name has helped the cafe gain free publicity online, proving that creative ideas can play an important role in attracting customers in the age of social media.



# Denmark Woman Amazed By First Indian Sleeper Train Ride

A Denmark-based digital content creator has shared her first experience of travelling on an Indian sleeper train, describing the journey as challenging, chaotic and unforgettable. Emma Holm's travel story has attracted attention online as she highlighted the unique experience of train travel in India.

Holm explained that her adventure began even before boarding the train, as booking tickets itself was a challenge. She said that even after purchasing tickets, travellers may have to wait for confirmation due to long waiting lists.

The creator travelled with two companions, but only one of their tickets was confirmed before the journey. Despite the uncertainty, they decided to board the train and continue with their plans. During the initial hours of the overnight journey, the three travellers had to adjust by sharing a single narrow seat. The crowded situation made the beginning of the trip difficult, but they eventually managed to find additional space and later got two more berths for sleeping.

Holm said the train journey offered a completely different experience from what she was used to. She described the atmosphere as lively, filled with conversations, food vendors, chai sellers and passengers from different backgrounds.

While the journey had moments of discomfort, she said the energy, diversity and unexpected experiences made it memorable.



According to her, Indian sleeper trains provide a unique glimpse into the country's culture and everyday life. The content creator's



post received attention on social media, with many users sharing their own experiences of Indian railway journeys. Holm concluded th

at despite the challenges, the trip was an adventure she and her friends would always remember.

# Top Performer Manager Loses Job Despite Excellent Reviews



A former Visa employee has claimed that a manager with an outstanding performance record was among those who lost their job during the company's recent layoffs. The revelation has triggered discussions about job security and the impact of corporate restructuring on employees.

According to the former employee, the manager had consistently received positive performance reviews and was considered a strong contributor within the organisation.

Despite the impressive feedback and work record, the manager was reportedly affected by the latest workforce reduction. The former worker expressed surprise over the decision, stating that the layoffs showed how even high-performing employees can face uncertainty during major organisational changes.

The post shared online gained attention, with several professionals discussing their own experiences and concerns about corporate job stability.

Many users pointed out that layoffs are often based on broader business decisions, financial strategies, and company restructuring plans rather than individual performance alone. The incident has highlighted concerns among employees in the technology and financial sectors, where companies have been adjusting workforce sizes due to changing market conditions.

Visa has not made any official comment on the specific claims shared by the former employ-

ee. However, several global companies have carried out job cuts in recent years as they focus on reducing costs and adapting to new business priorities. The discussion has renewed questions about whether strong performance evaluations can provide job protection during uncertain economic periods. Industry professionals believe transparent communication and fair processes are essential when companies make decisions that directly impact employees and their careers.



# National Drive Against Child Trafficking Launched

Just Rights for Children has launched a nationwide campaign against child trafficking, setting an ambitious target of transforming 1.5 lakh villages into trafficking-free communities and rescuing one lakh trafficked children across the country over the next year. The campaign was unveiled during the national consultation on "Ensuring a Child's Rights, Potential, & Prosperity" and will be implemented across all 36 States and Union Territories, covering 782 districts with the support of more than 250 partner organisations. The initiative aims to strengthen child protection through coordinated action involving district administrations, police departments, child welfare committees, Panchayati Raj institutions, schools, and civil society organisations. The network will focus on identifying trafficked children, carrying out rescue operations, ensuring rehabilitation and reintegration, and taking legal action against traffickers and trafficking networks. According to the Crime in India 2024

report, an average of six children are trafficked every day, while five are pushed into child labour. Nearly 11 children go missing every hour, and many of them eventually become victims of trafficking. Child labour in the informal sector continues to be one of the most widespread forms of child trafficking and exploitation. As part of the campaign, awareness programmes will be conducted in villages through Gram Sabhas, schools, and Panchayats. Pamphlets, posters, and community outreach activities will be used to educate families about the various forms of child trafficking, the methods used by traffickers, and the legal remedies available to victims. Special focus will be placed on trafficking-prone source areas, transit routes, and border districts. The movement will also work toward better convergence with Central and State government welfare schemes to ensure that at vulnerable children remain in school, receive social protection benefits, and gain access to skill development



opportunities, thereby reducing their risk of trafficking. Bhuwan Ribhu, Founder of Just Rights for Children, emphasized that India already has strong anti-trafficking laws, but effective implementation is essential.

He said that mandatory reporting, time-bound rescue, investigation, trial, and rehabilitation can create a powerful deterrent against trafficking and help the country move toward the goal of ending child trafficking by 2030

## Cabinet Clears \$84,084 Crore Offshore Oil Exploration Scheme

The Union Cabinet has approved the ambitious "Samudra Manthan" scheme with an investment outlay of 784,084 crore to boost offshore oil and gas exploration in India. The initiative aims to strengthen the country's energy security and reduce dependence on imported crude oil. The scheme will be implemented until the financial year 2030-31 and focuses on expanding exploration activities across India's offshore regions. It includes a comprehensive set of measures covering the entire oil and gas exploration and production value chain. The government expects the programme to help discover and add more than 600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) reserves. It also aims to increase domestic production of crude oil and natural gas amid growing global energy uncertainties. Officials said the scheme is designed to attract large-scale investments in the exploration sector and encourage technological innovation. It is expected to create



long-term opportunities for industries involved in offshore drilling, energy services and related fields. The move comes at a time when global energy markets

are facing disruptions due to geopolitical tensions and supply challenges. Strengthening domestic exploration capabilities is seen as a key step towards improving India's energy resilience. The government said Samudra Manthan will support the development of advanced exploration technologies and improve the utilisation of India's offshore resources. The scheme is also expected to generate employment opportunities and promote economic growth through increased activity in the energy sector. India is among the world's largest energy consumers and imports a significant share of its crude oil requirements. Expanding domestic oil and gas production has been a major policy focus to reduce vulnerability to international price fluctuations. The Cabinet approval marks a major push for India's offshore energy sector, with the government aiming to unlock new reserves and build a stronger foundation for long-term energy security.



The internal differences within the Punjab Congress have resurfaced after former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother, Dr Manohar Singh, was excluded from a key party organisational meeting in Sirhind. The development has sparked fresh speculation over growing factionalism in the state unit ahead of the Assembly elections. The meeting was part of Punjab Congress in-charge Bhupesh Baghel's nine-day state tour aimed at strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots level. However, the absence of Dr Manohar Singh, who is expected to seek a Congress ticket from the Bassi Pathana

Assembly constituency, triggered controversy. Punjab NSUI president Ishwarpreet Singh Sidhu also alleged that he was deliberately kept away from the programme. Sidhu claimed that committed party workers were being ignored and said he would raise the issue with the Congress high command. He warned that such decisions could affect the morale of grassroots-level workers. Responding to the controversy, Bhupesh Baghel clarified that Dr Manohar Singh was not invited because he is not part of the Congress organisation. He pointed out that Channi's brother had contested

## Punjab Congress Faction War Deepens

the previous Assembly election and said only party members were invited to the organisational meeting. Baghel rejected claims of factionalism and maintained that the Punjab Congress remains united. He said his visit was focused on reviewing the party's preparedness and strengthening its structure before the upcoming elections. The controversy gained further attention after Channi remained absent from the programme, leading political observers to believe that differences between rival groups within the party are continuing. The Punjab Congress has reportedly been witnessing tensions between supporters of Channi and those aligned with state party chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring. Raja Warring attempted to project unity within the party, stating that Congress was larger than any individual leader. He

expressed respect for senior leaders, including Channi and Partap Singh Bajwa, and appealed to party workers to work together to strengthen the organisation. During his Punjab tour, Baghel also targeted the ruling Aam Aadmi Party government over issues such as unemployment, alleged paper leaks, drug abuse, illegal sand mining and law and order concerns. He indicated that these issues would form a major part of the Congress campaign strategy. With Assembly elections approaching, the Congress high command is closely monitoring developments within the Punjab unit. Baghel's feedback after completing his statewide tour could influence future organisational decisions and election preparations. The latest controversy has once again highlighted the challenges facing the Punjab Congress as it attempts to present a united front against political rivals.

