



BUZZ POINTS



Legendary Climber Nirmal Purja Dies in Broad Peak Avalanche

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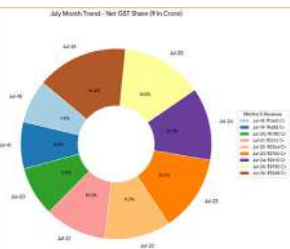
Girl Apologises Over Remarks Against PM Modi After FIR

Filed PAGE 07



Delhi Lakshmi Yojana Portal Opens, 1,083 Women Register on First Day

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AP Records 21% Growth in Net GST Revenue Up to July
K Kalyan Krishna Kumar

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh recorded strong growth in tax revenues during the first four months of FY 2026-27, with Net GST collections reaching Rs 13,283 crore by July 2026, registering 21% year-on-year growth, according to the Commercial Taxes Department.

Chief Commissioner of State Tax Babu A said the State's total Commercial Taxes collections

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Bhogapuram Airport Marks New Era of Development: Pawan Kalyan

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram marks a new chapter in Andhra Pradesh's development and is a fitting reply to those who earlier mocked the project.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Pawan Kalyan said the three-party alliance worked with a vision for development

Lokesh Highlights Growth Impact Of Bhogapuram Airport

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Minister for HRD, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh said the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram is a historic moment for North Andhra and a strong reply to those who doubted the region's development potential.

Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration a Grand Success: CM Naidu

Amaravati, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed happiness over the grand success of the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, describing the event as a magnificent affair. He congratulated ministers and officials for their coordinated efforts in making the programme a success.

After returning to Amaravati from Visakhapatnam, the Chief Minister held a teleconference with ministers and officials involved in organizing the event. He said the response



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“Viksit Bharat Vision Gains Momentum with Andhra Projects, Says Narendra Modi

₹17,900-Crore Projects Launched in Andhra, PM Modi Highlights Growth Vision

Bhogapuram, Aug 1 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday described the day as a historic milestone in Andhra Pradesh's development journey, dedicating the newly constructed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram to the nation and launching development projects worth over 18,000 crore across airport infrastructure, roads, railways, and energy sectors.

Addressing a massive gathering at Bhogapuram, Modi said the projects would accelerate Andhra Pradesh's progress towards the vision of 'Swarandhra Pradesh'. Beginning his speech with greetings in Telugu, he paid respects to regional deities including Lord Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, Kurmanath Swamy, and Pydithalli Ammavaru, expressing his privilege in visiting the sacred North Andhra region.

The Prime Minister praised the grand Dhimsa dance performance by more than 13,000 tribal women, describing it as a magnificent showcase of India's rich tribal heritage. He congratulated Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for his vision and said the cultural pro-



gramme added glory to the development event.

Paying tribute to freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, Modi said naming the airport after him was a mark of respect. He stated that the Bhogapuram Airport would become a new runway for North Andhra's growth and a launchpad for the future of the state's youth.

Highlighting India's aviation growth, Modi said the number of operational airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 166 in the last 12 years. He said the UDAN scheme transformed air connectivity by making air travel accessible to common citizens, with its second phase

involving an investment of 29,000 crore.

The Prime Minister said the Centre was developing the 'Blue Economy' by upgrading ports from Visakhapatnam to Krishnapatnam and constructing new ports at Mulapeta and Ramayapatnam. He also mentioned highway projects, the Visakhapatnam-Raipur Expressway, and railway projects worth nearly 1 lakh crore to improve connectivity.

Emphasising the importance of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, Modi said integrated logistics development would benefit industries and farmers while improving ease of doing business.

PM Modi Launches Multiple Projects Across State

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to North Andhra on Saturday, inaugurated the Alluri Seetharama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram and launched, dedicated, and laid foundation stones for several major development projects across Andhra Pradesh.

Modi laid the foundation stone for the ASIP Technologies semiconductor packaging and testing unit at Turlavada in Visakhapatnam district.



ASIP Technologies Private Limited is developing the facility in partnership with APACT of the Republic of Korea and will become the first semiconductor manufacturing centre

in Andhra Pradesh. The unit is expected to manufacture around 96 million semiconductor chips annually and generate high-skill employment opportunities.

Governor Joins PM Modi at Historic Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer participated in the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

Later, the Governor attended the public meeting held on the occasion, where Prime Minister



ter Narendra Modi laid foundation stones and launched several development projects.

The programme was attended by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Governor of Goa Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Union Minister for Civil Aviation K. Ram Mohan Naidu, Union Ministers of State Dr. Chandrasekhar Pemmasani, Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, and Murlidhar Mohol.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan, Minister of IT & HRD Nara

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Bhogapuram Airport Sparks Reverse Migration Says CM Naidu

Bhogapuram, Aug 1 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with several ongoing development projects in North Andhra, marks the beginning of reverse migration in the region.

Addressing a massive public meeting, Chandrababu Naidu

said the airport would usher in a new era of growth, opportunities, and global connectivity, transforming North Andhra into one of India's fastest-growing regions. He described the project as the realization of a collective dream and dedicated it to farmers who voluntarily gave land, calling them the true architects of the region's future.

Built by GMR Group, the airport is expected to boost international investment, tourism, trade, and employment.

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PM Modi Inspects Bhogapuram Airport Facilities After Inauguration

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected the facilities at the terminal of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport after inaugurating the project on Saturday. During the visit, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu explained the pilgrimage destinations and historical heritage of Andhra Pradesh, especially the North Andhra region, through a massive video wall installed inside the terminal.

Representatives of the GMR Group briefed the Prime Minister on the airport model, infrastructure, and key features. Narendra Modi also observed the artworks displayed across the terminal premises.

Later, the Prime Minister posed for a photograph with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Education Minister Nara Lokesh, BJP State President P. V. N. Madhav, and GMR representatives.

The leaders travelled to the public meeting venue in an open-top jeep, witnessing a grand 'Thimsa' dance performance presented by 13,500 tribal women, highlighting the cultural heritage of the region.

At the meeting venue, Narendra Modi received a warm welcome from the gathering, with people waving national flags and cheering enthusiastically. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu

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The Prime Minister inaugurated the transmission system for wind and solar energy zones in Kurnool and launched solar energy zone transmission schemes with capacities of 2,500 MW in Anantapur and 1,000 MW in Kurnool. The transmission projects, developed at a cost of over 820 crore, will facilitate the evacuation of renewable energy generated from the Kurnool and Anantapur renewable energy zones. Modi also unveiled plaques for the foundation stones of the Kurnool-IV Renewable Energy Zone trans-

mission project and a high-level bridge between Penchalakona and Yerpedu on NH-565 at Lingasamudram.

He dedicated the Khammam-Devarapalli greenfield four-lane expressway, Khammam-Devarapalli package, and Tadipatri four-lane bypass roads to the nation.

The projects are aimed at strengthening Andhra Pradesh's semiconductor, renewable energy, and transport infrastructure sectors while supporting industrial growth, connectivity, and employment generation across the state.

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Bhogapuram Airport to Boost North Andhra Growth

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said Bhogapuram Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport will become the gateway for the development of North Andhra and create new opportunities for the region.

Rammohan Naidu participated in the airport inauguration ceremony conducted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday along with



Governor Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Goa Governor Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh. He explained the airport facilities and terminal

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Bhogapuram Airport to Transform North Andhra Economy: Srinivasa Varma

Bhogapuram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Steel Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma said the Central Government is giving special priority to Andhra Pradesh's development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at Bhogapuram, he said the state government un-



der Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh is moving ahead with

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SCoR GM Reviews Railway Development Works

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

South Coast Railway General Manager Sandeep Mathur conducted a two-day inspection of key railway stations and infrastructure projects across the Guntur and Vijayawada divisions, reviewing development works, passenger amenities, and future expansion plans.

On the second day, Mathur inspected Mangalagiri Railway Station, where he reviewed facilities developed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) and directed officials to further improve passenger convenience and service quality. Guntur Divisional Railway Manager Sudheshna Sen and senior railway officials accompanied him.

At Rayanapadu, the General Manager reviewed the progress of the Rail Over Rail (RoR) project, stressing timely completion, adherence to qual-

ity standards, and strict safety measures. Vijayawada Divisional Railway Manager Mohit Sonakiya also participated in the inspection.

Mathur later inspected passenger amenities at Rayanapadu and Gangineni stations before reviewing the proposed Nambur Line and yard planning at Errupalem. He suggested improvements to the proposed track alignment to support future railway operations.

The inspection concluded at Madhira Railway Station, where he assessed ongoing infrastructure upgrades and passenger facilities. Reiterating that safety remains the highest priority, Mathur called for continuous monitoring of development works, timely execution, quality construction, and improved passenger-centric services across the South Coast Railway network.

BJP Launches Free Legal Aid Centres Across Andhra Pradesh

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched free legal advice centres across the state to provide legal assistance to the poor, the needy, and party workers. The initiative was inaugurated at the BJP state office in Vijayawada under the guidance of State President P. V. N. Madhav.BJP Legal Cell Chairman Pratap Reddy said two advocates will be available every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm at the state office and all district party offices to offer free legal advice and assistance. He said the initiative

aims to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent people from accessing justice.

State Office In-charge Uppalapati Srinivasa Raju said the programme is an extension of the party's 'Janata Varadhi' initiative and announced plans to strengthen the BJP Legal Cell through regular training programmes for young lawyers on BNS, BNSS, BSA, trial procedures, writ petitions, and PIL drafting.

Senior Advocate Jupudi Rangaraju, NTR District BJP President Adduri Sri Ram, BJP spokesperson Shaik Baji, and other party leaders attended the inauguration.

NEET-UG 2026 Counselling to Begin on August 4

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Dr NTR University of Health Sciences Vice-Chancellor Pulala Chandrasekhara announced that the schedule for NEET-UG 2026 counselling has been finalised for the All India Quota, Deemed Universities, Central Universities, and State Quota admissions.

The first phase of All India Quota counselling will be held from August 4 to 17, while State Quota counselling is scheduled from August 13 to 22. The last dates for joining are August 22 for the All India Quota and Au-

gust 28 for the State Quota.

Pulala Chandrasekhara said the second and third rounds, followed by the stray vacancy round, will continue until October 10, while the academic session will commence on September 8. He advised students to complete all formalities within the prescribed schedule and keep their documents ready. He added that all medical colleges have been instructed to treat Saturdays, Sundays, and gazetted holidays as working days to ensure timely completion of the counselling process.

Affordable Rice Sales to Begin Across AP on August 2

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The state government's Affordable Rice Sales programme will begin across the state on August 2, with Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar launching the initiative at Patamata Rythu Bazaar in Vijayawada.

The State Civil Supplies Department introduced the programme to supply quality rice at subsidised prices. The launch, originally scheduled for August 1, was postponed due to the inauguration of Al-

luri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under the scheme, BPT superfine rice will be sold at Rs 52 per kg, while BPT raw rice will be available at Rs 50 per kg. Officials said arrangements have been completed for sales through 130 Rythu Bazaars and 500 rice mill counters across Andhra Pradesh. The initiative aims to make essential commodities affordable and accessible while strengthening the public distribution system.

Godavari Swells as Heavy Rains Trigger High Alert in East Godavari

CH Raju
Rajamahendravaram,
August 1 | TPN Bureau

Heavy rains in the upper catchment areas of Maharashtra and Telangana have caused the Godavari River to swell rapidly, prompting authorities to place East Godavari district on high alert. The river, which remained calm until the end of July, witnessed a sharp rise in water levels over the past three days, increasing concerns across the Godavari basin.

At Bhadrachalam, the water level crossed 50 feet, leading to the issuance of the second danger warning. The rising inflows increased pressure at the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage in Dowleswaram, where officials recorded 6.16 lakh cusecs at midnight on August 1, rising to 7.01,030 cusecs by 3 am.

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri said the administration was fully prepared to handle the situation. A 26-member National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team from Vijayawada, led by Inspector Deepak, has been deployed in Rajamahendravaram to assist evacuation and relief operations in coordination with police, fire, revenue, and medical



departments.

Urban Tahsildar Ranjith Kumar inspected the Godavari riverbanks along with the NDRF team. Rajamahendravaram RDO R. Sivaramudu reviewed flood preparedness in Kedaralanka and AV Lanka villages of Kapileswarapuram mandal and instructed officials to ensure drinking water supply, transport, electricity, and fodder availability. Flooding has disrupted connectivity to 19 villages in the Koida area after causeways were submerged. Ferry services between Narsapuram and Sakinipalli have been suspended. Papikondalu tourism boat services were also temporarily

halted after cofferdam water levels crossed 30 metres.

AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) Managing Director Prakhar Jain said Bhadrachalam water level stood at 55.1 feet, with the third danger warning in force. The Dowleswaram Cotton Barrage recorded inflow and outflow of 8,36,315 cusecs. Officials expect further rise in flood levels. Authorities advised people in low-lying and riverbank areas to avoid bathing, fishing, or entering floodwaters and shift to safer locations if required. Emergency assistance is available through the toll-free helpline 1800 425 0101.

APCPDCL Launches 1912 IVRS Facility for New Power Connections

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APCPDCL) has launched a New Service Connection (NSC) application facility through the 1912 Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS), allowing consumers to apply for electricity connections from their homes.

Launching the service, APCPDCL Chairman and Managing Director P. Pulla Reddy said the initiative aims to provide simple, transparent, and technology-driven services with consumer convenience as the priority. He said the 1912 Consumer Care Service, which already handles complaints, has now been expanded to process new connection applications.

Consumers can dial 1912 and follow IVRS instructions to register applications. The requests will be forwarded to field officials for document ver-



ification, technical inspection, and completion of formalities within the prescribed timeframe. Pulla Reddy said the facility would benefit rural consumers, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities by reducing office visits and improving efficiency. He appreciated the IT Department, Cus-

tomers Services Department, and 1912 Call Centre team for implementing the service.

Director (Technical) Avula Murali Krishna Yadav, Chief General Manager (Operations) Subrahmanyam, General Manager (LMC) Srinivasa Reddy, and senior officials attended the launch programme.

Pawan Kalyan Orders Probe into Tiger Death

Amaravati, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has ordered a comprehensive and transparent inquiry into the death of a tiger in the Racherla Beat of the Giddalur Division under the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR).

Expressing concern over the incident, Pawan Kalyan said tiger conservation is vital for maintaining ecological balance and described the death of the animal as a serious matter. He directed the NSTR Field Director to conduct a detailed investigation to determine



whether the tiger died of natural causes or due to human involvement, including poaching or poisoning.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the exact cause of death should be established through post-mortem and forensic ex-

aminations in accordance with wildlife conservation protocols. He also instructed Forest Department officials to intensify patrolling and strengthen surveillance across forest areas to prevent similar incidents.

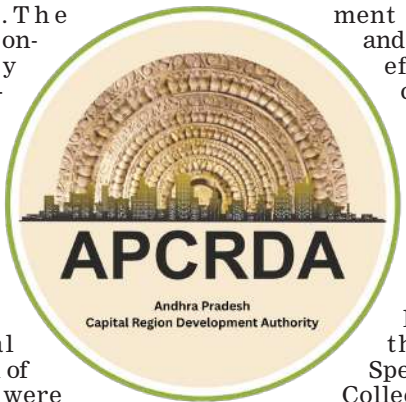
Pawan Kalyan reiterated that protecting Andhra Pradesh's forests and wildlife is a collective responsibility and affirmed the coalition government's commitment to biodiversity conservation. He warned that if any wrongdoing is established during the investigation, strict legal action will be taken against those responsible.

APCRDA Allots 109 Returnable Plots to Amaravati Farmers

Amaravati, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) allotted 109 returnable plots to farmers who contributed lands for Amaravati capital city construction through an e-lottery held at the APCRDA office in Rayapudi on Saturday. Farmers from Thulluru, Nelapadu, Rayapudi, Borupalem, Lingayapalem, and Velagapudi villages received the plots. The allotment also covered eligible farmers seeking alternative plots due to road alignment issues, court cases, and land acquisition-related

problems. The transparent online lottery was conducted in the presence of beneficiary farmers, with trial runs held for residential and commercial plots. A total of 25 farmers were allotted 74 residential and 35 commercial plots. APCRDA Director (Lands) - Capital City K.S. Bhagyarekha handed over provisional allot-



ment certificates and advised beneficiaries to complete registrations early. GIS personnel and village surveyors will assist farmers in locating their plots. Special Deputy Collectors G. Sai Srinivasa Naik, P. Padmavathi, G. Muralidhar, and M. Seshi Reddy participated in the programme.

