CM Revanth Reddy Calls for Stronger Sanitation, Tech-Driven Urban Reforms

Hyderabad, Telangana – Friday

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed officials to intensify sanitation measures and mosquito control efforts across urban areas, stressing the need for improved public health management. The instructions were issued during a high-level review meeting with senior officials of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department at the State Secretariat on Friday.

The Chief Minister emphasized that sanitation must remain a top priority, particularly in densely populated urban zones. He instructed municipal authorities to create awareness among citizens about disposing of garbage only at designated and marked locations. Public cooperation, he said, is essential to maintaining cleanliness and preventing the spread of diseases.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including the Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy and Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao. Discussions focused on measures to be implemented within the Core Urban Region (CURE) to enhance civic services and infrastructure.

Highlighting the importance of technology in governance, Revanth Reddy advised officials to adopt digital tools for faster and more efficient service delivery. He proposed assigning a unique identification number to every streetlight in the Core Urban Region and connecting them to a centralized dashboard. This system would allow authorities to quickly detect faults and address complaints in real time.

Food safety was another major focus of the review. The Chief Minister directed officials to give top priority to monitoring hygiene standards in hotels and restaurants within CURE limits. He suggested installing CCTV cameras in hotel kitchens and linking them to the Command and Control Centre to ensure continuous oversight. He also called for frequent inspections and the establishment of a special monitoring wing to track compliance.

Revanth Reddy further recommended exploring a rating and certification system for hotels based on hygiene, safety, and service standards. Such a system, he said, would promote accountability and encourage establishments to maintain better quality control.

On fire safety, the Chief Minister instructed officials to utilize advanced equipment and modern firefighting technologies to improve emergency response capabilities.

In addition, he proposed setting up water harvesting wells at major signal junctions and traffic circles to capture rainwater and improve groundwater levels. He directed officials to identify select areas and implement the initiative as a pilot project before expanding it further.

The Chief Minister reiterated that effective monitoring, technological integration, and proactive civic planning are essential to building a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable urban environment in Telangana.

CM REVANTH TACTICAL MOVE ON MAOISTS; MEETING WITH LEADERS

Hyderabad, Telangana – Friday

In a significant development, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with senior Maoist leaders at the State Secretariat on Friday. The discussions primarily focused on the government's surrender and rehabilitation policy for Maoists, marking what officials described as an important step toward peace and reintegration.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister personally greeted each of the Maoist leaders and inquired about their well-being. He assured them that the state government is committed to implementing a fair and transparent surrender policy. Emphasizing rehabilitation and social reintegration, Revanth Reddy promised that those who have laid down arms would be provided support in accordance with the law.

The Chief Minister also assured that monetary rewards announced on surrendered Maoist leaders would be released without delay. He directed officials to take immediate steps to ensure that all eligible benefits under the surrender policy are provided promptly.

The Maoist leaders expressed their willingness to cooperate with the government's peace initiatives. They stated that, subject to government permission, they would like to meet Maoists currently lodged in prisons to encourage them to consider surrendering and joining the mainstream. According to sources, the leaders described the discussions with the state government as constructive and positive.

Senior Maoist leader Devji conveyed his appreciation to the Chief Minister, stating that the Telangana government's surrender policy is progressive and practical. He thanked the government and Revanth Reddy for initiating dialogue and creating an environment conducive to peaceful resolution.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister also sought details about the welfare of those who had already surrendered. He reiterated that the government would ensure rehabilitation, protection, and necessary assistance to help them rebuild their lives. "Our government stands by its commitment to provide legal protection and comprehensive rehabilitation support," he reportedly said.

The Maoist leaders thanked the Telangana government for taking proactive steps to facilitate their surrender. They acknowledged the administration's efforts in creating an atmosphere of trust and dialogue. Officials present at the meeting indicated that discussions also covered future plans of the former Maoist leaders and ways to integrate them into society productively.

Revanth Reddy further stated that he would make a formal announcement in the Telangana Legislative Assembly regarding the Maoists' surrender and the government's policy framework. He emphasized that lasting peace in the region requires dialogue, development, and inclusive governance.

The meeting is seen as a notable development in Telangana's internal security landscape. For years, Maoist activities have posed challenges in certain regions, and successive governments have attempted various strategies to address the issue. Observers believe that sustained engagement and effective rehabilitation measures could play a crucial role in reducing extremism and promoting stability.

Officials described Friday's meeting as a confidence-building measure and expressed optimism that more Maoist cadres may come forward under the revised surrender policy. The state government is expected to release detailed guidelines soon to ensure transparency and smooth implementation.

The development marks a renewed effort by the Telangana government to resolve long-standing security concerns through dialogue and structured rehabilitation initiatives.

COURT DISMISSES DELHI LIQUOR SCAM CASE

- **RELIEF FOR KEJRIWAL AND MANISH SISODIA**
- **BIG TURNING POINT FOR KAVITA**

New Delhi – Friday

In a significant legal and political development, Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Friday acquitted AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia in the alleged corruption case linked to the 2021/22 Delhi excise policy. The verdict brings to an end a prolonged legal battle that had cast a shadow over the former Chief Minister and his deputy for nearly two years.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh, while pronouncing the judgment, held that there was no evidence of an overarching conspiracy or criminal intent in the formulation and execution of the liquor policy. The court observed that the prosecution had failed to establish essential elements required to prove corruption charges.

The ruling offers major relief to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had repeatedly maintained that the case was politically motivated. The verdict is expected to have far-reaching political implications, particularly with key elections on the horizon, including next year's Assembly polls in Punjab, the only other state currently governed by AAP.

An emotional Kejriwal, speaking to reporters outside jail, said, "I always used to say that the truth is with us." He later left to meet his family, marking a personal moment of relief after months of intense political and legal scrutiny. Sisodia, too, expressed satisfaction over the court's findings.

However, the judgment did not merely acquit the two senior leaders. It also contained sharp observations about the handling of the case by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the federal agency that had investigated the matter.

One of the most striking aspects of the ruling was the court's criticism of the term "South Group" or "South Lobby," repeatedly used in the chargesheet to describe a set of accused individuals. Judge Singh termed the label arbitrary, regionally prejudicial, and without legal foundation.

"I was concerned that terms like 'South Group' were used. This is not correct," the judge observed, questioning whether the CBI would have employed the same terminology had the chargesheet been filed in a southern city like Chennai. The court also noted that no equivalent expression such as "North Group" was used, raising concerns about selective labeling.

In a detailed remark placed on record, the court stated that descriptors rooted in regional identity have no place in a constitutional order founded on equality before law and national unity. Such terminology, it reasoned, serves no legitimate investigative or prosecutorial purpose and risks introducing bias into criminal proceedings.

The CBI defended the usage, arguing that "South Group" functioned as a convenient collective term for several accused. However, the court rejected this justification and even referred to a landmark 2000 judgment by a United States appeals court that overturned a conviction because prosecutors had used racially or ethnically loaded language irrelevant to the charges.

The "South Group" was alleged to include Hyderabad-based politicians and businessmen accused of influencing the Delhi liquor policy to generate illegal financial gains. Among those named were K Kavitha, a former leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, a Lok Sabha MP from the YSR Congress Party. Kavitha, who spent several months in jail during the investigation, welcomed the verdict and described the case as driven by "political vendetta."

Legal experts believe the court's remarks could have broader implications beyond the acquittal itself. The observations may fuel ongoing political debates about federal agencies and alleged regional bias, especially in southern states that have frequently voiced concerns about central overreach.

With Assembly elections due in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the coming weeks, the court's strong comments on the "South Group" label may also add momentum to discussions surrounding federalism and regional identity in Indian politics.

For now, the verdict marks a decisive legal victory for Kejriwal and Sisodia, while raising serious questions about investigative standards and the language used in high-profile corruption cases.

Kavitha Says Faith in Judiciary Upheld

Hyderabad – Friday

K Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi and former Member of Parliament, said her faith in the judiciary has been vindicated after a court dismissed the Delhi Liquor Policy Case in which she had been named as an accused.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad after the verdict, Kavitha expressed relief and described the outcome as a triumph of truth. "From the beginning, I have been telling the people of Telangana that I would come out clean like a washed pearl. Today, that has happened," she said.

She reiterated that the case was politically motivated and filed out of vendetta. "I have said many times that this case was driven by political hostility. That has now been proven," she asserted. Kavitha added that she and her family went through months of emotional distress due to the allegations and prolonged legal proceedings.