## Supreme Court Stays NSE Under RTI Order

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Delhi High Court order that had declared the National Stock Exchange of India (NSEI) a 'public authority' under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta agreed to hear the petition filed by NSEI challenging the High Court verdict and sought responses from the Central Information Commission and other concerned parties. The matter has been posted for hearing after four weeks. The NSEI had challenged the July 1 decision of a Delhi High Court division bench, which upheld an earlier ruling that the stock exchange falls under the definition of a public authority as mentioned in Section 2(h) of the RTI Act. Under the RTI Act, citizens can seek information only

from organisations classified as public authorities. The High Court had observed that any body owned, controlled or substantially financed by the government could come under the scope of the Act. The dispute began after the Central Information Commission had considered NSEI to be covered under the RTI framework. The stock exchange approached the court, arguing that it does not qualify as a public authority and should not be required to provide information under the transparency law. The High Court division bench had rejected NSEI's appeal against a single judge's order, which had earlier ruled that the exchange met the criteria of a public authority. The Supreme Court's interim stay provides temporary relief to NSEI from being treated as an RTI-covered enti-



ty until the final outcome of the case. The decision has significant implications for transparency rules involving financial institutions and market infrastructure organisations. The case will now be examined by the apex court, which will decide whether NSEI falls within the ambit of the RTI Act and whether citizens can seek information from the stock exchange under the transparency law.

## Cauvery Row Hits Vijay Film In Karnataka

Cauvery water protests in Karnataka have affected the screening of actor Vijay's upcoming film Jana Nayagan, with several theatres suspending shows amid concerns over law and order. The protests intensified after pro-Kannada groups raised objections over the release of the Tamil actor's movie in the state. Several theatre owners in Karnataka voluntarily cancelled Jana Nayagan screenings and removed posters to avoid any untoward incidents. In Mandya, protesters reportedly tore down promotional posters of the film, escalating tensions around its release. In Bengaluru, Urvasi Theatre halted screenings following police advisories, while other theatres also took precautionary measures. The decision came as protests demanding action on the Cauvery water issue gained momentum across parts of Karnataka. The Cauvery river water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been a sensitive issue for decades, often trigger-



ing political and public protests in both states. The latest demonstrations once again brought language and regional sentiments into focus. Jana Nayagan, directed by H Vinoh, has generated significant attention among Vijay's fans, especially as the actor's final film before entering active politics. The film's release has been closely watched



due to Vijay's growing political presence in Tamil Nadu. While theatre owners said the suspension of shows was a precautionary step to maintain peace, fans expressed disappointment over the disruption. Some cinema exhibitors are awaiting further developments before resuming regular screenings.



protests. The controversy has added another challenge for Jana Nayagan, which was expected to attract large crowds across southern states. The impact of the protests on the film's box office performance will depend on how quickly normalcy returns in Karnataka.

## Centre Summons Meta Over Algorithm Concerns, Child Safety Issues



The Centre has summoned Meta's global leadership for a meeting next week over concerns related to algorithmic bias, public order issues and the circulation of child sexual abuse material on its platforms. The move comes amid increasing global scrutiny of major technology platforms over their responsibility in regulating online content. Governments worldwide have been demanding greater transparency from social media companies regarding algorithms, user safety measures and content removal practices. Meta has previously stated that it invests heavily in artificial intelligence tools, safety systems and moderation teams to detect harmful content and protect users. The company has also said it works with governments and law enforcement agencies to address serious violations. The upcoming meeting is expected to focus on Meta's compliance with Indian laws, transparency in algorithmic operations and steps being taken to ensure safer digital spaces. With social media platforms playing an increasingly important role in public communication, the Centre's action highlights growing concerns over online accountability, especially regarding children's safety and the impact of algorithm-driven content distribution.

material on social media platforms. Authorities have emphasised the need for stronger monitoring mechanisms and faster action against illegal content. The move comes amid increasing global scrutiny of major technology platforms over their responsibility in regulating online content. Governments worldwide have been demanding greater transparency from social media companies regarding algorithms, user safety measures and content removal practices. Meta has previously stated that it invests heavily in artificial intelligence tools, safety systems and moderation teams to detect harmful content and protect users. The company has also said it works with governments and law enforcement agencies to address serious violations. The upcoming meeting is expected to focus on Meta's compliance with Indian laws, transparency in algorithmic operations and steps being taken to ensure safer digital spaces. With social media platforms playing an increasingly important role in public communication, the Centre's action highlights growing concerns over online accountability, especially regarding children's safety and the impact of algorithm-driven content distribution.

## Birth, Death Registration Bill Passed In Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha on Friday passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amid protests by Opposition members. The legislation seeks to strengthen the process of registering births and deaths and introduces stricter provisions for delayed registrations. The Bill proposes that applications for delayed registration of births and deaths beyond two years will require an order from a magistrate. The move is aimed at preventing misuse and ensuring greater accuracy in official records. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju expressed disappointment over the Opposition's decision not to participate in the discussion on the Bill. He said the government wanted a detailed debate on the important legislation and highlighted the need for reforms in the registration system. The passage of the Bill came amid disruptions in the House as Opposition members protested over various issues, including alleged police action against students. Despite the protests, the legislation was taken up and approved by voice vote. The Registration of Births and Deaths Act governs the recording of vital events across the country. Accurate birth and death records are considered essential for government planning, delivery of welfare schemes and maintaining demographic data. The amended provisions are expected to bring more transparency and accountability into the registration process. Officials believe stricter verification measures will help prevent fraudulent documentation and improve the reliability of official databases. After the Bill was passed, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day. The legislation will now move forward in the parliamentary process before becoming law after completion of all required formalities. The government has maintained that the amendments are aimed at modernising the registration framework and making records more secure. However, Opposition parties have raised concerns over the manner in which the Bill was passed amid disruptions and limited debate. The changes are likely to impact citizens seeking delayed registration certificates, as additional legal approvals may now be required in cases where registrations are not completed within the prescribed period.



## Taslima Nasreen Returns To Kolkata After 19 Years



Renowned Bangladeshi-origin writer Taslima Nasreen has returned to Kolkata after nearly two decades, marking her first visit to the city since she was forced to leave amid protests over her writings. Her return after 19 years has drawn significant attention, as Kolkata was once considered a major part of her literary and personal journey. Nasreen left Kolkata in 2007 following widespread protests against her presence in the city. The controversy was linked to her writings, particularly her 2003 book, which faced criticism from sections of society over allegations that it hurt religious sentiments. The then Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led West Bengal government had banned the book following the controversy. After leaving Kolkata, Nasreen lived in different places and continued her literary activities while remaining vocal on issues related to freedom of expression, women's rights, secularism, and social reforms. Over the years, she has often been at the centre of public debates due to her strong opinions and outspoken writings. Nasreen is scheduled to attend a programme at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata on August 1. The event is being organised to raise voices against fundamentalism and is expected to witness the participation of several prominent personalities. West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenendu Adhikari and noted author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay are also likely to attend the programme. Her return has revived discussions about freedom of expression, artistic independence, and the challenges faced by writers who address sensitive social and religious issues. Supporters of Nasreen have welcomed her visit as a symbol of resilience and the importance of protecting creative freedom, while critics continue to debate the themes and views expressed in her works. Kolkata has held a special place in Nasreen's life and career. She developed a close connection with Bengali culture and literature during her years in the city. Her writings, which often focus on gender equality, social injustice, and individual freedom, have earned both international recognition and controversy. The visit comes nearly two decades after her departure and is being seen as a significant moment in her long association with Kolkata. While her return is only for a programme, it has once again brought attention to the larger conversations around literature, democracy, and the freedom of writers to express their views.