Over 5,800 Await Organ Transplants in State

Amaravati, August 1 | TPN Bureau

As many as 5,839 people in the state are waiting for organ transplants, according to the latest Jeevandan data, highlighting the growing need for organ donation in the state. Ahead of National Organ Donation Day on August 3, Health and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav urged families to discuss organ donation and support the life-saving initiative.

Satya Kumar Yadav said Andhra Pradesh emerged as one of the leading states in organ donation, ranking sixth nationally in 2025. During the previous year, 301 organ transplant surgeries were performed using organs retrieved from 93 brain-dead donors, while 56 donors have been registered this year as of July 24.

A state-level organ donation programme organised by Jeevandan will be held in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

Jeevandan data showed that 3,715 patients are awaiting kidney transplants, 2,009 require liver transplants, 96 need heart



transplants, 15 are waiting for lungs, and four require pancreas transplants. Organ transplant services have expanded from three hospitals to nine across Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur, Prakasam, Tirupati, Nellore, Kurnool, and Anantapur districts.

The Minister said one brain-dead donor can save up to eight lives and appealed to families to take informed decisions. He added that the government provides Rs 10,000 funeral assistance to donor families.

Chief Transplantation Officer Dr. Manmadha Rao said Jeevandan follows a transparent digital system for organ allocation based on registration date, medical urgency, and tissue compatibility.

Minister Durgesh Ensures Quick Relief at Nidadavolu Bus Stand

Nidadavolu, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh directed officials to clear stagnant rainwater at the Nidadavolu bus stand after heavy rains caused inconvenience to commuters on Saturday.

Though attending the inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, the minister immediately contacted officials upon learning about the situation and instructed them to take up emergency measures. Acting on his directions, officials deployed pumps to remove the accumulated floodwater and restore normal movement at the bus stand.

Kandula Durgesh said responding promptly to public issues is the government's priority, irrespective of official



engagements. He also advised residents and farmers to remain alert in view of the rising flood levels in the Godavari River and to cooperate with authorities during emergency situations.

Commuters and residents appreciated the minister's swift intervention and thanked him for ensuring immediate relief.

AP JAC Seeks Action on Employees' Pending Demands

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

AP Joint Action Committee (JAC) State President A. Vidyasagar and Secretary General K. S. S. Prasad urged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to resolve the long-pending demands of state government employees, teachers, workers, and pensioners.

Addressing the AP JAC State Executive Committee meeting at the AP NGO Home in Vijayawada on Saturday, the leaders demanded appointment of the 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC), announcement of 30% Interim Relief (IR), release of pending Dearness Allowance (DA) instalments, 11th PRC arrears, and payment of Earned Leave (EL) encashment pending since 2022.

A. Vidyasagar said more than eight years had passed since the last pay revision, causing dissatisfaction among employees. He



said AP JAC had submitted an action plan notice to the Chief Secretary and conducted a statewide representation campaign from July 1 to July 8, meeting public representatives and District Collectors. K. S. S. Prasad said the ministerial committee had responded positively and assured that a meeting with the Chief Minister would be arranged soon. He stressed the importance of DA in protecting employees from inflation and urged the government to announce a clear roadmap for pending issues.

Pawan Kalyan Nominated for SIIMA Awards 2026 Best Actor

Hyderabad, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The nominations for SIIMA Awards 2026 have been announced, with actor and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan earning a nomination in the Best Actor category for his performance in the upcoming film OG.

Pawan Kalyan will compete with leading South Indian actors including Dhanush for Kuber, Nani for HIT 3, Naga Chaitanya for Thandel, Teja Sajja for Mirai, and Venkatesh for Sankranthiki Vasthunam.

The SIIMA Awards recognise excellence in South Indian

cinema across various categories, including performances, technical achievements, and contributions to the film industry.

Pawan Kalyan's nomination has attracted attention as OG is among his major cinematic projects in recent years. The final winners will be announced at the SIIMA Awards 2026 ceremony, where actors and technicians from across the South Indian film industry will be honoured.

Representatives of various employee and pensioners' organisations attended the meeting.

Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration at a Glance

Puttaparthi: The Rayalaseema Town That Connected the World Through Service

Rayalaseema's spiritual influence does not end with Tirumala. Puttaparthi, in Anantapur district, has introduced the world to a distinctly different model of development. While Tirupati transformed faith into economic activity, Puttaparthi transformed faith into humanitarian service, and humanitarian service into regional development. Its significance, therefore, extends far



beyond being the home of an ashram. It has become a symbol of Rayalaseema's social progress, educational excellence, healthcare services and international recognition. The Prasanthi Nilayam Ashram, founded by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, is today one of the world's best-known spiritual centres. According to estimates by the organisation, nearly 3 to 5 million devotees and visitors from more than 120 countries visit Puttaparthi every year. During major festivals, hundreds of thousands of devotees arrive within a single week. This steady flow of visitors has significantly boosted hotels, transport services, local businesses, employment and the regional service economy, making Puttaparthi another excellent example of a multiplier economy. What distinguishes Puttaparthi, however, is that this economic activity is directly linked to humanitari-

an service. Puttaparthi has earned global recognition through three pillars of public welfare—free healthcare, free education and safe drinking water. Since its inception, the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences at Prasanthigram has provided completely free treatment to more than 3.5 million outpatients, performed over 350,000 complex surgeries, and carried out more than 150,000 cardiac catheterisation procedures. Every year, another 70,000 to 80,000 new patients receive advanced medical treatment entirely free of cost. The institution has emerged as one of the world's most remarkable examples of a super-speciality healthcare system driven entirely by the philosophy of selfless service rather than commercial objectives. What makes this model even more unique is its tradition of voluntary medical service. Many leading super-speciality doctors from some of India's premier hospitals regularly visit Puttaparthi for designated periods to offer their services free of charge. Specialists in cardiology, neurosurgery, urology, ophthalmology and several other disciplines consider their work not merely as medical practice but as an offering of service inspired by the ideals of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This unique blend of world-class medical expertise and humanitarian values has given Puttaparthi's healthcare system a distinctive identity. Another remarkable feature of the hospital is that

every essential service—from diagnostic tests and surgeries to medicines, food and accommodation—is provided com-

metres. It is widely regarded as a landmark achievement in the history of voluntary public service in India. The initiative



pletely free from the moment a patient enters the hospital until discharge. It stands as one of the rare examples in the world demonstrating that healthcare can be delivered as an act of human service rather than a commercial enterprise.

The same philosophy extends to education. Through the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) and its affiliated educational institutions, thousands of students receive quality education every year, entirely free of cost. Equal emphasis is placed on academic excellence, character building, discipline and a spirit of service, making the institution's educational model unique. Among Puttaparthi's most influential service initiatives is its drinking water project. In one of India's most drought-prone regions, the project has supplied safe drinking water to more than 1.5 million people across over 731 villages through a pipeline network extending more than 2,000 kilo-

demonstrated how non-governmental organisations can play a transformative role in regional development alongside government agencies. The drinking water programme was not confined to Anantapur district alone. The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust later extended similar projects to Chittoor district in Rayalaseema and parts of Telangana, further reinforcing its humanitarian mission. Another interesting dimension of Puttaparthi's future lies in transport connectivity. The inclusion of Puttaparthi in the Central Government's proposed high-speed rail corridor suggests that the town could gain greater economic and tourism significance in the years ahead. If the proposal materialises, it could further expand spiritual tourism while attracting additional investments, service-sector growth and employment opportunities. The influence of Puttaparthi extends far beyond the boundaries of

the ashram. Devotees, volunteers, students and medical professionals from around the world contribute significantly to the local economy. Hotels, transport services, retail markets, small businesses and other service industries all benefit from the steady inflow of visitors. Puttaparthi clearly demonstrates how a spiritual centre can profoundly influence the social and economic life of an entire region. The story of Puttaparthi is not merely about faith. It is the story of transforming faith into service, service into human development, and human development into regional economic progress. If Tirupati represents Rayalaseema's spiritual-economic strength, Puttaparthi represents its humanitarian development model. Together, these two spiritual centres have created one of the most distinctive models of regional development in India. Puttaparthi's development journey delivers a powerful message: spirituality alone cannot transform a region. Lasting development becomes possible only when spirituality is combined with education, healthcare, humanitarian service and modern infrastructure. If Tirupati is the great centre of faith in Rayalaseema, Puttaparthi is the centre where service has been transformed into development. That is why these two spiritual destinations are far more than places of worship—they are powerful engines of regional economic

Bhogapuram Airport Sparks Reverse Migration Says CM Naidu

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Chandrababu Naidu said Andhra Pradesh attracted investments worth 6.13 lakh crore across 189 projects in North Andhra over the past two years, with potential to generate 5.57 lakh jobs.

He announced that eight priority irrigation projects worth 2,784 crore would be completed within three years and confirmed progress on the Neradi barrage, Godavari water supply to Anakapalli by August 14, and the Vamsadhara-Godavari river interlinking project.

Highlighting prospects, he said sectors such as tourism, pharmaceuticals, rare earth minerals, highways, and spir-

itual tourism would drive regional growth. He also stated that Polavaram Project would be completed by 2027 and Amravati Phase-I by 2028.

Praising Narendra Modi's leadership, Chandrababu Naidu said he had not seen a leader like him in five decades of public life. The venue echoed with "Thank you Modiji" slogans from lakhs of attendees. Narendra Modi, after touring the airport facilities, commended Chandrababu Naidu for attracting investments and assured full Central support, stating that Andhra Pradesh is progressing rapidly under a "double-engine government" focused on investment, exports, and employment.

PM Modi Inspects Bhogapuram Airport Facilities After Inauguration

continued

felicitated the Prime Minister with a Ponduru Khadi shawl, while Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh presented him with a traditional Bobbili Veena.

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer, Goa Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai, Union Ministers Kinjarapu Rammoohan Naidu, Srinivasa Varma, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, state ministers, and public representatives attended the programme.

Bhogapuram Airport to Boost North Andhra Growth

continued

features to the dignitaries. Speaking at the event, Rammoohan Naidu said the inauguration marked a historic milestone and expressed confidence that Bhogapuram would emerge as an aviation hub. He stated that world-class facilities, including maintenance infrastructure, would attract aircraft from across the globe. He said NDA governments

were responsible for major projects in the region, including the railway zone, airport and steel plant. He expressed happiness over the grand inauguration attended by more than two lakh people and said the airport would accelerate North Andhra's progress. Union and state ministers, GMR representatives, officials and people participated in the programme.

Bhogapuram Airport to Drive North Andhra Growth: Lokesh

continued

place where some people once questioned the need for even basic transport facilities. He said the project reflects the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Lokesh described North Andhra as the future growth engine of Andhra Pradesh and said the airport would create opportunities in industries, IT, tourism, exports and employment. He appreciated the contribution of farmers, workers and GMR Group in completing

the project.

He said the NDA government has brought several major projects to Andhra Pradesh, including infrastructure, railway zone and industrial investments. Lokesh stated that North Andhra, which was once known for migration, would now become a region of jobs and opportunities. He expressed confidence that Bhogapuram Airport would place the region on the global map and accelerate development across Andhra Pradesh.

Bhogapuram Airport Marks New Era of Development: Pawan Kalyan

continued

would become a major growth engine for North Andhra.

Pawan Kalyan praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and said the country has progressed across various sectors under his guidance. He appealed to people to support Modi's efforts towards national

development.

He said infrastructure development, industries and improved connectivity are essential for a developed nation. Referring to various projects worth 17,435 crore inaugurated during the event, he said they would strengthen road connectivity, energy supply and employment opportunities for youth.

The Deputy Chief Minister said Bhogapuram Airport, named after legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, would remain a symbol of progress and inspire future generations. Governor Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Union ministers, state ministers and public representatives attended the event.

Bhogapuram Airport to Transform North Andhra Economy: Srinivasa Varma

continued

development initiatives. He stated that the Centre is extending strong support through major infrastructure investments.

Srinivasa Varma described the Bhogapuram International Airport as a game-changer for North Andhra. He said the modern airport, built with advanced technology at an estimated cost of 5,000 crore, would boost investments, industries, tourism, trade and employment opportunities in the region.

He added that the airport would help farmers, aqua producers and businesses connect their products with national and international markets through improved cargo facilities. He highlighted that the UDAN scheme has expanded air connectivity and made air travel accessible to common people.

Srinivasa Varma said Bhogapuram Airport would become a gateway for North Andhra's future growth and contribute significantly to Andhra Pradesh's overall development.

Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration at a Glance



AP Records 21% Growth in Net GST Revenue Up to July

continued

stood at Rs 20,464.77 crore up to July 2026, compared with Rs 17,059.65 crore during the same period last year, marking a 20% increase.

In July 2026 alone, total Commercial Taxes collections stood at Rs 5,105 crore, a 14% rise over Rs 4,494 crore in July 2025. Net GST collections increased to Rs 3,268 crore from Rs 2,930 crore, registering 12% growth and marking the fourth consecutive month of year-on-year growth in FY 2026-27.

The State received an IGST settlement of Rs 1,993.83 crore for July 2026, which was 17.04% higher than the Rs 1,703.55 crore settled during the same month last year. The settlement is the third-highest ever received by Andhra Pradesh in a single month.

The department said improved compliance, stronger enforcement, revenue monitoring, and technology-based initiatives contributed to the growth. AI-based data analyt-

ics, AI-powered scrutiny, UPI-based analytics enforcement, DISCOM-linked registration verification, and Aadhaar-integrated expansion of Profession Tax helped strengthen collections.

Among southern states, Andhra Pradesh recorded 21.43% growth in cumulative Net GST collections, ahead of Telangana at 19.76% and Tamil Nadu at 18.47%, while the national average stood at 16.95%.

The department stated that technology-driven measures, including machine-learning-based risk assessment, automated return scrutiny, inter-departmental data sharing, and predictive analytics, have improved tax administration efficiency.

Babu A said the State would continue expanding AI-powered enforcement and compliance measures during FY 2026-27 to sustain revenue growth and support developmental initiatives.

Infographics

Governor Joins PM Modi at Historic Bhogapuram Airport Inauguration

continued

Lokesh, and other dignitaries also participated in the event.

The inauguration marked a major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure devel-

opment, with the airport expected to enhance connectivity, promote investment, and accelerate economic growth in the North Andhra region.

DCP Urges Public to Stay Alert Against Human Trafficking

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

As part of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the NTR Police Commissionerate organised an awareness programme at Nirmala High School in Vijayawada.

Speaking at the event, DCP K.G.V. Saritha said awareness and vigilance are the strongest tools to prevent human trafficking. Referring to this year's theme, "Trapped Behind the Scam," she cautioned students against sharing personal information, OTPs or bank details

with strangers on social media.

She urged the public to report suspected cases of child trafficking, child labour or other crimes through Childline 1098, Police Emergency 112, Women Helpline 181 and Cyber Helpline 1930.

Forum for Child Rights Director B.S. Koteswara Rao, school principal Sister Roble Mathew and other officials participated. Students also took a pledge against human trafficking.

‘Ameer Log’ Team Promotes Film in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The team of the upcoming youthful entertainer ‘Ameer Log’ visited Vijayawada on Saturday to promote the film, which is scheduled for a worldwide release on August 21.

The cast and crew, including director Ramana Reddy Soma, actors Manoj, M.C. Hari, Shashidhar and Sai Yogi, first offered prayers at the Kanaka Durga Temple on Indrakeeladri before interacting with the media.

Nutrition Sector Offers New Livelihood Opportunities for Women: Collector

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Saturday said the nutrition sector offers vast employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, enabling them to achieve economic empowerment. Speaking at a training programme for Self-Help Group (SHG) women at the RISE Centre in Guntupalli, Ibrahimpatnam, the Collector said value-added food products, processing, packaging and marketing can provide sustainable livelihoods.

The programme, organised

by NTR District RISE in association with Native Table and FICCI FLO Vijayawada, focused on the production of nutrient-rich brown eggs through natural poultry farming. Participants were trained in antibiotic-free poultry rearing, nutrition and marketing.

Lakshmisha said quality natural food products strengthen immunity and improve public health while creating income opportunities for women. DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao and representatives of Native Table and Pramaan Poultries attended the programme.

Public Warned Against Cyber Fraud Using Judge’s Identity

Machilipatnam, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Krishna District Judiciary has warned the public against a cyber fraud attempt involving impersonation of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Krishna, at Machilipatnam. On Friday, some advocates and court staff received WhatsApp messages from an unidentified person using the Judge's photograph as the display picture and seeking money transfers. A complaint has been

lodged with the Chilakalapudi Police, requesting an investigation in coordination with Cyber Crime authorities. The District Judiciary clarified that no judicial officer would ever seek money through WhatsApp or any unofficial communication. The public has been advised not to transfer money or share OTPs, PINs, passwords or bank details and to immediately report such messages to the police or Cyber Crime authorities.

