Weather Forecast **VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD TIRUPATHI**

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Revanth's Words do not Match with his Actions: **Harish Rao**

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betraying Telangana's 🖡 interests by agreeing to a committee on the Godavari-Banakacharla water diversion issue during a secretive visit to Delhi. Speaking at a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao ques-

tioned Revanth's midnight questioned, warning that Retrip to Delhi and demanded accountability for what he termed a "dark deal" with Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu.

Harish Rao questioned why Revanth, who previously vowed never to attend meetings at clubs or pubs, held a press conference at Leela Palace, a seven-star hotel, instead of Telangana Bhavan in rights?" Delhi, where he has an official residence. "Revanth Reddy's words do not match his actions. Even a chameleon would feel ashamed," he remarked.

He accused Revanth of misleading the people by claim- ing that Revanth's consent to ing there was no discussion form a committee is a violaon the Banakacharla issue tion of Telangana's rights and during the Delhi meeting. "AP Minister Nimmala said the issue was discussed, and even a committee was formed. Who is lying here?" Harish



vanth is deceiving Telangana in broad daylight.

Highlighting the contradiction, Harish said, "Revanth claimed earlier that if Banakacharla was on the agenda, he would protest. But he went running to Delhi and agreed to a committee. How can you claim to protect Telangana while surrendering its

He also raised serious concerns over the Centre's decision to hold meetings on Banakacharla despite rejections from statutory bodies like GRMB, CWC, and Polavaram Project Authority, stata betrayal of the State Reorganisation Act.

PAGE

Special Committee on Banakacharla...

Will Talks Water Down the Dispute?

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a key meeting convened by Union Water Resources Minister CR Patil at Shram Shakti Bhavan in Delhi, the Chief Ministers of the two Telugu states—Chandrababu Naidu and Revanth Reddy—came face-to-face amid growing tensions over the proposed Godavari-Banakacharla linkage project. However, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy clarified that the contentious project did not even come up for discussion.

Revanth Reddy: "Banakacharla Wasn't on the Agenda"

Addressing the media after the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy said, "The proposal to build the Godavari-Banakacharla project from Andhra Pradesh was not even on the table. So, the question of opposing it does not arise." He made it clear that this was not an Apex Council meeting and added that both states agreed to form a committee of engineers and officials to address Krishna and Godavari water disputes. Revanth also emphasized that the meeting's objective was to sort out pending issues, not stir up fresh controversies.

Taking a swipe at his predecessor, he accused KCR of having surrendered Telangana's rightful water share during the BRS regime. "We are now trying to undo the damage," he said. Telangana's focus in the meeting remained on securing national status for the Palamuru-Rangareddy, Dindi, and Ichampalli projects on the Krishna River and obtaining necessary permissions for pending works.

Chandrababu Naidu: "AP Has the Right to Surplus Water"

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu stood firm on his state's claim over surplus Godavari water. In a separate meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chandrababu asserted that AP, being at the tail end of the Godavari River, is entitled to utilise surplus flows that continue for 90 to

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Hyderabad

120 days even after upper riparian states are served.

He explained that the Polavaram-Banakacharla linkage is a well-intentioned plan to divert surplus water to the drought-hit Rayalaseema region. "This is not just about politics—it's about delivering water to regions that have suffered for decades," he reportedly told the Union Minister.

Uttam Kumar Reddy: "AP Agrees to Telemetry—Finally!"

Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, who also attended the meeting, said Andhra Pradesh has agreed to install telemetry systems at all major reservoirs and castallation if the Centre doesn't.

He blamed the previous Telangana administration for neglecting this crucial technology and said the current government is committed to ensuring full transparency in Krishna

River water usage.

Nimmala Ramanaidu: "Positive Vibes and Productive Talks"

Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu described the meeting as a landmark step in Telugu state relations. "The talks were held in a positive atmosphere. We discussed the technical merits of the proposals. Most importantly, it was decided to keep the Krishna River Management Board in Amaravati and the Godavari Board in Hyderabad," he said. He also confirmed that a special committee would be formed by Monday to specifically address the Banakacharla

nals to monitor water usage. "They've finally While there was no clear resolution on the agreed—on a war footing," he said, adding Banakacharla project itself, the tone of the that Telangana is even willing to fund the in- meeting suggested a willingness to work through institutional channels. For now, it's a wait-and-watch situation as both states dig into their positions—with water, politics, and parched lands hanging in the balance.

Retd Telangana Irrigation Chief

Sent to 14-Day Jail



HCA Officials in

6-Day CID Custody

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Malkajgiri court granted six-day custody to the Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) for five accused individuals, including Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president A. Jagan a complaint from Telangana Mohan Rao. The accused are under investigation for alleged forgery and financial misappropriation connected to the HCA Jagan Mohan Rao, in collusion elections.

joint secretary Srinivasa Rao, day, president of the original CEO Sunil Kanthe, Sri Chakra Gowlipura Cricket Club (now re-Cricket Club general secretary named Sri Chakra Cricket Club). Rajendra Yadav, and the same club's president G. Kavitha,

along with Jagan Mohan Rao. All five are accused of conspiring to manipulate documents and use forged signatures to gain election eligibility.

The case was filed based on Cricket Association general secretary Dharmam Guruva Reddy. The complaint alleged that with Yadav and Kavitha, forged The CID had earlier arrested HCA the signature of C. Krishna Ya-





dy by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court following his arrest in a high-profile disproportionate assets case. Soon after the court's order, Rao was transported to Chanchalguda Jail under cluding property documents, tight security.

The arrest is part of an ongoing investigation into alleged corruption and asset accumulation far exceeding Rao's known sources of income during his government service. On the morning of July 15, ACB officials carried residence in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, and at 11 other the tenlocations connected to his ure

relatives and associates. The searches, which continued late into the night, reportedly uncovered large volumes of unaccounted wealth, invaluables, and financial records. Authorities suspect that several of these assets are benami holdings, registered in the names of family members and close associates.

Muralidhar Rao had served over 13 years in the Irrigaout coordinated raids at his tion Department, including during

Minister Inspects Uppal Flyover, Sets 2026 Deadline

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad The 6.25 km-Uppal long Elevated Corridor, currently under construction from Uppal to Narapalli, was inspected by Roads Buildand ings and Cinematography Minister Komatired-Venkat

Reddy in the

presence

Government Lakshma Reddy, and R&B National Highways SE Dharma Reddy. The Minister stated that although the project began in 2017, it remains incomplete, adding, "I have no intention of criticizing anythe problems of the people."

Ilayya, Uppal MLA Bandari one, but our goal is to solve Emphasizing the importance of the corridor, which

Whip and Aleru MLA Birla serves as a key route for devotees to Yadagirigutta and for residents of Warangal, Janagama, and Yadadri districts, he noted that both MP Etala Rajender and MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy have been urging him to expedite the work. The Minister said this will be the





Telangana Ideal for Industry: Dy CM Bhatti

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad Telangana continues to strengthen French delegation to explore Telanits image as a preferred destination for global industrial investment, with Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu reaffirming the state's commitment to fostering international collaboration. On Wednesday, the Deputy CM met with French Consul General Marc Lemi and his team at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat in Hyderabad to discuss potential avenues for industrial partnerships between Telangana and France.

During the high-level meeting, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted Telangana's pro-growth ecosystem and investor-friendly approach. He pointed out that the state's robust infrastructure, skilled workforce, and progressive industrial policies make it an attractive destination for setting up technology-driven and other industrial

ventures. The Deputy CM urged the gana's vast resources and assess investment potential in areas such as information technology, electronics manufacturing, renewable energy, and sustainable infrastructure. Emphasising the state's focus on in-

novation and clean energy, Bhatti

Vikramarka noted that Telangana offers a stable and business-friendly environment that facilitates ease of doing business. He welcomed foreign partnerships that align with the government's vision for inclusive and sustainable development. French Consul General Marc Lemi appreciated Telangana's dynamic development model and expressed keen interest in strengthening bilateral ties through economic cooperation. He acknowledged the state's achievements in sectors like green energy, technology, and urban infrastructure and indicated France's



readiness to explore long-term collaborations that could benefit both regions.

The meeting was also attended by senior state officials, including Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, and Krishna Bhaskar, CMD of Transco. Their presence underscored the state's coordinated approach to attracting international investment and supporting joint ventures.

The discussion marks a positive step toward deepening France-Telangana relations and paves the way for strategic partnerships aimed at economic growth, technological exchange, and innovation.

Lawyers Urged to Work Harmoniously

TSBJP Chief Urges Harmonious Cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BJP State President Shri N. Ramchandra Rao, speaking at the Ranga Reddy District Bar Association program, emphasized the unique bond among lawyers beyond political affiliations. Highlighting his own background as an advocate, he noted that despite belonging to different political parties, lawyers often work together harmoniously in court, citing examples like Arun Jaitley, Kapil Sibal, and Abhishek Manu Singhvi. Rao urged young lawyers to take their profession seriously and contribute meaningfully to society.

Reflecting on the state's political climate, he remarked that many citizens feel apprehensive about assembly sessions, needing to learn new political strategies. He also lauded the role lawyers played in the formation of Telangana and pointed out that around 250 lawyers currently serve as Members of Parliament in both Rajva Sabha and Lok Sabha nationwide.

Calling for lawyers to carry their dedication for justice into public service, Rao en-



couraged them to enter politics with the aim of serving the people. He stressed that his own political journey has been guided by principles rather than personal gain. "Whether we win or lose, I work only for the principles I believe in," he said.

Concluding his address, Rao appealed for a transformation in Telangana's political culture, stating, "If the lawyers move, the country will move." His remarks highlighted the potential impact the legal community can have on the state's governance and society at large.

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HCA Officials in 6-Day CID Custody

The fake documents were alleged- in Cherlapalli Jail. ly used to claim election rights within the HCA.

CID Additional DGP Charu Sinha confirmed that the fraudulent documents were presented as originals to secure voting rights, which eventually led to Jagan Mohan Rao's election as HCA president. Following their arrest, the accused were remanded to judicial custody for 14 days and lodged

The CID later approached the Malkajgiri court seeking custody, stating that further investigation was needed as key information remained undisclosed. The court granted the CID six days of custody, starting Thursday, to continue the interrogation and gather more evidence in the high-profile

Minister Inspects Uppal Flyover, Sets 2026 Deadline

second-largest elevated corridor within GHMC limits, the Minis-Minister Nitin Gadkari to help resolve issues related to the proj-

Addressing the 1.4 km flyover stretch from Uppal to DSL Mall

in the state after the PV Nara- ter called GHMC Commissioner simha Rao Expressway and that R.V. Karnan during the visit and it is being fast-tracked with in- directed that the work be comterdepartmental coordination to pleted without delay. He further ensure completion by Dussehra announced that a special review 2026. He also mentioned that he meeting with the GHMC Comhad spoken to Union Transport missioner, Engineer-in-Chief, and Chief Engineer will be held at the Secretariat on Wednesday to monitor progress and address any bottlenecks.

Revanth's Words do not **Match with his Actions: Harish Rao**

"This is nothing but political slav- Harish reminded the media that ery to Chandrababu Naidu and it was the BRS government unthe BJP. Revanth is acting as per der KCR that stabilized 30 lakh Chandrababu's script, and Tel- acres and created new ayacut angana is paying the price," he for 17.24 lakh acres. He slammed alleged. "Congress MLAs them- the current regime for not even selves say there are TDP coverts requesting expert opinion before inside their party. What more attending critical water-sharing proof do we need?"

gress government in water man- ish Rao said: "This is not goveragement, including the collapse nance, this is surrender. Revanth of Sunkishala, SLBC, and Jurala Reddy's betrayal is unforgivable. gates, and questioned, "What have you achieved in 20 months, Revanth Reddy? Did you irrigate will drown in betrayal." a single acre?"

meetings.

He listed the failures of the Con- Concluding his press meet, Har-Show some honesty on water issues, or the people of Telangana

Retd Telangana Irrigation Chief Sent to 14-Day Jail

ly associated with the planning implementation of contracts. and execution of large-scale infrastructure projects, notably Project and the Medigadda barrage, both of which have come under scrutiny for financial and technical irregularities. His role in these projects had earlier prompted questioning by the Justice P.C. Ghose Commission,

of the K. Chandrashekar Rao-led which is probing alleged lapses (KCR) government. He was close- and violations in the award and The ACB has confirmed that investigations are ongoing and the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation that further action may follow based on evidence gathered during the raids. Rao's arrest marks a significant development in the state's broader crackdown on corruption within the public works sector.