# Trump Announces Gaza Disarmament Deal With Hamas



US President Donald Trump has announced that his "Board of Peace" has reached a major agreement with Hamas on the complete disarmament of the group and other armed organisations in Gaza. The deal is being described by Trump as a significant step towards end-

ing the long-running conflict between Israel and Hamas. The agreement is part of Trump's broader 20-point peace plan for Gaza, which aims to establish a new governance structure in the region, ensure Israel's security and prevent Gaza from being

used as a base for future attacks. According to the proposed plan, Hamas has agreed to hand over its weapons to an International Stabilisation Force. Specific areas in Gaza will be identified for demilitarisation, and the process will move forward after verification by an independent authority. The plan outlines a phased approach. As the disarmament process progresses, Israeli forces would withdraw from Gaza, while an International Stabilisation Force would work alongside a newly formed Palestinian security structure to maintain stability and protect civilians. Trump credited mediators from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey for helping bring the sides closer to an agreement. He said the deal represents progress after months of negotiations and could lead to long-term peace and security in the region. However, challenges remain. Israeli officials have expressed doubts over

whether Hamas will fully comply with the disarmament terms. US officials said the agreement is conditional and requires further implementation steps. Reports said talks between Hamas representatives and mediators in Cairo showed progress on implementing the peace framework, although differences remain between Israel and Hamas over several issues. The Gaza conflict began after Hamas launched an attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and taking hostages. Israel's military campaign in Gaza has since resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and widespread destruction across the territory. The latest agreement has raised hopes for a possible end to hostilities, but its success will depend on the implementation of the disarmament process, security arrangements and the establishment of a new political framework for Gaza.

# Gulf Nations Turn to China Over Hormuz Crisis

Gulf countries are increasingly looking towards China to help reopen the Strait of Hormuz and restore energy trade routes amid the escalating conflict between the United States and Iran. The move reflects growing frustration among regional nations over the impact of the crisis on their oil exports and economic stability. The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping routes, has remained heavily restricted due to tensions between Iran and the US-led alliance. The disruption has affected the movement of crude oil from Gulf countries, creating concerns over global energy supplies. Gulf nations believe China's economic influence over Iran could help ease the situation. Beijing is one of the largest buyers of Gulf oil and also maintains strong trade relations with Tehran, making it a potential mediator in the ongoing crisis. Sources indicated that Gulf countries are testing how far China can use its economic and diplomatic influence to pressure Iran to reopen the strategic water-



way. The move also highlights concerns among some regional governments about the limits of American influence in resolving the conflict. China has increased diplomatic engage-

ment with countries involved in the crisis. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has held discussions with regional counterparts, while Beijing's special envoy has conducted talks with Gulf nations and Iranian officials. China has said it remains committed to encouraging dialogue and reducing tensions in West Asia. Beijing has maintained relations with both Gulf countries and Iran, allowing it to play a possible role as a mediator. The conflict has created economic challenges for China as well. Rising energy prices and disruptions in oil supplies have affected Chinese imports, though the country's economy has so far managed to absorb the impact. Iran has repeatedly stated that it will maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, especially after military tensions increased following US strikes linked to the nuclear dispute. Iran and its regional allies have also warned of possible action against key maritime routes. The Gulf states' outreach to China marks a shift in regional diplomacy, as countries seek alternative channels to protect their economic interests and prevent further escalation. The outcome of China's involvement could influence the future of energy security and geopolitical balance in West Asia.

## Uzair Baloch's Brother Shot in Karachi, Gang War Fears Rise



Zubair Baloch, the brother of Pakistan's notorious gangster and former People's Aman Committee chief Uzair Baloch, was shot in Karachi's Lyari area, raising concerns over a possible return of gang violence in the region. The attack took place on Thursday evening when unidentified gunmen opened fire near his residence. According to reports, Zubair Baloch suffered serious injuries after being shot in the chest and abdomen. He was rushed to Civil Hospital in Karachi, where his condition was reported to be critical. Two bystanders were also injured in the shooting. The attackers, who arrived on motorcycles with their faces covered, escaped from the spot after a shopkeeper reportedly retaliated. Police officials said an investigation has been launched and multiple angles, including gang rivalry and personal disputes, are being examined. The incident has triggered fear among residents of Lyari, an area that has historically witnessed clashes between criminal groups. Uzair Baloch, once described by authorities as a key figure in Karachi's underworld, headed the now-defunct People's Aman Committee. The group was accused by Pakistani authorities of involvement in organised crime activities, though several allegations against him remain under trial. Uzair Baloch was arrested by Pakistan Rangers in 2016 and later convicted by a military court in 2020 for espionage, receiving a 12-year prison sentence. He has also faced several other cases, including allegations related to murder, kidnapping, extortion and terrorism, which he has denied. Lyari has long been considered a centre of gang conflicts in Karachi. A major police operation was carried out in the area in 2012 to target criminal networks, during which several people, including police personnel, were killed. Residents now fear that the shooting of Zubair Baloch could signal the revival of old rivalries. A local activist claimed that some former gang members who had left the country may have returned, adding to concerns about renewed violence. The attack comes amid continued scrutiny of Karachi's security situation and the influence of criminal networks in parts of the city. Police are investigating the motive behind the shooting while authorities remain alert to prevent any escalation..

## Drone Attack Hits Russia's Volgograd, Five Injured

A Ukrainian drone attack targeted Russia's Volgograd region, damaging an energy facility and warehouses of online retailer Wildberries, leaving at least five people injured. The strikes caused fires at multiple locations and prompted emergency response teams to launch rescue and containment operations. Volgograd Governor Andrei Bocharov said the attack resulted in damage to infrastructure in the region. Officials reported that emergency services were working to control the fires and assess the extent of the damage caused by the drone strikes. One of the affected locations was a Wildberries logistics warehouse, which caught fire following the attack. The company said emergency measures were taken and initial information indicated that no employees were injured at the facility. The attack is part of a series of Ukrainian drone operations targeting Russian territory, particu-

larly energy facilities and industrial infrastructure. Ukraine has previously stated that such strikes are aimed at disrupting Russia's military supply chains and weakening its war capabilities. Russia has repeatedly reported drone attacks on its border and interior regions since the beginning of the conflict. In recent months, Ukrainian forces have increasingly carried out long-range drone strikes against strategic targets away from the main battlefield. The Volgograd region holds strategic importance due to its industrial and energy infrastructure. The latest incident highlights the expanding nature of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with both sides increasingly targeting facilities that support economic and military activities. Authorities in Volgograd are continuing damage assessments, while security agencies are investigating the attack. Further details about the number of drones involved and the overall impact of the strikes are yet to be released.



## PoK Unrest: 37 Dead Amid Election Dispute and Protests

Violence has intensified in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as protests led by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) continue against rising prices, taxes and governance issues. At least 37 people have been reported dead during clashes between security forces and protesters, marking a major escalation in unrest that has been building for over a year. The protests are largely linked to public anger over economic hardships and the controversy surrounding elections for 12 reserved seats in the PoK Assembly. Local groups have alleged that these seats allow Pakistan's political leadership to influence the formation of the regional government and select a preferred prime minister. The JAAC, a coalition of traders, civil society members and political



activists, has been leading demonstrations demanding reforms, greater rights and changes to the electoral system. The Pakistan government has banned the organisation and registered cases against its leaders, including charges related to terrorism and sedition.