State’s First Free 2D Echo Scanning Centre Launched in Vijayawada West

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The State's first free 2D Echo Scanning Centre for pregnant women was inaugurated in Vijayawada West constituency on Saturday by MLA and former Union Minister Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary) under the Sujana Foundation. Speaking on the occasion, Sujana Chowdary said the initiative aims to detect heart-related abnormalities in pregnant women and unborn babies at an early stage, ensuring better maternal and child healthcare. He said around 550 pregnant wom-

en in the constituency would benefit from the free advanced scanning services in the first phase. NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha said the initiative would help reduce maternal and infant mortality and suggested that the model be expanded to other parts of the district. TDP National Vice-President Buddha Venkanna appreciated the initiative, saying it would provide corporate-level healthcare free of cost to pregnant women. Public representatives, doctors and officials attended the programme.

VMC Chief Reviews Pension Distribution

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation In-charge Commissioner A. Ravindra Rao on Saturday inspected the NTR Bharosa pension distribution in various parts of the city and directed officials to ensure timely doorstep delivery to all eligible beneficiaries. He reviewed the process at Circle-3 and One Town, interacted with

beneficiaries and stressed transparent distribution through Aadhaar and Face Recognition System (FRS). Ravindra Rao also inspected sanitation works and the Anna Canteen near Gandhi Women's College, directing officials to maintain cleanliness, improve waste management and ensure the supply of hygienic, quality food. Zonal Commissioner N. Srinivas accompanied him.

Officials Asked to Work in Coordination to Resolve Krishna District Issues

Machilipatnam, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Krishna Zilla Parishad Chairperson Uppala Harika on Saturday directed officials of all departments to work in coordination for the speedy resolution of public issues in the undivided Krishna district.

Speaking at the Zilla Parishad general body meeting, she inaugurated the modernised Zilla Parishad meeting hall, Chairperson and CEO chambers, renovated at a cost of 98 lakh, besides a crèche and a rest room for women employees. Harika said steps were being taken to protect Zilla Parishad assets and increase revenue through the convention hall, shopping complexes and other commercial projects. The meeting discussed issues relating to



irrigation, education, health-care, roads, fertiliser supply, the Talliki Vandanam scheme and private school fees. In-charge District Collector M. Naveen di-

rected officials to resolve the issues on priority and create awareness among farmers about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

Crop Insurance Registration Deadline Extended Till August 15: Nettem Raghuram

Jaggayyapeta, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank (KDCC Bank) Chairman Nettem Raghuram on Saturday welcomed the extension of the crop insurance registration deadline under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till August 15 for all notified Kharif-2026 crops except paddy.

Addressing a press conference in Jaggayyapeta, he said the decision would benefit farmers facing erratic weather conditions and urged all eligible farmers, irrespective of whether they had availed crop loans, to complete registration before the deadline.

Raghuram said farmers affiliated with KDCC Bank could register through its 59 branch-



es and 425 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS). He assured that bank staff would provide all necessary assistance for hassle-free registration.

He advised farmers not to

wait until the last day and said crop insurance would provide financial protection against losses caused by natural calamities. Several cooperative society representatives attended the programme.

CPI Demands Change in ‘Anti-People’ Policies

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

CPI State Secretary G. Es-waraiah on Saturday urged the Centre and State governments to change their alleged anti-people policies and govern in line with public aspirations.

Speaking at the CPI Vijayawada city executive meeting held at Dasari Bhavan, Es-

waraiah alleged that rising prices, unemployment, lack of remunerative prices for farmers, and inadequate education and healthcare were causing widespread public discontent. He called on people to make the party's "Chalo Delhi" programme on September 1 a success.

District leaders Donepudi

Shankar and G. Koteswara Rao announced that public awareness padayatras would be organised across Vijayawada from August 6 to 15, followed by protest programmes under the banner of people's organisations from August 17 to 26. Several CPI leaders and party workers attended the meeting.

MP Chinni Leads TDP Door-to-Door Campaign

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Siv-anath (Chinni) participated in the state-wide "Intintiki Telugu Desam" campaign in Vijayawada Central and West constituencies on Saturday, urging TDP workers to take government welfare and development programmes to every household.

MP Chinni toured the Central constituency with MLA Bonda Uma Maheswara Rao

from Vardhana Church near Government Press in the 31st Division, and the West constituency with former MLC and TDP West constituency in-charge Buddha Venkanna from Aaru Bavula Centre in the 55th Division.

He interacted with residents, explained government initiatives, and enquired about local issues. Chinni said the alliance government was fulfilling promises and balancing welfare with development. He called public support and party

workers' dedication the strength of TDP.

During the West constituency programme, MP Chinni recorded a selfie video with activists and the public, appreciating their enthusiasm. Leaders including Navaneetham Sambasiva Rao, Gaddam Srinivas, Malayadri, Datla Rajesh, Buddha Venkanna, M.S. Baig, Asha, Dhanekula Subbarao, Mohammad Zahid, Sheikh Naseema, and other party leaders participated.

Focus on Heritage Conservation at ‘Sapta Sindhu–2026’

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Saturday said youth have a vital role in preserving India's culture, heritage and architectural legacy for future generations. He inaugurated "Sapta Sindhu-2026: Amaravati Edition", organised jointly by AE Foundation, Vishwa Bandhu Trust, IGNCA and the School of Planning and

Architecture, Vijayawada. Addressing the gathering, the Collector urged students to blend India's rich heritage with modern innovation and contribute to sustainable development through creative thinking and architectural excellence.

Vijayawada West MLA Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary (Sujana Chowdary) said Indian temples are not

only spiritual centres but also masterpieces of architecture. He encouraged young architects to study traditional temple design principles and adapt them to contemporary needs. He also stressed the importance of balancing development with environmental conservation. Architects, academicians, students and artists participated in the event.

Free Cancer Screening Camp Held at Pamarru

Pamarru, August 1 | TPN Bureau

A free cancer screening camp was organised at Shruthi Hospital in Pamarru on Saturday by HCG Cancer Centre, Gu-nadala, Vijayawada. Around 290 people from Pamarru and nearby villages participated.

Cancer surgeon and Shruthi Hospital Director Dr. K.S.L. Shruthi, along with Dr. B. Anitha of HCG Cancer Centre, conducted cancer screening.

Pap smear tests and breast screening were carried out for women, while prostate cancer blood tests were conducted for men. Doctors from Oasis IVF

and Fertility Hospital also provided counselling, fertility scans and semen analysis for childless couples.

The camp was supported by Niramai Thermaltyx for breast screening and attended by HCG Cancer Centre and Shruthi Hospital staff, besides employees of Akshay Aqua.

MY Bharat to Hold Statewide Anti-Drug Campaign on August 2

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

MY Bharat, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will organise the nationwide "Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan" across Andhra Pradesh on August 2 to promote a drug-free society.

As part of the campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address youth from nearly 10,000 locations across the country. Sports, fitness sessions, meditation, cultural programmes, awareness rallies, walkathons and street plays will be organised to spread awareness against drug abuse.

In Andhra Pradesh, the live interaction will be held at Vi-



sakhapatnam, Tirupati, Lok Bhavan (Vijayawada), Vijayawada and Kakinada. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer will attend the programme at Lok Bhavan as the chief guest.

MY Bharat State Director K. Venkat Uzwal said the campaign aims to inspire youth to become ambassadors of a drug-free society and contribute to building a healthy and developed India.

Court Verdict Upholds Justice in Krishna

Milk Union Election Dispute: Shivaram

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Senior TDP leader Shivaram on Saturday welcomed the Co-operative Tribunal's decision to cancel the 2023 Krishna Milk Union (Vijaya Dairy) elections, stating that "justice has finally prevailed."

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada, he alleged that the management and officials had violated the Union's bylaws by disqualifying their nominations on frivolous grounds. He said his group had challenged the election process before the Cooperative Tribunal, which ruled in their

favour.

Shivaram further alleged that irregularities had continued since 2020 and accused the management of appointing directors contrary to the bylaws. He questioned the functioning of the Union and claimed that Vijaya Dairy had suffered a significant decline in market share.

He also alleged misuse of the Union's funds on legal battles and demanded that ineligible directors refund the sitting fees and other expenses incurred during the past two years. Several dairy farmers attended the press conference.

NTR Bharosa Ensures Social Security

for the Poor: Collector Lakshmisha

Vijayawada, August 1 | TPN Bureau

NTR Bharosa pensions are providing social security to the poor by ensuring that welfare benefits reach eligible beneficiaries at their doorstep, said NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Ramamohan Rao. The Collector and the MLA participated in the pension distribution programme held at JD Nagar near Auto Nagar on Saturday. They interacted with beneficiaries, enquired about their well-being and distributed pensions. Speaking on the occasion, Gadde Ramamohan Rao said the State government is implementing every welfare scheme with transparency and accountability. He urged people to make the best

use of both welfare and development programmes to improve their standard of living.

Collector Lakshmisha said pensions worth 98.12 crore are being distributed to 2,24,793 beneficiaries across the district this month. He stated that government staff are delivering pensions directly to the homes of senior citizens, persons with disabilities and other eligible beneficiaries to ensure they do not face any inconvenience. He added that officials are continuously monitoring the distribution process at the field level to ensure smooth implementation without any disruption. DRDA Project Director A.N.V. Nanchara Rao and other officials were present during the programme.

National Lok Adalat to Be Held on September 12

Machilipatnam, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Krishna District Legal Services Authority will organise the National Lok Adalat on September 12 across all courts in the undivided Krishna district, District Legal Services Authority Chairperson and Principal District Judge Gut-tala Gopi said. In a statement on Saturday, Gopi said the Lok Adalat would provide an opportunity to settle civil cases, compoundable criminal cases,

excise-related cases and other eligible disputes through mutual consent. He urged litigants to make use of the Lok Adalat to resolve pending cases amicably, saving both time and litigation costs. He said the initiative offers a speedy and permanent settlement of disputes without prolonged court proceedings. The Principal District Judge appealed to the public to utilise the National Lok Adalat for amicable resolution of eligible cases.

MP Balashowry Assures Funds for Desilting Drainage Canals

Machilipatnam, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry has assured that funds will be sanctioned for desilting drainage canals in Mopidevi mandal, Jana Sena leader Kosuru Shivanaga Malleswara Rao said.

Shivanaga Malleswara Rao met the MP at his office in Machilipatnam on Saturday and submitted a representation seeking desilting of the drainage canal from Uttara Chiruvollulanka Locks to Mopidevi. He explained the difficulties faced by farmers during the rainy season due to silted-up drains.

Balashowry informed him that the Drainage Department



had prepared estimates of around 11 lakh for the works and assured that funds would be sanctioned. Shivanaga Malleswara Rao thanked the MP for responding promptly to the farmers' concerns. Kureti Raghava, Repalle Nagendra Babu and others were present.

92.84% of NTR Bharosa Pensions Distributed in Eluru District

Eluru, August 1 | TPN Bureau

District Collector K. Vetriselvi said 92.84% of NTR Bharosa pensions were distributed across Eluru district on Saturday, the first day of the monthly pension disbursement.

She said pensions were due to 2,54,579 beneficiaries, of whom 2,36,351 received their pensions between 6.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. through 605 village and ward secretariats.

The Collector appreciated the efforts of 4,954 secretariat staff members who visited beneficiaries' homes to ensure doorstep delivery of pensions.

She said arrangements were being made to provide pen-



sions to the remaining beneficiaries, including those undergoing treatment at hospitals outside the district, on humanitarian grounds.

Vetriselvi directed the DRDA Project Director to ensure secretariat staff personally contact pending beneficiaries and complete 100% pension distribution across the district by the evening of August 3.



Women's Competition Begins at State Carrom Tournament

Nellore, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The women's events of the Andhra State 1st Ranking Carrom Tournament-2026 commenced on the second day at Nellore Club. The tournament is being organised by the Nellore District Carrom Association under the supervision of the Andhra State Carrom Association. The women's competition was inaugurated by Malireddy Kotareddy, Tournament Co-Chairman and former Ranji Trophy cricketer, by striking the ceremonial first shot. Addressing the gathering, Kotareddy said discipline, dedication and regular practice are essential for success in sports. He expressed confidence that women players would achieve national and international recognition in carrom. Mannarayana, President of the Nellore District Carrom Association, said the growing participation

of women players reflects the sport's steady development in Andhra Pradesh. Shaik Abdul Jaleel, General Secretary of the Andhra State Carrom Association, said around 200 men and women players from across the state are participating in the tournament. He announced that 14 players, including CH. Janardhan Reddy, G. Venu Madhav, Shaik Allah Bakshu and B. Kishore, qualified for the men's pre-quarterfinals. P. Srinivasulu, Secretary of the Nellore District Carrom Association, said free accommodation, food and other facilities have been arranged for all participants. The best performers from the men's and women's categories will be selected to represent the Andhra Pradesh State Carrom Team. The event was attended by office-bearers, sports officials, players and spectators



Chilakaluripet Tops Pension Distribution in Palnadu

Chilakaluripet: Chilakaluripet Municipality secured first place in Palnadu district in the distribution of NTR Bharosa pensions for August by achieving a 97.69% success rate.

Out of 10,935 sanctioned pensions within the municipal limits, 10,682 were distributed to beneficiaries, enabling the municipality to top the district rankings. Narasaraopet Municipality finished second with a distribution rate of 97.68%, narrowly missing the top spot by just 0.01%. Sattenapalli Municipality secured third place with 97.67%. Officials said the timely distribution reflected the coordinated efforts of municipal staff in ensuring doorstep delivery of pensions to eligible beneficiaries across the municipality.

BJP Leader Seeks Action on Highway Tree Maintenance

Kadiri: BJP National Council Member S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy has urged the Satya Sai district administration to take immediate action to prevent accidents caused by poor maintenance of roadside trees along the National Highway in Kadiri. In a statement, he alleged that a private organisation entrusted with tree maintenance under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative had failed in its responsibility. He appealed to the District Collector, Joint Collector and Municipal Commissioner to review the issue and implement a permanent solution. He also thanked the officials for their prompt response and called for effective maintenance to ensure public safety.

443 Assistive Devices Distributed to 309 Beneficiaries in Darsi

Darsi: District Collector P. Rajababu, along with Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and Darsi TDP In-charge Gottipati Lakshmi, distributed 443 assistive devices worth 79.59 lakh to 309 persons with disabilities at Darsi Agricultural Market Yard. Rajababu said the governments are committed to the welfare of persons with disabilities and assured support through welfare schemes and assistive devices. Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy said devices worth 2.25 crore are being distributed across the undivided Prakasam district through ALIMCO. Gottipati Lakshmi highlighted the State government's enhanced pension and welfare initiatives.

Assistive Devices Distributed to 309 Beneficiaries in Darsi

Darsi, Aug 1 | TPN Bureau

District Collector P. Rajababu urged persons with disabilities to move forward with self-confidence and focus on achieving their goals while addressing a distribution program at the Darsi Agricultural Market Yard on Friday.

The event, organized by the Department for the Welfare of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens in collaboration with ALIMCO, saw the distribution of 443 assistive devices worth 79.59 lakh to 309 beneficiaries. Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and Darsi constituency TDP in-charge Gottipati Lakshmi participated.

The Collector highlighted that both Central and State governments are extending full support through schemes under 'Indradhanassu', providing battery-operated tricycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and crutches. He assured that remaining eligible beneficiaries



would be covered in the next phase and announced that job vacancies would soon be filled by candidates with disabilities.

Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy said assistive devices worth 2.25 crore are being distributed across the undivided Prakasam district, with nearly 80 lakh allocated to Darsi. He

thanked Union Minister Virendra Kumar for the support and noted that 143 battery-operated tricycles were included.

Gottipati Lakshmi highlighted increased pensions and welfare measures. Officials and local leaders attended, while beneficiaries expressed happiness over the support.

Sahasra Ghatabishekam Held at Srikalahasti Temple

Srikalahasti, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Sahasra Ghatabishekam was performed with great devotion and grandeur at the Srikalahastiswara Swamy Temple on Saturday. The sacred ritual was conducted under the guidance of temple priests and Vedic scholars, who performed special pujas and ceremonially bathed the deity with water from a thousand sacred pots in accordance with scriptural traditions.