New Twist in CPI Leader Chandu's **Murder Case**

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Hyderabad: The investigation into the sensational murder of CPI leader Chandu Rathod in Malakpet has taken a new turn, with police now suspecting an extramarital affair as a possible motive behind the killing. This development comes after key revelations made by the surrendered accused during separate interrogation sessions.

Initially, the police suspected land disputes and later explored financial disagreements as potential motives. However, after intense questioning, officials reportedly learned of a personal quarrel involving Chandu and his friend Rajesh, linked to an alleged extramarital affair. This angle is now being probed discreetly, while investigators continue to work on other leads.

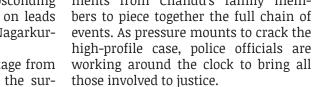
According to officials, nine individuals were involved in the meticulously planned attack. Four of them are believed to have directly fired the shots, while five others provided logistical and on-ground support. In total, eight Shalivahana Nagar Park and the sur-

rounds were fired during the ambush, with five bullets striking Chandu. Three other bullets were recovered from the scene by the police.

Authorities have so far arrested four suspects and are on the lookout for the remaining five. The car used by the assailants has been seized. Teams from law and order, the task force, and three additional special squads have been deployed to track down the absconding accused, particularly focusing on leads emerging from Achampet in Nagarkurnool district.

Police have collected CCTV footage from

rounding localities to retrace the movements of the suspects before and after the murder. In parallel, old records of land settlements involving Chandu are also being scrutinized, as officers believe that a clearer picture will emerge only when the exact motive is established. Investigators are also relying on the post-mortem report, clues team analysis, eyewitness testimonies, and statements from Chandu's family mem-



Former IAS RP Singh in CCS Custody Over Land Dispute

TPN | V. Krishna Kumar

Hyderabad: Former IAS officer RP Singh has landed in legal trouble after being taken into custody by the Central Crime Station (CCS) police in connection with a land dispute involving a commercial development in Khajaguda, under the Rayadurgam police station limits.

According to officials, the dispute revolves around 10.32 guntas of land in Survey No. 19, which RP Singh and his wife Harvinder Singh had entered into an agreement to develop with iTower Construction Company. The controversy began when the couple gifted a larger parcel of land—3 acres and 24 guntas but later canceled the gift deed, allegedly citing their daughter's residence in the

United States as the reason. The construction company, however, claims it was kept in the dark about the cancellation and only discovered the issue when they approached banks for a project loan. The revelation not only stalled the project but also sparked panic among over 700 customers who had

already invested in the commercial com-

In 2023, iTower filed a complaint at the Rayadurgam police station, alleging that the couple deliberately concealed the legal status of the property while entering into the development agreement. The case was later transferred to CCS for deeper investigation.

The crux of the issue lies in the claim that the former IAS officer and his wife

had agreed to hand over the property for development without disclosing that the original gift deed was no longer valid. The cancellation of the gift deed rendered the project legally untenable, preventing banks from extending loans and effectively freezing the entire development. The CCS police have since registered a case

and arrested RP Singh. He is currently being interrogated as part of the ongoing investigation. The incident has caused anxiety among hundreds of customers who had booked plots and commercial units in the project, many of whom had already paid substantial amounts.

As the legal battle unfolds, uncertainty looms large for the victims, who are now left wondering whether their hardearned investments will ever materialize into promised real estate.

Peddapalli Empowers Women Through Indira Mahila Shakti

TPN Correspondent Telangana

Peddapalli Constituency witnessed grand celebrations of the Indira Mahila Shakti program, with Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Sridhar Babu, and Seethakka actively participating in the event. The program saw the distribution of cheques amounting to crores to various women's associations in the constituency, including a Rs. 4.94 crore interest subsidy cheque and around Rs. 10 lakhs under accident and loan insurance schemes. The ministers also launched new RTC rental buses operated by women's groups, with the first month's rent totaling Rs. 3.47 lakhs already paid.

Minister Seethakka highlighted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision of creating one crore women crorepatis. She emphasized the government's initiatives such as free bus travel introduced within 48 hours of assuming office, which

eased travel burdens on women and empowered them to become bus owners. Women's groups are also generating income by sewing uniforms for government school students and running IKP centers, earning crores in revenue.

Indira Mahila Shakti canteens in Peddapalli government hospitals are supplying food, and women are venturing into large-scale enterprises like solar power plants, aiming to compete with major industrialists like Adani and Ambani. The government plans to hand over rice mills and godowns to women's groups to further enhance their economic strength.

Minister Seethakka stressed that the happiness of a girl child leads to the well-being of the entire family, and financial empowerment of women is key to societal progress. She noted that the government has facilitated Rs. 26,000



crores in bank loans for women's associations and continues to pay the interest on these loans. Successful loan repayments have encouraged banks to provide more credit to women.

Women's groups in the district are raising seed money of Rs. 1 crore with government support, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended their business successes, mentioning local products like Ippa Puvva Laddu and Adivasi snacks in his 'Man Ki Baat' address. The program concluded with a commitment to design and implement future activities based on women's ideas for economic development.



POLITICS

Kavitha Vows to Fight Until 25,000 **BC Leaders Emerge**

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha declared that her fight for BC empowerment will continue until 25,000 BCs become public representatives, with 50% of those posts reserved for women. She made this strong statement during a meeting with UPF leaders and representatives of 72 BC castes at her residence in Banjara Hills.

Kavitha emphasized that while demanding 42% reservation for BCs in local bodies is essential, sub-quotas for castes that have not had political representation until now are equally crucial. "Many castes within the BC community have not had the chance to become even sarpanches or MPPs. This imbalance must be addressed," she said.Kavitha urged that a constitutional amendment is



necessary to provide 42% BC reservations, which falls under the central government's jurisdiction. She pointed out that although the Telangana Assembly has passed bills regarding this, they are still pending with the central government.

She also called on Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to approve the cabinet's resolution to increase BC reservations in local bodies to 42%, stating that a gazette notification on the ordinance must be issued immediately. She cautioned that if an ordinance is released without legal safeguards such as a caveat, it could face court challenges and derail the reservation plan. Kavitha clarified that while the Centre holds the power to increase reservation limits through constitutional amendments, the power to implement sub-categorization lies with state governments. She strongly advocated that sub-categorization is the only path to ensure political justice for underrepresented BC castes.

"This is not just a political movement but a social mission," she affirmed. "Our fight will continue until true political equity is ensured for every backward caste in the country."

Sridhar Babu Assures Support for **Dhulapally Road Expansion Victims**

TPN Correspondent | Qutbullapur

Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Tuesday assured the residents of Dhulapally, who are facing displacement due to the 100-feet road expansion Dhulapally-Kompalfrom ly to Bahadurpalli, that their concerns would be addressed sympathetically. Speaking at a media conference held at Mynampally Hanmantha Rao's residence, he urged locals to cooperate with the road expansion project, which is part of the city's broader urban development initiative.

The minister interacted directly with families who are set to lose homes or businesses due to the project. He stated, "We are committed to ensuring that no affected family faces undue hardship. A deci-



sion regarding compensation will be taken after a discussion with the Chief Minister." He emphasized the government's intention to balance development with justice and fairness for the residents. The project, which has triggered concerns among property owners in the affected corridor, is expected to significantly improve connectivity and

infrastructure in the area. The meeting was attended by Mynampally Hanmantha Rao, Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, former MLA Kuna Srisailam Goud, Bhupathi Reddy, local leaders, Kompally Municipal Commissioner Krishna Reddy, Dundigal Mandal MRO Matin, and many residents of Dhulapally who are losing land in the expansion process.

Telangana Finalizes **ZPTC** and **MPTC** Seats **Ahead of Local Body Polls**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana government has officially finalized the Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) seats in preparation for the upcoming local body elections. With the election schedule expected to be announced shortly, the government has



completed the groundwork by confirming the structure of various local bodies across the state.

According to the latest government orders 31 Zilla Parishad (ZP) seats have been finalized. A total of 566 MPP and ZPTC seats have been identified. The state has 5,773 MPTC seats across its districts. In addition, 12,778 Gram Panchayats and approximately 1.12 lakh wards have been

mapped and confirmed. This finalization comes as the tenure of the current elected representatives—Sarpanchs, MPTC members, and ZPTC members—had ended earlier last year, leaving a gap in rural governance. With this step, the state moves closer to conducting local body polls that are essential for decentralized administration and rural development.

The announcement is a key step forward as the State Election Commission prepares to release the detailed election schedule in the coming weeks.

Krishnaiah Demands BC Sub Quota in Women's Bill

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Rajya Sabha member R Krishnaiah has called for a comprehensive approach to women's reservations, stating that it should not be limited to politics but also extended to education, employment, and industrial sectors. He emphasized that the Women's Reservation Bill will only be truly meaningful if it includes a sub-quota for BC (Backward Class) women.

Speaking at a meeting organized by BC Women's Association General Secretary Sravani in Kacheguda, Hyderabad, Krishnaiah said that justice for BC communities, especially women, can only be ensured with dedicated provisions in the law.

He highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has opened doors for such reforms, noting that the nationwide caste census currently underway stands as evidence of a significant shift toward acknowledging backward classes in policymaking.

R Krishnaiah assured the gathering that he would personally discuss the BC women's sub-quota issue with Prime Minister Modi and make efforts to secure its inclusion in the reservation framework. He stated that unless special measures are taken, BC women will continue to remain underrepresented and deprived of key opportunities across sectors.



Telangana Sets National Example in BC Reservations: TPCC Chief

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that Telangana has become a role model for the nation in implementing BC reservations, fulfilling the vision of AICC senior leader Rahul Gandhi. He was speaking at the AICC OBC Advisory Council meeting held in Bengaluru under the chairmanship of Karnataka Chief Minister and OBC Advisory Council Chairman Siddaramaiah.

Reflecting on his journey, Mahesh Kumar Goud said, "From proposing the BC Declaration in Kamareddy as TPCC Working President during the Telangana Assembly elections, to now supporting it as TPCC President, I feel proud to have played a part in this historical movement." He emphasized that Chief Min-



ister Revanth Reddy, despite being from an upper caste, has extended unwavering support to the cause of BC reservations, earning admiration from across the political spectrum.

Goud said Telangana is the first state to take comprehen-

sive steps towards legal, constitutional, and political implementation of BC quotas, with measures such as the establishment of the BC Commission, BC Welfare Commission, initiation of caste census, passing of a BC Reservation Bill in

the Assembly, and issuance of an ordinance to the Governor. Highlighting the continuity of efforts, he stated that Rahul Gandhi, Revanth Reddy, and he himself have been "working like soldiers" since the Bharat Jodo Yatra, during which the issue of BC representation was brought to the fore as BC Roja 6.Mahesh Kumar Goud further announced that the next AICC OBC Advisory Council meeting will be held in Hyderabad in October, signaling Telangana's central role in shaping national BC policy.

Several Telangana leaders including Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, Vakiti Srihari, MP Anil Yadav, and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao attended the Bengaluru meeting, marking strong representation from the state.

Congress Gains Ground in Manakondur

TPN Correspondent |

Telangana

Manakondur constituency witshift as several former sarpanches and local leaders from Illantakunta mandal abandon the ruling BRS and join the Congress, signaling growing disenchantment within BRS ranks. Dr. Kavampalli Satyanarayana ceremonially welcomed the Mallesham also joined. new entrants, draping them Their inclusion has further bolwith Congress shawls. Speaking stered the party's grassroots on the occasion, Dr. Kavampalli lauded the Congress govern- Prominent Congress figures ment's progressive policies and at the event included Mandal urged unity within the party, President Komatireddy Bhaskar encouraging members to ad- Reddy, PCC Coordinator Pasham

dress issues internally rather than publicly.

Notable defectors from Tippapnesses a significant political ur include Dammani Lakshmi Lakshman and Bollaveni Manjula, while Galipelli added Arukuti Vijayalakshmi Mallesham and Nyatha Pochayya. Palle Srilatha Rajasekhar from Jawaripet, sub sarpanches Kodumunja At a program in Praja Bhavan, Tirupati and Kaluva Damodar, LMD Colony, Manakondur MLA and influential leaders such as and District Congress President Ayyannagari Bhagavan Reddy, Narasimha Reddy, and Dandi

presence.