The former MP also alleged misuse of investigative agencies to target opposition leaders. She said some individuals made inappropriate remarks against her even before the court delivered its judgment. "I had complete faith in the judicial system, and that trust has stood firm," she stated.

Kavitha thanked party workers, supporters, and well-wishers who stood by her during difficult times. "I am grateful to everyone who supported me when I needed strength the most," she said.

Soon after the verdict, she posted "Satyameva Jayate" on social media platform X, emphasizing her belief that truth ultimately prevails.

With the case now dismissed, Kavitha said she would continue serving the people with renewed energy and commitment.

Deputy CM Bhatti Meets AP CM Ahead of Son's Wedding

Hyderabad – Friday

Bhatti Vikramarka, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, along with Minister Sridhar Babu, met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Undavalli camp office in Hyderabad.

The meeting comes ahead of the wedding of Bhatti Vikramarka's son, Suryavikrama Aditya, which is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on March 5. During the interaction, Vikramarka formally invited CM Chandrababu Naidu to attend the ceremony.

The upcoming wedding has drawn attention from political circles, as leaders from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are ex-pected to participate. The meeting was described as cordial, reflecting warm ties between the leaders ahead of the personal event.

Officials noted that the invitation from Deputy CM Vikramarka to CM Naidu is part of customary political and personal goodwill gestures observed during major family events. The wedding is anticipated to be a high-profile affair, with several dignitaries and political figures likely to attend.

This interaction underscores the continuing personal and political engagement between leaders of the neighboring states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, beyond their official responsibilities.

Konda Surekha Conducts Surprise Inspection at Balkampet Ellamma Temple

Hyderabad – Friday

Konda Surekha, Minister for the Telangana Endowment Department, carried out a surprise inspection at the Balkampet Ellamma Temple on Friday, expressing serious concern over staff negligence in carrying out temple duties. Accompanied by senior officials from the Endowment Department, the minister scrutinized the temple premises, maintenance routines, and staff performance.

During the two-hour inspection, Minister Surekha found several lapses in the administration and upkeep of the temple. She expressed her displeasure over poor hygiene and inadequate management of daily rituals and temple operations. Four staff members, who were found to have neglected their responsibilities, were suspended immediately. Officials noted that the suspension was intended to serve as a strict warning and reinforce accountability among all temple personnel.

The minister also reviewed records pertaining to the temple's administration, including financial deposits and inventories of gold and silver ornaments belonging to the deity. She sought detailed explanations from the officials regarding asset management, emphasizing the importance of transparency and proper documentation of all temple-related resources. The minister stressed that any negligence in record-keeping or asset management would not be tolerated.

According to the Endowment Department, the surprise inspection was aimed at ensuring that temples under the department's jurisdiction maintain high standards of administration and cleanliness. Minister Surekha instructed officials to implement corrective measures immediately and to conduct regular checks to prevent further lapses. She also emphasized that proactive monitoring is necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of temple services and the proper care of devotees.

The inspection reflects the Telangana government's commitment to strengthening governance in religious institutions. By taking decisive action against negligent staff and reviewing operational procedures, the minister aims to improve accountability, enhance the sanctity of temple services, and ensure that all rituals and daily operations are performed efficiently.

Officials stated that such inspections will continue across other prominent temples in the state to reinforce the importance of proper management, cleanliness, and adherence to established protocols. The minister's proactive approach is expected to serve as a model for better administration and transparency in Telangana's temple network, ultimately benefiting devotees and the wider community.

CORRUPTION AND ANARCHY BECOME INSEPARABLE IN ADMINISTRATION: KTR

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Friday delivered a scathing critique of the current Congress government in Telangana, asserting that corruption and anarchy have become inseparable elements of its administration. Speaking at a felicitation program held at Telangana Bhavan for newly elected BRS councillors from the Alampur constituency, Rama Rao contrasted the current governance with the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, emphasizing that under the BRS rule, development and welfare moved hand-in-hand, reflecting a balanced and people-centric administration.

Rama Rao criticized specific actions by the Congress government, citing environmental degradation as a glaring concern. He noted the widespread felling of trees in the Palle Prakruthi Vanams and the blasting of check dams, describing these acts as emblematic of the government's disregard for both ecological sustainability and the welfare of local communities. According to him, such measures have now become routine, reflecting a governance model that prioritizes short-term gains over long-term development and environmental protection. Rama Rao emphasized that these activities not only harm the natural landscape but also adversely affect the lives of farmers and rural communities dependent on these natural resources.

In his address, Rama Rao also highlighted the sustained grassroots strength of the BRS despite Congress holding power in the state. He cited the party's performance in recent elections in Alampur, Aija, Gadwal, and Vaddepalli as proof that the public continues to place its confidence in the BRS. "From sarpanch to municipal polls, the results show where the people's confidence lies," he remarked, attributing this trust to the inspiration and leadership of Nadigadda, which has reinforced the party's strong organizational presence across rural and urban constituencies.

Rama Rao further drew attention to alleged administrative failures of the Congress government, pointing to sensitive incidents such as the tragic death of a two-month-old baby in Nagarkurnool and the alleged lockup death of Dalit youth Karla Rajesh in Kodad. He also condemned the demolition of houses in Velugumatla, Khammam, calling it a cruel act that left thousands of families homeless and destabilized entire communities. According to Rama Rao, these events reveal a government disconnected from the public and incapable of safeguarding the basic rights and welfare of its citizens.

In addition to these criticisms, Rama Rao accused the Congress of failing to implement its six guarantees and of disappointing farmers, particularly regarding the disbursal of Rythu Bharosa financial assistance and timely fertilizer distribution. He urged BRS cadres to remain vigilant against attempts by the ruling party to lure away elected representatives, emphasizing the need for party unity and organizational discipline to counteract such tactics.

Concluding his speech, Rama Rao expressed confidence in the people of Telangana, stating that voters have clearly recognized the shortcomings and false promises of the Congress government. He reiterated that under the leadership of Chandrashekhar Rao, the BRS would return to power, with a renewed focus on welfare, sustainable development, and the protection of citizens' rights. His address underscored the growing political tensions in the state, highlighting governance failures, environmental concerns, and public dissatisfaction as key issues ahead of upcoming elections, while reinforcing the BRS's commitment to addressing these challenges effectively.

Rajendranagar Landowners Protest Gandhi Sarovar Project Acquisition

In a recent notification, Rajendranagar revenue authorities declared that 19.10 acres of land in Kismatpur village, Gandipet mandal, would be acquired for the Gandhi Sarovar Project. The acquisition will affect not only private land parcels but also the Dargah Khaliz Khan area at HMBS Colony in Kismatpur, stirring unrest among local residents and landowners.

Historically, these lands were fertile and cultivated with paddy, supporting the livelihoods of families in the region. However, due to scanty rainfall over the past decade, cultivation had stopped, and the land has largely remained fallow. Despite lying unused for years, the land holds emotional and historical significance for the families who have safeguarded it for generations.

Aslam Bin Abdullah, a local landowner, expressed deep anguish over the acquisition, stating that he would lose nearly 10 acres of ancestral property in the Dargah Khaliz Khan area. "Losing my ancestors' property for this project causes unbearable pain. We have been protecting it for the past five decades, and it has fed our entire family. Now, the government's action is heartbreaking," he said.

The project impacts over 150 families who rely on small land parcels for their livelihoods. Another affected resident highlighted the economic vulnerability of the locals. "We are a very poor family and have been protecting this land from encroachers for years. Now, the Revanth Reddy government is forcibly taking it for the project, which is unacceptable," he said.

Local residents also criticized the Congress government for allegedly deviating from the approach of the previous BRS administration. Kismatpur resident A. Santosh Goud said, "The then BRS government did not propose any project that would affect hundreds of families. But the current Congress government is forcibly acquiring land, claiming it is for a buffer zone. Land worth crores of rupees is being taken from us under the guise of development."

Tensions escalated a few weeks ago when revenue authorities arrived to conduct a Grama Sabha to discuss the acquisition. Local landowners resisted the proceedings, preventing the officials from holding the meeting. Since then, revenue officials have reportedly refrained from visiting Kismatpur, leaving the issue unresolved and the locals' anxieties unaddressed.

The Gandhi Sarovar Project is seen as a major developmental initiative by the Telangana government. However, the lack of adequate dialogue with local residents and landowners has raised questions about the approach toward displacement and compensation. Residents argue that while the project may serve broader public interests, the government must consider the economic and emotional stakes of families who have preserved these lands for generations.