Hundreds of devotees participated in the ritual amid the chanting of Vedic hymns and traditional auspicious music, seeking the blessings of Lord Srikalahastiswara. Temple au-



thorities said the ceremony was organised to pray for universal well-being, peace and happiness of the people, timely rainfall, and the prosperity of the state. Executive Officer B.K. Venkatesulu, Temple Chairman K. Sai Prasad, and Gov-

erning Council members Gurrappa Shetty and Lakshamma took part in the religious ceremonies. Following the rituals, Teertha Prasad was distributed to the devotees who attended the programme in large numbers.

World Auto Drivers' Day Celebrated

Chirala, August 1 | TPN Bureau

World Auto Drivers' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at Masjid Centre in Chirala on Saturday under the leadership of Kunchala Ravi, President of the Swayamkrushi Auto Workers & Owners Association. The celebrations included the distribution of sweets to auto drivers and local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Honorary President Salagala



Vijay praised the invaluable services rendered by auto drivers, who work tirelessly to provide affordable transport to the public while supporting their families. He urged the coalition government to give

priority to the welfare of auto workers and expedite the release of the annual financial assistance under the Vahana Mitra scheme.

Vijay said the assistance would provide much-needed relief to auto drivers facing rising fuel prices and increasing living expenses. Representatives of the Swayamkrushi Auto Workers & Owners Association, a large number of auto drivers, and local residents participated in the celebrations.

Ashada Henna Celebrations Held at Eluru School

Eluru, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Ashada Masam Henna Celebrations were organised at Venkataraoopeta Primary School in Eluru on Saturday to create awareness among girl students about Indian culture and traditions.

The programme was conducted by environmental activ-

ist and Eluru Red Cross Executive Committee member Adusumilli Nirmala, who applied henna to the hands of all the girl students.

Addressing the gathering, Nirmala said applying henna during the month of Ashada is not only a cultural tradition but also offers health benefits by protecting against seasonal ailments. She explained the

medicinal properties, scientific importance and traditional significance of henna to the students.

School Headmistress Rara Rajeshwari, members of Nirmala's friends' group—Vishnu Maheshwari, Mohini and Ranganayaki—along with teachers, parents and local dignitaries attended the programme and appreciated the initiative.

Prakasam, Markapuram Police Intensify Crackdown on Illegal Activities

Prakasam, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Prakasam and Markapuram district police intensified action against illegal and anti-social activities during July, District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju said. Police registered three ganja cases, arrested 11

persons and seized 8.89 kg of cannabis. Raids on gambling led to 46 cases, 239 arrests and the seizure of 12.43 lakh, five roosters, 37 motorcycles and 48 mobile phones. A total of 922 rowdy-sheets were counselled, while 2,669 cases were booked for drinking in public places. Police also registered

3,581 cases against road encroachments and 11,127 traffic violations through the e-challan system. Additionally, 396 motorists were booked for drunk driving, with courts imposing fines of 12.62 lakh. The SP warned that strict legal action would continue against all law violators.

Strict Guidelines to Be Followed for AP TET: DRO

Rajamahendravaram, August 1 | TPN Bureau

District Revenue Officer S. Bhaskar Reddy on Saturday directed officials to strictly implement government guidelines for the smooth conduct of the Andhra Pradesh Teacher Eligibility Test (AP TET June-2026). Chairing a coordination meeting at the District Collectorate, attended by officials from the Police, Electricity, Medical, RTC and Education

departments, Bhaskar Reddy reviewed preparations for the examinations. District Educational Officer K. Vasudeva Rao said the AP TET will be held in East Godavari district from August 5 to 16 in two daily sessions at Rajiv Gandhi Group of Education Institute and iON Digital Zone, both at Luthergeri in Rajamahendravaram.

Around 16,680 candidates are expected to appear. Flying squads and departmental officers have been deployed, while



Section 144 will be enforced at examination centres. Candidates were advised to follow the instructions on their hall tickets and reach the centres well in advance.

Sare Groups Flock to Indrakeeladri for Ashada Festival

Indrakeeladri, August 1 | TPN Bureau

A large number of devotees, particularly women, thronged the Indrakeeladri temple on Saturday, the 18th day of the Ashada Sare festival, to offer turmeric, vermilion, bangles and sarees to Goddess Kanaka Durga, whom they worship as their family deity and beloved daughter. Women from different regions reached the temple in traditional processions accompanied by auspicious music and Kolatam performances, adding to the festive

atmosphere.

Temple authorities said that by 5 p.m., a total of 49 Sare groups comprising 20,342 devotees had arrived to present their offerings to the Goddess.

Special arrangements were made to ensure smooth and free Darshan for the visiting Sare groups. The temple administration also provided Ashirvachanam (priestly blessings) to all devotees participating in the ritual, ensuring the celebrations were conducted in a peaceful and organised manner.

RCPI Marks 92nd Foundation Day in Eluru

Eluru, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The 92nd foundation day of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India (RCPI) was celebrated in Eluru on Saturday. RCPI District Secretary P. Kishore hoisted the party flag at the party office in R.R. Peta.

Addressing party workers, Kishore said the RCPI was founded on August 1, 1934, by Saumyendranath Tagore in West Bengal and played a significant role in India's freedom struggle. He paid tribute to martyrs who sacrificed their

lives for independence.

Kishore said the party had represented states including Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Tripura, and had served in Left-led governments. He alleged that the Centre and State governments were diverting attention from public issues by promoting communal divisions and urged them to change their policies.

District committee members and leaders of various people's organisations attended the programme.

State-Level Retired Employees' Association Polls on August 22, 23

Eluru, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The state-level elections of the Andhra Pradesh Government Retired Employees' Association will be held in Eluru on August 22 and 23. Election Officer and retired Tahsildar B. Somashekhar Rao announced on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting at the Association's district office in Kota Dibba, Somashekhar Rao released the election schedule and urged eligible members to complete the voter registration process within the stipulated time.

According to the schedule, voter registration will be conducted from 11 a.m. on August 1 to 5 p.m. on August 2, while the final voter list will be published on August 3.

The nomination process will

begin on August 22 at Nerella Raja Merchant Chambers Kalyana Mandapam in Eluru. Nominations will be accepted from 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., followed by scrutiny from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Candidates will be allowed to withdraw their nominations between 5.15 p.m. and 6.15 p.m., after which the final list of contestants will be announced.

If polling becomes necessary, voting will be conducted on August 23 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and the results will be declared later the same day.

Somashekhar Rao said retired Tahsildar D.V.S. Subbarao will serve as the Assistant Election Officer and assist in conducting the election process smoothly and transparently.

GRP Ongole Arrests Three Accused in Separate Cases

Ongole, August 1 | TPN Bureau

The Government Railway Police (GRP), Ongole, arrested three accused in separate cases during checks on trains and railway stations, recovering stolen property and handing over the accused to the concerned police for further action.

Railway SI T. Sriram said a 17-year-old juvenile wanted in a Tirumala Police case was apprehended on the Tirupati-Puri Express on July 31. Two gold chains weighing about 60 grams, valued at 7.5 lakh, were

recovered.

In another case, Potnuru Jaswanth Kumar was detained on the Howrah Express with a statue of Sri Anjaneya Swamy and handed over to Tirumala Police.

Separately, escaped accused Mekala Narasimha was traced and arrested near Gudur Railway Station before being handed over to Kadiri Town Police.

The GRP warned that railway stations and trains are under continuous CCTV surveillance and urged the public to refrain from unlawful activities.



Kapunadu Demands Reservations, Release of Corporation Funds

Ongole, August 1 | TPN Bureau

Kapunadu leaders on Saturday urged the Andhra Pradesh government to provide reservations for the Kapu community and immediately release the 2,000 crore annually announced through the Kapu Corporation.

Speaking at a press conference organised by the Ongole Parliamentary Kapunadu under the leadership of Parliamentary President Pogula Mallikarjuna, Kapunadu National President Galla Subrahmanyam and National Honorary President Chandu Janardhan

announced that a key meeting of Kapu association leaders and Kapu public representatives from across the state would be held on August 16 at Highway Palace in Vijayawada. They said the meeting would prepare a comprehensive action plan on issues concerning the Kapu community and submit it to the state government. The leaders stressed that reservations were essential to secure better educational and employment opportunities for Kapu youth. They also called for the immediate release of the promised Kapu Corporation funds.

Editorial

Clean India Begins with Civic Responsibility

The observations made by the Mumbai High Court while hearing a petition on waste management deserve the attention of every Indian. The Court remarked that when Indians are abroad, they hesitate even to throw a chocolate wrapper on the road, yet the same people have no hesitation in dumping tonnes of waste on streets and near residential areas after returning home. This simple comparison exposes a disturbing reality. The problem is not the absence of rules but the absence of civic responsibility.

Cleanliness cannot be achieved by governments and municipal authorities alone. Every citizen has a role to play in maintaining a hygienic environment. We strictly follow rules and regulations in our homes and offices because we understand their importance. The same discipline must extend to public places. Roads, parks, markets, and residential colonies are shared spaces, and keeping them clean is a collective responsibility. India has a vibrant culture of street food and roadside vendors. There is nothing wrong with enjoying these facilities, but there is everything wrong with carelessly throwing plastic covers, paper cups, food leftovers, and other waste onto the streets. Proper waste bins, regular collection, and responsible disposal can ensure that such activities do not become a source of pollution. Vendors, customers, and local bodies must work together to maintain cleanliness.

Improper waste disposal is not merely an aesthetic issue; it is a serious public health concern. Garbage dumped in the open contaminates the environment, clogs drainage systems, attracts disease-carrying insects and animals, and increases the risk of infections. Preventing such hazards begins with simple individual actions. If every citizen resolves to dispose of waste responsibly and respects public spaces as much as they respect those abroad, India can become cleaner, healthier, and more livable. Civic sense is not a foreign habit; it is a national responsibility that must become part of our daily lives.

Editor

Social Justice: The Indian Constitution and the Necessity of Reservations

Pullemla Ganesh

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India's reservation system, rooted in constitutional ideals, continues to remain at the center of intense public debate. Far from being a mere welfare measure, reservations were envisioned as a structural correction to centuries of caste-based exclusion embedded in society.

Historical Roots and Constitutional Intent

The origins of reservations lie in the deep inequalities created by the varna system, which marginalized SC, ST, and BC communities across all spheres of life. B.R. Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly designed reservations to ensure representation in education, governance, and employment. Even before Independence, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj pioneered affirmative action in 1902, granting 50% reservation to non-Brahmin communities in Kolhapur, setting a transformative precedent.

Inequality Still Shapes Reality

Despite decades of progress, caste-based discrimination persists in everyday life. From housing bias to restricted access in religious spaces, social exclusion continues in subtle and overt forms. Economically too, disparities remain stark, with a majority of land and wealth concentrated among a small segment, while marginalized communities continue to dominate low-paying and stigmatized occupations like sanitation work.

Representation and Policy Concerns

A major concern is the lim-

ited representation of marginalized groups in higher judiciary appointments. Critics argue that the absence of proportional inclusion contradicts constitutional ideals. The introduction of EWS reservations by the NDA government led by Narendra Modi has further fueled debate, with many questioning whether shifting focus to economic criteria weakens the foundational principle of social justice.

The Merit Argument Revisited

The call for a purely merit-based system often overlooks structural inequalities. Equal opportunity remains elusive when access to quality education and resources is uneven. In such a context, reservations are seen not as a privilege but as a necessary mechanism to level the playing field.

Reforming Society for Equality

Experts emphasize the need for deeper reforms beyond reservations. Encouraging inter-caste marriages,

opening priesthood to all communities, ensuring representation in the judiciary, and implementing caste-based data for policy decisions are among the measures suggested. Stronger enforcement against caste discrimination is also seen as essential.

Movements and Emerging Narratives

Recent protests, including those led by Cockroach Janata Party, Jan Jee students, and activist Abhijeet Deepke, have brought reservation issues back into public discourse. The rapid rise of the "Reservation Bachao Andolan" on social media reflects growing polarization, with concerns also emerging about counter-narratives opposing caste-based reservations.

An Ongoing Constitutional Commitment

Reservations were conceived as a response to historical injustice, not a temporary concession. The broader consensus among many scholars and activists is that they must continue until caste-based inequalities are dismantled and true social equality is achieved. Until then, the debate over reservations is unlikely to fade, reflecting the unfinished journey toward justice and inclusion in Indian society.



Varala Anand

"The responsibility of an artist is not merely to entertain, but also to provoke thought." — Naseeruddin Shah

Few actors have altered the very grammar of Indian acting as profoundly as Naseeruddin Shah. At a time when stardom often overshadowed artistry, he re-directed the discourse from celebrity to craft, demonstrating that acting is not a performance of gestures but an exploration of the human soul.

If the Indian Parallel Cinema movement marked a cultural renaissance, Naseeruddin Shah stood among its defining faces. Trained at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, and the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, he emerged alongside fellow luminaries such as Om Puri, Shabana Azmi, and Smita Patil to forge a new cinematic language one rooted in truth, restraint, and emotional authenticity.

Shah's acting is remarkable for what it refuses to do. There are no exaggerated gestures or theatrical expressions. Instead, a fleeting glimmer in the eyes, the faintest curve of the lips, a pause suspended between words, or the quiet weariness resting on his shoulders become the instruments of expression. What others articulate through elaborate dialogue, he conveys with a single glance. What many attempt to express through raised voices, he communicates through silence. His extraordinary gift lies in re-

vealing the hidden interior life of his characters.

The influence of his theatre training under the legendary Ebrahim Alkazi is unmistakable. His command of language, precise diction, disciplined physicality, and complete immersion into character all bear the imprint of the stage. Yet he never remained confined by theatrical conventions. Shah instinctively understood that cinema demands a different scale of expression, that before the camera, less is often infinitely more. His performances are therefore free of excess, achieving their power through remarkable economy.

At a time when cinema increasingly revolves around technology, visual effects, and marketing strategies, Naseeruddin Shah reminds us that the true heart of cinema remains the human being. Stories are, ultimately, about people. Acting is the art of discovering the unseen landscapes of their inner lives.

Born in 1950 in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, Shah made his cinematic debut in Shyam Benegal's Nishant. His extraordinary body of work includes landmark films such as Aakrosh, Sparsh, Mirch Masala, Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyun Aata Hai, Trikaal, Bhavni Bhavai, Junoon, Mandi, Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho!, Ardh Satya, Katha, Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, Masoom, Ijzat, Maqbool, and his unforgettable portrayal in Gulzar's television classic Mirza Ghalib. Together, these perfor-



mances constitute one of the richest legacies in Indian cinema.

His contribution to theatre is equally distinguished. Through Motley Productions, founded in 1977, Shah has directed and performed in celebrated productions of including Waiting for Godot, Ismat Apa Ke Naam, Manto-Ismat Haazir Hain, Aurat Aurat Aurat, Kambakht Bilkul Aurat, The Father, and Dear Liar. His theatre work reflects the same artistic integrity and intellectual curiosity that characterize his films.

Among his finest cinematic achievements, Sai Paranjpye's 'Sparsh' remains a milestone in Indian cinema. Shah's portrayal of Anirudh, the Principal of a school for the visually impaired, transcends conventional acting. It is an act of profound human

understanding. Through Anirudh, Shah dismantles familiar stereotypes, blindness is not an object of pity, disability is not weakness, and dignity possesses its own vision. His portrayal of a man who longs for love yet cannot endure being loved out of compassion is rendered with such emotional precision that the invisible becomes deeply visible.

Equally immortal is Gulzar's television adaptation of Mirza Ghalib. Elevated by Jagjit Singh's sublime ghazals and Shah's luminous performance, the series has become a classic of Indian television. Ghalib may be read. He may be heard. But to truly see Ghalib, one must watch Naseeruddin Shah inhabit him.

Goutam Ghose's Paar stands as one of the towering works of

Indian Parallel Cinema a searing exploration of poverty, caste oppression, and exploitation. Shah's portrayal of Naurangia, driving a herd of pigs across a river in one of Indian cinema's most unforgettable sequences, scarcely feels like acting. It appears instead as the distilled reality of millions condemned to lives of hardship and invisibility.

From Masoom to Maqbool, Shah has repeatedly reinvented himself. In Masoom, he embodies a father haunted by guilt. In Mandi, he radiates innocence amid moral ambiguity. In Khandhar, he becomes a man trapped among the ruins of time itself. In Maqbool, he reveals the terror concealed beneath the intoxication of power. Every role carries a new face, a new voice, and a new emotional universe. Even in recent productions such as Made in India: The Titan Story and Main Wapas Aaunga, his performances reveal an artist whose creative vitality remains undiminished. Naseeruddin Shah is more than an extraordinary actor. He is also a conscientious citizen who believes that artists carry responsibilities within a democracy. He has spoken fearlessly on issues such as religious intolerance, the politics of hatred, freedom of expression, and artistic liberty. His willingness to voice his convictions even at personal cost distinguishes him as much as his artistic achievements. Throughout his life, he has remained committed not to popularity, but to the demands of his own conscience. In an age that often celebrates spectacle over substance, Naseeruddin Shah endures as a rare artist who reminds us that the highest purpose of acting is not imitation but revelation, not performance, but truth.

