



BJP Files Cyber Complaint Over Posts Targeting PM Modi



CM Unveils Global Investment Roadmap to CII

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy invited representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Northern Region to make Telangana their preferred investment destination, assuring them of a stable business environment, investor-friendly policies, and full government support. Addressing an interaction with the CII delegation at the Bodhi Pavilion in the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRD) campus on Friday, the Chief Minister said Telangana is committed to becoming one of the world's leading investment hubs. Revanth Reddy emphasized that the state government is pursuing proactive industrial policies and extending incentives to investors with viable business proposals. He said Telangana's objective is to compete with global economies rather than neighboring states and invited industry leaders to participate in the state's long-term growth journey. Highlighting the government's ambitious "Telangana Rising-2047" vision, the Chief Minister said the state currently contributes around 5 percent to India's GDP and aims to double this share to 10 percent in the coming years. He also reiterated the government's target of transforming Telangana into a one-trillion-dollar economy by 2037. The Chief Minister out-



lined the government's flagship "Bharat Future City" project, which is being developed across 30,000 acres. He expressed confidence that the project would attract investments from leading Fortune 500 companies and become a global business and innovation hub. Recalling the Global Summit held last December, he noted that delegates from 175 countries had participated, reflecting Telangana's growing international recognition. Describing Hyderabad as a cosmopolitan city where people from across India live and work, Revanth Reddy said the state's diverse culture and business-friendly atmosphere make it an attractive destination for investors. He assured the delegation that the government would provide all necessary infrastructure and administrative support to facilitate industrial growth. To ensure regular interaction with industry, the Chief Minister announced that the Chief Secretary would remain accessible to investors,

the Industries Minister would hold review meetings every two months, and he himself would meet industrial representatives every three months to resolve concerns and accelerate project implementation. Explaining Telangana's long-term development strategy, Revanth Reddy said the government has divided the state into three development zones-CURE, PURE, and RARE-to promote balanced and sustainable growth while avoiding the urban challenges experienced by other metropolitan cities. He explained that the area within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) would be developed as the CURE Zone, focusing primarily on the services sector. The region between the ORR and the Regional Ring Road (RRR) would function as the PURE Zone, dedicated to manufacturing industries, while areas beyond the RRR would form the RARE Zone, emphasizing agriculture and agro-based industries. The Chief Minister said the

government would provide land, infrastructure, and policy support for industries established in the PURE and RARE zones. He also announced plans to construct a 12-lane highway connecting Bharat Future City with Machilipatnam Port, improving logistics and export connectivity. In addition, sector-specific industrial clusters are planned to promote specialized manufacturing. Highlighting infrastructure development, Revanth Reddy said the Central Government has approved new airports for Warangal and Adilabad. He also noted that Telangana has been included in three proposed bullet train corridors connecting Shamshabad with Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune, significantly enhancing future connectivity. The Chief Minister stressed that Telangana is positioning itself as a preferred destination under the global "China Plus One" strategy, encouraging multinational companies to establish manufacturing and service operations in the state. Speaking about employment generation, Revanth Reddy said the government has prioritized skill development to prepare youth for emerging technologies and changing industry requirements. He highlighted the establishment of the Young India Skill University through a public-private partnership, chaired by industrialist Anand Mahindra, with participation from leading corporate execu-

tives. He also noted that the conversion of Industrial Training Institutes into Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) has resulted in excellent employment outcomes, with trained students securing jobs in sectors where skilled manpower is in high demand. The Chief Minister further revealed that around 200 companies have expressed interest in establishing Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Telangana. He highlighted major investments, including Amazon's ₹1 lakh crore investment in data centres and the Adani Group's ₹S.35,000 crore investment, as evidence of growing investor confidence in the state. Among those present were Chief Minister's Advisor K. Ramakrishna Rao, Special Secretary (Industries) Krishna Aditya, CII Northern Region Chairman Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairperson Shraddha Suri Marwah, and several industry leaders. Speaking on behalf of the CII delegation, Puneet Kaura praised Telangana's industrial policies and said the state's proactive governance, modern infrastructure, and investor-friendly ecosystem had made Hyderabad an attractive destination for business expansion. He added that the delegation had chosen Hyderabad for its meeting to better understand the state's rapidly evolving industrial landscape and explore future investment opportunities.



Governor Honors Excellence at ET Awards

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The sixth edition of the Economic Times Excellence Awards Telangana 2026 was held in Hyderabad on Friday, celebrating outstanding achievements in business, entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership across diverse sectors. The event took place at Novotel, HICC,HITEC City, with Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla attending as the Chief Guest. Organized by Optimal Media Solutions, a division of The Times of India, the awards recognized entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, professionals, and organizations that have made significant contributions to economic development and industry growth. The ceremony highlighted individuals and institutions that have demonstrated excellence through innovation, sustainable business practices, and leadership. Addressing the gathering, the Governor appreciated the award recipients for their commitment to excellence and their role in strengthening the state's economic ecosystem. He

emphasized that innovation, entrepreneurship, and responsible leadership are key drivers of economic progress and inclusive development. The event brought together leading personalities from the business community, industry associations, startups, and various professional fields. It served as a platform to acknowledge achievements while encouraging enterprises to continue contributing to industrial expansion, job creation, and technological advancement. The awards also showcased the growing prominence of Hyderabad as a major business and innovation hub, with companies and professionals from multiple sectors being honored for their outstanding performance and impact. Organizers said the initiative aims to inspire excellence and recognize those setting new benchmarks in their respective industries. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of awards to distinguished individuals and organizations, celebrating their achievements and contributions toward economic growth and business excellence.

Family Certificates Issuance Begins Across State



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has officially started the process of issuing family certificates across the state, introducing a new facility aimed at simplifying access to welfare schemes, government services, and official verification procedures. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced the launch of the initiative during an awareness program held at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan. He stated that the family certificate would provide complete details of family members in a single official document, reducing difficulties faced by citizens while submitting family-related information for various purposes. The certificate will contain important details, including the name of the family head, names of family members, their relationship with the head of the family, age, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar details, and residential address. Officials stated that the information would be compiled based on government records to ensure accuracy and reliability. The new system has been integrated with ration card data to make verification easier. Under this arrangement, every family will be assigned a unique Family Register Identification Number based on details available in the Food Security

Card database. In most cases, the existing ration card number will function as the identification number for the family. Citizens seeking a family certificate can submit applications through MeeSeva centers, the MeeSeva online portal, or the mobile application by paying the prescribed fee. Officials clarified that any family member aged 18 years or above can apply for the certificate. After receiving applications, the concerned Mandal Tahsildar's office will verify the details and issue the certificate. The government said the initiative would improve transparency and speed up the delivery of public services by providing an authenticated record of family information. Bhatti Vikramarka explained that the facility would be especially useful for beneficiaries applying for government schemes and services where family details are required. He added that maintaining a centralized and verified family database would help government departments provide services more efficiently. Officials said the introduction of family certificates marks another step towards strengthening citizen-friendly governance and reducing procedural challenges for the public. The government has encouraged people to make use of the facility available through digital and service center platforms.

TG-RERA Extends Project Deadlines by Four Months

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TG-RERA) has granted a four-month extension to the registration validity and completion timelines of eligible real estate projects, providing relief to developers affected by disruptions linked to the ongoing situation in West Asia. In an order issued on Friday, TG-RERA said the extension applies to all registered real estate projects whose original, revised, or previously extended completion deadlines fall on or after February 28, 2026. The decision follows an advisory from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which directed real estate regulatory authorities across the country to treat the prevailing situation in West Asia as a Force Majeure event under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.



The authority stated that the relief has been granted under Section 6 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, read with Rule 6 of the

Telangana Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Rules, 2017. According to the order, projects with completion deadlines between February 28 and July 31, 2026, will now have their revised completion date extended until November 30, 2026. TG-RERA also clarified that eligible developers will automatically receive the extension without the need to submit separate applications or pay any additional fees. Officials said the move is intended to mitigate the impact of global disruptions on the real estate sector and ensure that developers receive adequate time to complete projects while maintaining regulatory compliance. The extension is expected to benefit several ongoing housing and commercial projects across Telangana by providing greater flexibility in meeting statutory completion timelines.

Government Extends 25% LRS Fee Concession

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has announced an extension of the 25 percent concession on Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) fees and charges, offering significant relief to applicants seeking to regularize their plots. The concession will remain in force from August 1 to November 30, 2026, providing applicants with an additional four months to avail themselves of the discounted payment. The decision was approved through Government Order (GO Ms.) No. 213, issued by the state government on Friday. The order was signed by Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, who directed the concerned departments to implement the decision

without delay. According to the government, applicants who clear their LRS dues within the extended period will continue to receive a 25 percent rebate on the applicable fees and charges. The extension is intended to encourage more applicants to complete the regularisation process while easing the financial burden on property owners. In addition to continuing the concession, the government has also extended the deadline for payment of LRS dues by another four months. Officials have been instructed to take immediate steps to ensure the smooth implementation of the revised schedule and facilitate applicants in completing the payment process within the stipulated timeframe. The Layout Regularisation

Scheme was introduced to regularize unapproved and unauthorized layouts by bringing them under the legal planning framework. Regularisation enables property owners to obtain legal recognition for their plots and facilitates access to civic amenities, building permissions, and property transactions. Government officials said the extension reflects the state's commitment to providing citizens with sufficient time to complete the process while promoting planned urban development across Telangana. Applicants have been advised to make use of the extended concession period and complete their pending LRS payments before November 30, 2026, to avail themselves of the 25 percent rebate. The government reiterated that all concerned departments have been instructed to ensure effective implementation of the order and provide necessary assistance to applicants during the extended period.