As the situation unfolds, it remains unclear how authorities plan to proceed with the acquisition and address the growing protests. For now, Kismatpur residents continue to resist what they see as a forced appropriation of their ancestral lands, demanding fair treatment, adequate compensation, and transparency in the project's implementation.

Kavitha Criticizes KTR Over 'Delhi Liquor Case' Comments, Calls Out BRS Leadership

Hyderabad – Friday

K Kavitha, president of Telangana Jagruthi, stated that her reputation was unfairly tarnished even before the conclusion of the Delhi Liquor Policy Case. Speaking after the Delhi Rouse Avenue Court's verdict, which gave her a clean chit, she criticized Telangana Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders for using the case to attack her personally.

Kavitha referred to a social media post by BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao on X, in which he appeared to suggest that her involvement in the liquor case was linked to the party's electoral defeat. She rejected this characterization, saying the BRS loss in the Assembly elections was due to internal party issues, not her actions.

"I have directly questioned BRS leaders. The defeat was caused by not providing houses to people, not generating employment, giving tickets to opportunistic candidates, and above all, an arrogant leadership style," she said. "It is not correct to put the blame for the party's loss on my shoulders. KTR must still respect the people's mandate."

Kavitha's statement highlighted that she faced personal and political attacks throughout the case, even though the court ultimately cleared her of all charges. She emphasized that the case had been politically motivated and used to harass opposition leaders.

Responding to the court verdict, KTR had posted on X that the Delhi liquor scandal had undermined the AAP government in Delhi, which contributed to BRS's electoral setbacks in the Assembly and Parliament elections. He acknowledged that the court ruling in Kavitha's favor was a matter of justice and reiterated that politically motivated cases are common against leaders. "We continue to see disinformation campaigns from Congress and BJP until the facts are fully revealed," KTR wrote.

Kavitha, however, maintained that using the court verdict to portray her as a cause of BRS's electoral losses is inappropriate. She urged BRS leaders, especially KTR, to respect voter decisions and focus on addressing the real issues that led to the party's defeat rather than targeting individuals unjustly.

This exchange underscores continuing tensions between Kavitha and BRS leadership, even after her legal vindication, highlighting how high-profile cases can intersect with political narratives in Telangana.

Kishan Reddy Accuses Congress of Splitting GHMC to Favor MIM in Hyderabad

Hyderabad:

Union Minister and Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy has strongly criticized the Congress government for trifurcating the 150-ward Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) into three separate corporations, creating a total of 300 divisions. Reddy alleged that the move was politically motivated to weaken the BJP and hand over core areas of Hyderabad to the MIM. He further accused Congress, MIM, and BRS leaders of prioritizing mutual benefits over addressing citizens' issues.

Speaking to reporters after conducting a 'basti bata' outreach in Boudhanagar, Sitaphalmandi, Mettuguda, and surrounding slums with officials, Reddy highlighted severe neglect of basic infrastructure in the city. He noted that while Hyderabad is rapidly transforming every six months, the existing drainage network is unable to cope with the fast-growing number of apartments and residents. Additionally, the government has not taken adequate steps to augment water supply from the Go-davari, leaving many areas facing drinking water shortages even before the onset of summer.

Reddy also criticized the failure to desilt stormwater drains ahead of the summer season. He alleged that contractors were being paid for incomplete work, resulting in foul odors and health risks for residents. The Union minister, who represents Secunderabad in Parliament, held Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy accountable for the civic issues and demanded an urgent meeting with elected representatives to devise a plan to resolve pending infrastructure problems.

With the GHMC council's term having expired, Reddy called for immediate municipal elections, asserting that timely elections and improved governance are essential to restore civic infrastructure and public confidence. The minister's remarks have intensified political debate over the Congress government's urban administration policies, particularly regarding the future of core Hyderabad areas and the welfare of its residents.

Bandi Sanjay Criticizes Revanth Over Delayed Rythu Bharosa

Karimnagar – Friday

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister and Telangana BJP leader, has sharply criticized the state government for delaying disbursement of the Rythu Bharosa Scheme funds, accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his administration of failing to honor promises made to farmers ahead of elections. According to Sanjay, the delay not only undermines farmers' trust but also highlights the ruling party's "habit of making promises before polls and breaking them afterward."

In an open letter to CM Revanth Reddy, Sanjay raised concerns about the pending payments, questioning why the government has not credited the promised funds even after two months have passed since municipal elections. "You promised to release the Rythu Bharosa funds immediately after the municipal elections during the Miryalaguda public meeting on February 4. If the government itself forgets the promise, how can farmers trust you?" he asked. The minister emphasized that more than 67 lakh farmers across the state are awaiting their entitled investment support.

Sanjay highlighted that the total pending amount, including the third installment, is approximately 27,000 crore. He criticized the government for repeatedly claiming that 9,000 crore had already been released over the past nine months, calling it "misleading and deceptive," and said that farmers are left in uncertainty and frustration. He demanded that the pending Rythu Bharosa payments be deposited into farmers' accounts immediately. "If the government continues to delay, the BJP will organize large-scale protests across the state to demand accountability," he warned.

Beyond the Rythu Bharosa issue, Sanjay also accused CM Revanth Reddy of prioritizing political theatrics over public welfare. Speaking to the media in Karimnagar, he claimed, "The government is focusing on demolishing poor people's houses and engaging in election-driven stunts rather than addressing real problems. Ahead of elections, they give promises and then backtrack, surpassing even KCR in political deception."

He also criticized the Congress and Majlis alliance, alleging that both parties are "staging dramas" together to mislead the public. Sanjay highlighted corruption concerns in major projects such as the Kaleshwaram irrigation scheme, stating that the Congress government lacks the courage to conduct proper investigations. "The people will make their judgment in the next elections. Congress will face the consequences for its failures," he added.

Sanjay's statements underscore the intensifying political tension in Telangana ahead of upcoming polls. By highlighting delays in welfare schemes, administrative failures, and alleged corruption, the BJP is positioning itself as a vocal critic of the ruling Congress government. The focus on the Rythu Bharosa Scheme, a key farmer welfare initiative, highlights the party's strategy of holding the government accountable for unfulfilled promises and attempting to galvanize public opinion on issues directly affecting livelihoods.

The minister concluded by urging immediate action from the government and signaling that the BJP is prepared to escalate its response if the pending funds are not released without further delay, emphasizing the importance of fulfilling commitments made to farmers.

AKBARUDDIN OWAISI LASHED OUT AT REVANTH

AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi has sharply criticized both the BJP and the Congress, claiming that the two parties show no difference in their treatment of Muslims and accusing them of targeting the community under the pretext of demolition drives. Speaking in Hyderabad, Owaisi stated, "There is no real difference between the BJP and the Congress. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath demolishes dargahs, mosques, and Muslim homes, and in Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy follows the same pattern with equal severity. Their opposition is not to illegal encroachments but to Muslims themselves."

Owaisi alleged that the demolition campaigns are not general measures to curb unlawful encroachments but are selectively targeting properties owned by Muslims. The remarks mark a strong break from previous positions, as AIMIM had historically supported the Congress government, including backing in recent Jubilee Hills Assembly by-elections and various local body polls. Despite this political alliance, the party has now openly opposed the state government over what it views as discriminatory actions.

Highlighting local cases, Owaisi pointed to incidents in Hyderabad, where residents of Madhu Park Ridge Apartments expressed fears of displacement due to the proposed Musi River Front project. Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao visited the site under the "Musi Gosa – BJP Bharosa" initiative and interacted with affected families, many of whom were distressed and fearful of losing their homes. Rao criticized the state government, suggesting that the project's alignment with the Gandhi statue construction could result in widespread demolition. He emphasized that several ex-servicemen were among the residents, calling the situation "shameful" and vowing support to those threatened.

The controversy comes amid broader political tensions in Telangana, where both the BJP and Congress have been accused of prioritizing political gains over community welfare. Owaisi's comments have heightened scrutiny on demolition drives, particularly in minority-dominated areas, and are likely to influence public opinion ahead of upcoming local and state elections. Observers note that the criticism reflects increasing pressure on state authorities to ensure that urban development projects are implemented without bias and with adequate safeguards for vulnerable communities.

The situation underscores the political and social sensitivities surrounding urban redevelopment in Hyderabad, particularly as minority communities voice concerns over equity, safety, and preservation of heritage sites.