Sleeping Under The Open Sky Is Joy Forever

Pulluru Jagadishwar Rao

Revenue Divisional Officer, Adilabad

To travel in a palanquin, carrying carts of memories, is always beautiful. One such memory is sleeping under the open sky.

In the past, sleeping outside their houses, especially during hot summer days, was very common across rural India.

It was sheer Joy sleeping under the open sky, overlooking the twinkling of stars and the moonlit sky.

People had blissful sleep, breathing fresh air and feeling a tender breeze blowing across.

In those good old days, air and sound pollution were unheard of. People would slip into sleep the moment they lay their backs on the beds. They followed the norm of early to bed and early to rise, scrupulously.

In my childhood days, string cots were ubiquitous. Every

house had as many cots as family members and children would sleep on baby cots, specially made for them or sleep by the side of their parents.

The advantage of string cots was that, unlike the present-day single or double cot beds, they were not permanent fixtures. They were portable and lightweight, and when not in use, could be lifted and leaned against walls or kept vertically outside the house, occupying minimum place.

When guests arrive, these cots double up as chairs. Cots are laid down for them to sit on and even to have a nap.

Those are the 'powerless' days and to beat the stifling summer heat, sleeping outside is inescapable.

During the summer season, every house's courtyard or

backyard would be filled with rows of cots and soon become a hub of activities.

Sometimes, even neighbours would join, making it even livelier. From singing to cracking jokes to teasing riddles, everything under the sun would be discussed and debated till sleep overwhelms all. Insomnia is unheard of.

Those childhood images of sleeping in the lap of nature, viewing the limitless sky with millions of twinkling stars, and moons antics of playing with clouds were still at the forefront of my memory.

Once, during summer holidays, nieces and nephews and other relatives descended on my house.

We all played a "hide & seek" game. One hid beneath the cot to avoid detection. But the seeker soon found him and tried to lift the cot. The boy hiding kept pulling it down. In this process, one of the cross planks of the cot broke down, rendering it unusable. Till it was repaired, I was forced to sleep on the floor

mat.

It is an unforgettable experience in my life.

With the arrival of electric fans, coolers, and now Air Conditioners, sleeping outside the house has gradually declined.

Now, people sleep inside four walls, securing the doors from inside, keeping the fans/coolers or ACs on.

Comforts have increased multiple times. Cotton mattresses were replaced by synthetic ones, making the bed more cushiony. But sleep evades many.

In the name of privacy, security and comfort, people prefer to sleep indoors, and with that, the usage of string cots has declined, and double cot/single cot laminated gained currency and became a status symbol. The poor cot, which served many with great memories, has been pushed out of the door. It still remains the poor man's rich c

The present generation is deprived of the joys of sleeping under the sky.



Legendary Climber Nirmal Purja Dies in Broad Peak Avalanche

Legendary mountaineer Nirmal “Nimsdai” Purja, one of the most celebrated climbers in the world, has died after being caught in an avalanche on Broad Peak in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The tragic incident has ended the journey of a climber who redefined the limits of high-altitude mountaineering.

Purja and several other climbers went missing after an avalanche struck the Broad Peak route, the world’s 12th-highest mountain, during an expedition. His adventure company Elite Exped confirmed his death, along with the loss of other members of the expedition team.

The company expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy, saying the world had lost one of mountaineering’s greatest climbers. It described Purja as a leader who inspired millions through his courage, determination and belief in human potential.

The avalanche occurred on



Broad Peak’s West Ridge route at an altitude of around 6,600 metres. Rescue operations were launched by Pakistani authorities, but harsh weather conditions and difficult terrain made the search extremely challenging.

Broad Peak, located in the Karakoram mountain range near K2, is considered one of the most technically demanding peaks due to its steep slopes, unpredictable weather and avalanche risks. The mountain rises to over 8,000 metres above sea level, placing

it among the world’s highest peaks.

Born in Nepal, Purja was a former soldier in the British Army’s elite Gurkha unit and Special Boat Service. He later became a full-time mountaineer and gained worldwide recognition for his extraordinary achievements.

In 2019, Purja created history by climbing all 14 of the world’s mountains above 8,000 metres in just six months and six days through his “Project Possible” expedition. His record-breaking feat established

him as one of the greatest mountaineers of the modern era.

He was also part of the historic team that achieved the first successful winter ascent of K2 in 2021, another milestone in Himalayan climbing history.

Purja’s achievements gained global attention through the Netflix documentary “14 Peaks: Nothing Is Impossible,” which showcased his determination, teamwork and passion for mountaineering.

Beyond records, Purja was admired for inspiring people to overcome challenges and pursue ambitious goals. His legacy is expected to continue through the organisations and initiatives he built, including Elite Exped and the Nimsdai Foundation.

The mountaineering community across the world has mourned the loss of a fearless climber whose achievements transformed the sport and motivated millions.

Lashkar Commander Suspected in J&K Migrant Killings

Security agencies suspect that Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Latif Bhat and his associate Waris Shah were behind the recent targeted killings of migrant workers in Jammu and Kashmir, including the latest attack in Kulgam that left two workers dead.

According to preliminary investigations, Shah allegedly provided logistical support and carried out reconnaissance before the attacks. Officials believe the killings were part of a strategy to create fear and disturb normalcy in the Valley.

Two migrant workers from Chhattisgarh, identified as Deepak and Bhupender, were killed after terrorists opened fire on them in Kulgam on Friday evening. Deepak died on the spot, while Bhupender succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital.

The attack came days after a policeman was killed in another targeted strike in Anantnag, following which security forces launched a major crackdown across Kashmir.

Investigators believe small-calibre weapons, possibly pis-



tols, were used in both attacks instead of traditional assault rifles. Security officials said the method resembles the pattern followed by “hybrid terrorists” linked to The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Officials said such attackers are often locally recruited operatives who carry out sudden strikes and then blend into civilian areas to evade security forces. The use of pistols and quick-hit tactics has made detection more difficult for agencies.

Security forces are now searching for Latif Bhat and Waris Shah as part of the ongoing investigation. Agencies believe the duo may have been involved in planning and executing multiple targeted attacks in the region.

Latif Bhat gained attention after the Shopian encounter, where he was trapped along with senior Lashkar commander Zakir Ganai. During the five-day operation, security forces killed Ganai, but Bhat managed to escape.

Since then, intelligence



Punjab Congress Faces Fresh Rift Over Channi Slogans

The internal differences within the Punjab Congress resurfaced during a party meeting in Patiala after supporters of former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi raised slogans demanding his return, disrupting the address of state Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring.

The incident occurred during a meeting held in Samana to discuss the party’s organisational strategy and preparations for upcoming political challenges. Senior Congress leaders, including Punjab in-charge Bhupesh Baghel and state unit president Raja Warring, were present at the gathering.

Trouble began when Warring took the stage to address party workers. A section of the audience, believed to be supporters of Channi, started chanting slogans such as “Charanjit Singh Channi zindabad” and “Bring back Channi, save Punjab.” The repeated slogans interrupted Warring’s speech and highlighted the ongoing divisions within the party’s Punjab unit.

The public show of support for Channi has once again brought attention to the rivalry between different groups within the state Congress. While the party leadership has been making efforts to project unity, such incidents have exposed the challenges in maintaining cohesion among senior leaders and their supporters.

The meeting was aimed at strengthening the party organisation and reviewing preparations for future electoral bat-

tles. However, the slogan-shouting episode shifted the focus from strategy discussions to internal differences.

The development came a day after some Congress leaders expressed dissatisfaction over not being invited to a party meeting in Fatehgarh Sahib, further raising concerns about coordination and communication within the state unit.

Political observers believe that factional tensions could affect the Congress’s efforts to rebuild its position in Punjab. The party has been attempting to regain political ground after facing setbacks in recent elections, but disagreements among leaders and competing claims of influence continue to remain a major challenge.

Bhupesh Baghel’s meetings with Punjab Congress leaders are expected to focus on strengthening the organisation, resolving internal disputes, and preparing a united strategy for upcoming political contests.

The latest incident has highlighted the difficulty faced by the Congress leadership in balancing different factions within the party. While individual leaders continue to enjoy strong support among sections of party workers, the visible divisions may make it harder for the Congress to present a united front before voters.

The party leadership now faces the task of addressing internal concerns and ensuring greater coordination among leaders to avoid further public displays of differences.

Delhi Lakshmi Yojana Portal Opens, 1,083 Women Register on First Day

The Delhi government’s Lakshmi Yojana portal went live on Saturday, marking the beginning of the registration process for the city’s monthly financial assistance scheme for women. Within a few hours of launch, 1,083 women had completed their registrations, according to government officials.

The scheme aims to provide eligible women with financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per month. Registration camps were set up across Delhi from 8 am, where officials and volunteers assisted applicants in completing the online process, checking eligibility and uploading required documents.

At several centres, women were seen waiting in queues since morning. Officials said each application initially took around 25 to 30 minutes to complete, as applicants had to enter Aadhaar details, family information, bank details and upload supporting documents.

Many women who completed the registration process said the procedure was simple with the help of volunteers. Some



applicants said the financial support would help them manage household expenses and provide greater financial independence.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta described the launch of the portal as a significant step towards women’s empowerment. She said the government had fulfilled its promise made to voters and allocated more than Rs 5,100 crore for the scheme.

The scheme is expected to benefit around 17 lakh women in Delhi. The government plans to release the first instalment after verification and approval of applications, likely

around Raksha Bandhan on August 28.

The financial assistance programme was one of the key promises made by the BJP during the Delhi Assembly elections. Initially referred to as the Mahila Samridhhi Yojana, it was later renamed the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana before receiving cabinet approval.

Under the eligibility criteria, applicants must be women aged between 21 and 60 years, the eldest female member of their family, and registered voters in Delhi. The annual family income limit has been fixed at Rs 2.5 lakh.

Applicants must also meet residency conditions and provide documents such as Aadhaar card, voter ID, photograph, signature and proof of residence. Women receiving certain government benefits, income taxpayers, government employees and families owning four-wheelers are excluded from the scheme.

The government said the initiative is aimed at improving women’s economic security and helping them become more financially independent.

Kishtwar Cloudburst Damages Shops, Vehicles; No Casualties Reported

A cloudburst hit the Chattro area of Jammu and Kashmir’s Kishtwar district in the early hours of Saturday, damaging several shops, commercial establishments and vehicles.

However, no loss of life has been reported so far, officials said. Union Minister Jitendra Singh confirmed the incident and said he spoke with Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma after receiving reports of the cloudburst. He said some commercial outlets and shops were damaged and assured that affected people would be provided compensation. The sudden cloudburst caused disruption in the area, with heavy water flow damaging property. Local authorities have been assessing the extent

of the damage and taking necessary measures to assist residents and business owners.

Jitendra Singh also said steps had been taken to strengthen the early warning system in the region to prevent major losses during such weather events. He highlighted that two advanced Early Warning Systems (EWS) have been installed in Kishtwar and Machhail following previous cloudburst incidents.

An Automatic Weather Station is also being installed in the Padder area to improve weather monitoring and provide timely alerts, the minister said. The incident comes amid increasing concerns over extreme weather events in Jammu and Kashmir. Last year, the Chasoti area of

Kishtwar witnessed a devastating cloudburst that caused significant damage and loss of lives.

In another incident in Rajouri district on July 19, heavy rainfall and a cloudburst triggered massive landslides, severely damaging the Thannamandi-DKG-Bufliaz Road. The road, an important Border Roads Organisation project connecting Rajouri and Poonch districts with the Kashmir Valley, remains closed due to extensive damage. Authorities have urged people in vulnerable areas to remain alert and follow weather advisories as the region continues to experience unpredictable rainfall patterns during the monsoon season.



Girl Apologises Over Remarks Against PM Modi After FIR Filed

A young girl from Noida, whose video allegedly showing her making abusive remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest went viral, has apologised following the registration of a police complaint.

In an apology video circulating online, the girl claimed that it was her “first and last mistake” and said she was influenced by people present at the protest site. She expressed regret over her comments and apologised to the public.

“I was at the protest site, where many groups were making such remarks against PM Modi. They were also encouraging others to repeat them. I am ashamed of what I said and apologise to the entire nation,” she said in the video. The girl also claimed that she was 15 years old.

The Noida Police had earlier registered a zero FIR based on a complaint filed by a Ghaziabad resident at the Expressway police station. A zero FIR allows a complaint to be filed at any police station, regardless of where the alleged incident occurred, before being transferred to the appropriate jurisdiction.

The case was later transferred to the Parliament Street police station in Delhi. Police have registered charges relat-

ed to intentional insult likely to provoke a breach of peace, statements causing public mischief and defamation.

Senior Delhi Police officials said they have reviewed the apology video and are verifying the girl’s age before deciding the next course of action. Officials said the FIR records her year of birth as 1994, while the girl has claimed she is a minor.

The incident occurred during protests at Jantar Mantar, where several objectionable remarks and social media posts targeting the Prime Minister were reported. Delhi Police has also initiated action regarding allegedly defamatory content shared online during the protests and has asked social media platforms to remove such material.

The development came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he wanted to forgive those who made abusive remarks against him and his late mother. In a video message, Modi said that punishing people or forcing them into legal battles would not change their circumstances and appealed for compassion.

Police officials are continuing their investigation while verifying the facts surrounding the incident, including the girl’s identity and age.

Commercial LPG Cylinder Prices Cut by Rs 192, ATF Rates Rise

The prices of commercial LPG cylinders have been reduced by Rs 192 per 19-kg cylinder from Saturday, providing relief to hotels, restaurants and other commercial users. At the same time, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices have been increased by Rs 5 per litre.

According to state-owned oil companies, a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder in Delhi

will now cost Rs 2,738, down from the earlier price of Rs 2,930. This marks the second consecutive monthly reduction in commercial LPG prices after a cut of Rs 183.50 on July 1.

The reduction follows a sharp rise in commercial LPG rates in recent months due to tensions in the Middle East that pushed global energy prices higher. Between Febru-

ary and June, the price of a commercial cylinder had increased by Rs 1,373, rising from Rs 1,740.50 to Rs 3,113.50.

Along with commercial cylinders, the price of a 45-kg market-priced LPG cylinder has also been reduced. It will now cost Rs 762 compared to the earlier price of Rs 808.50.

However, domestic LPG cylinder prices for household kitchens remain unchanged.

A 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder continues to cost Rs 942 in Delhi. The domestic LPG rates were last revised on June 7, when prices were increased by Rs 29 per cylinder.

Oil companies revise LPG and ATF prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmark rates and foreign exchange fluctuations. The final prices vary across states due to dif-



ferences in local taxes, including VAT. Meanwhile, ATF prices have been raised to Rs 115 per litre from Rs 110 in Delhi.

The increase reverses the reduction made in July.

Petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged af-

ter being increased by around Rs 7.50 per litre each in May. Indian Oil Corporation Chairman A S Sahney recently said oil companies were facing losses on domestic LPG cylinders as selling prices remained below the actual cost.

The latest commercial LPG price cut is expected to reduce operating costs for businesses such as restaurants, hotels and catering services.

Ceuta Crisis: 50,000 Migrants Enter Spain

A massive migrant crisis has unfolded in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta after more than 50,000 people crossed from Morocco in a single day, leaving at least 57 people dead and creating a major political and humanitarian challenge for Spanish authorities.

The sudden movement of migrants overwhelmed Ceuta, a small Spanish territory with a population of around 85,000. Thousands of people entered the enclave by crossing sea routes and border areas, creating pressure on local facilities and emergency services. The unprecedented scale of the arrivals has sparked concerns across Spain and the European Union.