Authorities in Pakistan have rejected allegations of excessive force and claimed that militants linked to the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan were present among the protesters. Officials said security operations were aimed at controlling violence and maintaining law and order. The unrest comes during ongoing elections in PoK, where voting for 12 disputed seats is being conducted in phases. Out of the 53 seats in the assembly, eight are reserved for women, technocrats and religious representatives, while 12 seats are allocated for migrants living in other parts of Pakistan. Residents have been opposing this reservation system, calling for its removal. India has criticised the developments, stating that PoK is under Pakistan's illegal occupation and that the

protests reflect economic exploitation, denial of rights and administrative issues. The Ministry of External Affairs said India's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains clear and consistent. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed concern over reports of violence and urged that peace be maintained. Human rights organisations, including Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, have raised concerns over the clashes and called for investigations into reports of civilian deaths. The situation in PoK remains tense, with protesters continuing their agitation despite government action. The crisis has highlighted long-standing grievances over governance, representation and economic conditions in the region.

## US Sanctions India-Based Firm Over Mahan Air Links

The United States has imposed sanctions on six entities and individuals, including India-based Skiez Travels and Logistics Private Limited, alleging that they provided support to Iran's airline Mahan Air, which Washington claims has links with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The US Department of the Treasury announced the sanctions, targeting companies that serve as general sales agents for Mahan Air. According to American officials, such entities provide commercial and logistical assistance that helps sustain activities linked to the IRGC. Skiez Travels, which operates offices in Srinagar and Delhi, has stated on its website that it has represented Mahan Air as a general sales agent since 2020. The company is among several firms accused by the US of facilitating Mahan Air's operations. The Treasury Department alleged that Mahan Air, despite presenting itself as a civilian air-

line, has supported the IRGC by arranging travel for personnel linked to the force, assisting military movements and facilitating the transfer of equipment, including drone-related systems and weapons. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said companies providing financial, logistical or commercial support to Mahan Air or the IRGC would face action from Washington. He added that the US would continue efforts to restrict access to its financial system for organisations it considers involved in such activities. Apart from Skiez Travels, sanctions were also imposed on companies based in China and Russia. These include Shanghai Wings International Logistics Co and Shanghai Elite International Travel Co, which were accused of representing Mahan Air and assisting its operations. Russia-based Air Cargo Pro Limited was also named among the sanctioned entities. The US also targeted DadeNegar Startup



Studio, alleging that the organisation was linked to the IRGC and supported military targeting activities. Washington claimed the group helped identify locations of American and Israeli equipment and worked with Iranian military authorities. The sanctions are part of the broad-

er US campaign against entities accused of supporting Iran's military networks and affiliated organisations. The move could impact the financial and business activities of the listed firms, particularly those with international operations or links to the US financial system.



## ITC Q1 Profit Drops 27%, Revenue Shows Strong Growth



ITC Ltd reported a sharp decline in its first-quarter profit for the financial year 2026-27, with net profit falling 27 percent year-on-year to Rs 3,579 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. The performance came in below market expectations, reflecting pressure on margins despite robust growth in revenue. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 5,113 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Analysts had expected profit to remain around Rs 3,990 crore, making the reported figure weaker than anticipated. Despite the decline in profitability, ITC recorded strong growth in its top line. Revenue from operations rose 28 percent to Rs 26,943 crore compared with Rs 21,694 crore in the same period last year. The growth was driven by higher realizations across key business segments, including cigarettes, fast-moving consumer goods, and paper products. At the operating level, earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) declined 27.9 percent to Rs 4,514 crore from Rs 6,262 crore a year earlier. The EBITDA margin also contracted significantly to 26.7 percent from 31.7 percent in the year-ago quarter, indicating increased cost pressures and a less favourable operating environment. ITC said it had implemented price hikes across several businesses, including cigarettes, FMCG products, and the paper segment, to offset the impact of rising input costs and disruptions linked to the ongoing West Asian crisis. The company is facing higher costs for key commodities, packaging materials, energy, and logistics, which weighed on overall profitability during the quarter. The FMCG business continued to remain an important growth driver for the conglomerate. Brands such as Aashirvaad atta, Sunfeast biscuits, and other packaged food products maintained healthy demand across urban and rural markets. However, competitive intensity and inflationary pressures affected margins in the consumer goods segment. The cigarette business remained resilient, benefiting from stable volumes and improved pricing, while the paper and packaging business faced challenges from elevated raw material costs and fluctuations in global demand conditions. Following the results, investors are expected to closely watch the company's margin recovery trajectory in the coming quarters. Management's ability to pass on higher costs through additional price increases without affecting demand will be a key factor influencing future earnings performance. Although the June quarter reflected significant pressure on profitability, ITC's diversified business model, strong cash generation, and continued revenue growth across major segments provide a degree of stability. The company's performance highlights the broader challenge faced by consumer-focused businesses as they balance growth opportunities with persistent cost inflation and geopolitical uncertainties affecting global supply chains.

# M&M Jumps After Strong Q1



Mahindra & Mahindra shares surged up to 5 percent on Friday after the company reported a strong set of results for the June quarter, boosting investor confidence in the automobile major's growth prospects. The rally was driven by higher profitability, improving margins, and continued strength in both the SUV and tractor businesses.

The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 3,457 on the NSE, rising more than 5 percent during trading. Although some profit booking emerged later in the session, the shares still ended with healthy gains, reflecting positive market sentiment following the earnings announcement.

For the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27, M&M reported a 34 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated profit after tax. Revenue also rose 28 percent compared with the same period last year, supported by strong demand for the company's sport utility vehicles and tractors.

One of the key highlights of the results was the improvement in operating margins on both a sequential and year-on-year basis. This came despite continued pressure from commodity price inflation and a challenging macroeconomic environment. The margin expansion indicated strong execution, better product mix, and effective pricing strategies across the company's core businesses.

The SUV segment remains a major growth driver for M&M, with popular models continuing to witness strong customer demand and healthy booking momentum. The company has been steadily increasing its market share in the domestic SUV market, which is one of the fastest-growing segments in the Indian passenger vehicle industry.

The tractor business also continued to provide stability and growth support. M&M maintains a leadership position in the domestic tractor market, benefiting from its extensive rural distribution network and sustained demand from the agricultural sector. Market experts believe the company's diversified presence across utility vehicles, commercial vehicles, farm equipment, and emerging mobility businesses provides a strong foundation for long-term growth. The latest quarterly performance has reinforced confidence in M&M's ability to maintain profitability while continuing to expand its market presence. From a technical perspective, analysts noted that the stock has shown improving momentum after moving above its 200-day moving average with strong trading volumes. The price action suggests that investor sentiment has turned more constructive in the short to medium term. Analysts indicate that as long as the stock sustains above the Rs 3,350 level, the broader trend remains favourable. The combination of strong earnings growth, improving margins, leadership in tractors, and expanding SUV market share makes M&M an attractive candidate for investors seeking exposure to India's automobile and rural growth story.

With demand conditions remaining healthy and the company continuing to strengthen its product portfolio, M&M's latest quarterly performance has positioned it among the stronger performers in the Indian auto sector, helping the stock emerge as one of the day's notable gains.

# Auto Stocks Power Sensex, Nifty Extends Winning Streak

Indian equity markets ended higher on Friday, extending their winning streak to the third consecutive session as strong buying in automobile and financial stocks lifted investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex rose 166 points to close near 78,100, while the NSE Nifty gained around 66 points and finished above the 24,350 mark after briefly crossing 24,400 during intraday trade.