CM Pushes Skill Development for Global Employment

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to transform the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company (TOMCOM) into a comprehensive platform for overseas employment by providing skill training, organizing job fairs, facilitating passport services, and establishing direct ties with foreign employers. He stressed that the initiative should protect job seekers from fraudulent recruitment agents while creating better employment opportunities abroad. The Chief Minister issued the directions during a review meeting on skill development and overseas employment attended by Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and senior officials. He observed that a large number of workers from North Telangana migrate to Middle Eastern countries in search of employment and often face exploita-

tion after being misled by unauthorized agents. Revanth Reddy instructed TOMCOM to enter into formal agreements with manpower agencies and companies in destination countries so that workers receive genuine employment opportunities. He said such agreements would also enable the organization to intervene and ensure justice for Telangana workers if they encounter difficulties overseas. To strengthen monitoring, the Chief Minister directed officials to collect details of all recruitment agents facilitating overseas employment and maintain a comprehensive database of every worker sent abroad through them. He also announced plans to appoint a former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer as the Chief Executive Officer of TOMCOM to oversee overseas employment initiatives more effectively. Emphasizing the need for job-oriented skill

development, Revanth Reddy suggested that candidates seeking overseas employment should receive training in Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) driving, along with other industry-specific skills that are in demand globally. The Chief Minister also proposed establishing a dedicated research centre for innovation at Young India Skill University. He directed officials to create a special department for teaching foreign languages, including German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian, by engaging instructors from those countries alongside qualified local experts. He further asked officials to examine the feasibility of providing scholarships to trainees preparing for blue-collar jobs abroad, similar to the overseas scholarships available for students pursuing higher education. Highlighting the importance of industry expo-

sure, Revanth Reddy said students enrolled in government engineering colleges, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Advanced Training Centres (ATCs), and polytechnic colleges should be given internship opportunities with leading companies. Such internships, he noted, would enable students to earn stipends while gaining valuable practical experience and industry-relevant skills. The Chief Minister also recommended introducing specialized courses in electric vehicle (EV) servicing and drone technology at Advanced Training Centres, citing the rapid growth of EV adoption and the expanding use of drones in agriculture and other sectors. Referring to the healthcare sector, Revanth Reddy pointed out that there is a growing demand for trained nursing professionals both in India and abroad, particularly in developed countries with aging populations requiring home-



based care. He said the state government is granting permissions for new nursing colleges to meet this increasing demand and create more employment opportunities for Telangana's youth. The Chief Minister emphasized that Telangana's skill development ecosystem should be aligned with global employment trends, enabling the state's youth to secure quality jobs while ensuring their safety, welfare, and long-term career growth.





Minister Vakiti Srihari Reviews Fish Canteen Operations

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, and Youth Services & Sports, Vakiti Srihari, on Friday visited the State Fisheries Department headquarters at Masab Tank and inspected the Fish Canteen operated by the department. During his first official visit to the headquarters after assuming office, the Minister reviewed the canteen's operations and emphasized the government's commitment to providing the public with hygienic, nutritious, and high-quality fish-based food. The Minister was received by Fisheries Department Director Nikhila, Additional Director Muralikrishna, and other senior departmental officials. Following the reception, he toured the Fish Canteen and inspected various aspects of its functioning, including food preparation, cleanliness, customer service, and overall maintenance. During the inspection, Vakiti Srihari interacted with officials and sought detailed information about the menu, the range of fish dishes being served, and the quality standards followed in food preparation. He stressed that maintaining hygiene and ensuring the nutritional value of the food should remain the department's top priority. Addressing officials, the Minister said fish is one of the richest sources of protein, vitamins, and essential nutrients and plays an important role in promoting

a healthy lifestyle. He encouraged people to include more fish in their daily diet, noting its significant health benefits for individuals of all age groups. Vakiti Srihari directed the Fisheries Department to strictly adhere to quality and hygiene standards while preparing and serving food at the canteen. He instructed officials to ensure that customers receive fresh, healthy, and safe meals without any compromise on cleanliness or service quality. The Minister also called for expanding the reach of the Fish Canteen so that a larger section of the public can benefit from its affordable and nutritious food offerings. He suggested exploring ways to enhance public awareness about the health benefits of fish consumption while making the department's services more accessible. To improve customer experience, Vakiti Srihari ordered officials to develop the Fish Canteen with modern facilities and upgraded infrastructure. He said better amenities, efficient service, and high standards of food quality would help attract more visitors and strengthen the Fisheries Department's public outreach. Reaffirming the state's commitment to promoting fisheries and healthy food habits, the Minister said the government would continue to support initiatives that encourage fish consumption while ensuring quality services for the public through well-managed and modernized facilities.



Indiramma Towers| Work to Begin in August

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Construction of the Telangana government's flagship Indiramma Towers housing project will commence in the last week of August, with the tender process already underway, State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced on Friday. Addressing the media at the Secretariat, the Minister said all necessary preparations have been completed to launch the first phase of construction immediately after the tender process is finalized. He described the project as a major initiative aimed at providing quality housing to economically weaker sections within Hyderabad city. Ponguleti said the government's long-term objective is to construct one lakh houses under the Indiramma Towers scheme across Hyderabad. As part of the pilot phase, 8,000 houses will be built in 16 Assembly constituencies, with 500 housing units allotted to each constituency. He added that land identification has already been completed in these constituencies as well as in four additional constituencies, enabling the project to be expanded in phases. The Minister stated that the scheme is designed to help poor families secure dignified housing in well-developed urban areas. He alleged that despite misinformation spread by certain political parties, the overwhelming public response to the scheme demonstrated people's confidence in the government's housing initiative. He said the towers would be constructed on valuable government land worth hundreds of crores of rupees. Each beneficiary will receive a registered undivided land share of approximately 20 to 22 square yards free of

cost along with the flat. According to the Minister, the estimated market value of each housing unit, including the land value, will range between ₹40 lakh and ₹60 lakh. He also disclosed that one of the Indiramma Towers projects is being developed near Falaknuma Palace. To ensure that beneficiaries are not displaced from their workplaces and social surroundings, the government has adopted the Assembly constituency as the unit for allotment. Applicants have therefore been advised to apply only within their respective constituencies. Clarifying eligibility requirements, Ponguleti said applicants are not restricted to using Aadhaar as proof of residence. Other valid documents, including a Voter ID card, driving licence, and bank passbook, will also be accepted, assuring the public that there is no need for confusion or concern over documentation. The Minister reiterated that August 10 is the final date for submitting applications and ruled out any extension of the deadline. He also reassured applicants that the ₹10,000 Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) would be fully refunded to those who are not allotted houses. Refunds made through UPI or net banking, he said, would be credited directly to the applicant's bank account. Emphasizing transparency and accountability, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the government is implementing the Indiramma Towers project with the objective of ensuring long-term benefits for the public. He added that the state remains committed to pursuing welfare and development initiatives that improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens while maintaining fairness in implementation.

Tummala Warns Oil Palm Firms Over Poor Performance

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has issued a stern warning to oil palm companies, stating that the Telangana government will not tolerate negligence in the implementation of its ambitious Oil Palm Expansion Programme. He directed Agriculture Secretary K. Surendra Mohan to initiate strict action against companies that continue to fall short of the targets assigned to them. The Minister made the remarks during a review meeting with representatives of oil palm companies at the State Secretariat on Friday. Agriculture Secretary K. Surendra Mohan, Oilfed Managing Director Yasmin Basha, and senior officials attended the meeting. Expressing serious concern over the pace of expansion, Tummala revealed that only 17,090 acres have been brought under oil palm cultivation so far against the state's target of 85,000 acres for the current year, representing barely 20 percent of the goal. He said the poor progress was unacceptable, especially when the government has extended full support and farmers are showing increasing interest in cultivating the crop. The Minister noted that repeated review meetings and instructions had failed to improve the performance of several



companies. He said notices had already been issued multiple times to firms that consistently lagged behind their targets. According to him, Lohia and Oilfed had received four notices each, while Tirumala, Priyunic, and Ram Charan were served notices three times. Godrej had received two notices, whereas Vishwatej, Cane Bio, Patanjali, Matrix, and Suven Agro had also been repeatedly warned over their poor progress.

Tummala said the government was prepared to reduce the operational areas of underperforming companies or remove them entirely if they failed to improve. At the same time, companies demonstrating better performance would be entrusted with additional districts. He clarified that even the government-owned Oilfed would not receive any special treatment and could lose its allocated districts if it failed to meet expecta-

tions. The Minister also reviewed the availability of oil palm saplings and instructed companies to ensure there is no shortage during the upcoming planting season. Firms anticipating supply constraints in August were directed to procure saplings from other companies well in advance so that farmers receive planting material immediately upon request. Emphasizing farmer support, Tummala instructed companies to strengthen field-level extension services by ensuring their staff remain accessible in villages. He directed them to guide farmers on scientific cultivation practices, fertilizer management, irrigation, pest control, and other technical aspects while responding promptly to their queries. The Minister further ordered companies to expedite the construction of oil palm processing units across the state. He said delays in establishing the facilities would not be tolerated, as timely completion would reduce transportation costs for farmers and ensure quicker processing of harvested produce. Reiterating the government's commitment to expanding oil palm cultivation, Tummala said every stakeholder must work with accountability and urgency to achieve the state's targets, warning that companies failing to deliver would face strict administrative action.