Spanish officials estimated that around 50,000 people entered Ceuta, while local authorities suggested the number could be closer to 60,000. Spain's Interior Ministry later confirmed that more than 48,000 migrants had voluntarily returned to Morocco following negotiations and security measures. The crisis also resulted in significant loss of life. At least 57 migrants died during the attempted crossing,



with many drowning while trying to reach the Spanish territory. Some others died in a crowd surge near border barriers at Tarajal beach as large groups attempted to enter Ceuta. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez described the incident as a serious challenge to the country's territorial integrity. He blamed human trafficking networks for encouraging migrants to make the

dangerous journey by exploiting legal developments related to migrant returns. Authorities have begun emergency measures, including setting up temporary reception centres for registration, identification and humanitarian assistance. Spain has also increased the deployment of police and security forces in Ceuta to control the situation and prevent further large-scale crossings. The

crisis has triggered discussions within the European Union, with member states debating migration policies, border security and support for Spain. Ireland, which holds the EU presidency, called emergency meetings to discuss coordinated action and assistance. Morocco has said criminal organisations were responsible for encouraging the movement of migrants and maintained that cooperation with Spain on migration issues remains strong. Moroccan officials stated that the country supports organised and safe migration practices. The latest incident is considered far larger than previous migrant surges involving Ceuta and Melilla, Spain's two territories located on the African continent. In 2021, around 10,000 migrants entered Ceuta during a diplomatic dispute between Spain and Morocco. The current crisis has renewed debate over Europe's migration management system. Spain and EU authorities are now focusing on processing migrants, providing humanitarian support and strengthening border coordination to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Italy Tightens Border Checks After Migrant Surge in Europe

Italy has temporarily suspended parts of the Schengen agreement with Spain following a major surge in migrant arrivals at Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta from Morocco. The move has renewed debate across Europe over migration management and border security. The Italian government said the suspension will not affect Spanish citizens or other European Union nationals travelling to Italy. Regular movement between the two countries will continue as usual. Instead, targeted checks will be introduced for non-EU citizens arriving from Spain through air and sea routes. Ceuta, a small Spanish territory located on the North African coast bordering Morocco, has become a major entry point for migrants attempting to reach Europe. The recent surge saw tens of thousands of people cross into the enclave, creating a major challenge for Spanish authorities and triggering wider concerns among European nations. Italy said the temporary border measures were introduced in response to the sudden increase in migrant crossings into Ceuta. The checks are expected to remain in place for one month, after which authorities will decide whether to extend, modify or end the restrictions. The Schengen agreement allows passport-free travel across most European countries but permits temporary border controls under certain circumstances, including security threats or major migration pressures. Such measures are generally expected to be limited in duration and focused on

specific concerns rather than a complete closure of borders. The decision has drawn criticism from opposition parties in Italy. Critics of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government argue that the move is largely symbolic and does not directly address the migration situation in Ceuta. They questioned whether migrants arriving in Spain's enclave were actually planning to travel onward to Italy. Meloni's right-wing government came to power in 2022 with promises to reduce illegal immigration. The latest decision comes amid renewed political pressure from anti-migrant groups and rising debate over migration policies in the country. Opposition leaders accused the government of using the issue for political gains rather than finding practical solutions. They said the temporary checks could increase tensions with Spain and create unnecessary pressure on European cooperation. However, Italian officials defended the move as a precautionary measure aimed at strengthening border monitoring. The government has maintained that controlling irregular migration remains a priority and that temporary checks are necessary during periods of increased pressure. The Ceuta crisis has highlighted continuing challenges for the European Union, where countries are balancing free movement under the Schengen system with concerns over migration and security. Italy's decision reflects the growing political sensitivity surrounding migration routes from North Africa into Europe.



Oil Giants Gain From US-Iran Conflict

The prolonged US-Iran conflict has created major disruptions in global energy markets, but some of the world's biggest oil companies have emerged as key beneficiaries amid rising fuel prices and supply shortages. The fighting, which has affected oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, has tightened global crude supplies and pushed energy prices sharply higher. The strategic waterway, which normally handles a significant share of global oil and gas transportation, witnessed reduced traffic due to security concerns, creating uncertainty in international markets. As supply concerns increased, Brent crude prices climbed from around \$70 per barrel to above \$100 during March, April and May, briefly touching \$126. The surge affected consumers worldwide, with higher fuel costs, increased transportation expenses and rising prices of everyday goods. While households and industries struggled with increased energy bills, major oil companies recorded significant financial gains. US energy giants Exxon Mobil and Chevron reported strong quarterly performances, benefiting from higher crude prices and increased refining margins. Exxon Mobil posted a second-quarter profit of \$14.53 billion, nearly double compared with the previous period, while its revenue increased significantly. Chevron also reported a major jump in earnings, with profits rising sharply as demand for refined products such



as diesel and jet fuel remained strong. Energy experts said companies with both oil production and refining operations gained the most from the crisis. Refiners were able to benefit from higher fuel prices, especially as global supplies remained restricted and competition in international markets increased. The conflict also boosted earnings for several European oil companies. The region's major energy firms collectively reported billions of dollars in profits, reflecting the impact of higher energy prices and strong demand. However, not all oil producers benefited equally. Companies located in regions affected by export disruptions or damaged infrastructure faced challenges despite rising prices. Middle Eastern producers experienced difficulties due to transportation risks and security concerns. The surge in profits has triggered criticism from activists and some lawmakers, who argue that oil companies are benefiting from a crisis

that has increased financial pressure on ordinary consumers. Calls have grown in some countries for additional taxes on excess profits earned during periods of extreme market disruption. US lawmakers have proposed measures to impose windfall taxes on large oil producers, with the aim of using the revenue to support consumers facing higher fuel costs. Similar policies have been introduced in some European countries during previous energy crises. Oil companies have opposed such proposals, warning that additional taxes could discourage investment in future energy projects. As the conflict continues to influence global energy markets, the gap between corporate profits and consumer costs remains a major point of debate. While oil giants benefit from higher prices, millions of people worldwide continue to face the economic impact of expensive fuel and rising living costs.



US Makes Visa Bond Rule Permanent, Raises Cap to \$20,000

The United States has made its visa bond programme permanent, introducing stricter financial requirements for citizens of 50 countries, including Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The move is aimed at reducing visa overstays and strengthening immigration controls.

Under the revised rule, applicants from selected countries applying for B1 and B2 visas, which are issued for business and tourism purposes, may have to pay a security bond before attending their visa interview. The bond amount has been increased from the earlier range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 and will now be set between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

The US State Department said the decision followed a year-long review of the pilot programme launched in August last year. Officials claimed the system helped reduce visa violations and encouraged travellers to comply with immigration rules. The bond amount will be refunded if the visa application is rejected or if the traveller follows all visa conditions after entering the US. However, failure to comply with immigration requirements could result in the loss of the deposited amount. The rule primarily affects visitors travelling to the US for short-term business or tourism purposes. It does not apply to all

visa categories, including student and work visas. The inclusion of Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan has drawn attention in South Asia because of their close connections with the United States through tourism, business, education and diaspora communities. Travellers from these countries who frequently visit the US may now face additional financial requirements before obtaining visitor visas. The State Department has listed 50 countries under the programme, with most being African nations. The list also includes countries from Asia, the Caribbean and other regions. US officials said the programme has shown positive results, claiming that visa overstays among applicants covered under the pilot dropped significantly. According to the department, thousands of applicants were required to provide bonds during the trial period, though many chose not to proceed with their visa applications after the requirement was introduced. Officials argue that visa overstays create significant costs for the US government, including expenses related to detention and deportation. They believe the bond system will encourage visitors to leave the country on time after their authorised stay. However, critics have raised concerns that the higher bond amounts could

Nepal Border Crisis Deepens After Communal Violence

Communal clashes in south-eastern Nepal have triggered tension along the India-Nepal border, with authorities imposing curfews in several areas after violence left at least three people dead and several others injured. The unrest began on July 26 in Kaptanganj, a market area in Sunsari district near the Bihar border. The clash reportedly started during a dispute over loudspeakers and a religious procession. An argument between groups quickly turned violent, with stone-pelting reported from both sides. Police initially fired warning shots before opening fire to control the situation, resulting in two deaths in Sunsari. The violence later spread to neighbouring Siraha district, where another person was killed during fresh clashes despite restrictions being in place. Around 25 people were injured in the initial violence, according to reports. Authorities responded by imposing an indefinite curfew in several towns across Sunsari and Siraha to prevent further escalation. Additional security forces were deployed, and officials said efforts were underway to restore normalcy. The clashes have raised concerns because the region has witnessed similar tensions in the past. The Terai belt, which stretches along Nepal's southern border with India, has historically experienced social and political conflicts involving identity, ethnicity and representation.



Previous incidents, including clashes between Madhesi and hill-origin communities, have also resulted in casualties. The latest violence has involved Nepal's Muslim minority community, which accounts for around five per cent of the country's population. In several Terai districts, including Sunsari, Dhanusha, Parsa and Sarlahi, Hindu and Muslim communities live in close proximity, making local disputes sensitive. Nepal became a secular republic under its 2015 Constitution after ending its centuries-old Hindu monarchy. However, debates over religion and identity continue to remain politically significant, with some groups demanding the restoration of Nepal as a Hindu state. Prime Minister Balendra Shah has appealed for peace and assured citizens

that the government will conduct an impartial investigation into the violence. He said those responsible would face legal action. Home Minister Sudan Gurung visited the families of those killed in Sunsari and announced financial assistance of around Nepali Rs 8 lakh for each affected family. Opposition leaders, including former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, have called for dialogue and criticised the government's handling of the situation. With security forces maintaining strict vigil, authorities are focusing on preventing further clashes and ensuring peace in the border districts. The incident has also drawn attention in India due to the close social and economic ties between communities living on both sides of the border.

Trump's Venezuela Policy Adviser Steps Down Amid Scrutiny

Mauricio Claver-Carone, the Miami businessman who played a key role in shaping US policy on Venezuela under President Donald Trump, has stepped away from his unofficial advisory role, bringing an end to his influential involvement in Washington's Venezuela strategy. Although Claver-Carone did not hold any official government position, he became one of the most important voices on Venezuela-related issues after the US operation that led to the capture of former Venezuelan Presi-

dent Nicolas Maduro. He worked closely with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and helped influence discussions involving Venezuela's political future, oil sector and economic reforms. Claver-Carone said his departure was his own decision, describing himself as "retired on Venezuela." However, reports suggested that some officials and Trump allies had raised concerns about his continued influence and private business interests. The main controversy surrounded the fact that Claver-Carone was ad-

vising on Venezuela-related matters while also managing a private equity fund. Some critics questioned whether a private citizen should have such a significant role in decisions involving Venezuelan assets, oil agreements and potential business opportunities worth billions of dollars. Claver-Carone has denied any conflict of interest, stating that neither he nor his investment fund has any financial stake in Venezuela. The US State Department also rejected claims that he was removed from any official



role, saying he was a private citizen with regional expertise and contacts. Former US ambassador Richard Grenell re-

portedly raised concerns about Claver-Carone's activities with President Trump in July. Officials also expressed unease over his connection with Venezuelan businessman Alejandro Betancourt, who has faced allegations related to corruption and money laundering in several countries, including the US. Betancourt has denied the accusations. During his involvement in Venezuela policy, Claver-Carone helped US financial firm Centerview Partners secure a contract valued at more than \$150 million to as-

sist with restructuring Venezuela's massive debt burden. The agreement was reportedly made without a competitive bidding process, attracting attention from critics. He also played a role in facilitating discussions between Venezuela's government and opposition groups, with talks planned as part of efforts to reshape the country's political and economic direction. Claver-Carone previously served as president of the Inter-American Development Bank during Trump's first term but left fol-

lowing misconduct allegations, which he denied. He was also known for supporting tougher sanctions against Venezuela and advocating a harder US approach toward Cuba. His exit raises questions about the future direction of Washington's Venezuela policy, particularly regarding oil, economic engagement and relations with Caracas. However, several other US officials involved in the Venezuela file are expected to continue their work, and the broader policy approach is unlikely to change immediately.

GST Revenue Hits 14-Month High



India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections recorded a strong growth in July, reaching a 14-month high of Rs 2.11 lakh crore, reflecting steady economic activity and improved revenue mobilisation. This marks the second time in the current financial year that monthly GST collections have crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore milestone. The gross GST revenue in July witnessed a year-on-year growth of 15.4 per cent, registering the fastest growth rate in the last 14 months. The rise was driven by a significant increase in import-related tax collections along with healthy growth in domestic revenues. GST collections from imports surged 28.8 per cent compared to the previous year, reaching Rs 66,511 crore. The sharp rise indicates stronger trade activity and increased tax realisation from imported goods. Meanwhile, domestic GST collections, including revenues from domestic transactions and services, grew by 10.1 per cent to Rs 1.45 lakh crore. The July revenue performance follows a positive trend seen in recent months. In June, GST collections had increased by 13.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.95 lakh crore. The latest figures underline continued momentum in consumption and business activity across

sectors. The July growth rate of 15.4 per cent is the highest since May 2025, when GST revenues had recorded a 16.4 per cent increase. The consistent improvement in collections highlights better compliance, economic resilience and increased formalisation of business transactions. Experts said the rise in GST revenues reflects the overall strength of India's economy despite global uncertainties. Higher domestic consumption, improved tax compliance measures and increased digital transactions have contributed to the steady rise in indirect tax collections. The government has been focusing on strengthening the GST framework through technology-driven monitoring, improved compliance systems and measures to prevent tax evasion. These efforts have helped maintain stable revenue growth and provide additional resources for public spending and development programmes. The strong July GST numbers are expected to support government finances and provide confidence about economic growth prospects in the ongoing financial year. With revenue collections maintaining an upward trend, policymakers are closely watching future monthly figures to assess the broader economic outlook.

RBI Swap Window Attracts \$40.82 Billion Forex Inflows

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) foreign exchange swap facility has attracted overseas currency inflows worth \$40.82 billion till July 31, with Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits emerging as the biggest contributor. According to data released by the central bank, total inflows under the concessional forex swap window stood at \$40.816 billion as of July 31. The facility, which was opened in June 2026, has received strong interest from overseas investors and banking channels. FCNR(B) deposits accounted for the majority of the inflows, contributing \$36.725 billion to the total amount. Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings (OFCBs) contributed \$2.575 billion, while External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) brought in an additional \$1.516 billion. The RBI said the swap facility has witnessed steady participation since its launch on June 8, 2026. The initiative

is aimed at strengthening foreign currency inflows and supporting liquidity management in the domestic financial system. The increased inflows through the facility are expected to provide further stability to India's foreign exchange reserves and help manage currency market conditions. The move also reflects continued confidence among overseas depositors and borrowers in India's financial markets. SBI Research has projected that total inflows through the facility could rise further to around \$80-85 billion, indicating sustained demand from foreign currency deposit holders and international investors. The RBI has been closely monitoring foreign exchange liquidity conditions amid global economic uncertainties, currency fluctuations and changing capital flows. The strong response to the swap window is seen as a positive development for India's external sector.



Anawil Wire Raises Rs 50 Crore Ahead Of IPO

Gujarat-based windmill tower manufacturer Anawil Wire and Engineering has raised Rs 50.64 crore from 19 anchor investors ahead of its initial public offering (IPO). The company allotted 18.75 lakh equity shares to anchor investors at Rs 270 per share, which is the upper end of the IPO price band. The anchor investors include Abakkus Asset Manager

and Carnelian Asset Management and Advisors, which emerged as the largest participants by acquiring shares worth Rs 7 crore each. Anawil Wire and Engineering is planning to raise up to Rs 177.8 crore through its IPO. The public issue will open for subscription on August 3 and close on August 5. The IPO price band has

been fixed at Rs 257 to Rs 270 per share. The issue consists of a fresh issue of 52.84 lakh equity shares, while promoter Nimish Kumar Rameshchandra Vashi will offer 13 lakh shares through an offer for sale (OFS). The company operates in the manufacturing sector and specialises in products related to windmill tower infrastructure.

The IPO is expected to help the company raise funds for expansion and strengthen its business operations. Anchor investors play an important role in IPOs as their participation often reflects institutional confidence in the company's growth prospects. The participation of investment firms such as Abakkus and Carnelian has drawn attention ahead of the public issue. The company's shares will be closely watched by investors as the IPO enters the subscription phase. Market partici-

pants are expected to track demand from retail investors, qualified institutional buyers and non-institutional investors during the offer period. With increasing focus on renewable energy and infrastructure development, companies associated with wind energy supply chains have been attracting investor interest. Anawil Wire and Engineering's IPO comes amid continued activity in the primary market, with several companies looking to raise capital through public offerings.

SEBI Fines Zee Entertainment Rs 1.48 Crore

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL), its CEO Punit Goenka and Chairman Emeritus Subhash Chandra for alleged violations of securities laws. The market regulator also barred Punit Goenka and Subhash Chandra from accessing the securities market for one year as part of its action against the company and its senior officials. SEBI stated that the penalty was imposed after examining regulatory violations related to the company's affairs. The action follows an investigation into alleged non-compliance with securities market regulations.