Parishad President Ootkuri Venkataramana Reddy, Women's Mandal President Jyoti, and other senior leaders. Their participation underscored the strategic importance of these defections. The influx of experienced local leaders into Congress has substantially enhanced the party's influence in Manakondur, traditionally a BRS stronghold. Insiders attribute this realignment to internal discord and weak leadership within the BRS. With Congress now gaining momentum and expanding its local base, the stage is set for a more competitive political contest in upcoming elections.

We Will Fulfill Maganti Gopinath's Wishes: MLA Vivek

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad

Qutbullapur MLA Vivek Goud paid heartfelt tributes to former Jubilee Hills MLA Late Maganti Gopinath, stating that his dreams and aspirations for the people would be fulfilled. He was speaking at a preparatory meeting held with Borabanda Division leaders at the Yusufguda Camp Office on Wednesday, ahead of the condolence gathering scheduled for July 27 at PJR Grounds, Site 4 & 5 Colony.

MLA Vivek Goud recalled his close friendship with Gopinath, stating, "He was not just colleague who won three



terms with me, but a personal friend. We will work with renewed commitment to ensure the BRS party regains majority in Jubilee Hills, just as we are strengthening it in Qutbullapur." The meeting was attended by MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, Maganti Gopinath's wife Sunitha Gopinath, Yusufguda Corporator Raj Kumar Patel, and several division-level leaders and BRS party activists from Borabanda. They discussed preparations for the upcoming condolence event and reiterated their commitment to continuing Gopinath's vision and legacy in the

HYDERABAD

Chips Warehouse in Jagadgirigutta

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A major fire broke out at a chips warehouse in Papireddy Nagar Colony, Jagadgirigutta, triggering panic among residents in the densely populated area. The incident occurred at Surya Enterprises, a chips storage facility located within a residential neighbourhood under the jurisdiction of the Jagadgirigutta Police Station.

Flames erupted suddenly around dawn, alarming local residents who feared the fire could spread to nearby homes. Upon receiving the alert, fire and emergency services rushed to the scene and successfully brought the blaze under control using two fire engines. The prompt response of the fire personnel prevented the flames from spreading further and ensured the safety of the surrounding com-

Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported in the incident. However, significant property damage is suspected, and a full assessment is currently underway. Local police have registered a case and launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. Initial reports do not indicate any foul play, but officials are awaiting further details as the inquiry progresses.

The incident highlights ongoing safety concerns around commercial establishments operating within residential zones, particularly those involving flammable materials. Authorities are expected to inspect the premises for any violations of fire safety norms.



Kompally Officials Crack Down on Unlicensed **Businesses**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Qutbullapur: The Municipal Commissioner of Kompally, Krishna Reddy, conducted inspections of various trade and business establishments within the Kompally municipal limits to check for valid trade licenses. During the inspection, the Commissioner emphasized that all trade and business owners must obtain a trade license before commencing operations. He urged existing business owners who have not yet acquired the license to apply immediately at the municipal office.

Commissioner Krishna Reddy warned that strict legal action, including penalties and possible closure, will be taken against businesses operating without a valid trade license. The inspections are part of the municipality's ongoing efforts to regulate business activities, ensure compliance with local laws, and



maintain orderly commercial operations in the area. Municipal officials actively participated in the inspection drive, visiting various business locations across Kompally to verify license compliance. The Commissioner called on all business owners to cooperate with the authorities to avoid any legal complications.

The municipality plans to continue these inspections periodically to uphold the regulatory framework and protect consumer interests.

Fire Breaks Out at GHMC Targets Illegal Constructions in Old City



TPN Corresponent | Hyderabad The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its crackdown on illegal constructions in the Old City, triggering mild tension in parts of the area. The GHMC Town Planning wing sealed two unauthorized structures in Misrigunj, prompting a heavy police de-

civic body has warned that similar enforcement actions will continue in the coming days, as part of a broader initiative to bring unregulated urban development under control. Residents are being advised to ensure that their buildings comply with municipal regulations and that

order during the operation.The avoid punitive measures.The recent crackdown has sparked discussion, particularly as the Old City is considered a stronghold of the AIMIM party. Some locals and political observers have raised concerns about the timing and focus of the enforcement drive. However, GHMC officials insist that the campaign is not politically motivated but is

aimed at maintaining transparency and legality in city planning and development. Authorities have reiterated that illegal constructions pose safety risks and disrupt urban infrastructure planning. The GHMC emphasized that the action is part of a city-wide initiative to curb unauthorized developments and

protect public interest. ployment to maintain law and property taxes are up to date to **GHMC Mayor Launches Tree Plantation Drive**

TPN Corresponent | Hyderabad As part of the ongoing Vana Mahotsav celebrations, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, along with GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, planted saplings at Shirdi Hills Colony in Gajula Ramaram Circle under the Kukatpally Zone. The event marked the launch of a large-scale plantation initiative inspired by Greater Hyderabad's recognition with the prestigious World Green City Award.

Addressing the gathering, Mayor Vijayalakshmi emphasized the need for collective action in greening the city. "Everyone should make it their goal to plant a sapling. We are not planting trees for ourselves but for future generations. This initiative is vital for ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment," she



said. Highlighting the Telangana government's ambitious goal of planting 25 lakh saplings across the state, she noted that the GHMC is moving forward with the inspirational slogan, "Plant a tree in the name of your mother."The Mayor also stressed the urban greenery.

importance of not only planting trees but also taking responsibility for nurturing and protecting them. She stated that the plantation drive would play a crucial role in mitigating the effects of climate change and enhancing

GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan added that the plantation program focuses on species that are useful to people and suited to urban conditions. He expressed confidence that they would exceed the set target based on the specific needs of each area.

Several officials and local representatives participated in the event, including Gajularamaram Corporator Ravula Seshagiri, Zonal Commissioner Apoorva Chauhan, Circle DC Mallareddy, ACU BD Subhadra, Director Venkateswar Rao, UBD Officer Vijaya Rani, BJP 125 Division President Sainath, members of the Shirdi Hills Committee, and local school students. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from the community, reflecting growing environmental awareness in the city.

Telangana Schools Get Holiday for Bonalu

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Several schools in Hyderabad and Telangana will be closed on Monday, July 21, for Bonalu 2025, a major cultural festival in

The holiday follows the Telangana government's official calendar, which also includes Moharram on July 6.

Bonalu, a month-long celebration starting in June, features women carrying decorated pots (bonam) as offerings to Goddess Mahakali, along with music, dance, and processions, especially in Hyderabad's Old City, Secunderabad, and other towns. The festival attracts large crowds to temples like Ujjaini Mahakali Temple in Secunderabad and Sri Simhavahini



Mahankali Temple in Lal Darwaza. Authorities plan special arrangements for security, traffic, and transport to manage devotees.

The holiday allows students and families to take part in the rich cultural traditions and de-

implemented measures to prevotion that define Telangana.

halting sales in many outlets. As a result, daily toddy consumers—especially workers and locals from surrounding areas have been struggling with the sudden unavailability of the drink. Unable to cope with the lack of intoxication, several in-

after experiencing severe with-

Excise officials, acting swiftly

after reports of deaths linked to

toxic toddy, have intensified in-

spections across toddy shops in

the region. Authorities have also

substances in toddy, temporarily

toddy in Kukatpally.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad concerned family members.

A wave of mental distress has Mallareddy Hospital in Suraram confirmed that more than ten gripped toddy addicts in the outskirts of Suraram, Qutbullapur, people had been admitted in rewith over ten individuals being cent days. Their condition is readmitted to Mallareddy Hospital ported to be stable, though they are being monitored for mental drawal symptoms. The incident and physical health issues arishas raised concerns following a ing from the abrupt withdrawal. recent crackdown on adulterated Upon receiving information about the situation, Suraram police visited the hospital and are reviewing the circumstances surrounding the sudden spike in cases. Excise officials, including Medical Excise Superintendent Fayazuddin and Qutbullapur Exvent further mixing of harmful cise Officer Yadayya, also visited the hospital to assess the health

The officials clarified that the distress among victims was due to sudden withdrawal following the detection of toxins in toddy supplies. They confirmed that all affected individuals are now in stable condition and emphasized dividuals began behaving abnor- that monitoring and inspections mally due to mental strain and of toddy shops will continue to were rushed to the hospital by ensure public safety.

of the patients.

₹8.71 Lakh CMRF Scam: Two **Arrested**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Two persons have been arrested and several others are absconding in connection with a major financial fraud involving the misappropriation of funds sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The accused reportedly forged documents and siphoned off ₹8.71 lakh by depositing undelivered CMRF cheques into bank accounts created under fake identities. The arrested individuals have been identified as Jogula Naresh Kumar (42), a kirana shop owner from Secunder-(37), an office subordinate in and deposited them in SBI ac-

the MPDO office at Nalgonda. They were apprehended by Jubilee Hills Police on July 14 and produced before court on July 15. The remaining accused, including Korlapati Vamshi (24), a car driver from Khammam, and Pulipaka Omkar (34), a driver from Godavarikhani, are currently absconding.

According to police, the key accused Naresh Kumar, who previously worked at a minister's office, unlawfully retained 230 sanctioned but undelivered CMRF cheques following the defeat of the BRS government in 2023. He, along with his associates, identified 19 cheques abad, and Balagoni Venkatesh that had not been claimed



counts under similar-sounding names using forged documents. These fraudulent deposits were made at the SBI branch on Road No. 5, Jubilee Hills.

A total of ₹8,71,000 was misappropriated and distributed among the accused. Based on reliable information, Jubilee

Hills police conducted a successful operation under the supervision of Addl. Inspector R. Madhusudhan and arrested A1 and A2.

Five criminal cases have been registered against the accused under various sections of the IPC and the IT Act, including criminal breach of trust, forgery, and cheating.

The investigation is being carried out under the guidance of SHO K. Venkateshwara Reddy, and with the close supervision of ACP Jubilee Hills Division and DCP West Zone, S.M. Vijay Kumar. Police are continuing efforts to trace and apprehend the remaining accused.



Toddy Withdrawal Sends Addicts to Hospital in Suraram



BJP Holds Hunger Strike Over Park Land Encroachments

TPN Correspondent | Badangpet

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders from Maheswaram constituency have launched a relay hunger strike in front of the Badangpet Municipal Corporation office, demanding action against the encroachment of park lands. The protest, led by BJP Badangpet presidents Rallagudem Ramakrishna Reddy and Ramidi Veerakarna Reddy, is aimed at protecting public spaces that they claim are being unlawfully occupied.

BJP state executive member and Maheswaram constituency in-charge Andela Sriramulu, along with former Rangareddy Rural District President Bokka Narasimha Reddy, extended support to the protest. Addressing the gathering, Sriramulu alleged that both Congress and BRS leaders are colluding in the illegal occupation of park lands and accused government officials of aiding the encroachers instead of taking action.

"Thousands of square yards of park land are being encroached



upon with the silent support of the ruling parties. Repeated complaints to authorities have gone unheard," he said. Sriramulu further warned that the agitation would be intensified if the municipal corporation fails to reclaim the encroached land and act against the of-

Several BJP leaders participated in the hunger strike camp, including National Kisan Morcha leader Papaiah Goud, state leaders Kolan Shankar Reddy, district general secretary Midde Sudarshan Reddy, assembly convener Devender Reddy, state council members Tarre Mallesh Yadav, and former Corporation President Cheruk- joined the protest.

Also present were state OBC Morcha leaders Nadikuda Yadagiri and Enugu Prabhakar Reddy, district spokesperson Maddi Rajasekhar Reddy, former floor leader Thota Sridhar

upalli Venkat Reddy.

Reddy, deputy floor leader Dadiga Shankar, and former corporators Nimmala Sunitha, Srikanth Goud, and Gaddam Laxma Reddy. Former MPTCs Enugu Ramireddy and Cooperative Bank Director Petula Pullareddy, along with senior BJP leaders Navaru Srinivas Reddy, Poreddy Srinivas Reddy, Race Narasimha Reddy, and several BJYM and OBC Morcha activists, were among those who

Konda Surekha Joins AICC **OBC** Meet in Bengaluru





TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Telangana Forests, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha participated in the AICC OBC Advisory Council meeting held in Bengaluru. Reflecting on her meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, she said his leadership continues to inspire the fight for dignity, justice,

and equal representation for every Indian. "His pioneering AHINDA movement not only gave voice to the marginalised but also empowered them. His words carried wisdom, his presence carried purpose," she said. During the meeting, Minister Surekha is expected to present key developments from Telangana, including the recently conducted caste cen-

sus, the landmark legislation that increased reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) to 42 percent in education, jobs, and politics, and the latest cabinet resolution supporting OBC empowerment. These points are likely to contribute significantly to the Council's discussions on inclusive policies and national strategies for uplifting marginalised communities.