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP floor leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy stated that the proposed Adilabad-Nirmal-Armour railway line would significantly improve rail connectivity in North Telangana and support regional development. Reddy, along with BJP MLAs and MPs, met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi, where discussions were held on railway infrastructure projects in the state. He said the Union

Minister explained the vision of the central government to modernize Telangana's railway network and strengthen Hyderabad's role in India's high-speed rail development. Speaking after the meeting, Reddy said the proposed new railway corridor would provide much-needed connectivity to several areas in North Telangana, benefiting passengers, businesses, and local economies. He expressed confidence that improved rail infrastructure would accelerate growth and enhance

transportation facilities in the region. Reddy appreciated the efforts of the Union Railway Ministry in focusing on Telangana's railway development and thanked Ashwini Vaishnaw for meeting the delegation and discussing key infrastructure projects. He said the expansion of railway networks aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of creating a modern and efficient transportation system across the country. According to him, projects such as the Adilabad-

Nirmal-Armour line would play an important role in connecting interior regions with major cities and improving opportunities for trade and mobility. The BJP leader noted that strengthening rail infrastructure would contribute to the overall economic progress of North Telangana by providing better access for people and industries. He expressed hope that the proposed project would move forward as part of wider efforts to transform the state's transport network.

Tummala Seeks Additional DAP Supply for Kharif Season

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged the Union Government to ensure the timely supply of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertilizers to Telangana to prevent shortages during the ongoing Kharif season. In a letter addressed to Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda on Friday, the Minister sought immediate allocation of additional DAP stocks to meet the growing demand from farmers. Expressing gratitude to the Union Ministry for its support in supplying additional DAP to Telangana during July, Tummala acknowledged the Centre's cooperation in addressing the fertilizer requirements of the state's farming community. However, he pointed out that the rapid pace of paddy transplantation has significantly increased the demand for DAP, making additional allocations essential. The Minister informed the Union Minister that nearly 50 percent of the targeted paddy cultivation area in Telangana has already been transplanted, while the remaining transplantation is expected to be completed during August. With agricultural operations gathering momentum, he said the demand for DAP fertilizers is likely to increase substantially over the coming weeks. According to Tummala, Telangana was scheduled to receive 2.20 lakh metric tonnes of DAP between April and July. However, only 1.55 lakh metric tonnes have been supplied so far, leaving the state with a balance stock of just 0.20 lakh metric tonnes as of July 31. He cautioned that the available stock may not be sufficient to meet farmers' requirements during the peak cultivation period. The Agriculture Minister also noted that farmers are increasingly opting for DAP instead of complex fertilizers because of the sharp rise in the prices of the latter. This shift in preference has further increased the demand for DAP across the state. To ensure uninterrupted fertilizer availability, Tummala requested the Union Government to allocate an additional 0.50 lakh metric tonnes of DAP for August and another 0.50 lakh metric tonnes for September. He emphasized that timely allocation would help avoid shortages during the crucial stages of crop cultivation and support farmers in completing agricultural operations without disruption. The Minister expressed confidence that prompt intervention by the Union Ministry would ensure a smooth supply of fertilizers throughout the Kharif season, enabling farmers to continue cultivation without facing input constraints. He reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to supporting the farming community and ensuring that essential agricultural inputs remain available during the peak cropping period.

Wine Tourism Plan Gains Momentum

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has identified Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts as potential destinations for developing vineyard and winery-based tourism projects, aiming to create a new attraction for visitors while promoting local economic opportunities. During his visit to Stone Tower Winery in Leesburg, Virginia, the Minister studied various aspects of wine tourism, including grape cultivation, wine production methods, visitor experiences, and hospitality models. He interacted with winery representatives and gathered details about grape varieties suitable for winemaking, fermentation techniques, storage, ageing processes, bottling, quality management, and marketing strategies. The Minister also examined how vineyards are transformed into tourism destinations through guided tours, hospitality services, and immersive experiences for visitors. He said similar models could be explored in Telangana, particularly in areas close to Hyderabad that have suitable conditions for grape cultivation. Rao stated that Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts have potential advantages due to their proximity to the state capital, availability of land, and favorable conditions for agriculture-based tourism. He said the government would conduct detailed studies on climate suitability, locations, investment possibilities, and the involvement of private players before moving forward. "Wine tourism can provide visitors with a unique experience while benefiting grape farmers,



encouraging investments, and creating employment opportunities in local communities," the Minister said. The proposed initiative is part of the state tourism policy aimed at expanding tourism offerings through public-private partnerships and attracting investments in new sectors. During the recent Telangana Tourism Conclave, projects worth more than ₹15,000 crore were announced, including a vineyard resort featuring a winery walk-through experience. The planned vineyard tourism model would allow visitors to understand the complete winemaking journey, beginning with grape harvesting and continuing through processing, fermenta-

tion, and bottling. It may also include traditional activities such as grape stomping, along with resort facilities and recreational experiences. Officials believe that introducing winery-based tourism could diversify Telangana's tourism landscape by combining agriculture, hospitality, and cultural experiences. The initiative is expected to create additional income opportunities for farmers and encourage entrepreneurs to invest in tourism-related ventures. The government is now examining the feasibility of such projects and exploring suitable locations to establish Telangana as a destination for innovative tourism experiences.

Kishan Reddy Slams CM Over Remarks on Engineering Students

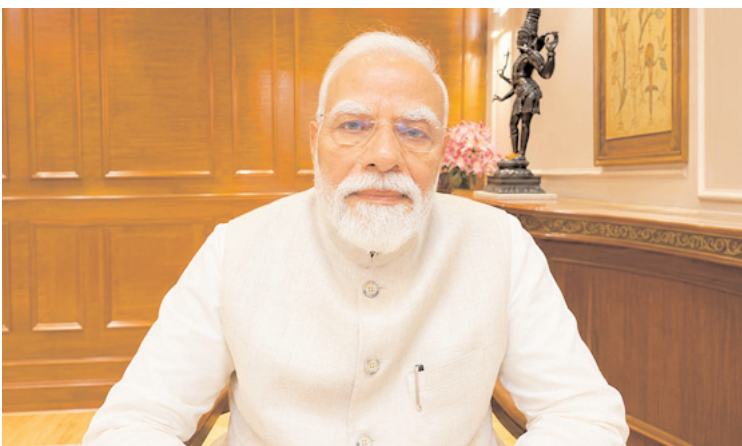
New Delhi, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Friday strongly criticized Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks describing engineering students as "criminal waste," calling the comments irresponsible and unbecoming of a Chief Minister who also holds the Education portfolio. In a press statement issued from New Delhi, Kishan Reddy said a leader occupying such a responsible constitutional office should encourage constructive debate on improving the education system rather than using language that, in his view, demeans an entire generation of students. He alleged that the Chief Minister's remarks insulted "Gen-Z" and failed to reflect the dignity expected from the state's top elected representative. The Union Minister questioned why the Chief Minister had chosen to raise concerns about engineering education standards only after serving for more than two-and-a-half years as both Chief Minister and Education Minister. Instead of explaining the reforms undertaken during his tenure, Kishan Reddy alleged that the Chief Minister was attempting to project himself as an intellectual through controversial statements. Referring to the issue of fee reimbursement, Kishan Reddy claimed that the Telangana government owes nearly ₹10,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement



dues, of which more than ₹5,000 crore pertains to engineering students. He alleged that the Chief Minister's remarks were made in response to students demanding the release of these pending dues. The Union Minister also recalled an earlier controversy in which, according to him, the Chief Minister had warned engineering colleges over fee reimbursement demands and later ordered vigilance inspections at educational institutions. He further alleged that the government had failed to fulfill its election promise of allocating 15 percent of the state budget to the education sec-

tor. Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS government, Kishan Reddy said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had also expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of engineering education in 2015 but had not implemented significant reforms during his decade-long tenure. He argued that despite nearly 12 years under successive governments, Telangana's higher education sector continues to face structural challenges. Defending engineering graduates, the Union Minister said Telangana's youth have played a vital role in establishing Hyderabad as a global information technology hub and have excelled in IT, construction, manufacturing, and engineering industries across the world. He asserted that engineering graduates from the state are innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and professionals who contribute significantly to national development. Kishan Reddy acknowledged that improvements in engineering education are necessary but said meaningful reforms should focus on strengthening industry-academia collaboration, enhancing practical training, and improving employability. He urged political leaders to avoid using language that could discourage students and instead work towards policies that support the aspirations of the younger generation. The statement reflects the Union Minister's views on the issue and comes amid an ongoing political debate over the quality of higher education and student welfare in Telangana.