According to SEBI's order, the regulator imposed a total penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on the company and the individuals involved. The move is part of SEBI's efforts to strengthen corporate governance standards and ensure compliance among listed companies. Punit Goenka is the Chief Executive Officer of Zee Entertainment, while Subhash Chandra is the founder of the Essel Group and serves as Chairman Emeritus of ZEEL. The regulatory action comes at a time when listed companies are facing increased scrutiny over disclosures, governance practices and transactions involving corporate entities.



SEBI's decision to restrict Goenka and Chandra from participating in the securities market for a year is expected to draw attention among investors and industry

observers. The order highlights the regulator's focus on maintaining transparency and accountability in India's capital markets. Zee Entertainment has been one of India's leading media and entertainment companies, operating television channels and digital platforms across various segments. The company has faced several regulatory and corporate challenges in recent years, including issues related to governance and business transactions. The latest SEBI order marks another significant development involving the company and its top leadership. The restrictions and penalty will remain applicable as per the directions issued by the market regulator.

Markets Surge On Strong Buying

Indian stock markets recorded their strongest weekly performance in nearly four months, supported by positive corporate earnings, foreign investor inflows and improving global cues. The BSE Sensex gained 2,034.87 points, or 2.67 per cent, during the week to close at 78,094.64, while the Nifty 50 climbed 616.15 points, or 2.59 per cent, to settle at 24,383.60. The rally helped benchmark indices recover from the losses witnessed in the previous week. The market recovery was driven by better-than-expected June-quarter earnings, a stronger rupee and declining crude oil prices. Investor sentiment also improved as the southwest monsoon progressed well, supporting expectations of stable economic growth. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) returned as net buyers after two weeks of continuous selling. FIIs purchased equities worth Rs 5,949.96 crore during the week, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) invest-



ed Rs 5,387.66 crore, providing additional support to the market. Sectoral indices witnessed broad-based gains, with information technology stocks leading the rally. The Nifty IT index surged 6.75 per

cent, marking its best weekly performance since December 2023. Nifty Media rose 5.97 per cent, while Nifty Auto gained 5.61 per cent. Pharma, healthcare and consumer durable stocks also ended higher. Midcap and smallcap stocks also attracted buying interest. The Nifty Smallcap 100 index advanced 2.6 per cent, while the Nifty Midcap 100 index gained 2 per cent during the week. The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increased by more than Rs 10 lakh crore, reflecting strong investor participation. Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest wealth creator during the week, followed by Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries. The Indian rupee also showed improvement, ending a five-week losing streak by gaining 118 paise against the US dollar. It closed at 95.39 per dollar on July 31 compared with 96.57 in the previous week. Market experts expect domestic factors such as earnings growth, foreign inflows and economic stability to continue supporting equities. However, investors will closely monitor global developments, crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions for further market direction.

SEBI Bars Punit Goenka, Subhash Chandra For One Year



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL), Punit Goenka and Essel Group founder Subhash Chandra from accessing the securities market over the alleged unauthorised mortgage of a ZEEL property. In its final order, SEBI stated that ZEEL's Hyderabad land was used as additional security for loans worth Rs 726 crore taken by four Essel Group entities without obtaining necessary approval from the company's board of directors or shareholders. As per the regulatory order, ZEEL has been prohibited from accessing the securities market for two months, while Punit Goenka and Subhash Chandra have been restrained for a period of 12 months. The regulator also imposed a combined penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on the company and the two individuals. SEBI imposed a penalty of Rs 30 lakh on ZEEL, Rs 58 lakh on Punit Goenka and Rs 60 lakh on Subhash Chandra as part of the action.

The case originated after ZEEL's statutory auditors reported during the financial year 2018-19 audit that title deeds of certain immovable properties were missing. Following the disclosure, SEBI initiated an investigation to examine whether there were violations of listing regulations and rules related to fraudulent and unfair trade practices. SEBI's investigation focused on whether the company's property was pledged for external group borrowings without following proper corporate procedures. The regulator concluded that the transaction involved a failure to comply with required approvals and disclosure obligations. Subhash Chandra, who serves as Chairman Emeritus of ZEEL, and Punit Goenka, the company's Chief Executive Officer, were held responsible by SEBI for their roles in the matter. The order comes amid increased regulatory scrutiny of corporate governance practices and related-party transactions involving listed companies. Market participants are closely watching the impact of the SEBI action on ZEEL's operations, management and investor sentiment. The securities market restrictions will remain in effect for the specified periods as mentioned in the regulatory order.

Optimystix Entertainment To Launch Rs 108 Cr IPO



Optimystix Entertainment India, the production house behind popular television shows like Comedy Circus, Crime Patrol and Laughter Chefs, is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on August 7 to raise around Rs 107.88 crore. The company has fixed the IPO price band at Rs 165 to Rs 174 per share, valuing Optimystix Entertainment at approximately Rs 405 crore. The public issue will include a fresh issue of 50 lakh equity shares worth Rs 87 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 12 lakh shares worth Rs 20.88 crore by founder and promoter Vipul D. Shah. The anchor book for the IPO will open on August 6, while the subscription window for investors will remain open until August 11. The share allotment process is expected to be completed by August 12, with the company likely to list its shares on the NSE Emerge platform on August 14. Optimystix Entertainment has been involved in producing several successful television programmes across comedy, reality and crime-based genres. The company has

built a strong presence in the entertainment industry through popular shows that have gained wide audience acceptance. The IPO proceeds are expected to support the company's growth plans and strengthen its business operations. The issue will provide investors an opportunity to participate in the growth journey of a content production company with experience in television and entertainment programming. With increasing demand for digital content, television shows and entertainment formats, production companies have been looking for new avenues to expand their presence. Optimystix Entertainment's market debut will be closely watched by investors as it enters the SME platform. The IPO announcement comes at a time when the Indian primary market continues to witness strong activity, with several companies tapping investors for expansion and capital requirements. The response to Optimystix Entertainment's issue will indicate investor interest in the entertainment sector and SME listings.



Boxing Gold Rush Boosts India's CWG 2026 Medal Tally

India enjoyed another successful day at the Commonwealth Games 2026 as boxers Preeti Pawar and Jaismine Lamboria struck gold on Day 10, continuing the country's impressive campaign in the ring. Preeti Pawar opened the celebrations by winning India's first boxing gold of the Games. Her victory in the final gave the Indian contingent a major boost and maintained the momentum created by the country's strong boxing performances throughout the tournament. Later in the day, Jaismine Lamboria added another gold medal to India's tally with a commanding display in her final bout. Her triumph became India's seventh gold medal of the Commonwealth Games 2026 and further highlighted the depth of India's women's boxing programme. India also added two more medals in athletics through the men's triple jump event. Indian athletes secured both silver and bronze medals, ensuring a double podium finish and contributing valuable points to the overall medal standings.

The combination of boxing and athletics medals made Day 10 one of India's most productive days of the competition. The boxing ring has emerged as one of the country's strongest medal-producing arenas, with Indian boxers consistently reaching the finals and converting opportunities into podium finishes. Attention during the day also remained on India's athletics contingent, including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, whose participation and comments generated significant interest among fans



following the live updates from Birmingham. With several events still remaining in the Games, India's medal tally continued to rise steadily as athletes competed across boxing, athletics, judo, and other disciplines. The double gold in boxing has strengthened India's position in the overall standings and increased expectations for more podium finishes in the closing stages of the tournament. The performances of Preeti Pawar and Jaismine Lamboria have been particularly significant because they underline the growing strength of Indian women in international boxing. Their victories not only added gold medals to India's tally but also demonstrated the country's continued progress in producing world-class female boxers capable of succeeding on major multi-sport stages. As the Commonwealth Games 2026 move toward their final phase, India will look to build on the momentum generated by these victories and add more medals across athletics, boxing, and other remaining events.

Jemimah-Fatima Hug Goes Viral In The Hundred

Indian women's cricket star Jemimah Rodrigues and Pakistan all-rounder Fatima Sana shared a warm post-match hug during a match in The Hundred, with the moment quickly going viral on social media and drawing widespread attention from cricket fans. The interaction took place after the Southern Brave versus Birmingham Phoenix encounter on Thursday. As players from both franchises exchanged handshakes following the game, Jemimah and Fatima were seen smiling and embracing each other, creating one of the most talked-about moments of the tournament. The clip attracted particular interest because relations between Indian and Pakistani cricket teams have remained sensitive in recent times. However, The Hundred is a franchise competition in which players from different countries compete together, and the post-match interaction reflected the cordial atmosphere often seen in such leagues. On the field, Jemimah played an impor-



tant role in Southern Brave's victory. Batting in the closing stages of the innings, she scored an unbeaten 28 runs from just 18 balls, helping her side reach a competitive total of 140 for 3. Lizelle Lee contributed 43 runs, while Maia Bouchier added 45 at the top of the order. Fatima Sana had a difficult outing with the ball for Birmingham Phoenix, conceding 33 runs in her 15-ball spell. Alana

King and Alice Capsey picked up one wicket each for Phoenix. Chasing 141, Birmingham Phoenix began strongly through a 73-run opening partnership between Tammy Beaumont and Davina Perrin. Perrin impressed with 52 off 43 deliveries, while Beaumont scored 22. However, the innings lost momentum after their dismissals. Sarah Glenn removed Perrin at a crucial

stage, and Lauren Bell struck again by dismissing Alice Capsey. Sophie Molineux then claimed two late wickets to restrict Phoenix to 116 for 5, giving Southern Brave a comfortable 24-run victory. The win extended Southern Brave's unbeaten run in the tournament to four matches, while Birmingham Phoenix remained without a win this season. Despite the cricketing result, much of the online conversation centred on the friendly exchange between Jemimah and Fatima. Fans from both countries shared the clip widely, with many describing it as a positive sporting moment that highlighted mutual respect between players competing in an international franchise environment. The viral video has once again shown how cricket often produces moments that go beyond statistics and scorecards, reminding fans that sports can also create gestures of friendship and sportsmanship that resonate far beyond the boundary ropes.

Ashwin Wants Bhuvneshwar Back In World Cup Plans



Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged Ajit Agarkar and the BCCI selectors to stay in touch with experienced pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar as India begin planning for the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. With the tournament scheduled to begin in Africa in October 2027, discussions have already started about India's ideal squad combination. While much of the public debate has focused on the batting order and the future of senior players

such as Rohit Sharma, Ashwin believes India's bigger concern is the bowling attack. According to him, the team still appears heavily dependent on Jasprit Bumrah, and India need experienced support bowlers capable of succeeding in South African conditions. Speaking on Cricinfo, Ashwin said the selectors should communicate clearly with Bhuvneshwar Kumar and encourage him to participate regularly in

domestic competitions, including the Vijay Hazare Trophy and other first-class tournaments. He suggested that a fully fit and in-form Bhuvneshwar could be extremely valuable for the 2027 World Cup campaign. Ashwin also shared his early assessment of players who should be part of India's World Cup planning. In his "Yes" category, he included Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan

Kishan, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. The "Maybe" list featured Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Varun Chakravathy, Ravindra Jadeja, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, and Prasidh Krishna. Perhaps the biggest surprise came in the "No" category, where Ashwin excluded several prominent names, including Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Abhishek Sharma, Ravi Bishnoi, Shivam Dube, and young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The inclusion of Bhuvneshwar Kumar as a definite option, while Mohammed Shami was placed only in the "Maybe" group, has attracted particular attention. Bhuvneshwar has not been a regular part of India's ODI setup in recent years, but his ability to swing the new ball and operate effectively in helpful conditions remains highly regarded. Ashwin's comments underline the importance of long-term planning for major ICC tournaments. With more than a year remaining before the World Cup, he believes India should not only identify potential squad members early but also maintain regular communication with experienced players who could still have an important role to play in the team's campaign.

PM Modi Applauds India's Commonwealth Medallists



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Indian athletes Neeraj Chopra, Yash Vir Singh, and Yamini Maurya for their medal-winning performances at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, praising their dedication, consistency, and sporting spirit. Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw with a season-best effort of 85.83 metres. Congratulating the Olympic champion, the Prime Minister said Neeraj had once again demonstrated "remarkable consistency, composure and spirit" and added that his achievements continue to make every Indian proud. PM Modi also extended his wishes to Yash Vir Singh, who secured the bronze medal in the same event with an impressive throw of 85.41 metres. He described the young athlete's performance as a reflection of his "zeal and dedication" and said the achievement would inspire many aspiring sportspersons across the country. India enjoyed a memorable double podium finish in the men's javelin event, with Neeraj and Yash Vir Singh finishing second and third respectively. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage claimed the gold medal with a throw of 89.75 metres. The Prime Minister further congratulated judoka Yamini Maurya for winning the silver medal in the women's 57 kg category. He praised her passion for judo and said her performance would encourage more youngsters to take up the sport in the future. Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu had

also congratulated the Indian medallists for their achievements in Glasgow. She described the javelin double podium by Neeraj Chopra and Yash Vir Singh as a memorable achievement that reflected their unwavering dedication and exceptional sporting excellence. The President additionally lauded Tejaswin Shankar for winning bronze in the decathlon, noting that he had become the first Indian athlete to win a Commonwealth Games medal in the event. She termed the achievement a historic milestone for Indian athletics. Yamini Maurya's silver medal also received special praise from the President, who highlighted that it marked India's third judo medal of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and reflected the country's growing strength in the sport. She commended the athlete's resilience, determination, and fighting spirit and expressed hope that her success would motivate more young judokas. The congratulatory messages from both the Prime Minister and the President came as India continued to enjoy a strong campaign at the Commonwealth Games 2026, with athletes delivering notable performances across athletics, boxing, judo, and other disciplines. The praise for Neeraj Chopra, in particular, generated significant attention online, with fans celebrating the Prime Minister's strong endorsement of the star javelin thrower even after he finished with silver rather than gold, underlining the high regard in which the athlete is held across the country.

Ladakh Unveils Scholarship-Based Sports Policy



The Ladakh administration has approved a new sports policy that introduces monthly scholarships, cash incentives, and special awards for athletes competing at international, national, and Union Territory levels. The policy is aimed at creating a stronger support system for sportspersons and encouraging greater participation in competitive sports across the region. For the first time, athletes from Ladakh will receive both monthly financial assistance and one-time cash rewards linked to their sporting achievements. The administration described the policy as a comprehensive framework designed to nurture talent from the school level all the way to international competitions. Under the new policy, medal winners will receive monthly scholarships for 12 months from the date of winning their medal. International gold medallists will receive Rs 1 lakh per month, national gold medallists Rs 75,000 per month, and UT-level gold medallists Rs 10,000 per month. Separate lower scholarship slabs have been created for silver and bronze medallists. A notable feature of the policy is that athletes who progress to a higher level of competition during the scholarship period will receive an upgraded scholarship amount. The earlier amount will not be recovered, ensuring that athletes are not financially penalised for advancing in their careers. In addition to the monthly scholarships, the policy provides one-time cash incentives for medal winners at recognised international, national, state, and school-level competitions. These incentives will be awarded separately from the scholarship payments, giving athletes two distinct forms of financial support. The administration has also included special provisions for para-athletes. Competitors participating in Paralympic events, visually impaired sports, hearing-impaired sports, and Special Olympics competitions will be eligible for dedicated awards and incentives under the policy. Recognising Ladakh's unique connection with high-altitude adventure sports, the policy includes a special mountaineering award. Athletes from Ladakh who successfully summit peaks above 8,000 metres anywhere in the world will receive a one-time cash award of Rs 10 lakh. Officials said the framework was prepared after consultations with various stakeholders over a period of two months. The policy is intended not only to reward medal winners but also to reduce the financial burden on athletes who often struggle with training, travel, equipment, and competition expenses. The move is being seen as a significant step toward strengthening the sporting ecosystem in the Union Territory. By combining scholarships, performance incentives, para-sports recognition, and mountaineering rewards, Ladakh has created one of the more comprehensive athlete-support policies introduced by an Indian Union Territory in recent years.