The day's trading was marked by broad-based participation, with investors continuing to show confidence in domestic equities despite mixed global cues. Market participants largely focused on quarterly earnings, improving domestic demand indicators, and sustained buying from institutional investors. Automobile stocks were the clear stars of the session. Shares of TVS Motor, Mahindra & Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, and several other auto companies witnessed strong gains as investors responded positively to expectations of better sales growth and healthy earnings momentum. The strong performance of the sector helped the Nifty Auto index emerge as one of the top-performing sectoral indices of the day. Financial stocks also provided solid support to the benchmarks. Bajaj Finance surged sharply



after reporting strong quarterly results, with the stock touching a fresh 52-week high. Bajaj Finserv and other financial services companies also attracted significant buying interest, reflecting continued optimism over credit growth and profitability in the sector. A notable feature of the session was the strong market breadth. More than 120 stocks hit their 52-week highs, indicating that the rally was not restricted to a handful of large-cap compa-

panies. Among the prominent gainers reaching new highs were Bajaj Finance, Aether Industries, Torrent Pharma, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Divis Laboratories, and TVS Motor. The participation of companies from diverse sectors such as pharmaceuticals, specialty chemicals, healthcare, and automobiles highlighted the underlying strength of the market. Pharmaceutical shares remained active

### Pharmaceutical shares remained active

throughout the session, supported by encouraging earnings announcements and expectations of sustained demand in domestic and export markets. Select mid-cap and small-cap stocks also continued to outperform, attracting retail as well as institutional interest. However, the rally was not entirely one-sided. Information technology and FMCG stocks faced selling pressure, with investors booking profits after recent gains. Weakness in a few heavyweight IT counters limited the overall upside for the benchmarks.

Market analysts believe that the Nifty's ability to sustain above the 24,350-24,400 zone is technically important and could support further gains in the coming sessions if earnings momentum remains favorable. The return of foreign portfolio inflows, resilient domestic economic indicators, and strong participation from retail investors have added to the positive outlook.

With July ending on a firm footing, Indian equities have once again demonstrated resilience, supported by healthy corporate earnings, strong domestic liquidity, and optimism surrounding the country's medium-term growth prospects despite ongoing global uncertainties.

# AI Wunderkind's Stunning Rise Meets Sudden Setback

Leopold Aschenbrenner, the 24-year-old former OpenAI researcher who gained global attention for his early prediction of the artificial intelligence investment boom, has experienced a dramatic reversal in fortune after the hedge fund he built reportedly suffered sharp losses within weeks. Aschenbrenner founded Situational Awareness, an AI-focused investment fund that became one of the most talked-about names in the technology and finance world. The fund reportedly delivered extraordinary returns of 439 percent by the end of June, attracting significant interest from institutional and high-net-worth investors. Encouraged by its rapid success, investor inflows surged, and the fund's assets reportedly expanded to nearly \$45 billion by early July. The impressive growth, however, proved difficult to sustain. A sudden sell-off in AI infrastructure and semiconductor-related stocks triggered heavy pressure on leveraged positions held by the fund. As valuations in the AI sector cooled after months of strong gains, Situational Awareness was forced to unwind a substantial portion of its publicly traded holdings.

In a significant development, the fund's public equity portfolio was reportedly acquired by Citadel, the investment giant led by billionaire

investor Ken Griffin, through a block transaction. While the precise extent of the losses has not been disclosed, the episode has drawn widespread attention across global financial markets because of the speed with which the fund moved from spectacular success to a major setback. Aschenbrenner's background has added to the fascination surrounding his story. Born in Germany to doctor parents, he displayed exceptional academic talent from an early age. He graduated as valedictorian from Columbia University at just 19 years old before joining OpenAI's Superalignment team, which focused on the long-term safety and alignment of advanced AI systems. He became well known in technology circles after publishing influential essays arguing that artificial intelligence would trigger an unprecedented wave of investment in computing infrastructure, data centers, semiconductor, and related technologies. Many investors viewed his analysis as a compelling roadmap for positioning portfolios to benefit from the AI revolution. The rapid rise and sudden reversal of Situational Awareness highlights both the enormous opportunities and the significant risks associated with investing in emerging technologies. AI remains one of the most transformative sectors in the global



economy, but the episode demonstrates how quickly sentiment can change when valuations become stretched and leverage amplifies market movements. Although Aschenbrenner's recent setback has interrupted what appeared to be a meteoric ascent, his influence on discussions surrounding AI, capital allocation,

and the future of advanced technology remain substantial. His story has already become a striking example of how innovation, ambition, and market volatility can combine to create extraordinary success and equally extraordinary reversals in the age of artificial intelligence.

# KOSPI Sees Sharp Rebound



South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index staged a remarkable recovery on Friday, posting its biggest-ever one-day gain after suffering heavy losses in the previous three sessions. The sharp rebound was driven mainly by strong buying in semiconductor and artificial intelligence-related stocks, with Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix leading the rally.

The KOSPI surged more than 18 percent during the session, recovering a significant portion of the decline recorded earlier in the week. Investors returned to technology stocks after a strong overnight rally in US markets, where upbeat earnings from major technology companies boosted confidence in continued global spending on AI infrastructure and cloud

computing. Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix jumped more than 23 percent each, reflecting renewed optimism about demand for advanced memory chips and AI-focused semiconductor products. The two companies are viewed as key beneficiaries of the global artificial intelligence investment boom, and their strong performance helped lift the broader Korean market. The rebound followed a steep correction in which the KOSPI had fallen more than 17 percent over three consecutive sessions. Concerns about high AI valuations, rising leverage, and forced selling in technology stocks had triggered one of the sharpest recent declines in the South Korean market.

Investor sentiment also improved after the South Korean government unveiled plans to support strategic technology investments. Authorities announced a proposal to inject about 20 trillion won into a new investment account focused on artificial intelligence, data centres, semiconductor infrastructure, and other strategic industries. The initiative is expected to provide additional long-term sup-

port for the country's technology sector. Market analysts, however, remain cautious about the sustainability of the rebound. They believe the next few trading sessions will be crucial in determining whether the latest surge marks the beginning of a broader recovery or simply a temporary relief rally after an unusually severe selloff. The performance of global technology stocks, upending semiconductor earnings, and trends in AI infrastructure spending are expected to remain the key factors influencing market direction. Any signs of slowing demand or renewed concerns about valuations could quickly affect investor sentiment. For now, Friday's historic rebound has restored some confidence to South Korean equities and highlighted the continued importance of Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix in driving the country's technology-led market performance. The recovery also underscores the growing influence of artificial intelligence and semiconductor investments on global financial markets, where sharp swings in sentiment can produce equally dramatic gains and losses within a short period.

# Maruti Profit Slips Despite Strong Revenue Growth



pressure on profit margins, Maruti Suzuki's strong revenue growth and continued recovery in domestic vehicle demand indicate that the broader operating environment for the passenger vehicle industry

remains supportive. The company's performance underscores both the opportunities created by rising automobile demand and the challenges posed by sustained inflation in key manufacturing inputs.



# Vikrant Massey's? Emotional Farewell to Rahane

Bollywood actor Vikrant Massey has shared an emotional tribute to Ajinkya Rahane following the senior batter's retirement from international cricket, praising him as a cricketer whose character and selfless service mattered more than publicity or personal fame. A day after Rahane announced his retirement, Vikrant posted a heartfelt message on Instagram, describing the former India vice-captain as a player who left behind not just records, but a standard for future generations.