BJP Files Cyber Complaint Over Posts Targeting PM Modi

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana BJP has lodged an official complaint with the Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police, seeking legal action against individuals allegedly responsible for posting morphed images, obscene content, and defamatory videos targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media. In a press statement issued on Friday, BJP Telangana State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash alleged that objectionable content was circulated during protests over the NEET paper leak. He said the complaint also sought action against those who created, shared, and promoted the material online. Subhash stated that while Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression, such freedom does not extend to defamatory or unlawful content. Referring to Article 19(2), he emphasized that constitutional rights are subject to reasonable restrictions and

argued that personality defamation and hate propaganda cannot be justified under the guise of free expression. He maintained that the BJP welcomes criticism within the framework of the law but opposed what it described as the misuse of digital platforms for spreading offensive content. He also urged social media companies, including Meta, to comply with Indian laws and take prompt action against objectionable material, warning that failure to do so could invite legal consequences. Subhash further said the BJP's legal actions were intended to uphold the rule of law rather than suppress criticism. He asserted that democratic principles should be applied uniformly, irrespective of which political party is in power. Reiterating that no individual, political party, or digital platform is above the law, Subhash said the courts would ultimately decide the matter and those found guilty should face legal consequences in accordance with the law.

BJP Demands CM's Apology Over Remarks on Engineering Students



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Friday demanded that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy publicly apologize for his reported remarks about engineering students, alleging that the comments were offensive and disrespectful to the student community. In a press statement, Ramchander Rao strongly criticized the Chief Minister for allegedly referring to engineering students using derogatory terms, stating that such remarks were unbecoming of a person holding the state's highest elected office. He said the comments had hurt the sentiments and self-respect of students pursuing higher education. The BJP leader also accused the Congress government of failing to clear pending fee reimbursement dues, claiming that students and educational institutions continue to face financial difficulties due to delays in pay-

ments. He alleged that instead of addressing these issues, the government was making statements that discouraged and demoralized students. Ramchander Rao further claimed that engineering graduates had repeatedly been subjected to criticism despite contributing significantly to the state's development and employment sector. He asserted that the government should focus on improving educational standards and creating employment opportunities rather than making controversial remarks. The BJP warned that it would launch a statewide agitation against what it described as the Congress government's "anti-student" policies if the Chief Minister did not withdraw his remarks and issue an unconditional public apology. Calling on the government to restore the confidence of students, Ramchander Rao urged the Chief Minister to clarify his position and address the concerns raised by the student community.



Formula E Case Hearing Begins in ACB Court

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The high-profile Formula E race case, which has attracted significant political attention in Telangana, entered a crucial phase on Friday as formal proceedings commenced before the Special ACB Court at Nampally. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) is investigating allegations of financial irregularities and the alleged misappropriation of nearly ₹55 crore in connection with the organization of the Formula E race in Hyderabad. The case gained momentum after the court issued summons to five accused persons on May 14, directing them to appear before the court. According to the FIR, BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has been named as Accused No. 1 (A-1). The other accused include former IAS officer Arvind Kumar (A-2), former HMDA Chief Engineer B.L.N. Reddy (A-3), sports consultant Kiran Malleshwara Rao (A-4), and Alberto Longo, a representative of Formula E Operations (A-5). The ACB has alleged that irregularities

occurred in the handling of funds related to the event and is probing claims that financial transactions were linked to electoral bonds on a quid pro quo basis. In compliance with the court's summons, KTR appeared before the Special ACB Court on Friday. Anticipating the arrival of BRS leaders and supporters, police deployed additional personnel around the Nampally court complex and implemented traffic diversions to maintain law and order. Ahead of the hearing, KTR reiterated that no corruption or procedural violations had taken place during the conduct of the Formula E event. He maintained that the race was organized to strengthen Hyderabad's global profile as an investment destination and asserted that all financial transactions were carried out in accordance with HMDA rules and regulations. Expressing confidence in the judicial process, KTR said he was appearing before the court in compliance with the summons and would cooperate fully with the legal proceedings. The case is expected to continue with further hearings in the coming weeks.

Modern Railway Hub Set for 2027 Launch



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The ambitious redevelopment of Secunderabad Railway Station has reached a significant milestone, with nearly 65 percent of the work completed, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy announced on Friday. The project aims to transform one of India's busiest railway stations into a world-class transport hub equipped with modern facilities and seamless connectivity. Secunderabad Railway Station currently handles around 180 trains every day and serves nearly 1.5 lakh passengers, making it one of the country's busiest rail terminals. The redevelopment project is designed to enhance passenger convenience while improving the station's infrastructure to meet future transportation demands. According to the Minister, the upgraded station is expected to be inaugurated in January or February 2027. He said the project reflects the Centre's vision of developing modern railway infrastructure capable of delivering a better travel experience. The revamped station will feature iconic station buildings, a two-level air concourse, platform roof covering, multi-level parking facilities, 26 elevators, 32 escalators, and direct Metro Rail connectivity through skywalks. Additional facilities include modern passenger amenities, solar power systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and advanced security infrastructure. Several components of the project have already been completed, including a temporary booking office, the Railway Protection Force building, the Kazipet-end foot overbridge, the south station building, approach roads on the southern side, basement works, and the south arrival area. Construction is progressing on the north station building, multi-level parking complex, air concourse, platform roofing, the Hyderabad-end foot overbridge, integrated passenger foot overbridges, underground water storage tanks, a sewage treatment plant, and Metro connectivity through elevated skywalks. Officials said the redevelopment will significantly improve passenger movement, accessibility, and multimodal transport integration. Once completed, the station is expected to emerge as a landmark railway gateway, offering world-class infrastructure and a more comfortable travel experience for millions of passengers each year.

NDSA Review Focuses on Kaleshwaram Barrage Repairs

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) technical oversight committee did not discuss the reopening of Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) for pumping water to Yellampalli reservoir during its meeting with Telangana irrigation officials in New Delhi on Friday. The meeting was primarily focused on reviewing tests conducted at the three barrages of the KLIS-Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla-and planning the next steps for preparing repair designs. The technical committee was constituted to guide the state government on the future course of action regarding the affected barrage structures. Opposition parties had repeatedly demanded that Annaram and Sundilla barrages be put back into use to facilitate pumping of water up to Yellampalli reservoir and further into the KLIS network. However, the issue did not come up during Friday's discussions, according to sources. The state irrigation team, led by Principal Secretary E. Sridhar, presented details of the investigations and tests carried out at the barrage sites. During the discussions, NDSA officials sought clarification from the department regarding the extensive testing procedures undertaken at the three structures. Officials from the state explained that although the number of tests conducted may appear extensive, they were necessary to establish accurate baseline data on various technical parameters. They said the information gathered would support modeling studies and help engineers pre-



pare suitable designs for strengthening and repairing the barrages. The discussions are expected to continue in the coming months, with both sides planning another meeting after a month to examine detailed repair drawings for the damaged structures. The Kaleshwaram project has been under review following structural concerns reported at some barrage components. The NDSA committee's recommendations are expected to play a key role in determining the repair strategy and future operational plans for the irrigation system. Officials said the ongoing technical assessment aims to ensure that any further steps are based on detailed engineering studies and dam safety considerations. The state government has been working with central agencies to identify solutions for restoring the project's functionality while maintaining safety standards.

TIMS Renamed After Marri Channa Reddy



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has officially renamed the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS), Sanathnagar, as Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences, Sanathnagar, in recognition of the contributions of former Chief Minister Dr. Marri Channa Reddy. The decision was taken as a tribute to the veteran political leader, who played a prominent role in public

service and made significant contributions to the political and administrative development of the region. Dr. Marri Channa Reddy was a senior leader who served as the Chief Minister and held several important positions during his long political career. He was known for his administrative experience and influence in shaping the political landscape of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana regions. The renaming of the medical institu-

tion reflects the government's effort to honor leaders who have made lasting contributions to society. Officials stated that the new name would commemorate Dr. Channa Reddy's legacy and ensure that future generations remember his services. TIMS Sanathnagar is among the major healthcare initiatives aimed at strengthening public medical facilities and improving access to advanced healthcare services. The institution is expected to play an important role in providing quality treatment, medical education, and healthcare infrastructure. Government officials said the move to attach Dr. Channa Reddy's name to the institute symbolizes respect for his public service and commitment to the welfare of people. The announcement has brought attention to the legacy of Dr. Marri Channa Reddy, whose political journey included leadership roles at both the state and national levels. The government said the renamed institution would stand as a reminder of his contributions to public life while continuing to serve citizens through modern healthcare facilities.

BRS Urges Government to Store River Waters

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) has urged the state government to intensify pumping operations and ensure that reservoirs on the Godavari and Krishna rivers are filled, citing strong inflows into both river systems. Addressing a press conference on Thursday, former minister V. Srinivas Goud said significant water inflows were being recorded at the Jurala project, but alleged that water was being released downstream in the name of power generation instead of being stored for future needs. Srinivas Goud emphasized that water management should not be limited only to meeting drinking water requirements. He said adequate water availability for agriculture was equally important, especially during the farming season. "The priority should be to utilize every available drop of water from the Godavari and Krishna rivers. All lift irrigation schemes linked to these rivers should be operated effectively," he said. The BRS leader called for immediate action to maximize water storage capacity in existing reservoirs and ensure that irrigation projects receive sufficient supplies. He stated that proper utilization of river inflows would help farmers and strengthen agricultural activities across the state. He also criticized what he described as a lack of urgency in managing available water resources and appealed to the government to take proactive measures while river levels remain favorable. The BRS said coordinated operation of pumping stations and lift irrigation projects would help prevent wastage of valuable water resources and provide long-term benefits to agriculture and rural communities.