KPHB Housing Board Auction Sets New Record in Hyderabad Real Estate Market

Hyderabad, Telangana

A recent auction conducted by the Housing Board in Hyderabad has created a buzz in the real estate sector after land prices touched a record high in the Kukatpally Housing Board Colony (KPHB). The auction witnessed intense bidding, with the price per square yard soaring to ₹2.65 lakh, marking one of the highest rates ever recorded in the locality.

The Housing Board had fixed the upset price at ₹1.30 lakh per square yard for open plots. However, strong competition among bidders drove the prices sharply upward. Officials stated that the ₹2.65 lakh per square yard mark is the highest ever achieved in the area, reflecting the growing demand for premium residential property in KPHB.

A total of 40 bidders participated in the auction, leading to fierce competition for both plots and flats. In particular, four open plots located in Phase 1 and Phase 2's Dharam Reddy Colony attracted significant interest. With limited plots available, bidders were willing to offer premium prices, underlining the area's investment appeal.

Apart from open plots, eight flats in Sampurnam Apartment in Phase 15 were also auctioned. A 1,400 square feet flat fetched a maximum price of ₹1.10 crore. The upset price for these flats had been fixed at ₹90 lakh, but competitive bidding pushed the final prices well above the base rate. Notably, all flats were sold at prices exceeding their respective upset prices.

Through this auction, the Housing Board generated total revenue of ₹24.26 crore. Officials described the outcome as a major boost to government revenues and a clear indication of sustained demand in Hyderabad's real estate market.

Real estate experts attribute the sharp rise in prices to KPHB's well-developed infrastructure and strategic location. The area offers excellent connectivity through metro rail services and major road networks. Additionally, reputed educational institutions, hospitals, shopping malls, and commercial hubs are located nearby, making it a preferred residential destination.

KPHB Colony has long been considered one of Hyderabad's most developed and sought-after neighborhoods. With rapid urban expansion and rising property values across the city, investors continue to show keen interest in established areas with strong civic amenities.

Market observers believe that if such auctions continue in the future, land prices in KPHB and surrounding areas could rise further. The latest auction has once again highlighted the robust demand for quality residential property in Hyderabad and reinforced KPHB's position as a prime real estate hotspot.

Flyover Construction Begins at Road No. 2; Traffic Restrictions Imposed

Hyderabad, Telangana – Friday

Construction of a new flyover at Road No. 2 near the Park Hyatt Hyderabad has commenced as part of the ambitious H-CITI infrastructure initiative. The project is being executed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited. Following the launch of works, traffic restrictions have been imposed in several stretches starting Friday.

C V Anand, Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, inspected the construction site along with Joel Davis, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), and representatives of the construction firm. Speaking to the media, the CP stated that the flyover is part of the H-CITI (Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure) project.

He explained that under H-CITI, seven flyovers and seven underpasses are being constructed around Kasu Brahmananda Reddy National Park (KBR Park) to ease congestion and make key arterial roads signal-free. The works officially began on Friday, and authorities have planned to complete the construction within two years.

The CP noted that traffic advisories had already been issued to motorists. Efforts have been made to minimize inconvenience to the public, and construction agencies have been requested to carry out most of the work during night hours. He added that traffic restrictions may be revised once basement works are completed. Upon completion of all seven flyovers and seven underpasses, the surrounding corridors are expected to become signal-free, significantly reducing travel time.

Meanwhile, Traffic Joint CP Joel Davis stated that construction of the underpasses has also commenced simultaneously. He confirmed that traffic diversions have been implemented keeping public safety in mind.

According to the advisory, vehicles traveling from Panjagutta towards Jubilee Hills Check Post are advised to take alternate routes via Srinagar Colony and Indira Nagar Basti. Motorists heading from Masab Tank towards Jubilee Hills via KBR Park are suggested to use Road No. 45.

Officials clarified that pillar construction works will continue for nearly two and a half months on Banjara Hills Road No. 2, during which some traffic congestion is expected. Diversions may be adjusted depending on ground conditions. Commuters have been urged to plan their travel accordingly, especially during peak hours, and to cooperate with traffic police personnel.

Authorities expressed confidence that once completed, the project will significantly improve traffic flow and enhance urban mobility in one of Hyderabad's busiest corridors.

Chilukuru Balaji Temple Chief Priest Soundararajan Passes Away at 90

Chilukuru – Friday

Soundararajan, the chief priest of the famous Chilukuru Balaji Temple, passed away on Friday at his residence in Chilukuru. Aged 90, he had been suffering from health issues in recent months. His son and the current temple priest, Rangarajan, confirmed the news of his demise.

Soundararajan devoted his entire life to temple service, maintaining discipline and dedication in every aspect of his duties. He was deeply respected by devotees for his calm and approachable manner, patiently guiding visitors and explaining the rituals and service practices of the temple. His long tenure ensured that the temple remained a spiritual haven for worshippers seeking the blessings of Lord Balaji.

Known for his warmth and humility, Soundararajan not only performed religious rituals but also fostered a personal connection with devotees. He explained the significance of traditions and temple practices with clarity, helping devotees feel spiritually enriched and connected to the temple. His guidance and dedication made him a beloved figure in the Chilukuru community.

Under his leadership, the temple maintained a serene spiritual environment and continued to attract devotees from across the region. Rangarajan noted that his father's contributions went beyond rituals, as he also instilled values of devotion, discipline, and service in the temple staff and the wider community.

The temple administration and devotees are expected to organize memorial prayers and ceremonies to honor Soundararajan's life and decades of service. His passing marks the end of an era for the Chilukuru Balaji Temple, where his unwavering devotion and leadership left a lasting legacy. He will be remembered as a guiding figure who exemplified dedication, humility, and spiritual commitment throughout his life.

Young Man Survives Attempted Murder Over Love Marriage in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri

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Yadadri Bhuvanagiri – Friday

A young man narrowly escaped death after an alleged premeditated attack reportedly linked to a love marriage dispute in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The victim, identified as Ajay from Neredmet, Hyderabad, is currently undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital in critical condition.

According to police sources, Ajay had been in a relationship with a young woman from Ramalingampally for some time, and the couple recently got married three days ago. The attack is believed to have been orchestrated by the woman's brother, who was reportedly angered by the marriage.

Police reports suggest that on Wednesday, the woman's brother sent a message to Ajay via her phone, asking him to come to Ramalingampally. Believing that the call was from his wife, Ajay went to the outskirts of the village, where he was ambushed.

Eyewitnesses and preliminary investigations indicate that the attackers used chilli powder to temporarily blind Ajay before launching a brutal assault with knives. The victim was reportedly stabbed 14 times. Believing he had died, the assailants fled the scene.

Local police, alerted to the incident, arrived at the site shortly afterward and found Ajay severely injured and unconscious. He was immediately transferred to Gandhi Hospital, where doctors reported that his condition remains critical. Authorities confirmed that his injuries were life-threatening and that he is receiving intensive medical care.

The Hyderabad Police have registered a case and launched a search operation to trace and apprehend the accused. Investigators are examining CCTV footage from surrounding areas, collecting witness statements, and coordinating with local patrol units to ensure swift action.

This incident highlights the increasing risk of violent escalation in disputes over personal relationships and marriages in the region. Police officials have urged community members to assist with information regarding the suspects and emphasized that legal channels must be used to resolve conflicts, rather than resorting to violence.

Authorities have assured that the assailants will be brought to justice, while also increasing security around the victim's family to prevent further incidents.

The investigation is ongoing, and Ajay continues to fight for his life as authorities work to apprehend those responsible for the attack.

BJP Flags Poor Quality in Double Bedroom Housing Scheme in Qutbullapur

Qutbullapur – February 27

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) conducted a surprise inspection of ongoing Double Bedroom Housing Scheme constructions in Bourampet and Gagillapur villages under Duddigal Circle, raising serious concerns about construction quality and safety.

The inspection was led by Duddigal Circle BJP president Pisari Krishna Reddy, along with district in-charge president Dr. S. Mallareddy, and other BJP leaders from the three divisions in the circle. The team alleged that contractors were using sand superficially for display purposes, while the actual work relied on dust or rubble-like material. At Survey Number 214 in Gagillapur, the inspectors observed that the plastering work contained almost no sand. When questioned, masons admitted that dust was being used for plastering, raising serious doubts about the durability and safety of the houses.

Local residents voiced strong concerns, noting that earlier houses built under the same scheme in Duddigal and Gandi Maisamma had already faced structural issues. During the rainy season, walls of two- and three-story buildings reportedly developed cracks, and in some cases, collapsed. Beneficiaries expressed frustration, saying, "We feel like we are living in shacks rather than proper homes."