STF Cracks Down on Illegal Toddy in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

As part of a week-long special drive against illegal activities related to toddy, three teams of the Special Task Force (STF) intensified their raids across Telangana on Wednesday. Dhulipet, previously known as a hotspot for the manufacture and sale of toddy and ganja, has now seen significant enforcement action leading to the eradication of these illegal substances in the area.

The crackdown comes amid rising concerns over the sale of adulterated toddy, unauthorized depots, and illegal transportation of toddy across the state. Following the recent adulterated toddy incident in Kukatpally, Prohibition and Excise Commissioner C. Hari Kiran and Enforcement Director Shanwaz Qasim ordered a thorough inspection of toddy depots throughout Telangana. Over the past three days, excise teams have conducted raids on multiple toll depots. Under the leadership of STF-A team leader Anji Reddy, three raids

in Dhulipet resulted in the registration of multiple cases. In the Mallakunta area, 70 liters of toddy were seized during illegal transportation on a bike; the accused Mallappa was arrested, and a case was regis-

tered against S. Basavaraj. In Mangalhat, 247 liters of toddy were seized and dumped, with B. Anil Goud taken into custody. Another case was registered against Ramachandaiah in the same operation. Additionally, 382 liters of toddy were congovernment's commitment to fiscated from an unauthorized curb illegal alcohol trade and depot in Gudi Malkapur Hi- ensure public safety across Telranagar, resulting in the arrest angana.

of Goda Raghavendra Goud and a case against Ramakrishna Goud. All three cases have been transferred to the Dhulipet Excise Station for further action. Meanwhile, STF-C and STF-D teams, led by CI Venkateswarlu and CI Nagaraju respectively, also conducted raids at toddy depots in Sherlingampalli, Haidarnagar, Bin Rangareddynagar, and Tarkamul areas, collecting samples for analysis. The ongoing raids reflect the

Bribe Money Seized in Telangana RTA Raid

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a major anti-corruption operation, the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) raided the RTA check post at Pondurthi in Bhiknoor mandal, Kamareddy district, on Wednesday morning, July 16. The surprise inspection led to the seizure of ₹52,000 in unaccounted cash and exposed a bribe-collection racket allegedly involving RTA staff and unauthorised agents.

Officials said the raid, which began at 9:00 a.m., revealed a well-organised extortion network. Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspector (AMVI) Sam Richardson was found with ₹16,000, while private agent G. Shiva Kumar had ₹9,000. An additional ₹4.000 was recovered from a file folder. The total cash recovered on-site was ₹23,000, with further seizures later bringing



the total to ₹52,000.

ACB officers observed that truck drivers were routinely paying bribes for smooth passage. Shockingly, five private indioperating at the check post raid—allegedly stopping vehi-RTA staff turning a blind eye.

the government recommending strict action against those involved.

The ACB has urged the public to report bribery cases involvviduals were found unofficially ing government officials. Complaints can be made via tollfour were present during the free number 1064, WhatsApp (9440446106), Facebook (Telcles and collecting bribes with angana ACB), or X @TelanganaACB. Complainants' identi-A detailed report will be sent to ties will remain confidential.

MLA Inaugurates Toilets for Pilgrims





TPN Correspondent | Anvesh reddy

Bhadrachalam MLA Tellam Venkat Rao on Wednesday inaugurated newly constructed public toilets aimed at enhancing convenience for devotees and tourists visiting the Sri Seetharamachandraswamy temple. Built with CSR funds at a cost of ₹65 lakh, the facilities are located opposite the Revenue Guest House and near the Degree College on Koonavaram Road. The inauguration was held in the presence of ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Venkat Rao stated that thousands of devotees from across the country visit Bhadrachalam every year to take part in major festivals such as Mukkoti Ekadashi, Sri Seetharamachandraswamy Kalyanam, the float festival, Uttara Dwara Darshanam, and Pattabhishekam. He noted that many pilgrims bathe in the Godavari River before visiting the temple, making it essential to have well-maintained sanitation facilities along the way. The newly inaugurated toilets aim to address this need, es-

pecially for women and families. Rao emphasized that the sanitation staff must ensure round-the-clock cleanliness and availability of the facilities so that devotees do not face any inconvenience.

Officials present at the event included Bhadrachalam RDO Damodar Rao, Gram Panchayat EO Srinivas, and ITC representatives Shyam Kiran, Changal Rao, and Kanakamedala Hariprasad. The initiative is part of ongoing efforts to improve public amenities in the temple town, which sees a high footfall during festival seasons.

BRS Leader Demands Action After Hostel Illnesses

TPN Correspondent |

BRS Party President and former MLA Dr. Methuku Anand on Wednesday visited the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and Siripuram hostels in Marpalli mandal, following reports of food poisoning among students due to worms found in rice. Expressing concern over the deteriorating conwished the affected students a speedy recovery and strongly condemned the government's negligence in ensuring food safety.

Dr. Anand alleged that food poisoning incidents have become alarmingly frequent in government-run hostels and

Vikarabad: Vikarabad District timely medical intervention for several student fatalities in recent times. Criticizing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, he questioned the government's inaction despite earlier promises of strict accountability in cases of food adulteration. "Where is the Chief Minister now, and who should be jailed when students are being served ditions in welfare hostels, he contaminated food?" he asked. demanded immediate health screenings for all students in hostels where food poisoning has occurred and urged that affected students be shifted to hospitals and provided quality treatment. Dr. Anand also pointed out the worsening conditions in wel-

Gurukuls, blaming the lack of fare schools, which he claimed have declined drastically under the current administration. Highlighting growing student unrest across the state, he cited frequent reports of suicides, food-related protests, and incidents involving dog bites, snake bites, electric shocks, and teacher harassment in hostels.

He criticized the absence of an EducationMinister, stating that the education system is suffering from a lack of oversight. "If the government continues to ignore these issues, the entire education system will collapse," he warned, calling on authorities to prioritize student welfare and take immediate corrective action.



Ableism vs. Special Needs: Policy Challenges and Social Misconceptions in Work and Education

The terms "ableism" and "special needs" represent two distinct yet interconnected concepts that profoundly shape individual experiences globally, often leading to discrimination. While "special needs" refers to a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory requirement that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder full societal participation, ableism is the discrimination and social prejudice against individuals with special needs, rooted in the belief that typical abilities are superior. This pervasive ideology manifests overtly and subtly, creating significant challenges within governmental policies and fostering widespread social myths, particularly in education. Addressing these issues is crucial for building truly inclusive and equitable societies.

At its core, ableism assumes non-special needs individuals represent the ideal human form, implying that those with special needs require "fixing" or are inherently "less than." This belief perpetuates a negative view, framing special needs as "Disability", a flaw rather than a natural variation of human experience. Ableism ranges from hostile acts like bullying to benevolent but damaging attitudes that view individuals with special needs as vulnerable or objects of pity. Systemically, it is ingrained in societal norms and power structures, often operating unconsciously, making its identification and resolution challenging.

A critical lens for understanding special needs and societal challenges is the social model. Unlike the medical model, which views special needs as an individual deficit, the social model posits that challenges arise from societal barriers. These barriers, not the individual's condition, limit participation. For instance, a person using a wheelchair is not inherently limited by their mobility, but by the absence of ramps or accessible transportation. This perspective shifts responsibility to society to adapt and remove obstacles, rather than labeling individuals as "disabled." The very terms "disability" and "disable" are problematic; instead of defining individuals by what they cannot commonly perform, we to achieve tasks differently, recognising them as "differently abled."



intending to support individuals with special needs, frequently perpetuate ableism through their design and implementation. A glaring challenge lies in creating and maintaining inaccessible environments and curricula. Policies often fail to mandate universal design in public spaces, transportation, and digital platforms, leading to physical barriers like stairs without ramps, inaccessible toilets, a lack of audio descriptions on videos and images, or complex online services incompatible with assistive technologies. This systemic oversight excludes differently abled individuals from essential services, employment, and civic participation. Historically, policies were overtly discriminatory, such as the eugenics movement or denying voting rights. Even today, policies indirectly discriminate through insufficient funding for accommodations in education, healthcare, and employment, or through complex bureau-



Ram Kamal Social Engineer and **Advisor to Inclusive** Education, **Government of AP**

cratic processes for accessing benefits. In education, outdated boards and Furthermore, the underrepresentation methodologies exacerbate these isshould appreciate and empower them of individuals with special needs in sues. Traditional pen-and-paper syspolitical offices means their unique tems, demanding sharp eyes, ears, perspectives are often overlooked in and nerves, fail to accommodate adap-Governmental policies, despite often policy-making, leading to ineffective tive knowledge acquisition and exposi-

tion. This perpetuates a system where differently abled students struggle to thrive. Remember, it is always easier to build stronger children than repair broken men, when we look at the dependency and under skills of the elders of these communities due to so-

cial failure and unemployment. Parallel to policy failures, widespread social misunderstanding of special needs significantly exacerbates challenges. This manifests in harmful stereotypes: individuals with special needs are seen as perpetually dependent, a societal burden, or tragic figures. Conversely, some are viewed as "inspirational" simply for navigating daily life, a phenomenon termed "inspiration porn," which reduces their experiences to a spectacle. These stereotypes strip individuals of autonomy, leading to overprotection, condescending attitudes, and assumptions about their inability to lead fulfilling lives or be productive. Microaggressions, subtle verbal or behavioral slights like ableist language or invasive questions, toll on mental health. Defining individuals solely by their special needs, rather than recognizing their multi-

faceted identities, further contributes to social exclusion.

The cumulative impact of ableist governmental policies and pervasive social misunderstanding is profound. Individuals with special needs face higher rates of unemployment, poverty, and isolation. It is 99% for people with blindness and equal for deaf also. They encounter significant barriers to quality education, healthcare, and community participation. Disturbingly, hundreds of crores of rupees allocated annually for Children with Special Needs' education often evaporate into salaries and programmatic expenses, yielding nothing on educational equity or excellence. A major portion of these funds, including CSR funding, goes to NGOs running special schools, often perpetuating a cycle where children remain dependent, fit for pensions rather than becoming tax-paying cit-

The constant battle against systemic barriers and prejudiced attitudes leads to chronic stress, mental health challenges, and diminished quality of life. Moreover, society suffers from this exclusion, missing out on the diverse talents, perspectives, and contributions that differently abled individuals offer. In conclusion, distinguishing between special needs as a lived experience and ableism as a discriminatory ideology is fundamental to fostering a just world. The challenges embedded in governmental policies—from inaccessible infrastructure to discriminatory practices—and the widespread social misunderstanding perpetuated by harmful stereotypes and microaggressions collectively create formidable barriers to the full inclusion and equality of differently abled people. Overcoming these challenges requires concerted effort: governments must enact and rigorously enforce truly inclusive policies, ensuring universal accessibility and equitable opportunities. Simultaneously, societal attitudes must undergo a transformative shift, moving away from pity and prejudice towards genuine respect, understanding, and recognition of differently abled individuals as diverse, capable, and integral members of the human community. accumulate daily, taking a significant By centering their voices and experiences, we can dismantle ableist structures and build a truly accessible and equitable future for all.

Mohan Bhagwat's 'Retire at 75' Remark: What It Really Means for Modi and BJP

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent statement that leaders should consider stepping down after the age of 75—has set off intense political speculation, particularly as Prime Minister Narendra Modi approaches that milestone on September 17 this year. Delivered in Hindi during a largely Marathi speech, Bhagwat's remark was clearly deliberate, not a slip. Yet, it would be premature to interpret it as a direct signal to Modi.

The BJP, especially in its relationship with the RSS, has often followed its own path. History shows us that even strong suggestions from the Sangh do not automatically lead to immediate changes. For example, in 2005, then-RSS chief K.S. Sudarshan publicly urged Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani to make way for younger leadership. Though his comments were criticized at the time, they

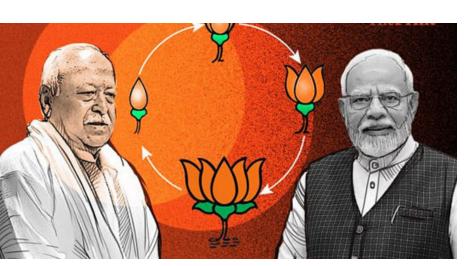
of leaders, including Narendra Modi.