Three Days Left to Complete SIR Forms, Says Saijen Shekhar



Nacharam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

BRS state leader Saijen Shekhar has appealed to eligible voters to complete and submit their enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process before the August 3 deadline to safeguard their voting rights. Addressing residents at a voter awareness programme in Nacharam on Thursday, Shekhar stressed that only three days remain for citizens to complete the process. He urged every eligible voter to submit the required forms within the stipulated time to ensure their names remain on the electoral rolls and to avoid any inconvenience during future elections. Shekhar said that, over the past 20 days, the BRS has been conducting awareness campaigns and operating help desks in different localities across Nacharam to assist residents with the SIR process. Volunteers have been guiding citizens on filling out enumeration forms correctly and informing them about the submission procedure. At a help desk established in front of the Annapurna Colony Community Hall, volunteers distributed enumeration forms to residents and provided step-by-step assistance in completing them. Citizens were also informed about the designated locations where the forms could be submitted before the deadline. Highlighting the importance of voter participation, Shekhar said that every eligible citizen should take advantage of the remaining time to complete the formalities and protect their constitutional right to vote. He added that public awareness and timely submission of forms are essential for maintaining accurate electoral rolls. Several local leaders and party workers, including Vittal Yadav, Katta Buchanna Goud, Devulapalli Yadagiri, Chandrashekhar, Pentaiah, Srinivas, Hari Prasad, Bhagya, Aruna, and Ganesh, participated in the awareness programme and assisted residents in the voter registration process.

Operation Muskaan Rescues 80 Children

Nacharam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

As part of Operation Muskaan-12, a special drive to eliminate child labour and prevent child marriages, authorities rescued 80 children during extensive inspections conducted across the Uppal subdivision under the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate on Thursday. The operation was carried out under the supervision of the District Women and Child Welfare Department in coordination with the police and child protection agencies. Special inspection teams visited hotels, workshops, commercial establishments, and other workplaces within the limits of the Uppal, Nacharam, and Kushaiguda police stations to identify children engaged in labour and minors vulnerable to child marriage. The rescue operation was led by Uppal Sub-Inspector K. Iddayya, along with officials from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), under the guidance of Uppal ACP Y. Venkat Reddy, Inspector Y. Ramalinga Reddy, and the Inspector of the LB Nagar Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU). During the inspections, officials identified several children employed in violation of child labour laws and rescued them. Authorities also intervened in cases involving minors who were at risk of child marriage. All rescued children were produced before the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for appropriate rehabilitation and further legal procedures. Police registered cases against employers found violating child protection laws. According to officials, 29 First Information Reports (FIRs) and 35 General Diary (GD) entries were recorded during the drive. Uppal police registered 15 FIRs and 21 GD entries, Nacharam police recorded 9 FIRs and 14 GD entries, while Kushaiguda police registered 5 FIRs. Officials stated that employers involved in child labour cases have been directed to deposit compensation ranging from ₹18,000 to ₹40,000 per rescued child through demand drafts at the District Collector's office, depending on the nature of each case. District Child Protection Unit members Sunitha, Anuradha, Sandhya, Varalakshmi, Shaikat Ali, Ranjith, and Ashritha, along with voluntary organisation representative Padma, participated in the operation. Officials appealed to the public to promptly report incidents of child labour or child marriage to the police or child protection authorities, emphasizing that community participation is essential to protecting children's rights and ensuring them a safe and secure future.



Repeat Offender Held with 280 Grams of Ganja



Quthbullapur, July 31 | TPN Bureau

A joint operation by the Suraram Police and the Kukatapally Special Operations Team (SOT) led to the arrest of a repeat offender allegedly involved in the illegal ganja trade. Police seized approximately 280 grams of ganja from the accused during the operation conducted on Friday. According to Suraram Station House Officer (SHO) K. Balaraju, the accused was identified as Md. Salim alias Guddu Sharma (45), a resident of Kaisar Nagar. Acting on credible intelligence regarding the movement of narcotic substances, the police launched a coordinated operation and apprehended the suspect while he was allegedly in possession of the contraband. Following the seizure, police registered a case against the accused under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The confiscated ganja was taken into custody as evidence, and the accused was produced before the court, which remanded him to judicial custody. During the preliminary investigation, officials found that Salim is a repeat offender with previous arrests in cases related to the illegal possession and sale

of ganja. Police believe his repeated involvement indicates continued participation in narcotic-related activities despite earlier legal action. SHO K. Balaraju said further investigation is underway to determine the source of the seized ganja, identify possible associates involved in the supply chain, and ascertain whether the accused has links to a larger drug distribution network operating in and around the city. The officer reiterated that Hyderabad police are intensifying their drive against narcotics and warned that strict action would be taken against individuals involved in the production, transportation, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs. He also appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement by sharing credible information about drug-related activities, assuring that the identity of informants would be kept confidential. The arrest is part of the ongoing efforts by the Suraram Police and the Kukatapally SOT to curb the illegal drug trade and ensure a safer environment for the public. Police said similar intelligence-based operations will continue across the region to prevent the circulation of narcotic substances and bring habitual offenders to justice.

Police Educate Young Athletes on Cyber Safety

Mallapur, July 30 | TPN Bureau

Police officials in Mallapur organized an awareness programme for children and young athletes practicing sports in Suryanagar Colony, highlighting the importance of cyber safety, discipline, healthy living, and social responsibility. The initiative aimed to educate youngsters about responsible digital behavior while encouraging them to balance academics, sports, and personal development. Inspector Dhanunjay and Sub-Inspector Maibilli Rajini Satya Prasad interacted with the children, offering practical guidance on staying safe in the digital world. Inspector Dhanunjay urged students to give equal importance to their education and sports, stating that both play a vital role in shaping a successful future. He cautioned children against the misuse of mobile phones and social media, advising them not to share personal information with strangers or respond to suspicious links, fake accounts, or unsolicited messages. Stressing that cybercrime is on



the rise, he said many online frauds and digital threats can be avoided through awareness and responsible internet usage. He added that police departments across the country are actively conducting cyber awareness campaigns to educate citizens, particularly the younger generation. The Inspector also warned students about the dangers of narcotics, unhealthy friendships, and harmful habits, saying such influences could negatively affect their future. He encouraged children to

cultivate a daily routine of sports and physical exercise, set clear goals, and work with determination to achieve success in life. SI Maibilli Rajini Satya Prasad emphasized that sports contribute not only to physical fitness but also to mental well-being. She said participation in sports helps develop discipline, punctuality, teamwork, and leadership qualities. She encouraged children to spend quality time with their families instead of excessive

time on social media and advised them to choose good friends while following the guidance of parents, teachers, and coaches. The officers also urged children to approach their parents or the police without hesitation if they encountered any problems. The participants responded enthusiastically, promising to follow the advice. Local residents appreciated the initiative and said such awareness programmes would help nurture responsible, confident, and socially aware young citizens.

Political Parties Consulted on Polling Station Rationalisation



Quthbullapur, July 31 | TPN Bureau

A special meeting with representatives of recognized political parties was held on Friday at the Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) office for the Q45 Quthbullapur Assembly constituency, focusing on the Gajularamam Circle. The meeting was organized in line with the Election Commission's direc-

tions to discuss the rationalisation of polling stations, including the establishment of new polling booths and the relocation of existing ones wherever required. Election officials said the exercise is aimed at improving voter convenience by ensuring polling stations are easily accessible and better equipped to serve the public. The initiative seeks to reduce difficulties faced by voters and strengthen the overall efficiency of the election process.

During the meeting, representatives of all recognized political parties were invited to submit written objections, if any, regarding the existing polling stations. They were also encouraged to provide proposals for shifting polling stations, setting up new ones in growing residential areas, and suggesting infrastructure improvements supported by valid reasons. Political party representatives shared their observations on local conditions and highlighted areas where changes could benefit voters. Responding to the suggestions, officials assured participants that every proposal would be carefully examined in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines before any final decision is taken. Officials emphasized that the rationalisation process is intended to make polling

arrangements more transparent, systematic, and voter-friendly. They said that suitable modifications, wherever necessary, would help ensure that electors can cast their votes without inconvenience. The meeting was attended by AERO and Deputy Commissioner U. Venkataramulu, Election Superintendent B. Balakrishna, and representatives from various recognized political parties. Officials informed the participants that all suggestions and recommendations received during the meeting would be compiled and forwarded to the Election Commission for further consideration. The exercise forms part of the ongoing efforts to streamline electoral infrastructure and ensure smooth conduct of future elections in the Quthbullapur Assembly constituency.