Cricketer Turned Javelin Star Stuns Neeraj

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage produced a sensational performance to win the men's javelin throw gold medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026, defeating Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra in one of the biggest athletics upsets of the tournament. Pathirage secured the gold with a best throw of 89.75 metres, while Neeraj Chopra had to settle for silver despite recording a season-best effort of 85.83 metres. India's Yashvir Singh added to the country's celebrations by claiming bronze with an impressive throw of 85.41 metres, giving India a double podium finish in the event. The result did not come entirely out of nowhere, as Pathirage has been in exceptional form throughout the 2026 season. Earlier this year, he became the first javelin thrower to cross the 90-metre mark in the season when he registered a world-leading throw of 92.62 metres at the Rome Diamond League. What makes Pathirage's rise particularly remarkable is his sporting background. Before becoming a javelin thrower, he was a promising cricketer who bowled medium pace. During his youth cricket

days, he regularly clocked speeds of around 130 kmph and reportedly touched 134 kmph in the Under-18 category. At one stage, he was considered the second-fastest bowler in that age group behind Sri Lankan pacer Eshan Malinga. His transition from cricket to athletics began after coach Tony Prasanna introduced him to javelin. Pathirage has often credited Prasanna not only for teaching him the technical aspects of the sport but also for guiding him in life beyond athletics. The switch proved highly successful. Pathirage went on to become the first Sri Lankan athlete to throw beyond 85 metres in javelin and has steadily established himself among the world's leading throwers. He also enjoyed a strong performance at the World Championships, where he finished seventh in his debut appearance. After the Commonwealth Games final, Neeraj Chopra acknowledged the quality of Pathirage's winning effort. He remarked that in javelin, a single excellent throw can be enough to decide the competition, and that Pathirage produced exactly such a decisive attempt.



Although disappointed not to win gold, Neeraj remained positive about his performance and said his focus is on gradual improvement in the competitions ahead. His silver medal and Yashvir Singh's bronze ensured India still enjoyed a successful outing in the

event. For Pathirage, however, the victory marked a historic moment - a former fast bowler who traded the cricket ball for the javelin has now emerged as a genuine global contender and a new star of Sri Lankan athletics.

Nani's Fierce Avatar Set To Dominate The Paradise Teaser

Natural Star Nani's much-awaited film The Paradise is gearing up for a grand promotional campaign, with the makers preparing to unveil the teaser on August 6. The upcoming action drama has already generated strong curiosity among audiences, and the teaser is expected to provide a glimpse into the intense and dark world created by director Srikanth Odela. The teaser is likely to showcase the film's powerful atmosphere, high-energy action sequences, and dramatic elements. Srikanth Odela, who is known for presenting raw and emotionally charged stories, is expected to bring a unique visual style and intense narrative to The Paradise. The film is being promoted as a major

transformation for Nani, who is set to appear in a completely different role compared to his earlier performances. One of the biggest talking points surrounding the teaser is Nani's character Jadal. Reports suggest that the actor's ruthless appearance, intense body language, and physical transformation will be among the major highlights of the promotional video. His shirtless look and aggressive screen presence are expected to surprise fans and showcase a new side of the actor. Nani has consistently experimented with different genres and characters throughout his career, earning appreciation for his versatility. With The Paradise, he appears to

be taking a bold step by portraying a more intense and action-oriented character. The film is expected to present him in a rugged and powerful avatar, creating a fresh experience for moviegoers. The film also features Kayadu Lohar as the female lead, adding another important dimension to the story. Veteran actor Mohan Babu and Raghav Juyal are playing key roles, bringing additional strength to the cast. Actress Keerthy Suresh will appear in a special song, which has further increased expectations around the project. The combination of Nani's new look, Srikanth Odela's direction, and the film's action-packed backdrop has made The Paradise one



of the most awaited upcoming Telugu films. The teaser release on August 6 is expected to reveal more details about the characters, storyline, and scale of the project. As the promotional activities begin, fans are eagerly waiting to

witness Nani's transformation into Jadal and experience the intense world of The Paradise. The teaser is expected to set the tone for the film and give audiences a glimpse of what promises to be one of Nani's most ambitious projects yet.

Jai Krishna Thanks Moviegoers

Jai Krishna Ghattamaneni, the nephew of superstar Mahesh Babu, has expressed heartfelt gratitude to audiences for the warm response to his debut film Srinivasa Mangapuram. The young actor made his silver-screen entry with the intense love story directed by Ajay Bhupathi, while Rasha Thadani, daughter of Bollywood actress Raveena Tandon, made her Telugu debut with the film. In a recent video message, Jai Krishna thanked viewers for welcoming him into the Telugu film industry. He said the affection shown by audiences after the release of Srinivasa Mangapuram had given him immense happiness and encouragement. He also conveyed special thanks to the Ghattamaneni family fans, who supported him even before the film began its theatrical journey. The actor promised that he would continue to work hard and give his best in future projects so that he could make his supporters proud. He noted that the appreciation coming from viewers has been particularly meaningful because it is his first film and an

important milestone in his career. Jai Krishna revealed that many people who watched the film have praised his performance, especially the action sequences and emotional scenes. According to him, the positive feedback has motivated him to improve further as an actor and take his responsibilities seriously as a newcomer carrying the Ghattamaneni family legacy. Srinivasa Mangapuram has generated curiosity among moviegoers because it marks the launch of two fresh faces in Telugu cinema. Directed by Ajay Bhupathi, known for handling intense emotional narratives, the film blends romance, drama, and action elements, giving Jai Krishna an opportunity to showcase both emotional depth and screen presence in his debut outing. Rasha Thadani's Telugu debut has also added to the film's appeal, making it a notable launch vehicle for both newcomers. The pairing of Jai Krishna and Rasha has attracted attention from younger audiences, while the association with the Ghattamaneni family has created additional buzz among



Mahesh Babu's fans. Concluding his message, Jai Krishna requested audiences to watch Srinivasa Mangapuram with their friends and family during the weekend and continue supporting the film. He expressed hope that viewers would keep showering him with the same

love and encouragement as he begins his journey in the Telugu film industry. The young actor's humble and emotional message has been well received by fans, who see it as a sincere acknowledgment of the support he has received during the crucial first step of his acting career.

'Korean Kanakaraju' Trailer Promises Fun Horror Ride



The theatrical trailer of Varun Tej's upcoming horror-comedy Korean Kanakaraju has been launched at a special event held at AAA Cinemas in Hyderabad, and it promises a thoroughly entertaining blend of comedy,

horror, action, and adventure. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the film presents a unique and quirky premise. Varun Tej plays Kanakaraju, a man from Rayalaseema who unexpectedly becomes possessed by a

Korean spirit. The unusual possession leaves everyone around him shocked and confused, and attempts to communicate with the spirit lead to a series of hilarious situations because of the language barrier. The trailer highlights the comic confusion created by the Korean ghost, with Varun Tej displaying a different body language and mannerisms after the possession. Satya's presence adds further humour, while Ritika Nayak appears as the female lead who joins Kanakaraju on his unusual journey. As the story progresses, Kanakaraju, Ritika Nayak, and Satya travel to Korea to uncover the mystery behind the spirit. The Korea-set portions add a fresh visual appeal to the film and appear to include thrilling action sequences, with Varun Tej taking on a group of gangsters amid the supernatural chaos. One of the trailer's biggest attractions is the unusual cultural connection between Rayala seema and Korea, which gives the film a distinctive identity compared to conventional Telugu horror-comedies. The combination of

supernatural elements, travel adventure, and action-packed moments makes the narrative stand out. Varun Tej's transformation and energetic performance seem to be among the major highlights of the trailer. The promotional video also showcases impressive production values and a lively entertainment quotient, suggesting that the film is designed as a complete commercial entertainer. Korean Kanakaraju is jointly produced by Rajeev Reddy and Sai Baba Jagarlamudi under the banners of UV Creations and First Frame Entertainments. Sunil and Muralidhar Goud will also be seen in important supporting roles. Scheduled for a theatrical release on August 7, 2026, the film has now generated stronger curiosity among audiences. With its unusual Korean ghost concept, comedy-driven narrative, and action-adventure elements, Korean Kanakaraju appears to be shaping up as one of the more intriguing Telugu releases of the month.

it as a promising sign for the film's scale and entertainment value. According to the production team, the shooting of #Chiru158 is progressing at a brisk pace, with the first half of the film nearing completion. The makers have indicated that the schedule is moving smoothly without any significant delays. The screenplay has been developed by Kona Venkat and K. Chakravarthy Reddy, with additional screenplay contributions from Hari Mohana Krishna and Vineeth Potluri. Dialogues are being written by Bhanu-Nandu, while Thaman is composing the music for the film. Although the official title is yet to be announced, the project has already generated considerable buzz among Chiranjeevi's fans due to the successful combination of the Megastar and Bobby Kolli. With the shoot progressing steadily and promotional material beginning to emerge, #Chiru158 is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu commercial entertainers in the coming months.

Stylish BTS Video Boosts Buzz Around 'Chiru158'

The makers of Chiranjeevi's upcoming film #Chiru158 have released a stylish behind-the-scenes (BTS) video on the occasion of director Bobby Kolli's birthday, further increasing excitement surrounding the highly anticipated project. The film marks the reunion of Chiranjeevi and Bobby Kolli after the blockbuster success of Waltair Veerayya. Produced by Venkat K. Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, the movie is being mounted on a lavish scale and is considered one of the biggest Telugu projects currently in production. The newly released BTS video begins with the line, "Every blockbuster begins with a single vision," and focuses largely on Bobby Kolli's approach to filmmaking. The footage showcases the director coordinating shots, discussing scenes with the crew, reviewing scripts and storyboards, monitoring footage on set, and carefully planning the visual composition of each frame. Apart from the technical aspects, the video also captures the

energetic atmosphere on the sets, featuring Bobby interacting with actors and technicians and sharing lighter moments between takes. The makers have presented him as "The Master of Mass Entertainment," underlining his reputation for delivering large-scale commercial entertainers that connect strongly with audiences. The promotional clip has been designed to



highlight the director's passion, attention to detail, and hands-on involvement in every stage of production. Fans have responded positively to the stylish presentation, seeing

The Odyssey Holds Strong Despite Spider-Man Storm

The arrival of Spider-Man: Brand New Day has created a massive impact at the global box office, with the film making a powerful start and attracting audiences worldwide. The superhero entertainer is expected to cross the \$900 million mark globally, with trade analysts watching closely to see whether it can reach the prestigious billion-dollar milestone. However, the strong performance of Spider-Man does not appear to have significantly affected Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey. Despite facing competition from a major franchise release, the epic fantasy action drama continues to show impressive stability at the box office. In the domestic market, The Odyssey is reportedly tracking for a strong third weekend, with expectations of earning more than \$50 million. Compared to its second weekend collection of around \$90 million, the decline is expected to remain below 50 percent, which is considered an excellent hold for a film entering its third weekend. The steady performance indicates that The Odyssey has built strong audience interest and continues to attract viewers even after the arrival of another major Hollywood release. Its ability to maintain momentum against heavy competition highlights the film's strong word-of-mouth and audience appreciation. A major factor that could further boost The Odyssey's box office performance is its upcoming release in China, the world's second-largest theatrical market. The film has not yet arrived in the region, but early audience interest

on ticketing platforms suggests strong anticipation among Chinese moviegoers. If The Odyssey receives a positive response from Chinese audiences, the film could experience another major surge in collections. The China release is being viewed as a crucial opportunity that may help the film expand its global earnings significantly. The film has already achieved a major milestone by becoming the highest-grossing R-rated movie in history. Currently, the record is held by Deadpool & Wolverine, which earned around \$1.33 billion worldwide. With strong international performance and the China market still ahead, The Odyssey has the potential to push beyond existing records. While Spider-Man: Brand New Day continues its blockbuster run, The Odyssey appears to be maintaining its own strong position. The coming weeks will determine how far both films can travel at the global box office, but for now, The Odyssey's steady performance has become one of the biggest talking points in the entertainment industry.



'Objection My Lord' - A Decent Courtroom Drama With A Social Message

Veteran actor Srikanth returns in a courtroom-based Telugu web series titled Objection My Lord, which is now streaming on ZEE5. Directed by Santosh Ayyappan, the series attempts to blend a legal thriller with a socially relevant issue, and it succeeds to a fair extent despite a few shortcomings. The story begins when Narayana approaches the police to complain that his daughter Sameera has been kidnapped. When the police allegedly ignore the complaint and lawyers refuse to take up the case due to insufficient information, Narayana dies by suicide on the High Court premises. Disturbed by the incident, advocate Parashuram, played by Srikanth, files a Public Interest Litigation and begins a determined fight for justice. As the investigation progresses, the narrative gradually shifts from a straightforward kidnapping case to a more layered social issue, which becomes the central hook of the series. One of the major strengths of Objection My Lord is its sincere intent. The screenplay is paced neatly, and a few unexpected turns help maintain curiosity. The courtroom confrontations between Srikanth and Mukesh Rishi are presented in a commercial yet engaging manner, making the legal proceedings accessible even for viewers who are not regular followers of courtroom dramas. Srikanth delivers a convincing performance as a lawyer who is constantly underestimated by his colleagues and struggles with low self-confidence. His portrayal of a man trying to rediscover his courage after a humiliating setback gives the series its

emotional weight. Ananya Sharma performs well as his assistant and provides strong support, while Sameer, Gemini Suresh, Rayala Harishchandra, and Snehal Kamat contribute effectively in their supporting roles. However, the series is not without flaws. The biggest issue lies in the final episode, which feels somewhat rushed. The crucial revelation arrives too late, reducing the emotional and dramatic impact that the story seems to be aiming for. At times, the writing becomes generic, and a few scenes suffer from noticeable lip-sync problems. Another underdeveloped aspect is Parashuram's family track. Although the series hints at tensions between him and his son, the relationship is not explored in enough depth, making those scenes feel less meaningful than they could have been. Technically, the series is well-mounted. The courtroom sets look authentic, the cinematography by Suryaa is effective, and the music and editing are competent. Santosh Ayyappan's direction keeps the narrative straightforward and watchable throughout its relatively crisp runtime. Overall, Objection My Lord is a decent and honest courtroom drama that offers a worthwhile watch for fans of legal thrillers. It may not reinvent the genre, but strong performances, a relevant social message, and an engaging central conflict make it a respectable addition to Telugu OTT content.



'Irumudi' Promotions Back On Track

Promotions for Ravi Teja's upcoming film Irumudi are set to resume after a brief pause, with the makers announcing a major new update that has excited fans. The film has already generated strong buzz through its teaser glimpse and the first single, Irumudi Kattu, which received a positive response from audiences. However, the lack of promotional activity in recent days had led to speculation that the movie might be postponed from its announced release date of August 21. Putting those rumours to rest, the team has confirmed that the second single, Yaalalo Yaalalo, will be released on August 3. The newly unveiled poster suggests that the song will focus on the emotional family bond at the heart of the story. The track has been composed by GV Prakash Kumar, whose music has been one of the key highlights of the project so far. Following the release of the second song, the makers are also expected to launch the theatrical trailer, which will kick-start the next phase of the film's promotional campaign. Irumudi is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers and directed by Shiva Nirvana. Priya



Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead opposite Ravi Teja, while Baby Nakshatra appears in a significant role as the actor's daughter. With the release date approaching, the announcement has reassured fans that the film is progressing according to schedule. The combination of Ravi Teja's mass appeal, Shiva Nirvana's direction, and GV Prakash Kumar's music has created considerable anticipation for the film, making Irumudi one of the notable Telugu releases expected later this month.

'Toxic' Trailer To Arrive On August 8

The makers of Yash's much-awaited gangster action drama Toxic have officially announced that the theatrical trailer will be released on August 8. The announcement was made with a striking new poster featuring Yash, which has quickly grabbed the attention of fans across social media. Toxic marks the next major outing for the KGF star and is one of the most anticipated Indian films of the year. After facing multiple postponements, the film is now scheduled for a theatrical release on August 26. The recently released songs and promotional



glimpse have already generated significant buzz and renewed excitement around the project. According to the makers, the trailer launch will take place at a grand event in Bengaluru in the presence of the film's cast and crew. The event is expected to be a major promotional milestone ahead of the film's release later this month. The film is written by Yash himself and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Geetu Mohandas. The ensemble cast includes Nayanathara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, and Huma Qureshi in important roles, adding to the film's strong pan-Indian appeal. One of the notable aspects of Toxic is that it has been shot simultaneously in Kannada and English. The film will also be dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, indicating the makers' intention to position it as a large-scale multilingual release for audiences across India and

international markets. Produced jointly by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under the banners of KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is being mounted on a lavish scale. The film is expected to feature high-octane action sequences, a dark gangster backdrop, and a stylish visual presentation. The newly unveiled poster presents Yash in an intense and powerful avatar, hinting at the gritty tone of the film. With the trailer date now confirmed, expectations have risen further among fans eager to see Yash return to the big screen in a mass action role after the phenomenal success of the KGF franchise. As the countdown to August 26 begins, the August 8 trailer launch is likely to play a crucial role in setting the tone for the film's theatrical campaign and could offer audiences their first detailed look at the world, characters, and action-packed narrative of Toxic.