Today, the BJP's internal structure is among the most meritocratic in Indian politics. Its leaders have consistently promoted younger talent—be it in choosing young chief ministers or party presidents. Modi himself was a product of this system, rising to national prominence after his successive electoral victories in Gujarat.

Importantly, there is no official "75-year rule" in the BJP. While some senior leaders like Advani

and Murli Manohar Joshi were sidelined at that age, others continued to hold roles as ministers or governors. Even Hema Malini was fielded in 2024 despite being over 75, indicating that the socalled rule is flexible.

If Bhagwat himself retires on his 75th birthday, September 11, that could reignite conversations within the party. But a challenge to Modi is high-



eventually paved the way for a new generation ly unlikely. His dominance in the BJP-RSS ecosystem is such that he will determine his own timeline. Modi, who remains physically fit and politically strong, is expected to lead the BJP into the 2029 elections, by which time he'll be 79 around the same age as Donald Trump now.

> While ambitious leaders may already be quietly preparing for a post-Modi era, any transition will happen on Modi's terms, not due to a public nudge from the RSS. The countdown to September may be politically charged, but Modi's position remains firmly unshaken—for now.

Elon Musk and the America Party: Can 'Vibes' Disrupt U.S. Politics?

On July 4th, while Americans celebrated independence with barbecues and fireworks, Elon Musk launched something entirely different — a political party. Spurred by an online poll where over a million users voted "yes" to his question about forming a new party, Musk declared the birth of the "America Party." But is this a serious political force or just another impulsive startup wrapped in memes and ambition?

Musk, never shy about grand ventures from Mars colonies to robotaxis — now aims to disrupt American politics. He claims the two dominant parties form a corrupt "Uniparty" and that the America Party is a path to reclaim independence. His message resonates with voters tired of conventional politics, but critics argue it's more about Musk's ego than a viable political movement.

His fallout with Donald Trump only intensifies the spectacle. Once allies, Musk and Trump now trade barbs over taxes, debt, and electric vehicles. Musk, disillusioned by recent Republican spending, pledged to fund primary challengers and create a political alternative. However, the America Party lacks registration, infrastructure, and candidates — it's more mood than machine.

Still, Musk's resources are formidable. With billions at his disposal, control over the social media platform X, and a devoted fanbase, he could sway close elections by focusing on a handful of Senate or House races. It's a strategy similar to Ross Perot's in the 1990s, whose third-party bid briefly led in polls before fizzling out.

The real challenge lies in America's political



system. Strict ballot access laws, state-bystate requirements, and entrenched party loyalties make it hard for third parties to succeed. Movements built around one figure often collapse without a clear platform. So far, Musk's message seems to be "no taxes, more memes, trust billionaires who launch rockets."

Democrats watch with cautious amusement, hoping Musk's insurgency splits conservative votes. But the deeper truth is that American politics is shifting. Musk's rise symbolizes a generational fracture — between traditional conservatism and a tech-driven, anti-establishment ethos.

Whether the America Party becomes a real force or another billionaire fantasy, one thing is clear: in 2025, the boundary between political disruption and digital spectacle is vanishing fast — and Musk is surfing the





Restore Jammu & Kashmir's Statehood: Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge to PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi have jointly written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the government to bring forward legislation to restore full Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and to include Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

In their letter, the two Congress leaders emphasized that the move would align with previous assurances made by the government both in Parliament and before the Supreme Court — regarding the eventual restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

They cited PM Modi's public statements, including one during a May 2024 interview in Bhubaneswar where he reportedly said, "The restoration of Statehood is a solemn promise we have made and we stand by it." A similar reaffirmation was made during a rally in Srinagar in September 2024.

Kharge and Gandhi described the from the people of Jammu and



demand for Statehood as legitimate and rooted in democratic rights, noting that the region's downgrade from a full-fledged State to a Union Territory following its bifurcation in 2019 was India's history.

Highlighting the consistent call

Kashmir over the past five years, the leaders stated: "It is time for the government to honour its commitment and restore democratic representation."

unprecedented in independent They also called for Ladakh to be The appeal comes as anticipation granted protections under the Sixth Schedule, which would help safeguard the cultural, land, and identity rights of its people.

"This would be a significant step in addressing the region's political and developmental aspirations," the letter concluded.

builds around the Monsoon session, with the status of Jammu and Kashmir expected to remain a key issue

Axiom-4 Mission: Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Returns Safely to Earth with Crew

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today led a rainsoaked rally in Kolkata, protesting the alleged harassment of Bengali-speaking migrants in BJP-ruled states. The march, joined by top Trinamool Congress leaders, comes as the state gears up for Assembly polls next year and amidst the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of voter lists in West Bengal.

Banerjee claimed that the voter list revision is a "backdoor attempt to implement the NRC" and warned that people whose names are not listed could even face jail. Urging citizens to verify their enrollment, she said, "Skip work if needed, but ensure your name is on the list."

Taking aim at the BJP, she ac- not here. The BJP is sending our



cused the party of targeting Bengali migrants in various states and attempting to brand them as illegal immigrants. "They're calling poor Bengali workers Rohingya. Rohingyas are in Myanmar,

people to detention camps," Banerjee said. She added, "Is Bengal not a part of India?"

She also slammed the Centre for The political temperature in Benallegedly failing to stop infiltrators despite the border being un-

der the Ministry of Home Affairs, and reiterated that 22 lakh poor migrants were being unfairly tar-

The Trinamool Congress is positioning the issue as one of cultural identity and dignity, alleging systemic profiling of Bengali speakers through detentions and evictions in Odisha, Delhi, and Assam. The rally is seen as a signal of the party's poll strategy to counter anti-incumbency and corruption charges.

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari hit back, accusing Banerjee of using "Bengali asmita" to distract from job scams and corruption. "This is not about identity but vote-bank politics," he said.

gal is rising—identity, jobs, and justice are all on the line.



Govt Launches ₹1.44 Lakh **Crore Farm Push by Merging** 36 Schemes under PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major agriculture sector reform, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the launch of the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMD-DKY), a consolidated national programme aimed at boosting farm productivity, promoting sustainable practices, and strengthening rural livelihoods. Announced in the 2025 Union Budget, PMDDKY brings together 36 schemes across 11 Ministries into one integrated framework. The scheme will have an annual outlay of ₹24,000 crore for six years, totaling ₹1.44 lakh crore, and is expected to benefit over 1.7 crore farmers nationwide.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, while briefing the press, said the scheme marks a "first-of-its-kind convergence model" dedicated exclusively to agriculture and allied sectors. "It will address gaps in post-harvest storage, irrigation, credit availability, and promote natural farming," he said.

Key Features of PMDDKY:

- Focus Areas: Productivity enhancement, soil and water conservation, crop diversification, promotion of organic and natural farming, and increasing farmer self-reliance.
- District Targeting: 100 districts with low productivity, cropping intensity, and credit penetration will be prioritized. Every State/UT will have at least one selected district.
- Governance Structure: District, State, and national-level committees will oversee implementation. Each district will create a District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plan, approved by a District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti, including progressive farmers.
- Monitoring: Monthly progress reviews and alignment with national goals of sustainable agriculture and value-chain development.

The programme is modelled on the Centre's Aspirational Districts Programme, aiming to transform underperforming agricultural areas through collaborative efforts involving local governance and private partners.

Experts welcomed the scheme but suggested refining the district selection criteria. Abhishek Jain, Director at CEEW, noted, "While the focus on sustainability and value addition is commendable, reliance on low credit disbursement as a key indicator may misguide district selection. A shift to metrics like net farm income per hectare would be more appropri-

'Uddhav Ji Can Join Ruling Party': Fadnavis Jibes at Thackeray During Farewell Speech in Council

A pointed remark during the farewell of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray from the Maharashtra Legislative Council, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis suggested that Thackeray consider switching sides, saying the current government will not face opposition status "at least till 2029."

Speaking during the session, Fadnavis said, "At least till 2029, there is no scope of us coming there [Opposition]. Uddhav ji can think about coming to this side [Ruling party]. That can be thought about differently, but there is absolutely no scope of us coming to the opposition."

The dig comes in the backdrop of long-standing tensions between the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance and the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), which has been in the opposition since the 2022 political upheaval in Maharashtra.

The veiled invitation appears to be both a jab and a strategic nudge, as Thackeray remains a key opposition figure amid shifting political alliances ahead of the 2029 Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, addressing the Question Hour in the Council, Fadnavis highlighted achievements in tracking missing persons. Under 'Operation Muskaan', 41,193 missing children have been traced to date. In 2025 alone, 'Operation Khoj' helped recover 4,960 women and 1,364 children.

The Chief Minister also emphasized that a Missing Cell has been set up in every police station,



led by senior female officers. He added that coordination between the state and central governments is being strengthened via the Missing Persons Portal, ensuring real-time data updates across departments.

Fadnavis' dual focus on governance and political commentary during Thackeray's farewell set the tone for Maharashtra's evolving political landscape — one that may still see surprises before 2029.

Y.S Jagan Advocates English as **Medium of Instruction Across India**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has called for English to be adopted as the medium of education in all schools across India, stating it is essential for the country's prog-

Amid ongoing debates on the alleged imposition of Hindi, Jagan said, "Hindi can be learned, but the medium of education must be English. It is the global language. Until students in government schools are fluent in English, they cannot compete on equal footing."

Speaking to the media, Jagan emphasized that English should be the foundation of education nationwide. However, he maintained that mother tongue must remain the first language, with Hindi or any other language as the second or third, based on student choice. "There's nothing wrong in learning Hindi," he added, recalling that it was the first language in the school he attended.

On state issues, Jagan raised alarm over the future of the Godavari-Banakacherla project, expressing concern over Chhattisgarh's plans to harness water from the Indravati River, a key tributary of the Godavari. He warned this could reduce water availability for Andhra Pradesh, especially if the Polavaram dam height is restricted to 41.72 meters.



The YSRCP leader accused Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of compromising on the Polavaram dam issue, insisting that the dam's height must reach 45.72 meters to allow surplus water to be diverted to the Krishna River. If the Centre restricts funding beyond 41.72 meters, Jagan demanded the state raise ₹15,000 crore to complete the project to its full potential, safeguarding Andhra Pradesh's long-term water security



Trump Plans 10%+ Tariffs on Goods from Africa, Caribbean, and Over 100 Smaller Nations

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that his administration is preparing to impose tariffs of "a little over 10%" on imports from more than 100 smaller countries, including many in Africa and the Caribbean.

Speaking to reporters, President Trump stated, "We'll probably set one tariff for all of them," referring to countries that the administration sees as having minor trade volumes with the United States. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick added that these countries represent a relatively small portion of overall U.S. trade and would not significantly impact Trump's broader goal of reducing global



trade imbalances.

The new tariff policy is expected to take effect on August 1, part of a larger trade agenda nations, including members of the European Union, outlining new import tax rates. This follows the April 2 tariff hike that rattled financial markets and

The administration has also announced 30% tariffs on goods from the EU and Mexico, beginning August 1, marking one of the most aggressive trade policy stances in U.S. history.

In addition, President Trump hinted at upcoming tariffs on pharmaceutical products, likely to be announced by the end of the month. He also noted plans for graduated tariffs on computer chips, allowing companies a year to relocate manufacturing to the U.S. before facing steeper import duties.

This sweeping tariff initiative signals a renewed push for trade protectionism and domestic manufacturing, aligning with Trump's long-standing "America First" economic agen-

that has seen the White House triggered a 90-day negotiation send formal letters to dozens of period, which expired on July 9. da. **Alberta Premier Urges Canadian PM to Declare Lawrence Bishnoi Gang a Terrorist Entity**

TPN Correspondent | Albert

Alberta Premier Danielle Smith has called on Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his cabinet to formally designate the Lawrence Bishnoi gang as a "terrorist entity," citing the gang's growing influence in international organized crime and violence within Canada.

In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter), Smith described the Bishnoi gang as a "transnational criminal network" involved in violent crimes, extortion, drug trafficking, and targeted killings. She emphasized that the gang's global reach and operations pose a significant threat not only abroad but also within Canadian borders.