BJP leaders questioned who would take responsibility if these substandard constructions led to injuries or loss of life. They warned against putting citizens' safety at risk for the financial gain of contractors and ruling party officials. The leaders demanded that senior authorities conduct a thorough investigation, cancel contracts of low-quality builders, and reassign the projects to reputable contractors capable of delivering durable and safe housing.

The inspection saw participation from senior BJP leaders including A. Mallesh Yadav, Dasari Shyam Rao, Embari Anjaneyulu, Dhammagari Prabhakar Reddy, Narasimha Chari, Turai Bhanu Goud, Nadikattu Roja, Venkatesh Nayak, Bal Reddy, and youth leaders including Akula Vijay, Namala Srikant, Raj Kumar, Akula Yashwant Patel, Chinna Mudiraj, and Naveen Mudiraj.

The inspection highlights growing public concerns about the quality of government housing projects in Telangana, raising questions about contractor accountability and the need for urgent corrective measures to protect beneficiaries from potential hazards.

BEE Gears Up to Celebrate 25th Foundation Day; LED Streetlight Programme Saves ₹5,400 Crore

Hyderabad, February 27:

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, is set to mark its 25th Foundation Day with a grand national event in New Delhi on March 1, 2026. The celebration will bring together State Designated Agencies (SDAs) from across India, including active participation from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Established in 2001 under the Energy Conservation Act, BEE has been at the forefront of India's energy-efficiency movement, promoting sustainable development and green economic growth. Reviewing the arrangements for the event, Shri K.C. Panigrahy, Director General of BEE, announced that Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar will grace the occasion as Chief Guest, delivering the keynote address. Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, and Pankaj Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Power, will attend as Guest of Honour.

Highlighting BEE's impact over the years, Shri Panigrahy noted that energy-efficiency initiatives in 2023–24 alone saved 53.60 Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MTOE), led to monetary savings of approximately ₹2 lakh crore, and reduced CO_2 emissions by 321 million tonnes. "These achievements underscore the success of the National Energy Efficiency Plan and the significance of celebrating BEE's 25-year milestone," he said.

Among BEE's most transformative initiatives is the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of Central Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power. The programme has retrofitted 1.34 crore conventional streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs, achieving annual energy savings of 9,001 million kWh, avoiding peak demand of 1,500 MW, and delivering nearly ₹5,400 crore in savings to municipal bodies.

Telangana has installed 17.33 lakh LED streetlights, while Andhra Pradesh leads with 23.66 lakh installations. Other states including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Kerala have also made substantial contributions. Collectively, these efforts have reduced approximately 6.2 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions.

In addition to SLNP, BEE's flagship programmes—Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT), Standards & Labelling, and the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)—have strengthened India's energy-efficiency ecosystem. The UJALA initiative, combined with SLNP, has achieved annual energy savings of 47,883 million kWh, cost savings of ₹19,153 crore, avoided peak demand of 9,585 MW, and reduced CO_2 emissions by 38.78 million tonnes annually.

Shri Panigrahy reaffirmed BEE's commitment to accelerating energy-efficiency adoption nationwide, supporting India's goal of doubling the rate of energy-efficiency improvement by 2030. "As BEE celebrates its silver jubilee, it stands as a testament to 25 years of dedicated efforts toward building an energy-secure, climate-resilient, and sustainable India," he said.

The event will not only celebrate past achievements but also set the stage for future initiatives, reinforcing BEE's role as a global leader in energy efficiency.

Mayor Neeraj Punokollu Lays Foundation Stone for CC Road

Khammam, February 27:

Mayor Neeraj Punokollu on Friday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a cement concrete (CC) road in the Burada Raghavapuram area, near Vasavi Kalyana Mandapam. The project, undertaken with ₹11 lakh from the municipal corporation's general funds, aims to improve connectivity and address the long-standing road infrastructure needs of the locality.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Punokollu highlighted the municipal corporation's commitment to enhancing civic amenities across the city. He emphasized that the corporation is working to provide all essential infrastructure in a planned manner, including durable roads, proper drainage, street lighting, and other facilities to ensure safe and convenient mobility for residents.

"This CC road is part of a broader effort to upgrade infrastructure in all neighborhoods, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality civic amenities. We are taking proactive measures to improve road safety, reduce waterlogging during rains, and make commuting easier for citizens," the Mayor said.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by several dignitaries and local representatives, reflecting the collaborative approach between the municipal authorities and community members. Corporator Ellampalli Venkatrav, DE Srinivas, and local community leader Balagangadhar Tilak were present and lauded the initiative as a step forward in improving the quality of life in Burada Raghavapuram.

Residents expressed satisfaction with the project, noting that proper roads would enhance accessibility, encourage better maintenance of the area, and create opportunities for future urban development. Many also highlighted that improved road infrastructure would directly impact emergency services, school commutes, and local businesses positively.

The civic authorities have indicated that similar projects are planned across the city, focusing not only on road construction but also on upgrading drainage systems, installing streetlights, and enhancing public spaces. Mayor Puno-Kollu reaffirmed that the administration would continue to prioritize infrastructure projects that address both immediate needs and long-term urban planning goals.

The CC road construction in Burada Raghavapuram is expected to be completed within the stipulated timeline, improving connectivity and serving as a model for upcoming development initiatives in other neighborhoods. Residents and civic leaders hope that these efforts will transform the area into a well-connected, safe, and modern locality while reflecting the municipality's commitment to urban development.

CRPF Conducts Civic Outreach Program in Sukma District, Chhattisgarh

Gollapalli, Sukma – February 27, 2026

Under the guidance of Shalin, Inspector General of Police, and the direction of Rajesh Pandey, the CRPF's 217 Battalion, led by Vijay Shankar, organized a large-scale civic action program at the F/217 Battalion camp in Tumulbhati, under Gollapalli Police Station, Sukma district, Chhattisgarh.

The initiative brought together over 350 tribal residents from the surrounding villages of Tumulbhati, Bhatigudem, Tarlagudem, and Jinelanka. The program also included enthusiastic participation from school children, youth, and women from the local community.

During the event, essential items such as blankets, mosquito nets, umbrellas, sarees, lungis, towels, and footwear were distributed

to villagers. Students received school uniforms, bags, books, and pencils to support their education, while young adults in the community were provided with volleyball nets, footballs, and cricket kits to encourage sports participation. Women were also given sarees, and other household essentials were distributed.

A free medical camp was set up as part of the program, with Dr. Mandeep Singh conducting health checkups and providing necessary medicines to the villagers.

B. Prabhakaran, along with his subordinate officers and CRPF personnel, actively participated in distributing supplies and providing meals to the villagers.

During the program, Commandant Vijay Shankar addressed the villagers, assuring them of continued safety and support from the CRPF. He emphasized the force's commitment to the welfare and protection of the tribal population and encouraged community engagement for sustainable development.

This initiative highlights the CRPF's efforts beyond security operations, focusing on education, health, and sports development, and strengthening the bond between security forces and local tribal communities in remote and challenging regions of Chhattisgarh.

Mayor Inspects Divisions, Directs Improvement of Sanitation

Karimnagar, February 27:

Mayor Kolagani Srinivas on Friday conducted an extensive inspection of the 7th and 36th divisions in Karimnagar, emphasizing the need to maintain cleanliness and improve sanitation services across the city. Accompanied by key municipal officials, the Mayor urged workers and authorities to ensure that residents receive efficient and timely sanitation services.

The visit began at Maruti Nagar's Jenda Chowrasta in the 36th division, where Mayor Srinivas, along with Corporator Thota Anil, checked the attendance and deployment records of sanitation workers. Interacting with the officials and workers on site, he inquired about the ongoing cleaning schedules and the challenges faced by the workforce. The Mayor stressed the importance of proper monitoring and coordination to maintain public hygiene, particularly in busy intersections and commercial areas.

Following this, the team proceeded to the Housing Board area in the 7th division. Here, Mayor Srinivas, together with Corporator Akula Nandini, inspected ongoing sanitation operations and reviewed the performance of municipal staff. He highlighted the critical need to respond promptly to citizen complaints and to take proactive measures in keeping residential and public areas clean.

Addressing the officials and sanitation workers, Mayor Srinivas remarked, "Our goal is to make Karimnagar a cleaner and healthier city. Every complaint from residents must be addressed immediately, and sanitation services should be carried out efficiently. Public hygiene is not just the responsibility of municipal authorities, but a collective effort requiring accountability and dedication from everyone involved."