In his note, Vikrant wrote that some players are remembered for statistics, while others are remembered for the values they represent. He praised Rahane for always putting the team ahead of himself, handling success with humility and setbacks with dignity, and proving that character can be as inspiring as talent. The actor made a striking comparison by calling Rahane the "only true heir to Rahul Dravid," highlighting his calm temperament, technical discipline, and quiet leadership. Vikrant also

remarked that in an era where visibility is often mistaken for value, Rahane showed that "true talent needs no PR campaign." Rahane announced his retirement from international cricket after a distinguished career spanning more than a decade. He represented India in 85 Test matches, 90 One-Day Internationals, and 20 T20 Internationals, while also featuring in 212 IPL matches for multiple franchises. One of the defining moments of his career came during the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy in



Australia, where he captained India to a memorable series victory after the team faced several setbacks, including the absence of regular captain Virat Kohli for most of the series. Rahane made his ODI debut in 2011 during India's tour of England and later made his Test debut in 2013. He went on to score 5,077 Test runs, including 12 centuries and 26 half-centuries, becoming one of India's most dependable middle-order batters in overseas conditions. Announcing his retirement through a video

shared on social media, Rahane thanked fans for their love and support throughout his journey, signing off with the message: "Cap 278 signing off. Forever grateful." Vikrant Massey's tribute has resonated strongly with cricket fans, many of whom have echoed the sentiment that Ajinkya Rahane's legacy lies not only in his achievements on the field but also in the grace, humility, and professionalism with which he represented Indian cricket throughout his career.

## India Assured Two Boxing Medals

India enjoyed another encouraging day at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, with the boxing contingent guaranteeing at least two more medals and the judo team remaining in contention for gold medals on Day 9 of the competition. Boxers Ankush Panghal and Preeti Pawar advanced to the finals of their respective categories, ensuring India a minimum of two silver medals. Their victories have strengthened India's overall medal prospects and provided a significant boost to the boxing contingent. Preeti Pawar booked her place in the women's 54kg final with a confident performance, while Ankush Panghal also progressed to the title bout in his event. Both Indian boxers will now compete for gold medals in their upcoming finals, raising hopes of adding more top podium finishes to the country's tally. The day also carried considerable significance for Indian athletics, with star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra scheduled to compete in the men's javelin final. As



one of India's biggest sporting icons and a leading contender for gold, Chopra's event attracted widespread attention from fans and officials alike. Indian judokas also remained in the hunt for gold medals, with two athletes set to compete in their respective finals. Their



progress underlined India's improving performances in combat sports beyond boxing and wrestling. Day 9 featured a packed schedule for the Indian contingent across athletics, boxing, judo, and weightlifting, making it one of the busiest and most important

days of the Games so far. Several Indian athletes were competing in medal rounds, contributing to growing expectations of a strong finish to the Glasgow campaign. India has continued to perform consistently across multiple disciplines during the 2026 Commonwealth Games, with boxing once again emerging as one of the country's strongest sports. The assured silver medals from Ankush Panghal and Preeti Pawar have already added valuable points to the overall tally, while the possibility of converting them into gold medals remains alive. With Neeraj Chopra's javelin final still to come and Indian judokas fighting for top honours, Day 9 had the potential to become a major medal-winning day for the Indian contingent. The performances of the boxers have already ensured another successful chapter for India's boxing team, while the focus now shifts to the upcoming finals and the country's pursuit of additional gold medals in Glasgow.

## AFC Opposes FIFA Plan

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has backed UEFA and CONCACAF in opposing FIFA's controversial FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal, raising concerns over the plan's lack of global consensus and calling for a review of FIFA's governance and decision-making processes. In a strongly worded statement, the AFC said it was deeply concerned about the divisions emerging across world football over FIFA's proposed commercial restructuring. The continental body expressed support for UEFA and CONCACAF, which have raised objections to the introduction of private investment into FIFA's flagship competitions. The proposed FIFA Forward Enterprise aims to create a commercial subsidiary responsible for managing FIFA's commercial rights, including broadcasting, sponsorship, ticketing, and licensing. FIFA has reportedly planned to raise up to \$4.2 billion by selling minority stakes to private investors. FIFA has defended the proposal, stating that it would help increase development funding for its 211 member associations while allowing the governing body to maintain control over football operations and major competitions. However, the AFC believes the proposal requires wider discussion and cannot move forward without the support of football stakeholders worldwide. The Asian body said that the growing opposition from major confederations highlights the need for a more transparent and inclusive approach. The AFC also expressed concern that discussions about a possible FIFA World Cup boycott had entered public debate, describing the situation as a serious issue for the future of global



football. The organization emphasized that the World Cup represents the unity of football nations and should not be affected by unresolved disputes. According to the AFC, the controversy is not limited to the FFE proposal alone but also reflects deeper concerns regarding FIFA's governance structure, consultation process, and decision-making methods. The body urged FIFA to conduct an urgent review to ensure that future global-level decisions are based on transparency, proper oversight, and meaningful consultation. The latest development follows UEFA's announcement that its 55 member associations would not participate in FIFA competitions while the proposal remains unchanged. UEFA has strongly argued that the World Cup and football's future should not be controlled through commercial arrangements. CONCACAF has also raised concerns over the process surrounding the proposal. The AFC reiterated that the FIFA World Cup belongs to the entire global football community and that decisions affecting the sport's future must involve all confederations and member associations. The growing disagreement between FIFA and several major football bodies has created one of the biggest governance challenges in recent years, with further discussions expected as stakeholders seek a resolution.

## Teamwork Key for India Hockey



As the Indian men's hockey team prepares for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, players have highlighted the importance of consistency, teamwork, strong coordination, and detailed preparation ahead of the prestigious tournament. The World Cup, scheduled to be jointly hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands from August 15 to 30, will see India begin their campaign against Wales in Pool D on August 15. The team will also face tough opponents England and arch-rivals Pakistan in the group

stage. Experienced forward Mandeep Singh, who is set to participate in his fourth World Cup, said his role has now expanded beyond performing on the field. The senior striker is focused on guiding younger players and sharing the lessons he learned from senior members during the early stages of his career. Mandeep stressed that successful attacking play depends on strong understanding among forwards and effective teamwork rather than individual brilliance. He said the team has been working

extensively on improving coordination inside the attacking circle, creating scoring opportunities, and converting chances under pressure. According to Mandeep, modern hockey requires forwards to contribute in multiple areas. A striker's responsibility is not limited to scoring goals but also includes creating opportunities, maintaining pressure on opponents, and helping the team regain possession. Young forward Shilanand Lakra, who is preparing for his first FIH Hockey World

Cup appearance, credited senior players for helping him adapt to the demands of international hockey. He said guidance from experienced teammates, especially Mandeep Singh, has helped him learn from mistakes and improve his overall game. Lakra also emphasized that forwards now have a larger role in the team's defensive structure. He said players must contribute through tackles, pressing, and creating attacking moves, making hockey a complete team effort rather than a game focused only on goal scoring. India's consistent goal scorer Abhishek also underlined the importance of hard work away from the ball. He said that effective attacking play begins with movement, pressing, and creating space before the final finish. According to him, a striker's contribution starts even before receiving the ball. Abhishek added that mental preparation plays a crucial role in handling pressure situations during major tournaments. He said confidence and composure inside the striking circle come from regular training, experience, and maintaining focus during high-pressure moments. The Indian team is aiming to build on its recent performances and make a strong impact at the World Cup. With experienced players providing leadership and younger athletes bringing energy and determination, the team believes that consistency and collective effort will be key factors in its campaign. As the tournament approaches, India's focus remains on building strong chemistry, improving execution, and delivering disciplined performances against some of the world's top hockey nations.