ECI Secretary Reviews SAR Digitization Drive

Quthbullapur, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Election Commission of India (ECI) Secretary Naveen Kumar conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing Summary Revision (SAR) digitization process in Kompally Circle-56 of the Quthbullapur Assembly constituency on Friday. The visit focused on assessing the progress of voter list revision and ensuring that the digitization process is being carried out efficiently, transparently, and in accordance with Election Commission guidelines. During the inspection, the ECI Secretary visited two polling stations in the circle, where he interacted directly with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) engaged in the digitization of SAR forms. He reviewed the field-level implementation of the exercise and sought detailed information about the progress made so far. Naveen Kumar inquired about the technical and administrative challenges faced by BLOs while digitizing voter registration forms. He also asked whether election



agents were extending the required cooperation during the process and discussed issues related to the scrutiny of applications, document verification, and data entry. The Secretary encouraged officials to promptly resolve any bottlenecks to ensure the smooth completion of the exercise. Describing voter list revision as one of the most critical components of the electoral process, he stressed the importance of maintaining transparency, accuracy, and

fairness in every stage of the digitization work. He directed officials to ensure that every application is processed strictly in accordance with Election Commission rules and that no eligible voter is inconvenienced due to procedural lapses. The ECI Secretary further instructed election officials to work in close coordination and complete the SAR digitization process within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality or accuracy. He reiterated that an updated and error-free electoral roll is essential for conducting free and fair elections. The inspection was attended by Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar, Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) and Deputy Commissioner D. Lavanya, Additional Collector (Revenue) Vijayender Reddy, along with senior officials of the Election Department. Officials assured the Secretary that the digitization process is progressing as per schedule and that all Election Commission directives are being strictly followed.

Women Honoured After Sewing Training

Mallapur, July 31 | TPN Bureau

A certificate distribution ceremony was held on Friday for the 11th batch of women who successfully completed sewing machine training at the Padma Fashion Sewing Machine Training Centre in Suryanagar Colony, Mallapur. The initiative, aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment through skill development, was organized jointly by the US-based Hope for Humanity organization and the Vijayawada-based Alert Foundation. Nacharam Police Station Circle Inspector Dhanunjaya Goud, Sub-Inspector Maibelli, and Woman Assistant Sub-Inspector Rajini attended the programme as chief guests. They presented certificates to the trainees and congratulated them on successfully completing the vocational course. Addressing the gathering, CI Dhanunjaya Goud emphasized that skill development plays a vital role in empowering women and creating sustainable livelihoods. He encouraged the participants to make effective use of the training by starting self-employment ventures, thereby achieving financial independence and contributing to their families' economic

well-being. He also appreciated the organizations for conducting a programme that directly benefits women and strengthens community development. Speaking on the occasion, Hope for Humanity founder Koteswara Rao said the training centre has been functioning successfully for the past three years. He informed that nearly 60 women have completed sewing machine training through 11 batches since the centre was established. The initiative, he said, will continue with the objective of equipping many more women with vocational skills and expanding opportunities for self-employment. Representatives of the organizing institutions highlighted that such training programmes not only provide practical skills but also boost the confidence of women,



enabling them to become financially self-reliant and improve their quality of life. The event was attended by Satya Prasad, Srikanth, training centre organizers Saritha and Narendra, and members of the Sravanthi-Subhash family, whose support through donations from members of the PTA organization in the United States helped sponsor the 11th batch of trainees.

Participants expressed gratitude to the organizers for providing them with valuable vocational training and said the programme had inspired them to pursue self-employment opportunities. The initiative was widely appreciated as another meaningful step towards enhancing women's empowerment and generating sustainable livelihood opportunities in the community.

BJP Urges Voters to Complete SSR Process Before Deadline

Nacharam, July 31 | TPN Bureau

With the Election Commission of India's Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls entering its final phase in Telangana, BJP SSR Booth Level Agent (BLA-1) Pothagani Gopal Goud has appealed to citizens to make full use of the remaining three days before the August 3 deadline. In a statement issued on Friday, Gopal Goud urged eligible voters who have not yet enrolled or those requiring corrections in their voter details to complete the process without delay. He advised citizens to submit applications for changes in their name, address, photograph, or other particulars using the prescribed forms before the deadline expires. He made a special appeal to young men and women who have recently attained the age of 18 to register themselves as first-time voters. He also encouraged them to verify their names and details in

the electoral roll to ensure there are no errors that could affect their voting rights. Gopal Goud said eligible voters could seek assistance from Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at their respective polling stations or approach Party Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for guidance in submitting applications and completing the necessary formalities. He emphasized that the right to vote is one of the most valuable rights in a democratic system and that every citizen has a responsibility to ensure their name is correctly included in the electoral roll. "The remaining three days provide an important opportunity for citizens to update their voter information and safeguard their democratic rights," he said, urging people not to wait until the last moment. The BJP leader also stated that the party has established help desks at various locations to assist voters with new registrations, corrections, deletions, and other modifications related to the electoral roll.



Party workers and volunteers are extending support to ensure that eligible citizens can complete the process smoothly. District official spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud, along with BJP leaders Yogeshwar Reddy, Hanumanth Biradhar,

Raji Reddy, Kranthi Kumar, Venugopal Reddy, Venkat Naik, Shekhar Gupta, Division Mahila Morcha President Manjulavani, and several party activists, participated in the voter awareness and assistance programme.

Former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy Passes Away



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Former Narsampet MLA and senior BRS leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy passed away in the early hours of Friday while undergoing treatment at Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad. He was 51. According to family sources, Sudarshan Reddy suffered a massive heart attack at

his residence in Hanamkonda on July 26. He was initially admitted to a local hospital and later shifted to Yashoda Hospital for advanced treatment. Despite receiving intensive medical care for five days, he succumbed to complications arising from cardiac arrest and a pulmonary embolism. Born on August 6, 1974, in Nallabelli of Warangal district, Sudarshan Reddy began his political journey in the Youth

Congress before joining the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now BRS) in 2001 during the Telangana statehood movement. Over the years, he held several key positions, including ZPTC member, district party president and Politburo member. He was elected as MLA from Narsampet in the 2018 Assembly elections. He also served as Chairman of the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation and was a member of the Public Accounts Committee. Sudarshan Reddy was widely known for his dedication to the Telangana movement. During the agitation, he had vowed not to marry until the formation of a separate Telangana state, a promise he fulfilled by marrying after the state was formed in 2014. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed profound grief over the leader's demise, stating that Sudarshan Reddy's contributions to the Telangana statehood movement would always be remembered. He extended condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao

described Sudarshan Reddy as a close associate and a committed leader of the Telangana movement. He recalled their association during the statehood struggle and said the late leader played a key role in strengthening the party in the Narsampet region. K. Chandrashekar Rao noted that Sudarshan Reddy remained dedicated to the cause of Telangana throughout his life and worked with sincerity and commitment. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar also condoled the demise, describing it as a significant loss to public life. He highlighted Sudarshan Reddy's contribution to the Telangana movement and his tenure as Chairman of the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation. Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao termed his passing an irreparable loss and recalled his role in the political landscape of the Narsampet constituency and erstwhile Warangal district. He noted that Sudarshan Reddy rose from humble beginnings and earned the trust of the people. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed shock over the untimely demise and said Sudarshan Reddy's contributions to public service and the Telangana movement would be remembered. Leaders across political parties, along with party workers and people from the erstwhile Warangal district, mourned the loss of a leader remembered for his commitment to public service and the Telangana cause.

RDO Warns Against Government Land Encroachments

Metpally, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Metpally Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Narasimha Rao warned that illegal occupation and cultivation of government land would invite legal action. He stated that encroachment of government property would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Following a complaint submitted by villagers during the recent Prajavani public grievance program regarding alleged encroachment of government land in Survey No. 498 on the outskirts of Metlachittapur village, the RDO inspected the site on Friday along with Tahsildar Neetha. During the inspection, the RDO directed revenue officials to conduct a detailed survey, verify land records, identify unauthorized occupants, issue notices, and take necessary steps to

restore possession of the land to the government if violations were confirmed. Narasimha Rao said protecting government lands is a collective responsibility and urged people who are occupying government land illegally to voluntarily vacate it. He instructed officials to thoroughly examine documents before initiating further action. He also clarified that if any patta landowner had surrendered land for government development works, the matter regarding alternative land allocation would be taken up with higher authorities for appropriate resolution. The inspection was attended by Sarpanch Sunketa Aruna, Gangadhar, Revenue Inspector Sandhyarani, GPO Malleshm, local representatives, farmers, and others. The officials assured that necessary measures would be taken based on the survey findings.

Bonalu Festival Opens with Shikhara Puja

Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The 118th annual Bonalu celebrations at the historic Lal Darwaza Simhavahini Sri Mahankali Ammavaru Temple commenced on Friday with traditional rituals and religious ceremonies, marking the beginning of one of the most revered festivals in Telangana. Ahead of the grand Ashada Masam Bonalu festivities, temples across Hyderabad's Old City were illuminated with decorative lighting and vibrant floral and traditional motifs, creating a festive atmosphere for devotees. According to Endowments Department Additional Commissioner Srinivas Rao, the annual celebrations will continue with the Goddess being adorned in different forms each day during the Navaratri festivities. He said elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of the temple rituals and accommodate the large number of devotees expected to visit the shrine. The inaugural ceremonies began with the traditional Abhishekam, followed by the Shikhara Puja and Dhawajorahana (flag-hoisting ceremony), formally marking the commencement of the festival. City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar and GHMC Zonal Commissioner Satyanarayana attended the event as chief guests and offered special prayers to Goddess Mahankali for the well-being, peace, and prosperity of the people. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries expressed happiness at participating in the sacred rituals and described Bonalu as one of Telangana's most significant cultural and spiritual festivals. They assured devotees that all departments were working in close coordination to ensure the celebrations are conducted peacefully, safely, and without inconvenience to the public. South Zone DCP Kare Kiran Prabhakar, officials from the Endowments Department, temple committee members, and several devotees also participated in the inaugural programme. Authorities said extensive security, traffic management, sanitation, and civic arrangements have been made to facilitate the smooth conduct of the celebrations, which are expected to draw thousands of devotees to the temple over the coming days.