The Mayor was accompanied by MHO Suman, Sanitation Supervisor Shyam Raj, SI Sridhar, and several municipal staff and jawans, who assisted in evaluating the field operations. The inspection also focused on identifying areas requiring additional manpower, waste management facilities, and better logistical support for sanitation teams.

Local corporators expressed their commitment to supporting these initiatives and coordinating with municipal staff to ensure timely execution of cleaning drives. Residents welcomed the inspection, noting that frequent monitoring and engagement by the Mayor and municipal officials would significantly improve the city's sanitation standards.

This field visit is part of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation's ongoing efforts to enhance public health and sanitation infrastructure, demonstrating a proactive approach to urban management. Mayor Srinivas reiterated that such inspections would continue across other divisions, with the objective of fostering a clean, safe, and sustainable urban environment for all citizens.

Pratima Singh Assumes Charge as Collector of Medak, Brings Two Years of Experience as Additional Collector

Medak, February 27:

Pratima Singh, a 2019-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the Collector of Medak district, marking a notable first posting in her career. Previously serving as Additional Collector in Rangareddy district (Local Bodies), Pratima brings with her two years of hands-on experience in administrative and developmental functions. She assumed office on Thursday afternoon, following a major reshuffle of IAS officers by the Telangana government on Wednesday night.

The reshuffle saw Rahul Raj, who served as Collector of Medak, being transferred and appointed as Special Commissioner (Cooperation) and Registrar, while Pratima Singh was brought in from her post as Additional Collector of Rangareddy (Local Bodies).

Originally from Uttarakhand, Pratima Singh completed her IAS training and was allocated to the Telangana cadre. After undergoing field-level training in Nalgonda district, she took charge as Additional Collector (Local Bodies) in Medak on June 28, 2021. She served in that capacity until July

14, 2023, before being transferred to Rangareddy. Her return to Medak as Collector underscores her familiarity with the district's administrative landscape and developmental priorities.

During her tenure as Additional Collector, Pratima focused on improving sanitation and public hygiene in rural and urban areas. She ensured the installation of boards indicating village boundaries and placed special emphasis on developing the local tourism sector. Her prior experience equips her to hit the ground running as the new Collector of Medak.

Rahul Raj, who served as Collector for two years before the reshuffle, left his mark through a range of reforms and hands-on administrative oversight. He conducted routine inspections of government hospitals, veterinary facilities, anganwadi centers, and public schools across all mandals. Under his leadership, CCTV cameras were installed in PHCs and hospitals to monitor staff attendance and service delivery.

He implemented ground-based learning in schools, which contributed to improved district performance in state-level examinations. Rahul Raj also traveled by bicycle to remote locations such as Ramayampet to personally inspect health facilities. Within the Collectorate, he introduced e-office systems and biometric attendance, streamlining administration and resolving around 2,500 files online. His focus on paperless governance and plastic-free initiatives, along with timely resolution of Right to Services applications, earned Medak district recognition in seven categories at the state level.

Upon assuming office, Pratima Singh met with department heads and district officials to review ongoing projects and preparations for upcoming intermediate examinations. She assured that she would strive to advance development across all sectors in Medak. Key officials, including Additional Collector Nagesh, DRO Bhujangarao, ZP CEO Ellayya, DRDO Srinivas Rao, RDO Ramadevi, and AO Yunus, welcomed her to the district administration.

Pratima Singh, alongside her husband Shubhamsri and children, now takes charge of steering Medak district toward efficient administration and accelerated development, drawing upon her prior experience as Additional Collector and her deep understanding of the district's needs.

Boong and the Memory of a Vanishing Town: How a Small Manipuri Film Reached the Global Stage

The global success of Boong is not just a cinematic achievement—it is a cultural moment that has brought long-overlooked stories from India's northeast into international focus. Its recognition at the BAFTA Awards marks a turning point, signaling that deeply local narratives can resonate across borders when told with sincerity and emotional depth.

At its heart, Boong is a coming-of-age story seen through the eyes of a young boy navigating a fragile world. His simple wish—to reunite his broken family—drives the narrative forward. Yet beneath this seemingly straightforward journey lies a complex exploration of identity, loss, and belonging. The child's innocence becomes a lens through which audiences witness the subtle yet profound impact of sociopolitical realities on everyday life.

The film is set in Manipur, a region rich in culture but often marginalized in mainstream discourse. By placing this setting at the center of its story, Boong challenges the invisibility that has long surrounded the northeast in Indian cinema. Instead of presenting the region through stereotypes or conflict-driven headlines, the film offers a nuanced portrayal of its people, traditions, and emotional landscapes.

What makes Boong particularly powerful is its restraint. It avoids dramatic exaggeration and instead embraces quiet storytelling. Moments of silence, everyday interactions, and small gestures carry significant emotional weight. This understated approach allows the audience to engage deeply with the characters and their world, making the narrative feel authentic and immersive.

The town depicted in the film is more than just a backdrop—it is almost a character in itself. It reflects a space caught between past and present, where memories linger even as change becomes inevitable. There is a sense of something slipping away—whether it is a way of life, a sense of community, or the innocence of childhood. This idea of a "vanishing town" becomes central to

the film's emotional core, symbolizing broader concerns about cultural erosion and displacement.

Through the boy's journey, the film also explores the theme of family—not just as a unit of relationships, but as a source of identity and emotional grounding. His longing for his father is not merely about reunion; it represents a deeper need for stability in a world that feels uncertain. This emotional thread connects audiences universally, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

The international recognition of Boong is significant for another reason: it highlights the evolving landscape of global cinema. Audiences today are increasingly drawn

to authentic stories that offer fresh perspectives. The success of a Manipuri-language film on such a prestigious platform proves that language and geography are no longer barriers when storytelling is genuine and compelling.

For Indian cinema, this moment represents a shift in narrative focus. For decades, mainstream industries dominated the global perception of Indian films. While these industries continue to thrive, Boong demonstrates that regional cinema has its own unique voice—one that deserves equal attention and appreciation. It opens the door for more filmmakers from underrepresented regions to tell their stories

without feeling the need to conform to conventional formats.

The film also raises important questions about representation. Whose stories are being told? And who gets to tell them? By centering its narrative in Manipur and using local voices, Boong ensures authenticity while also giving agency to a community that is often spoken about rather than heard.

Another striking aspect of the film is its ability to balance heaviness with hope. While it does not shy away from difficult realities, it also captures moments of warmth, humor, and resilience. These moments remind viewers that even in challenging circumstances,

life continues with dignity and quiet strength. The child's perspective plays a crucial role here, offering glimpses of optimism even when the world around him feels uncertain.

Cinematically, Boong relies on simplicity rather than spectacle. Its visual language is grounded, focusing on natural settings and realistic portrayals. This approach enhances the emotional authenticity of the story, allowing viewers to feel as though they are part of the world being depicted rather than mere observers.

The BAFTA recognition is not just an award—it is validation. It acknowledges that stories from India's margins are not niche or peripheral

but are integral to the broader narrative of human experience. It also challenges the industry to look beyond commercial formulas and invest in meaningful storytelling.

For audiences, Boong offers an opportunity to engage with a different side of India—one that is rarely seen on screen. It encourages viewers to move beyond familiar narratives and explore the country's diverse cultural and emotional landscapes. In doing so, it fosters empathy and understanding, bridging gaps between regions and communities.

Ultimately, Boong is more than a film about a boy or a town. It is about memory, identity, and the quiet resilience of people living on the

margins. It captures the delicate balance between holding on and letting go, between remembering and moving forward.

Its success serves as a reminder that cinema has the power to amplify voices, preserve stories, and create connections across the world. In bringing a small Manipuri town to the global stage, Boong has not only made history but has also redefined what Indian cinema can represent.

As the film continues to receive recognition and appreciation, it paves the way for a more inclusive and diverse cinematic future—one where every story, no matter how small or distant, has the chance to be seen and heard.

India's Enduring Embrace: A History of Warmth Toward the Jewish Community

India has long stood apart in the global narrative of Jewish history. Across centuries marked by exile, persecution, and displacement in many parts of the world, the Jewish community found in India not only refuge but also acceptance, dignity, and opportunity. The story of Jewish life in India is not one of survival under pressure, but of coexistence, cultural exchange, and mutual respect. It is a rare and remarkable chapter that reflects India's civilizational ethos of inclusivity.