## Alonso Praises Lacroix



Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso has praised new defensive signing Maxence Lacroix, describing the French international as a player with a strong personality and a winner's mentality. Alonso believes the defender will add strength, leadership, and reliability to Chelsea's backline ahead of the new season. Lacroix was officially unveiled by Chelsea after completing his move from Crystal Palace in a deal reportedly worth £52 million. The 26-year-old has signed a six-year contract with the London club and will join the squad for pre-season preparations. Alonso, who previously worked with Lacroix during his time in the Bundesliga, said he has followed the defender's progress closely and was impressed by his development in the Premier League. According to the Chelsea boss, Lacroix has improved not only as a footballer but also in terms of leadership and personality. The manager highlighted Lacroix's defensive qualities and said the player would provide more power and stability to Chelsea's defensive unit. Alonso described the signing as an important move for both the present and the future of the club. Lacroix joined Crystal Palace from Wolfsburg in 2024 and went on to make 98 appearances for the club. During his time at Selhurst Park, he was part of the team that won the FA Cup, UEFA

Conference League, and Community Shield. Speaking about the defender's qualities, Alonso praised his maturity, confidence, and desire to succeed. He said Lacroix's passion for defending and his hunger to win match the mentality Chelsea are looking to build under his leadership. Lacroix, who has earned seven caps for France and represented his country at the recent World Cup, expressed his excitement about joining Chelsea. He said conversations with Alonso convinced him that both shared the same ambition and vision for the club's future. The defender's arrival is part of Chelsea's major transfer activity during the summer window. The club has already made significant investments, including a British-record £117 million deal for Aston Villa forward Morgan Rogers and a £47 million move for Atalanta right-back Marco Paestral. Chelsea have also completed the arrivals of Geovany Quenda and Emmanuel Emegha through transfers agreed earlier. The club continues to be linked with further additions as Alonso works to rebuild a team that finished a disappointing 10th in the Premier League last season. With Lacroix now added to the squad, Chelsea will hope his defensive experience, physical presence, and winning attitude can help strengthen the team's performances in the upcoming campaign.

## Bumrah Boost for India

India have received a major boost ahead of the upcoming two-Test series against Sri Lanka, with pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah reportedly cleared to play after successfully completing fitness tests at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru. The return of Bumrah is a significant development for the Indian team, as the fast bowler remains one of the most valuable assets in the squad across all formats. His ability to deliver crucial breakthroughs, control the flow of runs, and perform consistently in challenging conditions has made him a key figure in India's bowling attack. Bumrah had missed the third ODI against England after sustaining an impact-related injury. However, the pacer has recovered well and regained full fitness, allowing him to be considered for the upcoming Test assignment against Sri Lanka. The two-match Test series is scheduled to begin on August 15 in Galle, while the second Test will be played in Colombo from August 23. The series will provide India with an opportunity to strengthen their position in the longest format and

test their bowling combination in different conditions. Bumrah's presence will bring much-needed experience and stability to India's pace department. Over the years, he has established himself as one of the world's leading fast bowlers with his unique action, sharp pace, accuracy, and ability to deliver under pressure. His performances in overseas conditions, particularly in Test cricket, have played a major role in India's success. The Indian team management is expected to handle Bumrah's workload carefully, considering his importance and previous injury concerns. Managing his fitness will be a priority to ensure that he remains available for important international assignments throughout the season. The pacer's return also provides a major advantage to India's bowling strategy. Alongside other frontline bowlers, Bumrah can offer variety and control, making the attack more effective against Sri Lanka's batting lineup. His experience of handling pressure situations will also be valuable for younger players in the squad. The upcoming Sri Lanka series will be



closely watched as India aim for a strong performance in Test cricket. Bumrah's clearance has added confidence to the team's preparations and has eased concerns over the availability of their premier fast bowler. With the first Test approaching, fans and selectors will be

hoping that Bumrah can return to his best form and once again play a decisive role in India's pursuit of success on the international stage. His comeback is expected to strengthen the team and provide a major boost ahead of the challenging red-ball contest.



# Varanasi Release Date Unchanged

SS Rajamouli's much-awaited pan-India film Varanasi remains firmly on track for its scheduled theatrical release on April 7, 2027, putting an end to recent speculation about a possible postponement. With exactly 250 days remaining for the film's release, reports had been circulating that the project might miss its announced date. However, according to sources associated with the production, there has been no change in the release plan, and the film continues to progress as scheduled. Varanasi features a star-studded cast led by Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The project is being mounted on a massive scale and is widely regarded as one of the most anticipated Indian films currently under production. The combination of Rajamouli's reputation for delivering visually spectacular blockbusters and Mahesh Babu's first major collaboration with the director has created enormous excitement among audiences across the

country. The film has been generating strong buzz ever since its announcement, with fans eagerly awaiting official promotional material and further production updates. Industry observers have been closely tracking the project due to its ambitious scale and the high expectations surrounding it. The clarification regarding the release date is expected to reassure distributors, exhibitors, and fans who were concerned about the rumors of a delay. With production reportedly moving ahead as planned and the release schedule remaining unchanged, attention is now likely to shift toward upcoming announcements from the makers, including potential teaser, poster, and promotional updates in the coming months. For now, Varanasi continues to hold its April 7, 2027 release date, and the latest clarification has strengthened confidence that Rajamouli's ambitious cinema tie spe ctacle is progressing according to schedule.



# Raaka Rights Buzz Grows

Allu Arjun's upcoming film Raaka, directed by Atlee, is generating massive buzz even before the completion of its shooting. The project has already become one of the most talked-about Indian films in production, with reports suggesting that it is being planned as a two-part franchise. According to industry buzz, pre-release business discussions have reportedly begun, and the makers, Sun Pictures, are said to be quoting exceptionally high prices for both theatrical and non-theatrical rights. The reported figures being discussed for the OTT rights have reportedly surprised many within trade circles. The extraordinary expectations surrounding Raaka are being linked largely to the phenomenal success of Pushpa 2, which significantly expanded Allu Arjun's popularity and market across India.



The actor's strong nationwide appeal has reportedly increased the commercial value of his upcoming projects. Another major factor driving the hype is the collaboration with director Atlee, who has built a reputation for delivering large-scale commercial entertainers with strong mass appeal. The addition of Deepika Padukone as the female lead has

further increased anticipation surrounding the film. Industry observers believe that the combination of Allu Arjun's current box-office strength, Atlee's successful track record, and the reported franchise format has created enormous demand among distributors and streaming platforms. Although no official figures have been announced by the production house, the ongoing business discussions have become a major talking point in the film trade. With expectations continuing to rise rapidly, Raaka is already being viewed as a potential pan-Indian blockbuster in the making. As production progresses, more clarity is expected regarding its theatrical distribution, digital rights, and release plans, but the film has already succeeded in creating substantial excitement long before reaching theatres.

# Newton's 3rd Law Falls Short

Sumanth's latest film Newton's 3rd Law has hit theatres with an interesting premise but struggles to deliver a consistently engaging thriller. Directed by debutant Rajesh Karna, the film combines crime investigation with the philosophical idea that every action has an equal and opposite reaction, drawing parallels with the concept of karma. Set in Hyderabad in 1999, the story follows investigator Vasu Dev, played by Sumanth, as he probes the death of a college student named Vinay. What begins as an apparent accident soon turns into a murder investigation involving underworld criminal Stephen Mercury, portrayed by Jagapathi Babu. The film attempts to uncover the connection between the student and the criminal network through a series of flashbacks and investigative sequences. Sumanth delivers a sincere and convincing performance as the determined investigator. Trinadh Varma, whose character plays a crucial role in the narrative, also leaves a good impression. Shelley N. Kumar stands out with an emotionally effective per-

formance as Vinay's mother, adding some genuine emotional weight to the story. The film starts on a promising note and manages to create curiosity in its opening portions. The climax is also handled reasonably well, bringing together the various plot threads in a neat manner. However, the screenplay becomes the film's biggest weakness. The investigation progresses slowly and often repeats the same information, causing the first half to feel stretched. Frequent flashbacks interrupt the flow, while the second half suffers from lengthy conversations that reduce the overall suspense. Jagapathi Babu and Srinivas Avasara perform effectively within their limited screen space, but their characters are not developed enough to make a strong impact. The supporting cast, in general, feels underutilized. Technically, the cinematography and background score are decent and help maintain the investigative atmosphere. The editing, however, could have been much sharper, as several scenes appear unnecessarily



prolonged. Overall, Newton's 3rd Law offers a promising concept and a committed performance from Sumanth, but weak pacing and uneven execution prevent it from becoming a compelling investigative thriller. Despite a few engaging moments and a well-handled climax, the film ultimately ends up as a below-average thriller that may disappoint viewers expecting a tightly written suspense drama.