"The Lawrence Bishnoi Gang is a transnational criminal network responsible for violence, extortion, drug trafficking, and



targeted killings, including here gang "know no boundaries and in Canada. Its reach is global, and its intent is criminal and violent," Smith stated in her message.

Premier Smith underscored the urgent need for action, asserting that organized criminal networks like the Bishnoi

respect no borders." She added that Alberta wants to send a strong message: "You are not welcome here.'

By officially labeling the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity, Smith said law enforcement agencies at both provincial and municipal levels would gain stronger legal tools and resources to crack down on the group's operations more effectively. "Formally designating the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity will unlock critical powers," she explained.

The Premier urged the federal government to act swiftly and decisively to protect Canadians from rising organized crime threats, calling on PM Carney to stand united with Alberta in combating transnational gangs.

Lawrence Bishnoi, the gang's alleged leader, is currently in Indian custody, facing multiple charges including links to the high-profile murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala in 2022. The gang also claimed responsibility for the 2024 assassination of Indian politician Baba Siddique.



'Tell Putin to get serious or face sanctions'

TPN Correspondent | Washington

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte has issued a stern warning to countries like India, China, and Brazil, cautioning them about potential "massive" secondary sanctions if they continue business with Russia amid the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Speaking with reporters during a visit to the US Congress, Rutte said these countries risk serious economic consequences unless they pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin to commit to peace talks. "If you live in Beijing, or in Delhi, or you are the president of Brazil, you might want to take a look into this," Rutte said, urging these nations to reconsider their ties with Moscow.

Rutte's comments came a day after former President Donald Trump, who has re-emerged as a major influence on US foreign policy, announced new military aid for Ukraine and threatened 100% secondary tariffs on any country continuing trade with Russia unless a peace deal is reached within

"So please make the phone call to Vladimir Putin and tell him that he has to get serious about peace talks, because otherwise this will slam back on Brazil, on India and on China in a massive way," Rutte added.

While Trump's announcement was welcomed by some, Republican Senator Thom Tillis expressed concern over the 50-day delay, fearing that it could give Putin time to gain further ground in Ukraine. "We should make clear that any gains made by Russia in that window are off the table," he

Rutte confirmed that under a new transatlantic agreement, the US will provide Ukraine with a large shipment of weapons, including air defense systems, missiles, and ammunition, funded largely by European nations. He also hinted that both defensive and offensive weapons are being considered, though final decisions will be made in consultation with the Pentagon and NATO military leadership.

China to hold SCO summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1: Wang Yi



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has officially announced that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Tianjin Summit will be held from August 31 to September 1 this year. The announcement was made during a joint press briefing with SCO Secretary-General Nurlan Yermekbayev, as reported by China's state-run Xinhua news agen-

The summit is expected to see participation from key global leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other heads of state from SCO member countries.

Earlier in the day, the Foreign Ministers of the 10-member SCO convened for a high-level meeting aimed at laying the political groundwork for the upcoming summit. The gathering focused on strengthening multilateral cooperation across various sectors, and addressing regional and global security challenges, according to Chinese broadcaster CGTN.

Several key resolutions and official documents were signed during the meeting, reinforcing the SCO's commitment to regional stability and devel-

The meeting was presided over by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and included the presence of notable diplomats such as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Russia's Sergey Lavrov, Pakistan's Ishaq Dar, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus, has grown into one of the world's most significant transregional organizations focused on economic, political, and security cooperation.

Ahead of the Foreign Ministers' meeting, the delegation had an audience with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who urged member states to strengthen internal mechanisms for dealing with emerging security threats and challenges.

As anticipation builds for the Tianjin Summit, the SCO continues to cement its role as a central force in shaping regional diplomacy and strategic partnerships across Eurasia.



Israeli Airstrike Targets Syrian **Military HQ Amid Sweida Clashes**

TPN Correspondent | Damascus

In a dramatic escalation of regional tensions, the Israeli military confirmed on Wednesday that it launched a strike targeting the entrance of the Syrian regime's military headquarters in the capital city of Damascus. The strike reportedly hit near the Syrian defence ministry as well, according to Syrian security sources cited by Reuters.

The attack comes amid intense fighting in southern Syria, particularly in the Druze-majority city of Sweida, where clashes have erupted between Druze militias and Sunni Bedouin tribes. The Israeli military stated that its strike was in response to growing violence and instability in the region, particularly its concern for the safety of the Druze community.

"A short while ago, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) struck the entrance of the Syrian regime's military headquarters in Damascus," read an official statement from the Israeli military. The statement did not elaborate on whether the strike caused casualties or the extent of damage inflicted.

The backdrop of this escalation is the breakdown of a fragile ceasefire in Sweida, where Syrian government forces have attempted to reassert control over areas previously under the influence of local Druze armed groups. The latest unrest began Sunday, when clashes between Druze fighters and Bedouin tribes—who have a long-standing history of conflict in the region—left over 100 people

In response to the escalating violence, the Syrian regime deployed reinforcements to Sweida, seeking to reestablish order. However, Israel claims its military intervention is a protective measure aimed at supporting the Druze community, a significant religious minority in Syria with deep historical and cultural ties to Israel.

The Druze sect, which originated in the 10th century as an offshoot of Ismaili Shiite Islam, has around one million adherents globally, with large populations in Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, including the contested Golan





Indian Stock Market Sees Modest Gains; Analysts Recommend Key Picks Across Sectors

Indian equity markets posted moderate gains on Wednesday, supported by buying interest in select sectors, particularly PSU banks and financial services. The benchmark indices closed in the green, with the Nifty 50 edging up by 16 points and the Sensex climbing 63 points, sig-

naling cautious optimism among investors amid global uncertainty and sectoral rotation.

As market momen- MURTHY NAIDU PAADAN tum stabilizes, analysts are recommend-

ing a handful of promising stocks based on strong technical patterns, sectoral tailwinds, and positive fundamentals.

Top Stock Picks to Watch

LIC Housing Finance

One of the leading names in fi-



nance segment, LIC Housing Finance is currently showing signs of a strong Star Health and Allied Insurance breakout after a prolonged consolidation phase. The stock closed at ₹637 on Wednesday, up 2.9%, indicating a demand for potential bullish trend ahead. Market health insurexperts suggest entering positions in ance and a the ₹630 range. A stop-loss at ₹610 is well-diversified portfolio, Star Health



advised to limit downside risk. The is increasingly being seen as an atstock is backed by robust fundamentals and is expected to benefit from strong demand in the affordable housing sector.

Riding the growing

tractive mid-term bet. The stock ended the day at ₹439 and is recommended for accumulation around the ₹440 zone. Analysts are targeting a price range of ₹475–₹500, depending on the broader market sentiment. Investors are advised to set a stop-loss aligned with their risk appetite.

United Breweries Limited

With the festive season on the horizon and expectations of better quar- India's largest public sector lender,

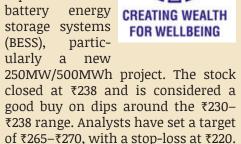
sults, United Breweries is drawing



closed at ₹2009 on Wednesday. Trad- SBI, is forming a VCP (Volatility Coners are advised to consider buying in the ₹1990–₹2010 range, with a short holding period. The stock has strong technical support at ₹1920, which can be used as a reference for stop-loss placement.

NLC India

A key player in the power and energy sector, NLC India is generating interest due to its expansion into storage systems (BESS), partic-



The company's involvement in re-

newable and thermal energy, along

with government support, strength-

State Bank of India

ens its long-term outlook.



traction Pattern)—a strong bullish signal often seen before breakout rallies. With recent approvals to raise fresh capital, investor sentiment is expected to remain positive. The stock ended at ₹831 and is seen as a buy in the ₹820-₹835 range. A breakout above this level could push the stock toward new highs. Technical analysts advise maintaining a stoploss based on short-term support levels.

Outlook

While broader indices are showing modest moves, stock-specific action remains vibrant. Sectors like housing finance, insurance, energy, and consumer goods are presenting solid opportunities amid an otherwise range-bound market. Investors are advised to follow technical levels closely and adopt proper risk management strategies with stop-losses in place.

As the festive season approaches and earnings reports begin to roll out, these counters may offer significant upside in the near term.

SBI to Raise ₹20,000 Crore via Bonds in FY25; Shares Gain 2%



The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector Lender, announced on Wednesday that it plans to raise up to ₹20,000 crore through the issuance of bonds during the current financial year. The move comes as part of the bank's capital-raising strategy aimed at supporting its business growth and maintaining adequate capital buffers.

The bond issuance will be made available to domestic investors, with SBI aiming to tap into the strong demand for high-quality debt instruments in the Indian market. These bonds are likely to be issued in tranches depending on market conditions and the bank's capital requirements. The funds raised will primarily be used to bolster long-term resources for infrastructure lending and general banking needs.

Following the announcement, SBI shares saw a notable uptick in trading. The stock climbed over 2% to trade at ₹833.55 per share on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) as of 2:19 PM on Wednesday. The rise in share price reflects investor optimism around the bank's growth trajectory and prudent capital management.

As per NSE data, the total market capitalization of the PSU banking giant now stands at approximately ₹7.44 lakh crore, cementing its position as one of India's most valuable banks. SBI is also a key component of the BSE Sensex, and any significant movement in its stock price tends to influence overall market sentiment.

This development comes at a time when Indian banks, particularly public sector lenders, are witnessing strong credit demand and improving asset quality. SBI has consistently shown robust financial performance in recent quarters, supported by healthy loan growth, better margins, and lower

Analysts believe that the bond issuance will enhance SBI's ability to lend further and maintain its leadership position in the Indian banking sector. Investors and market watchers will now keep an eye on the pricing and structure of the upcoming bond tranches as SBI moves ahead with its capital-raising plan in FY25.

Sebi Reviewing Jane Street's Plea to Lift Trading Restrictions After ₹4,843 **Crore Deposit**

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is currently examining a request from global proprietary trading giant Jane Street to ease restrictions placed on it earlier this month. This development comes after the firm deposited ₹4,843.57 crore—allegedly gained through manipulative trading practices—into an escrow account with a lien in favor of Sebi.

The move follows Sebi's interim order on July 3, 2025, which had imposed several restrictions on Jane Street, including barring the US-based firm from participating in India's capital markets. The regulator had taken action based on findings of alleged manipulation and front-runsecurities.

According to regulatory sources, discussions between Sebi and Jane Street are still in the preliminary stage. The regulator is carefully evaluating the firm's formal request to revoke or relax some of the penal-

ning in a series of trades involving Indian ties imposed in the interim order. Any re-

lief granted would depend on the progress of Sebi's ongoing investigation, the cooperation shown by Jane Street, and assurances regarding future compliance.

Jane Street's deposit of nearly ₹4,844 crore is seen as a significant gesture toward complying with Sebi's directives. The funds, believed to represent the profits gained through the alleged trading misconduct, are now secured under Sebi's supervision. This is likely to be a key consideration as Sebi deliberates on whether to ease restrictions or allow limited access to markets.

Industry observers note that this case marks one of the most high-profile enforcement actions involving a major foreign entity in India's capital markets. It has also sent a strong message about Sebi's increasing vigilance and zero-tolerance approach toward manipulation. As of now, Jane Street remains barred

from trading or engaging in market activity in India. The firm, known for its algorithmic and high-frequency trading strategies globally, has not yet issued a public statement regarding the case.

Sebi is expected to issue a follow-up order after completing its review and receiving inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Gold Drops ₹200 to ₹99,370/10g; Silver Falls Sharply by ₹3,000 to ₹1.12 Lakh/kg

New Delhi: Gold prices witnessed a marginal dip of ₹200 on Tuesday, settling at ₹99,370 per 10 grams in the national capital, as per the All India Sarafa Association. The decline was attributed to fresh selling by stockists, likely driven by global cues and profit-booking by investors ahead of key economic data.

On Monday, gold of 99.9% purity had closed at ₹99,570 per 10 grams, while gold of 99.5% purity also fell ₹200, reaching ₹98,800 per 10 grams from its previous level of ₹99,000.

Silver, meanwhile, experienced a steep fall of ₹3,000 per kilogram, dropping to ₹1,12,000/kg from the record high of ₹1,15,000/kg hit just a day earlier. This significant decline follows a sharp rally in recent sessions and comes amid heightened volatility in the global bullion markets.