The arrival of Jewish communities in India dates back thousands of years. Different groups came at different times, often fleeing hardship elsewhere. Among the earliest were the Cochin Jews, believed to have arrived on the Malabar Coast possibly during the time of ancient trade links. Later came the Bene Israel, who settled in western India, and the Baghdadi Jews, who arrived during the colonial era from parts of the Middle East. Each group brought its own traditions, languages, and customs, yet all found a way to integrate into Indian society without losing their identity.

What distinguishes India from many other regions is the absence of systemic antisemitism in its history. While Jewish communities in Europe and elsewhere faced discrimination, violence, and exclu-

sion, in India they were allowed to live freely, practice their religion openly, and participate in public life. This was not due to any formal policy but rather a reflection of the broader social fabric, which historically accommodated diverse beliefs and practices.

In Kerala, for example, Jewish settlers established thriving communities that contributed to trade and commerce. They built synagogues, engaged with local rulers, and became part of the region's multicultural landscape. The local population did not view them as outsiders but as fellow residents. This acceptance was not merely passive tolerance; it often involved active cooperation and mutual respect.

Similarly, the Bene Israel community in Maharashtra integrated deeply into local society while maintaining their distinct religious practices. They adopted local languages and customs in daily life but preserved their Jewish identity through rituals, dietary practices, and community structures. Over time, they became known for their contributions to various fields, including education, administration, and the arts.

The Baghdadi Jews, who arrived later, played a significant role in India's urban and commercial development. Settling primarily in cities like Mumbai and Kolkata, they became

prominent in trade, industry, and philanthropy. Their legacy includes educational institutions, charitable organizations, and architectural landmarks that continue to serve the public.

One of the most striking aspects of Jewish life in India is the absence of ghettos or enforced segregation. Jewish communities lived alongside people of other faiths, sharing neighborhoods, markets, and

public spaces. Interactions were marked by familiarity rather than suspicion. Festivals and cultural practices often became occasions for shared celebration, further strengthening social bonds.

India's pluralistic traditions played a crucial role in fostering this environment. The concept of accepting multiple paths to truth allowed different religious communities to coexist without feeling threat-

ened. This philosophical openness translated into everyday life, where diversity was seen as a strength rather than a challenge.

Education and professional advancement were also accessible to Jewish communities in India. They participated in public institutions, contributed to the freedom movement, and held positions of responsibility in various sectors. Their achievements were recognized

not as exceptions but as part of the broader national narrative.

Even after the establishment of Israel, when many Jews migrated from India, the connection between the community and the country remained strong. Those who left often carried with them memories of a homeland where they had lived without fear. Many maintained cultural ties, and some continued to visit or support institutions in India.

In recent years, there has been renewed interest in preserving and celebrating the heritage of Jewish communities in India. Synagogues are being restored, archives documented, and stories recorded for future generations. These efforts highlight the importance of remembering a past that offers valuable lessons for the present.

At a time when religious intolerance and cultural divisions are evident in many parts of the world, India's historical relationship with its Jewish population serves as a powerful example. It demonstrates that coexistence is not only possible but can be deeply enriching for all involved. The mutual respect between communities did not erase differences; rather, it allowed those differences to exist harmoniously.

The Indian experience also challenges the notion that di-

versity inevitably leads to conflict. Instead, it shows that when societies are built on principles of respect and openness, diversity can become a source of resilience and creativity. The Jewish community in India thrived not despite its distinct identity, but alongside it.

This legacy is particularly relevant today, as nations grapple with questions of identity, belonging, and inclusion. The Indian model offers a perspective rooted in lived experience rather than abstract ideals. It suggests that acceptance does not require uniformity, and that communities can retain their uniqueness while contributing to a shared society.

Ultimately, the story of Jews in India is not just about one community; it is about the values that define a civilization. It reflects a tradition of hospitality that extends beyond mere tolerance to genuine acceptance. It is a reminder that history need not always be marked by conflict and division.

As the world looks for examples of peaceful coexistence, this chapter of India's past stands out as both inspiring and instructive. It underscores the possibility of building societies where differences are not feared but embraced, and where every community can find a place to call home.

Mark Carney Visits India, Holds Key Talks with PM Narendra Modi in Mumbai

Mark Carney, former Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England, arrived in India for an important visit focused on strengthening economic cooperation and discussing global financial challenges. His visit includes key engagements in Mumbai, India's financial capital, where he is participating in high-level discussions with policymakers, business leaders, and financial experts.

A major highlight of the visit is his interaction with Narendra Modi. The discussions are expected to focus on India's economic growth trajectory, global financial stability, and opportunities for deeper international collaboration. Carney's visit reflects the increasing importance of India in shaping global economic conversations.

During his engagements, Carney emphasized the need for resilient and sustainable financial systems. He highlighted how economies across the world are navigating uncertainties, including inflationary pressures, geopolitical tensions, and climate-related risks. India, with its strong growth outlook and expanding global role, is seen as a key player in addressing these challenges.

One of the central themes of the visit is climate finance. Carney, who has been a prominent advocate for sustainable finance, is expected to discuss ways to mobilize investments for green energy and climate-resilient infrastructure. India's ambitious renewable energy targets and its push toward sustainability make it an important partner in global climate efforts.

In Mumbai, Carney is also engaging with leaders from the banking and financial sectors. These interactions are aimed at exploring opportunities for investment, innovation, and collaboration in areas such as green bonds, sustainable finance mechanisms, and infrastructure funding. His discussions underline the growing interest of global financial institutions in India's evolving market.

The visit comes at a time when India is experiencing strong economic momentum and is increasingly attracting international investors. With its large consumer base, expanding digital economy, and ongoing reforms, the country continues to position itself as a major destination for global capital. Carney's presence highlights confidence in India's economic fundamentals and its long-term growth prospects.

Another key aspect of the visit is the focus on strengthening ties between India and global financial networks. Carney's experience in leading major central banks brings valuable insights into managing economic transitions and building robust financial systems. His interactions are expected to contribute to knowledge-sharing and policy discussions that can benefit India's financial sector.

The broader significance of the visit lies in the convergence of economic and environmental priorities. As countries work toward balancing growth with sustainability, collaborations between global leaders and emerging economies like India become increasingly important. Carney's engagement reflects this shift toward integrated approaches to development.

Overall, Mark Carney's visit to India underscores the country's rising influence in the global economic landscape. Through discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and key stakeholders in Mumbai, the visit aims to strengthen partnerships, promote sustainable finance, and explore new avenues for economic cooperation.

Ministers, Academics Rally Behind PM Modi's Call for Decolonising India's Mindset

A growing chorus of Union ministers, scholars, and public intellectuals has endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's renewed push for "decolonisation" of India's intellectual and cultural frameworks, arguing that the country must shed lingering colonial influences to fully realise its civilisational identity.

The call, made recently by Modi, emphasises the need to revisit how history, education, and governance have been shaped by colonial-era thinking. According to supporters, many of India's institutions and narratives still reflect perspectives imposed during British rule, which may not align with indigenous traditions and knowledge systems.

Union ministers strongly backed the Prime Minister's vision, highlighting that decolonisation is not merely symbolic but necessary for policymaking and nation-building. They argued that reclaiming India's intellectual sovereignty would help create systems rooted in local realities rather than inherited Western frameworks. This includes re-examining textbooks, legal structures, and academic discourse.

Academics participating in discussions on the subject noted that colonial influence persists in disciplines such as history, sociology, and political science. They pointed out that many curricula continue to prioritise Eurocentric interpretations, often sidelining India's own intellectual traditions. For them, decolonisation involves not just rewriting history but also restoring balance by incorporating indigenous perspectives, regional histories, and traditional knowledge.

Some scholars stressed that this process must be rigorous and evidence-based rather than ideological. They cautioned against replacing one form of bias with another, urging that academic freedom and critical inquiry remain central to any effort at reform. The aim, they said, should be to expand understanding rather than narrow it.

Supporters also linked the decolonisation initiative to broader cultural confidence. They argued that a nation's progress is closely tied to how it perceives itself, and that rediscovering India's historical achievements in science, philosophy, and governance could inspire future generations. In this context, the push aligns with efforts to promote Indian languages, traditional practices, and local knowledge systems.

At the same time, the conversation has sparked debate. Critics have raised concerns about the potential politicisation of education and the rewriting of history. They argue that while revisiting colonial narratives is valid, it must not come at the cost of historical accuracy or pluralism. Ensuring diverse viewpoints, they say, is essential in a country as complex as India.