Man Arrested for Alleged Abetment of Wife's Suicide

Malkajgiri, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri police have arrested a 41-year-old man on charges of allegedly harassing his wife and abetting her suicide. The accused, identified as Yallugula Naveen Kumar, was taken into custody on Friday and later remanded to judicial custody by a local court. According to the police, the victim, Y. Saranya (34), had been married to Naveen Kumar for the past 14 years and was residing at Akshaya Towers in Moulali Jawaharnagar. Investigators alleged that the accused was addicted to alcohol, had accumulated financial debts, neglected his family, and subjected his wife to continuous mental harassment. Unable to cope with the alleged harassment, Saranya reportedly consumed cockroach poison in an attempt to end her life. She was admitted to a hospital for treatment but succumbed on July 25. Following a complaint lodged by the



victim's father, Ashok Akunuru, Malkajgiri police initially registered a case under Section 85 read with Section 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During the course of the investigation, police recorded statements from witnesses and examined other evidence, after which Section 108 of the BNS, relating to abetment of suicide, was added to the case. Police said the accused, a resident of Siddhartha Nagar Colony in Dammaiguda, was produced before the court after his arrest, and the court ordered his judicial remand. Further investigation into the case is in progress.

Ration Card e-KYC Deadline Extended to August 31



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Civil Supplies Department has extended the deadline for completing the ration card e-KYC process by one month, providing relief to thousands of beneficiaries who were yet to complete the mandatory verification. With the earlier deadline ending on July 31, the department announced that beneficiaries will now have until August 31 to complete the e-KYC process. The extension is intended to ensure that all eligible ration cardholders have sufficient time to update their details without inconvenience. The decision comes amid concerns among beneficiaries following reports that the supply of essential commodities could be affected if the e-KYC process was not completed within the stipulated time. The extension has eased anxieties among cardholders who were unable to complete the

verification earlier. According to Civil Supplies officials, beneficiaries can complete the e-KYC process by visiting their respective fair price shops and providing biometric authentication through the e-POS machines available with ration dealers. Officials urged all eligible cardholders to complete the process well before the revised deadline to avoid any last-minute rush. The department also announced a special ration distribution programme for the upcoming month. From August 1 to August 31, beneficiaries will receive three months' quota of ration rice in a single distribution. Officials advised cardholders to collect their allotted stock from their designated ration shops during the distribution period. The Civil Supplies Department appealed to all beneficiaries to utilize the extended deadline and complete the e-KYC process promptly while availing themselves of the special three-month ration distribution. The initiative is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted delivery of food security benefits to all eligible families.

New Overseas Opportunities for Professional Drivers

Rajanna Sircilla, July 31 | TPN Bureau

A major initiative to expand overseas employment opportunities for Telangana's youth gained momentum on Friday as representatives of HanaVista Consulting Pvt. Ltd. visited the ITDR Driving Training Institute at Baddenapalli in Tangallapalli mandal, Rajanna Sircilla district. The visit was aimed at assessing the institute's capacity to train skilled professional drivers for employment in Japan. Guided by Telangana IAS officer Hari Prasad, the delegation, led by HanaVista Consulting CEO Sayuri Matsuno, inspected the institute's training facilities, driving methodology, modern infrastructure, equipment, operational standards, and overall skill development framework. During the visit, officials held discussions on establishing long-term cooperation to facilitate the recruitment of qualified Indian drivers for the Japanese job market. The proposed collaboration is expected to create new overseas employment opportunities for trained drivers from Telangana while addressing the

growing demand for skilled professionals in Japan. Officials expressed confidence that the partnership, if finalized, would open promising career avenues for the state's youth and strengthen international employment initiatives through specialized training and placement support. District Transport Officer Devunuri Srinivas, Motor Vehicle Inspector Vamsidhar, ITDR Principal Dorai Murugan, and other officials participated in the discussions and briefed the visiting delegation on the institute's training programmes and facilities. The proposed collaboration is expected to enhance Telangana's efforts to equip young professionals with globally relevant skills and improve their access to overseas employment opportunities.



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



Hyderabad/Vijayawada, July 31 | TPN Bureau

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at multiple locations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in connection with an alleged Rs 105.44 crore fraud case involving Punjab National Bank. The CBI registered a case based on a complaint from Punjab National Bank against directors of NCS Sugars Limited and certain government employees for allegedly obtaining loans using forged documents. Searches were carried out at several locations in Hyderabad, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and Kakinada. The CBI teams inspected the NCS Sugars factory, company offices and residences of the directors as part of the investigation. During the searches, officials reportedly collected important documents and digital evidence related to the case. Further investigation is underway to examine the alleged financial irregularities and the role of individuals involved.

National Textile Meet to Be Held in Sircilla on August 23

Rajanna Sircilla, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Former CPM MLC Cherupalli Sitaramulu has announced that the All India Textile Coordination Committee will hold a national-level meeting and a workers' public meeting in Rajanna Sircilla on August 23, bringing together representatives from the textile and powerloom sectors across the country. The announcement was made during a meeting of key district leaders of the Telangana Powerloom Workers Union (CITU), held at the Amrutlal Shukla Labour Bhavan in B.V. Nagar on Friday. The meeting was presided over by the union's state president, Moosham Ramesh, and attended by Cherupalli Sitaramulu and All India Textile Coordination Committee member Koorapatti Ramesh. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, the leaders said the event would be organized in Rajanna Sircilla, one of Telangana's major textile hubs, for the first time. They noted that delegates from several states representing textile workers, powerloom employees,

and industry organizations would participate in the discussions. According to the organizers, the meeting will focus on issues affecting the textile and powerloom sectors, including industry development, worker welfare, employment security, and policy measures to strengthen the sector. A future course of action is expected to be finalized after detailed deliberations on the challenges faced by workers and the industry nationwide. The leaders appealed to powerloom workers, employees in allied industries, master weavers, entrepreneurs, traders, and members of the public to actively participate in the programme and extend their support to make the event a success. Powerloom Workers' Union District President Kodam Ramana, District Secretary Sirimalla Satyam, and several union leaders also attended the meeting. The organizers expressed confidence that the gathering would provide a common platform to discuss key concerns and formulate strategies for the sustainable growth of India's textile and powerloom industries.

V. Hanumantha Rao Targets BJP Over Student Issues



Hyderabad, July 31 | TPN Bureau

Government Advisor and senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao on Friday criticized BJP leaders over their alleged remarks against student leader Abhishek and called for the withdrawal of cases registered against students during recent protests. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Hanumantha Rao questioned the justification for what he described as threats issued by BJP leaders, alleging that it was inappropriate to pressure individuals to join a political party or face consequences. He also claimed that attempts had been made to suppress the student movement and said the resignation of the Education Minister reflected

the impact of sustained student protests. He demanded that all criminal cases filed against students during the agitation be withdrawn immediately. Hanumantha Rao also urged the government to provide ?1 crore as compensation to the families of students who allegedly died by suicide following the examination paper leak controversy. The Congress leader further accused the BJP of remaining silent over alleged irregularities involving donations at the Ayodhya temple despite frequently raising issues related to religion. He called upon religious leaders, including Chinna Jeeyar Swamy and other seers, to speak out on the matter and sought strict action against those found responsible if any wrongdoing is established.

Editorial

Credit War Should Not Overshadow Development

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

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

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

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

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

Editor

Be the Change: Bring Change Through Foster Care

BVS Kumar



Former Chairman
Child Welfare Committee
Krishna district

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

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

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



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

Foster care provides an important and practical alternative

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

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

Service Above Self

Mandali Krishna Rao's Footprints Inspire Diviseema



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

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

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

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

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

S. Veeranarayana Reddy



IPS (Retired)

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

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

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

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



CA Earns Rs 12 Lakh During Tax Season



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

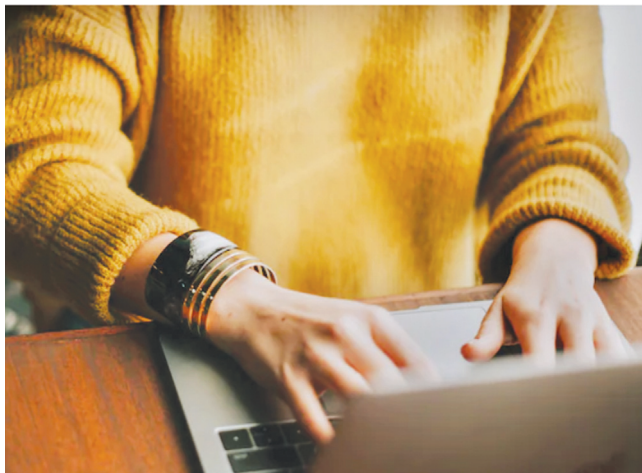
According to the viral post, the CA charged Rs 3,000 per client for filing their income tax returns. With the growing demand for tax-related services during the filing period, he reportedly managed a large number of clients within a few days and generated significant earnings. The post also claimed that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