# Spider-Man Creates History in India



Spider-Man: Brand New Day has created box-office history in India by registering the biggest opening ever for a Hollywood film in the country. The film collected an impressive Rs. 61 crore nett on its opening day across all language versions, setting a new benchmark for international releases in the Indian market. The previous record was held by Avengers: Endgame, which had earned Rs. 53 crore nett on its first day. Spider-Man: Brand New Day comfortably crossed that figure, highlighting the enormous popularity of the Spider-Man franchise among Indian audiences. The film was released on around 5,000 screens nationwide, making it the widest-ever release for a Hollywood title in India. Apart from the strong performance of the English version, the dubbed versions in Indian languages also witnessed exceptional occupancy, contributing significantly to the record-breaking opening. Trade circles are

now expecting a massive weekend total, as advance bookings and audience response remain extremely strong. The film has attracted viewers across multiplexes as well as several mass-market centres, indicating broad appeal beyond urban audiences. The extraordinary opening has once again demonstrated the growing strength of Hollywood franchise films in India, particularly superhero spectacles that enjoy a loyal fan base among younger moviegoers. Industry analysts believe the film's performance could encourage distributors to plan even larger-scale releases for future international tentpole films. With the opening-day record now firmly in its name, Spider-Man: Brand New Day has raised the bar for upcoming Hollywood biggies in India. The focus will now shift to whether the film can maintain its momentum over the weekend and challenge other major box-office milestones in the days ahead.

## Newton's 3rd Law Review: Strong Idea, Sluggish Thriller

Sumanth's latest crime thriller Newton's 3rd Law, directed by debutant Rajesh Karna, arrives with an intriguing premise built around the famous scientific principle that every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Set in 1999 Hyderabad, the film attempts to blend investigation, crime, and the idea of karma into a suspense-driven narrative. While the concept is promising, the execution prevents it from becoming a gripping thriller. The story follows Vasu Dev, played by Sumanth, who investigates the mysterious death of a youngster named Vinay. What initially appears to be an accident gradually unfolds into a murder investigation connect-

ed to a dangerous criminal and smuggler, Stephen Mercury, portrayed by Jagapathi Babu. The film explores how an ordinary college student becomes linked to the underworld and what circumstances led to his death. Sumanth is one of the film's major strengths. He suits the role of a calm and serious investigator and delivers a restrained, convincing performance throughout the film. Trinadh Varma, whose character forms the emotional and narrative core of the story, also performs sincerely and leaves a positive impression. Shelley N. Kumar stands out as Vinay's grieving mother, bringing natural emotion and dignity to her role. The opening portions create curiosity, and

the climax is handled reasonably well, offering a satisfying explanation for the central mystery. These segments show that the film had the potential to become an engaging investigative drama. However, the screenplay struggles to maintain momentum. The investigation repeatedly revisits the same information, causing the first half to feel stretched and fragmented. Frequent flashbacks interrupt the narrative flow, and the second half becomes weighed down by lengthy conversations that add little to the suspense. Jagapathi Babu and Srinivas Avasara perform effectively within their limited screen space, but their characters are not developed with enough depth to create a stronger

impact. The supporting cast, in general, feels underutilized. Technically, the film benefits from decent cinematography and a suitable background score that supports the investigative mood. The editing is a noticeable weakness, as several scenes could have been trimmed to improve pacing and tension. Overall, Newton's 3rd Law is a case of a compelling idea losing its impact due to sluggish storytelling and uneven narration. Sumanth's performance and a few well-executed moments make it watchable in parts, but the repetitive screenplay and lack of sustained intrigue make it difficult to remain fully invested. Fans of investigative thrillers may appreciate the concept, but the film ultimately falls short of delivering a consistently engaging cinematic experience. The film receives a rating of 2.5 out of 5

## Agadha Trailer on August 3



Veteran filmmaker MS Raju is gearing up for his return to direction with Agadha, a mystical divine thriller that is scheduled for a theatrical release on August 14, 2026. With the release date drawing closer, the makers have now officially announced the film's trailer launch date. The trailer of Agadha will be unveiled on August 3, 2026, at 12 PM. The promotional video is expected to offer audiences a closer look at the film's spiritual and mystical backdrop, which has already generated curiosity through its earlier promotional material. Kamakshi Bhaskarla plays the lead role in the film, which is being presented as a divine thriller blending elements of mystery, spirituality, and suspense. The project marks an important comeback for MS Raju, who is handling the story, screenplay, and direction. Apart from Kamakshi Bhaskarla, the film features Shraavan Reddy, Ulka Gupta, Jovika Vijay Kumar, Siju, Roshan, and Shreya Rani Reddy in pivotal roles. The ensemble

cast is expected to play significant parts in the film's mystical narrative. Agadha is being produced by Kasi Visalakshi Balusu under the Sri Adi Varaha Productions LLP banner and is presented by Ajay KR. The makers have been steadily building anticipation for the film through posters and promotional updates in recent weeks. A notable highlight is the film's multilingual release strategy. Agadha is set to release not only in Telugu but also in Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi, indicating the makers' plans to reach a wider pan-Indian audience. The announcement of the trailer launch has added fresh momentum to the film's promotions. With its combination of divine themes, mystical storytelling, and suspense elements, Agadha is positioning itself as a distinctive release among the films arriving during the Independence Day weekend. The trailer on August 3 is expected to play a crucial role in shaping audience expectations ahead of the film's worldwide theatrical release on August 14.

## Kiara's Toxic Poster Turns Heads



The makers of Toxic have unveiled a striking new poster featuring Kiara Advani on the occasion of her birthday, adding fresh excitement to one of the most anticipated pan-Indian films of 2026. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic stars Yash in the lead role and is scheduled for a theatrical release on August 26, 2026. The film is being promoted as a romantic action drama with a large-scale pan-Indian appeal. The newly released poster introduces Kiara Advani's character, Nadia. The artwork presents the actress in an elegant close-up portrait wearing a deep red embroidered outfit. Her bold makeup, expressive eyes, and confident expression give the poster a regal and intense look. The minimalist design and rich red colour palette have drawn considerable attention from fans on social media. The birthday special poster has quickly generated buzz among movie lovers, with many praising Kiara's stylish and powerful screen

presence. The reveal is seen as an important part of the film's ongoing promotional campaign ahead of its August release. Toxic features a strong ensemble cast alongside Yash and Kiara Advani. Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, Akshay Oberoi, Sudev Nair, and Amit Tiwari are also playing pivotal roles in the film. The music is being composed by a team that includes Ravi Basrur, Tanishk Bagchi, Faheem Abdullah, and other composers, raising expectations for a diverse and energetic soundtrack. With its star-studded cast, stylish promotional material, and the combination of Yash and Geetu Mohandas, Toxic continues to build strong anticipation across Indian film industries. The latest poster featuring Kiara Advani has further heightened curiosity about her character and the film's overall visual world as the countdown to its August 26 theatrical release begins.