According to Rahul Kalantri, Vice-President of Commodities at Mehta Equities, "Gold and silver witnessed sharp intraday volatility. Prices initially rose but later retreated from their highs as the US Dollar Index rebounded, prompting traders to book profits." He added that investor caution ahead of the US inflation data release has also added to the sell-off in precious metals.

In the international market, spot gold saw a modest rise, trading at USD 3,364.14 per ounce—up by USD 20.62 or 0.62%. Despite the price uptick, analysts noted that gold remains range-bound.

Chintan Mehta, CEO of Abans Financial Services, explained, "Safe-haven demand has risen slightly due to elevated geopolitical



and trade tensions. However, optimism around potential negotiations after former US President Donald Trump's announcement of a 30% tariff on imports from Mexico and the EU has limited gold's upward momentum."

Overall, analysts suggest that bullion prices may remain volatile in the short term, especially as global economic indicators and geopolitical developments continue to influence market sentiment.



OFF BEAT

The Untold Story Behind the Rupee Symbol: Two **Architects, One Icon**

 $B_{\text{dia didn't have}}^{\text{efore 2010, In-}}$ a unique currency symbol. The abbreviation "Rs" was commonly used, but it lacked the distinctive identity that other global currencies like the dollar (\$), euro (€), or pound (£) enjoyed. That changed with the introduction of the rupee symbol (₹), a simple yet powerful design that now apfrom currency notes to mobile screens.

The winning design was created by Udaya Kumar, a

young and talented architect from Tamil Nadu. In 2009, the Indian government held a nationwide competition inviting artists and designers to create a symbol that reflected Indian culture and identity. Out of over 3,000 entries, Udaya Kumar's design stood out. His concept beautifully merged the Devanagari letter "风" (Ra) with the Latin capital letter "R", minus its vertical bar symbolizing a blend of Indian tradition and international appeal.

However, what most people don't know is that there were two key individuals in the running whose designs made it to the final stages. While Udaya Kumar rose to fame, the other design-



er, whose contribution was also highly praised, gradually faded into obscurity. The story recently resurfaced through a viral Instagram video that highlighted how one symbol came to represent India's financial identity—yet not everyone who contributed to it received recognition.

Udaya Kumar's rupee symbol was officially adopted in July 2010, marking a historic moment for India's economy. Today, it stands not just as a currency sign, but as a cultural icon. While the spotlight has largely remained on the winner, the journey and creativity of all participants played a role in shaping what the rupee symbol means to over a billion people today.

Why Pilots Oppose Cameras in Cockpits: A Debate Reignited After AI 171 Crash

The tragic crash of Air India flight AI 171 on June 12 in Ahmedabad, which claimed at least 270 lives, has reignited discussions around cockpit safetv—and why many pilots are against having cameras inside the cockpit.

A 15-page interim report investigating the crash revealed that the Boeing 787-8

failure moments after takeoff. According to the report, both engine fuel switches were moved from the "Run" to "Cutoff" position, halting fuel supply to the engines and causing the aircraft to lose power. Shockingly, this transition occurred within a span of one second.

Adding to the mystery, the cockpit voice recorder captured a brief exchange between the two pilots. One asked, "Why did you cut off?" to which the other responded, "I did not do so." This raises serious questions about what exactly happened in those critical moments—whether it was a mechanical issue, human error, or accidental ac-

In the wake of the report, aviation experts and the public have raised the question: should there be cameras in airplane cockpits? While this

Dreamliner suffered a catastrophic dual-engine might seem like a logical step for accountability and transparency, many pilots strongly oppose the idea. Their reasons include concerns about privacy, increased stress under constant surveillance, and the potential misuse or misinterpretation of footage.

> Pilots argue that voice and data recorders (black boxes) are sufficient for investigations, and introducing cameras could hinder open communication and split-second decision-making in high-stress situations.

> The AI 171 incident highlights the thin line between safety oversight and operational trust. As investigations continue, the demand for deeper insights grows—but so does the debate on how far is too far when it comes to monitoring those at the controls of our skies.



Health Warnings On Samosa, Jalebi Soon?

health warnings on beloved Indian snacks like samosas, jalebis, and laddoos have caused quite a stir. However, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has stepped in to set the record straight. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), PIB's factcheck unit dismissed these claims as false. It clarified that the Union Health Ministry has not issued any advisory mandating warning labels on street foods or traditional Indian snacks. "This claim is fake," PIB stated, adding that no such move has been made to target local vendors or specific food categories.

The clarification comes in response to viral reports that claimed government canteens and restaurants were being asked to display boards showing oil, sugar, and fat content in popular foods such as samosas, jalebis, burgers, pizzas, and soft drinks. These reports linked the move to the government's broader health push under the Fit India Movement.

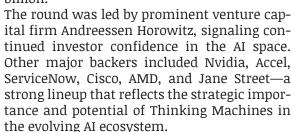
 ${f R}^{
m ecent}$ media reports suggesting that the Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing push for a healthier lifestyle, this awareness campaign seeks to address rising obesity levels and promote balanced eating habits. During the National Games in Dehradun earlier this year, the PM had also urged citizens to incorporate fitness into their daily routine and called for a 10% reduction in national obesity levels in his Mann Ki Baat radio programme.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora weighed in, stating that a Parliamentary committee is currently reviewing FSSAI's food labelling norms. He emphasized the need for consistent rules across all food categories—including alcohol—so that Indian cuisine isn't unfairly singled out, while multinational fastfood chains continue to operate without simi-

So, samosa lovers can breathe easy—for now, your favorite snacks are safe from warning la-

Mira Murati's Thinking **Machines Valued at \$12 Billion** in Major Funding Round

 $T_{
m chines}^{
m hinking}$ Lab, the artificial intelligence startup launched by former OpenAI executive Mira Murati, has headlines with its massive early-stage funding success. On Tuesday, the company announced it had raised \$2 billion in a new funding round, which now pegs its valuation at a staggering \$12 billion.



Despite concerns in some quarters about over-expenditure in the tech industry, enthusiasm for AI startups remains red-hot. Murati's vision for safer, more aligned artificial intelligence seems to have struck a chord with both investors and researchers alike.

Thinking Machines has positioned itself as a next-generation AI lab focused on building technologies that not only push the boundaries of artificial general intelligence (AGI) but



also emphasize ethical development and safety protocols. According to reports, the company is working on systems that are intended to be more interpretable, secure, and socially beneficial—a stance that echoes Murati's long-held views during her time at OpenAI. Although AGI (Artificial General Intelligence)

still remains a work in progress, some experts believe significant breakthroughs could occur within this decade. With major financial backing and a strong leadership team, Thinking Machines is expected to be one of the key players driving that transformation.

As the AI arms race intensifies, Murati's Thinking Machines is clearly emerging as one of the most closely watched startups in the world—both for its technological ambition and its commitment to responsible AI.

Missed Prime Day? Great iPhone 16 Deals Still Available on

Tf you missed out on the Amazon Prime **L**Day sale, there's no need to worry great deals on the iPhone 16 are still live on leading e-commerce platforms like Flipkart and Amazon. So, if you've been planning to upgrade your smartphone, now might be the perfect time to grab one of the most talked-about devices of the year.

Launched on September 9, 2024, the iPhone 16 continues to be a top choice among consumers around the world. While it didn't introduce a dramatically new design, the iPhone 16 shines with its refined aesthetics and improved performance, making it one of the most desirable iPhones to date.



At the heart of the options—black, white, pink, teal, and device is Apple's cutting-edge A18 chip, which delivers faster performance, better power efficiency, and enhanced AI capabilities compared to its predecessor. Whether you're gaming, multitasking, or using advanced photography features, the iPhone 16 ensures a seamless and powerful experience.

The smartphone comes in five elegant colour

ultramarine—catering to both classic and bold tastes. It is also available in three storage variants: 128 GB, 256 GB, and 512 GB, offering flexibility depending on your usage and budget.

The iPhone 16 was launched at a starting price of ₹79,999 for the base 128 GB model. However, ongoing offers and exchange deals on Amazon and Flipkart may bring down the effective price significantly, especially for users upgrading from an older iPhone or flagship Android phone.

So, even if you missed the Prime Day rush, don't worry—you can still grab a great deal on the iPhone 16 today!





Japan Open Update: Sindhu Exits Early; Satwik-Chirag and Lakshya **Advance to Second Round**

At the Japan Open Super 750 tournament, India's two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu faced a tough first-round exit, while the men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, along with shuttler Lakshya Sen, progressed comfortably to the second round.

Sindhu, 30, went down to Korea's Sim Yu Jin in straight games, 15-21, 14-21. This marks Sindhu's fifth first-round loss of the year, highlighting a challenging season for the former world champion. After a slow and somewhat rusty start, Sindhu showed glimpses of fight during the first game, but Sim regained control and eventually secured her first-ever win against the Indian star. In the second game, Sindhu fell behind quickly but managed to draw level at 11-11 before Sim pulled away decisively to seal the match.

In contrast, the men's doubles duo Satwik and Chirag, currently ranked 15th globally, dominated their match against the Korean team of Kang Min Hyuk and Kim Dong Ju, winning 21-18, 21-10 in just 42 minutes. Although the Koreans matched them early on, the Indian pair found their rhythm and controlled the second game with precision.

Lakshya Sen, who has struggled with form this season, delivered a strong performance against China's Wang Zheng Xing, winning 21-11, 21-18. Lakshya maintained control throughout the first game, quickly building an 11-2 lead. Despite a tougher challenge from Xing in the second game, Lakshya held on to his momentum and closed out the match in straight games. Next, he will face the seventh seed and local favourite Kodai Naraoka in the

While Sindhu's early exit is disappointing, the progress of Satwik-Chirag and Lakshya provides hope for India's badminton campaign at the Japan Open.





ISL Playoff Chases: The Ultimate Drama of Indian Football

 $T_{\mathsf{an}}^{\mathsf{he}}$ Indi-Super (ISL) League has given fans a decade of thrilling moments-spectacular goals, fierce rivalries, and individual brilliance. But nothing quite matches the excitement of the nail-biting race for playoff spots in the final weeks of the season It's here that

teams must display tactical smartness, strong leadership, and unwavering belief to keep their title hopes alive. Interestingly, preseason favourites rarely make it smoothly to the playoffs. Some teams have defied predictions and carved their own unforgettable stories. Take Chennaiyin FC's 2019-20 season as an example. After a poor start with only five points from six matches under John Gregory, things looked bleak. But Owen Coyle's mid-season arrival sparked a turnaround. With a new attacking mindset, Chennaiyin went on an eight-match unbeaten run and made it to the semifinals, eventually finishing as runners-up.

Another memorable comeback came from NorthEast United FC in 2020-21. Despite a strong start, they hit a rough patch mid-season, leading to coach Gerard Nus's exit. Interim coach Khalid Jamil then took charge, guiding the

team through nine unbeaten games, including big wins over Mumbai City FC and Mohun Bagan. They reached the semifinals but fell just short of the

Jamshedpur FC stunned everyone in 2021-22 by clinching the League Shield under Owen Coyle, showing remarkable consistency with 43 points from 20 matches. Meanwhile, Kerala Blasters, led by Ivan Vukomanovic, broke their playoff drought after a rocky start, going on a ten-match unbeaten streak and reaching the final, losing only on penalties.

In 2022-23, Bengaluru FC set a new standard by winning eight straight matches in the final league stage, pulling off one of the greatest comebacks in ISL history. These stories prove the ISL playoffs chase remains the ultimate rollercoaster in Indian football.

Deepika Makes History as First Indian to Win Poligras **Magic Skill Award**

Tn a landmark moment for **L**Indian hockey, Deepika, the talented forward from the Indian Women's Hockey Team, has become the first Indian to win the prestigious Poligras Magic Skill Award. The 21-year-old's sensational solo goal against the Netherlands during the Bhubaneswar leg of the 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League season captured the imagination of hockey fans worldwide, earning her this global recognition.