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

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

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

Candidate Cancels Interview After Bad Reviews Goes Viral



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

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

Others argued that online reviews should be viewed carefully, as indi-

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

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

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

UK Work Culture Surprise For Indian Techie

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Denmark Woman Amazed By First Indian Sleeper Train Ride

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

Top Performer Manager Loses Job Despite Excellent Reviews



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Drive Against Child Trafficking Launched

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

Punjab Congress Faction War Deepens

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

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

Supreme Court Stays NSE Under RTI Order

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

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



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

Cauvery Row Hits Vijay Film In Karnataka

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



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



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



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

Centre Summons Meta Over Algorithm Concerns, Child Safety Issues



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

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

Birth, Death Registration Bill Passed In Lok Sabha

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



Taslima Nasreen Returns To Kolkata After 19 Years



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

Trump Announces Gaza Disarmament Deal With Hamas



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

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

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

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

Gulf Nations Turn to China Over Hormuz Crisis

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



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

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

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



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

Drone Attack Hits Russia's Volgograd, Five Injured

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

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



PoK Unrest: 37 Dead Amid Election Dispute and Protests

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



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

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

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

US Sanctions India-Based Firm Over Mahan Air Links

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

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



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

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

ITC Q1 Profit Drops 27%, Revenue Shows Strong Growth



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

M&M Jumps After Strong Q1



Mahindra & Mahindra shares surged up to 5 percent on Friday after the company reported a strong set of results for the June quarter, boosting investor confidence in the automobile major's growth prospects. The rally was driven by higher profitability, improving margins, and continued strength in both the SUV and tractor businesses. The stock touched an intraday high of Rs 3,457 on the NSE, rising more than 5 percent during trading. Although some profit booking emerged later in the session, the shares still ended with healthy gains, reflecting positive market sentiment following the earnings announcement. For the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27, M&M reported a 34 percent year-on-year increase in consolidated profit after tax. Revenue also rose 28 percent compared with the same period last year, supported by strong demand for the company's sport utility vehicles and tractors. One of the key highlights of the results was the improvement in operating margins on both a sequential and year-on-year basis. This came despite continued pressure from commodity price inflation and a challenging macroeconomic environment. The margin expansion indicated strong execution, better product mix, and effective pricing strategies across the company's core businesses. The SUV segment remains a major growth driver for M&M, with popular models continuing to witness strong customer demand and healthy booking momentum. The company has been steadily increasing its market share in the domestic SUV market, which is one of the fastest-growing segments in the Indian passenger vehicle industry. The tractor business also continued to provide stability and growth support. M&M maintains a leadership position in the domestic tractor market, benefiting from its extensive rural distribution network and sustained demand from the agricultural sector. Market experts believe the company's diversified presence across utility vehicles, commercial vehicles, farm equipment, and emerging mobility businesses provides a strong foundation for long-term growth. The latest quarterly performance has reinforced confidence in M&M's ability to maintain profitability while continuing to expand its market presence. From a technical perspective, analysts noted that the stock has shown improving momentum after moving above its 200-day moving average with strong trading volumes. The price action suggests that investor sentiment has turned more constructive in the short to medium term. Analysts indicate that as long as the stock sustains above the Rs 3,350 level, the broader trend remains favourable. The combination of strong earnings growth, improving margins, leadership in tractors, and expanding SUV market share makes M&M an attractive candidate for investors seeking exposure to India's automobile and rural growth story. With demand conditions remaining healthy and the company continuing to strengthen its product portfolio, M&M's latest quarterly performance has positioned it among the stronger performers in the Indian auto sector, helping the stock emerge as one of the day's notable gainers.

Auto Stocks Power Sensex, Nifty Extends Winning Streak

Indian equity markets ended higher on Friday, extending their winning streak to the third consecutive session as strong buying in automobile and financial stocks lifted investor sentiment. The BSE Sensex rose 166 points to close near 78,100, while the NSE Nifty gained around 66 points and finished above the 24,350 mark after briefly crossing 24,400 during intraday trade. The day's trading was marked by broad-based participation, with investors continuing to show confidence in domestic equities despite mixed global cues. Market participants largely focused on quarterly earnings, improving domestic demand indicators, and sustained buying from institutional investors. Automobile stocks were the clear stars of the session. Shares of TVS Motor, Mahindra & Mahindra, Ashok Leyland, and several other auto companies witnessed strong gains as investors responded positively to expectations of better sales growth and healthy earnings momentum. The strong performance of the sector helped the Nifty Auto index emerge as one of the top-performing sectoral indices of the day. Financial stocks also provided solid support to the benchmarks. Bajaj Finance surged sharply



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

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

throughout the session, supported by encouraging earnings announcements and expectations of sustained demand in domestic and export markets. Select mid-cap and small-cap stocks also continued to outperform, attracting retail as well as institutional interest. However, the rally was not entirely one-sided. Information technology and FMCG stocks faced selling pressure, with investors booking profits after recent gains. Weakness in a few heavyweight IT counters limited the overall upside for the benchmarks. Market analysts believe that the Nifty's ability to sustain above the 24,350-24,400 zone is technically important and could support further gains in the coming sessions if earnings momentum remains favorable. The return of foreign portfolio inflows, resilient domestic economic indicators, and strong participation from retail investors have added to the positive outlook. With July ending on a firm footing, Indian equities have once again demonstrated resilience, supported by healthy corporate earnings, strong domestic liquidity, and optimism surrounding the country's medium-term growth prospects despite ongoing global uncertainties.

AI Wunderkind's Stunning Rise Meets Sudden Setback

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

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



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

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

KOSPI Sees Sharp Rebound



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

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

computing. Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix jumped more than 23 percent each, reflecting renewed optimism about demand for advanced memory chips and AI-focused semiconductor products. The two companies are viewed as key beneficiaries of the global artificial intelligence investment boom, and their strong performance helped lift the broader Korean market. The rebound followed a steep correction in which the KOSPI had fallen more than 17 percent over three consecutive sessions. Concerns about high AI valuations, rising leverage, and forced selling in technology stocks had triggered one of the sharpest recent declines in the South Korean market. Investor sentiment also improved after the South Korean government unveiled plans to support strategic technology investments. Authorities announced a proposal to inject about 20 trillion won into a new investment account focused on artificial intelligence, data centres, semiconductor infrastructure, and other strategic industries. The initiative is expected to provide additional long-term sup-

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

Maruti Profit Slips Despite Strong Revenue Growth

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd reported a decline in net profit for the first quarter of the financial year 2026-27, as rising input costs and pressure on operating margins outweighed strong growth in revenue and vehicle sales. The country's largest carmaker posted a net profit of Rs 3,352 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, marking an 11 percent decline compared with the same period last year. Despite the fall in profitability, the company recorded robust top-line growth, with revenue rising 36 percent to Rs 52,456 crore. The strong revenue performance was driven by higher vehicle sales volumes and improved realizations across segments. Demand in the domestic passenger vehicle market remained healthy during the quarter, supported by improving consumer sentiment and continued momentum following the GST reductions introduced last year. However, the benefit of higher sales

was offset by a sharp rise in expenses. Total expenses increased 40.5 percent to Rs 49,988 crore, growing at a faster pace than revenue. The increase was largely attributed to higher raw material and commodity costs, particularly steel and other key automotive inputs. Maruti Suzuki had implemented price hikes during the quarter in an effort to protect margins, but the company was unable to fully pass on the increase in costs to consumers. Elevated steel prices, higher commodity costs, and supply chain disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions in West Asia continued to weigh on profitability. The results highlight the challenge facing automobile manufacturers in balancing volume growth with margin protection in an environment of persistent cost inflation. While demand for passenger vehicles has remained resilient, rising input costs have significantly affected earnings

across the sector. Industry analysts note that Maruti Suzuki's revenue growth indicates that underlying demand for its vehicles remains strong, particularly in the compact and utility vehicle categories where the company continues to hold a dominant market position. However, the pressure on margins suggests that cost management and pricing discipline will remain critical factors in the coming quarters. Investors are expected to closely monitor whether easing commodity prices or further pricing actions can help improve profitability in the second half of the financial year. The company's extensive product portfolio, strong distribution network, and leadership in the domestic passenger vehicle market continue to provide long-term strengths, but near-term earnings may remain sensitive to fluctuations in raw material costs and global supply chain conditions. Although the June quarter reflected



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

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

Vikrant Massey's? Emotional Farewell to Rahane

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

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

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



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

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

India Assured Two Boxing Medals

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



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



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

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

AFC Opposes FIFA Plan

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



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

Teamwork Key for India Hockey



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

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

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

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

Alonso Praises Lacroix



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

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

Bumrah Boost for India

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

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



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

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

Varanasi Release Date Unchanged

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

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



Agadha Trailer on August 3



Raaka Rights Buzz Grows

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



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

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

Newton's 3rd Law Falls Short

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

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



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

Spider-Man Creates History in India



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kiara's Toxic Poster Turns Heads



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

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