Deepika's goal came in the 35th minute of a thrilling match against the world No. 1 Dutch team. With India trailing 0-2, she displayed incredible skill and determination by cutting through the Dutch defense down the left flank. Her breathtaking run saw her dribble along the baseline before deftly dink-ing the ball over a defender's stick and slotting it past the goalkeeper to open

India's scoring. The match even- a goal against Spain. tually ended 2-2 and India triumphed in the shootout, making her goal even more memorable. The Poligras Magic Skill Award celebrates the most creative and skilful moments in the FIH Hockey Pro League and is decided entirely through a global fan nominees in the women's category, alongside Spain's Patricia Alvarez and Australia's women's team. Her remarkable goal won She added, "This award isn't just the hearts of fans globally, marking a proud milestone for Indian hockey. The men's award went



On winning the award, an emotional Deepika expressed her gratitude: "I am truly honoured to have won this award. Scoring that goal against a challenging opponent like the Netherlands was a special moment for me, and receiving this recognition means vote. Deepika was among three a lot. I thank my teammates, coaches, family, and friends who continue to support and inspire me every day."

mine, it belongs to Indian hockey. Let's keep pushing forward together." This historic win signals to Belgium's Victor Wegnez for a a bright future for Indian wombrilliant midfield play leading to en's hockey on the global stage.

Joe Root Reclaims No. 1 Spot as Indian Batters Slip in ICC Test Rankings

As the five-match Test series between India and England crosses the halfway mark, the ICC Test rankings have seen significant reshuffling following the third Test at Lord's. England clinched a narrow 22-run victory, leveling the series and triggering a ripple effect in the individual player standings.

Joe Root, England's veteran batter, has reclaimed the No. 1 position in the ICC Men's Test batting rankings, marking his eighth stint at the top. At 34, Root becomes the oldest to hold the top spot since Kumar Sangakkara in 2014.

For Team India, the third Test was a missed opportunity. Poor batting in 13 runs and a duck at Lord's, has the second innings cost them dearly, and the rankings reflect the fallout.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, who managed only



slipped from 4th to 5th in the rankings. Captain Shubman Gill has taken a heavier hit, dropping from 6th to 9th, while Rishabh Pant moves down one place to 8th.

On a brighter note, KL Rahul's solid performance with the bat has earned him a five-place boost—from 40th to 35th. Ravindra Jadeja, who impressed with both bat and ball, also climbed five spots to 34th, while maintaining his hold on the No. 1 all-rounder rank-

In the bowling charts, Washington Sundar made headlines with a four-wicket haul in the second innings at Lord's. His strong showing has catapulted him 12 places, moving from 58th to 46th in the ICC Test bowling rankings.

As the series continues, both teams will be looking to gain momentum not just in matches, but on the rankings board as well.

Dunkley Anchors England to 258 Despite Goud, Rana Strikes in 1st Women's ODI

composed unbeaten knock of 83 off 92 balls from So-Apphia Dunkley guided England to a competitive 258/6 in the first Women's ODI against India at the Utilita Bowl in Southampton. Dunkley held firm after a shaky start, partnering with Alice Davidson-Richards (53 off 73) in a crucial

106-run fifth-wicket stand. India's young pace sensation Kranti Goud was the standout among the bowlers, claiming 2/55 in 9 overs in just her second WODI. The 21-year-old made an immediate impact, removing Amy Jones with a seaming delivery that shattered the stumps. Goud's confidence soared as she struck again, trapping Tammy Beaumont LBW with a sharp inswinger. A successful review showed the ball hitting the top of middle stump, leaving England reeling at 20/2 in the fourth over. England found some stability through Emma Lamb (39) and captain Nat Sciver-Brunt (41), who added 71 runs for the third wicket. Both were looking set before Sneh Rana intervened. The off-spinner delivered a tight spell, finishing with 2/31 in 10 overs, dismissing both batters in quick succession. Lamb mistimed a drive to mid-off after a boundary drought, while Sciver-Brunt was caught brilliantly by

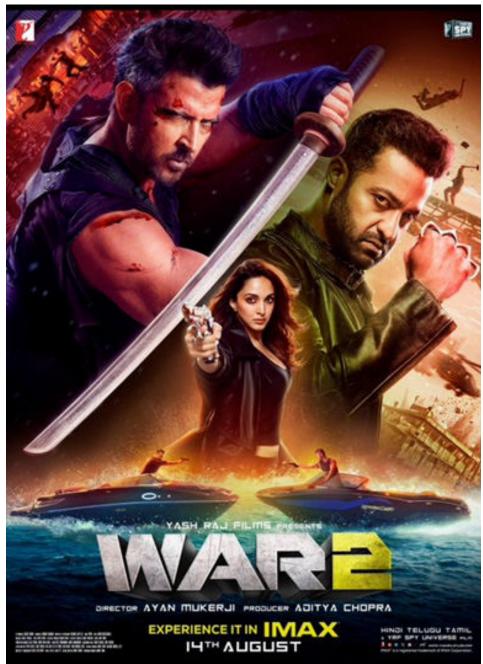
Jemimah Rodrigues after an uppish drive. With England at 132/5, Dunkley and Davidson-Richards



took control. Dunkley's composed innings, laced with nine boundaries, held the innings together, while Richards played the perfect support role before falling late in the in-

Despite India's disciplined bowling—especially in the middle overs-England's recovery through Dunkley's knock ensured a defendable total. India now faces a challenging chase, with the pitch showing some early assistance for seam and spin.





War 2 Unleashes Explosive Action Poster Ahead of Trailer Drop

One of the most eagerly awaited Bollywood films of the year, War 2, has just turned up the heat with the release of a stunning new action poster featuring its star-studded lead cast—Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR, and Kiara Advani. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film is part of the highly successful YRF Spy Universe and is all set to hit theatres on August 14, 2025. The newly unveiled poster showcases the trio in full-blown action mode, setting social media abuzz and furpromises to be a high-octane cine- installments in the franchise. matic experience. Jr NTR, making his As the release date draws closer, all Hindi film debut, is already drawing attention alongside seasoned action icon Hrithik Roshan and the dynamic Kiara Advani.

With fans eagerly counting down, reports suggest that the official trailer for War 2 may be released this

weekend, a move expected to generate massive traction both online and in theatres. The film is positioned as a direct continuation of the hit 2019 film War, expanding the storyline while tying into the larger spy universe that includes Pathaan and Tiger Zinda Hai.

Expectations are sky-high not just because of the star power but also due to Ayan Mukerji's unique vision. Known for blending style, scale, and emotion, his direction could give ther fueling anticipation for what War 2 a distinct edge over previous

> eyes are on how the film's narrative, action sequences, and character dynamics unfold. If the trailer delivers on the promise hinted at by the poster, War 2 could rewrite box office history and cement its place as a milestone in Indian action cinema.

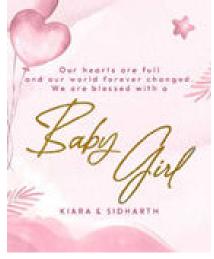
Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani Welcome Baby Girl, Fans Shower Blessings

 $B^{
m ollywood's}$ beloved couple sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani have become proud parents to a baby girl. According to reports, the couple welcomed their daughter on Tuesday evening at Reliance Hospital, Mumbai. The delivery was said to be normal, and both the mother and baby are healthy and doing well.

While the couple has yet to issue an official announcement, fans and well-wishers have already flooded social media with love and congrat-

ulations. The news has sparked joy among Bollywood circles and their massive fan base, who have been closely following the couple's journey since their on-screen chemistry in Shershaah turned into real-life

Sidharth and Kiara's love story began during the filming of Shershaah, and the two tied the knot in an intimate yet grand ceremony on February 7, 2023. Earlier this year, in February



2025, the couple announced Kiara's pregnancy with a heartfelt post showing the two holding a tiny pair of baby socks, captioned: "The greatest gift of our lives... Coming soon." On the work front, both actors have exciting projects lined up. Sidharth her pregnancy. is gearing up for his upcoming romantic comedy Param Sundari opposite Janhvi Kapoor. Meanwhile, Kiara Advani has a major role in the

2 alongside Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, set to release on August 14, 2025. There were also reports of her being cast in Don 3 with Ranveer Singh, though she is rumored to have stepped away from the project due to

As fans wait for an official statement and the first glimpse of the baby girl, one thing is certain—Bollywood's newest star kid has arrived, and the world couldn't be happier.

Vijay Deverakonda's Emotional Song 'Anna Antene' from Kingdom Set to Release

much-awaited action thriller War

As the release date of Kingdom draws closer, the makers of Vijay Deverakonda's much-awaited pan-India action drama are intensifying their promotional campaign. The film's second song, titled 'Anna Antene', is all set to drop, and it promises to strike a deeply emotional chord with audiences.

Sharing a teaser of the song on his X (formerly Twitter) handle, Vijay Deverakonda wrote an emotional note that has already touched fans. "Everybody who has a brother is going to feel their love for them... everybody who doesn't have one, is going to feel the void of not having one. But one thing – everybody is going to the heartfelt theme of the song.

The glimpse video of Anna Antene and his on-screen brother, played by Satyadev. The visuals trace their bond from childhood to adulthood, filled with love, sacrifice, and moments that are sure to resonate with



feel, something," he said, hinting at The song has been composed and backed by Sithara Entertainments' offers a moving look into the rela-sic industry today. Lyricist Krishna tionship between Vijay's character Kanth has penned the words, further adding emotional weight to the soulful composition.

> Kingdom also stars Bhagyashri Borse as the female lead and is directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, known for his sensitive storytelling. The film is offer.

sung by Anirudh Ravichander, one Naga Vamsi in collaboration with of the top names in the Indian mu- Sai Soujanya under the Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas banner.

> With the film set to hit theatres worldwide on July 31, 2025, the release of Anna Antene is expected to give audiences a taste of the emotional depth that Kingdom has to

All Eyes on Rajamouli: Will He Finally Reveal Baahubali The Epic's Runtime?

 $\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{gins}}$ for the much-anticipated release of Baahubali The Epic, excitement is at an all-time high. Directed by SS Rajamouli, the film marks a bold and unique retelling of the legendary Baahubali saga. Ever since the team officially announced its theatrical release date — October 31, 2025 — fans across the world have been buzzing with speculation and theories.

But amid all the hype, one question continues to

dominate conversations online: What is the runtime of Baahubali The Epic?

Surprisingly, neither the makers nor the cast have addressed this burning query. The silence from the production team has only added fuel to the fire, with social media platforms flooded with predictions and leaked "runtime charts" — none of which have been verified.

SS Rajamouli, who is expected to attend the pre-release event of Junior, the upcoming film featuring Kireeti Reddy and Sreeleela, at Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad. Fans are hopeful that Rajamouli will finally take



the stage and address the most talked-about mystery in Indian cinema right now.

The buzz was further intensified by actor Rana Daggubati, who was asked about the runtime after the premiere of Kotthapallilo Okappudu last night. His response? "I have no idea. Only Rajamouli garu can answer it." With just hours left for the event, anticipation is peaking. Will Rajamouli finally break Today, however, the spotlight is firmly on his silence and put an end to all the speculation? Or will the mystery continue to keep fans guessing until the film's release?

Either way, tonight's event promises to be one every Baahubali fan will be watching

"Nadhive": A Pure Love Poem in The **Girlfriend's Latest Music Video**

The much-anticipated film The Girlfriend, starring the stunning Rashmika Mandanna, is creating waves even before its release. Produced by Geetha Arts and Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment, the movie is progressing rapidly, and after the massive response to its teaser, the team has unveiled the first single from the film's soundtrack — titled "Nadhive."

Released simultaneously in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam, "Nadhive" is a soulful musical masterpiece composed and sung by the gifted Hesham Abdul Wahab. His enchanting voice adds a magical touch to the song, making it resonate deeply with listeners across languages.

The music video beautifully features Rashmika Mandanna and Dheekshith Shetty, who bring the song's emotions to life with graceful and expressive dance performances. Their chemistry and elegant movements perfect-



ly capture the essence of love, adding layers of depth to the poetic lyrics.

Speaking of lyrics, Rakendu Mouli has penned deeply emotional and heartfelt words that flow seamlessly with the melodious tune, elevating "Nadhive" to the level of pure love poetry. Every line connects with the listener's soul, emphasizing the film's romantic theme.

At the directorial helm is actor-turned-director Rahul Ravindran, known for his work in Chi La Sow and Manmadhudu 2. The film's production is overseen by Vidya Koppineedi and Dheeraj Mogilineni, with veteran producer Allu Aravind presenting the project. Cinematography by Krishnan Vasant perfectly complements the romantic mood of the song, capturing every tender moment with finesse.

Overall, "Nadhive" sets a beautiful tone for The Girlfriend, promising a heartfelt romantic journey anchored by powerful performances and soulful mu-