Despite differing perspectives, there is broad agreement that colonial legacies continue to shape modern India in subtle ways. Whether in legal codes, institutional structures, or academic frameworks, these influences are deeply embedded. The current push for decolonisation has therefore opened up a wider national conversation about identity, knowledge, and the direction of future reforms.

As the debate evolves, the challenge lies in balancing pride in India's heritage with a commitment to inclusivity, critical thinking, and global engagement.

Justice Ajai Lamba Resigns as Manipur Probe Chief, B.S. Chauhan to Take Over

In a key development in the investigation into violence in Manipur, Ajai Lamba has resigned as the chairperson of the inquiry commission probing the unrest. The Union government has appointed former Supreme Court judge B. S. Chauhan as his successor.

Justice Lamba, who previously served as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, had been leading the commission since its formation in June 2023. His resignation will take effect at the end of February. However, no official reason has been publicly disclosed for his decision to step down.

The commission was established by the central government to examine the causes and course of the ethnic violence that broke out in Manipur in May 2023. The clashes, primarily involving different communities in the state, resulted in significant loss of life, widespread destruction, and the displacement of thousands of people.

Following Lamba's resignation, Justice Chauhan will take charge of the panel from early March. His appointment has been made to ensure continuity in the investigation. With his experience as a judge of the Supreme Court, he is expected to guide the inquiry through its next phase without altering its scope or objectives.

The commission includes other members who will continue their roles, ensuring that the transition in leadership does not disrupt the ongoing investigation. The panel has been working to collect evidence, record testimonies, and review official responses to the crisis.

Its mandate includes identifying the sequence of events that led to the outbreak of violence, assessing whether there were any lapses or failures on the part of authorities, and evaluating the adequacy of measures taken to control the situation. The commission is also tasked with examining complaints submitted by individuals and groups affected by the unrest.

The violence in Manipur has been one of the most serious internal security challenges faced by the state in recent years. The scale of the crisis, along with its complex social and political dimensions, has made the investigation particularly demanding.

Due to the extent of the violence and the volume of evidence to be reviewed, the commission has required additional time to complete its work. Deadlines for submitting its report have been extended to allow for a thorough and comprehensive inquiry.

Justice Chauhan's appointment is seen as an effort to maintain momentum and ensure that the investigation proceeds without delay. The findings of the commission are expected to play a crucial role in determining accountability and shaping future policy responses.

As the inquiry continues under new leadership, there is significant public interest in its outcome, especially among those directly affected by the violence. The final report is anticipated to provide clarity on the events and contribute to efforts aimed at restoring stability and preventing similar incidents in the future.

Gauhati High Court Seeks Assam CM's Response Over 'Miya' Remarks

The Gauhati High Court has issued a notice to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in connection with a petition challenging his controversial remarks involving the term "Miya." The development marks a significant legal turn in an ongoing political and social debate that has drawn national attention.

The court's notice came after a plea alleged that the Chief Minister's statements were discriminatory and amounted to hate speech directed at a particular community. The petitioners have argued that such remarks could deepen divisions and undermine communal harmony in the state. They have sought legal action, including appropriate directions from the court to address the issue.

The controversy stems from statements made by Sarma in recent months during public addresses and political discourse. His use of the term "Miya," which has historically been associated with Bengali-origin Muslims in Assam, triggered criticism from opposition parties, activists, and civil society groups. Critics contend that the term, in the context it was used, carries derogatory connotations and reinforces social stigma.

On the other hand, Sarma has defended his remarks, maintaining that the term is not unconstitutional and has been used historically within certain communities. He has also argued that his comments were being misinterpreted for political purposes. The issue has since evolved into a broader debate over language, identity, and freedom of expression in Assam's politically sensitive environment.

The matter had earlier reached the Supreme Court of India, where petitioners sought immediate intervention and legal action against the Chief Minister. However, the apex court declined to entertain the plea directly and advised the petitioners to approach the appropriate high court. Following this direction, the case was brought before the Gauhati High Court, which has now formally taken cognisance and sought a response from Sarma.

Legal experts note that the case could have wider implications for how political speech is interpreted under Indian law, particularly in relation to hate speech and constitutional protections. The court's eventual ruling may help clarify the boundaries between free expression and statements that could be deemed harmful or divisive.

The timing of the controversy is also politically significant, as Assam is heading toward a crucial electoral cycle. Political observers believe that such issues may influence public discourse and electoral narratives in the state.

For now, the High Court's notice signals the beginning of judicial scrutiny into the matter. The Chief Minister is expected to present his response in due course, after which the court will decide the next steps. The proceedings are likely to be closely watched, given their potential impact on both legal precedent and the state's political landscape.

Jagdeep Dhankhar Breaks Silence on Resignation, Says He Was 'Prioritising Health'

Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has addressed speculation surrounding his sudden resignation, stating that his decision was driven by the need to prioritise his health rather than any external pressure.

Clarifying his stance, Dhankhar said he never claimed to be seriously "unwell" but chose to step down as a precaution to maintain his overall well-being. He emphasised that focusing on health was a responsible decision, especially while holding a demanding constitutional position.

Dhankhar resigned from the post of Vice President in July 2025, submitting his resignation to Droupadi Murmu. The move came as a surprise and sparked widespread political discussion, with many questioning the reasons behind his abrupt departure.

Responding to these doubts, Dhankhar reiterated that there was no hidden agenda behind his decision. He stressed that high constitutional offices require sustained physical and mental fitness, and stepping aside when necessary should be seen as a responsible act rather than a matter of controversy.

During his tenure, Dhankhar also served as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, where he was actively involved in managing parliamentary proceedings. His time in office was marked by strong participation in debates and efforts to ensure discipline in the House.

At the time of his resignation, there had been reports of health-related concerns, though no detailed information was officially disclosed. His recent remarks aim to put an end to speculation by clearly stating that his decision was personal and based on medical advice and self-assessment.

Following his resignation, the constitutional process to elect a new Vice President was initiated to ensure continuity in governance. The position, which plays a crucial role in India's parliamentary system, requires stability and consistent leadership.

Dhankhar's statement highlights the importance of balancing public responsibilities with personal well-being. He suggested that acknowledging health needs and acting accordingly is essential for anyone in a position of responsibility.

His clarification is likely to settle ongoing debates and provide closure to questions surrounding his exit. At the same time, the episode stands out as a rare instance of a mid-term resignation from one of India's highest constitutional offices, drawing attention to the pressures associated with such roles.

US Urges Embassy Staff to Leave Israel Amid Escalating Iran Tensions

Amid rising tensions in the Middle East, the United States has advised its embassy personnel in Israel to consider leaving the country immediately, signaling growing concern over a possible escalation involving Iran.

The warning was delivered by US Ambassador Mike Huckabee, who issued a direct message to embassy staff urging those considering departure to act without delay. The communication emphasized urgency, advising personnel that if they were planning to leave under authorized conditions, they should do so "today," reflecting uncertainty about how long current travel options may remain available.

Officials indicated that while commercial flights are still operating, the situation could change rapidly. There is concern that air travel could be disrupted if tensions escalate further, making immediate departure a safer option for those wishing to leave. The advisory is seen as a precautionary move rather than a response to a specific imminent threat, but it underscores how volatile the situation has become.

This development comes as relations between Washington and Tehran continue to deteriorate. Diplomatic efforts aimed at addressing concerns over Iran's nuclear program have stalled, increasing fears of a broader confrontation. While no direct military action has been announced, the lack of progress in negotiations has contributed to heightened anxiety across the region.

In parallel, the United States has increased its military readiness in the Middle East. Reports suggest that additional assets, including aircraft and naval forces, have been positioned strategically to respond quickly if needed. This buildup is widely interpreted as both a deterrent and a preparation for potential conflict, further intensifying the already tense atmosphere.

The advisory to embassy staff is part of a wider strategy to safeguard American personnel. Non-essential staff and family members have already been authorized to leave, a step typically taken when there is a credible risk of instability. Similar precautions have been observed in other parts of the region, indicating a broader reassessment of security conditions.

The situation has also prompted reactions from other countries, some of which have issued travel warnings or advised their citizens to avoid certain areas. Airlines have begun reviewing their operations, and there are concerns that flight cancellations or route changes could complicate travel plans if the crisis deepens.

Despite the rising tensions, diplomatic channels have not been completely shut down. There are indications that indirect discussions are still ongoing, although no significant breakthroughs have been reported. For now, both diplomatic and military tracks appear to be moving simultaneously, reflecting the complexity of the situation.

Overall, the US directive to its embassy staff highlights the fragile nature of the current geopolitical climate in the Middle East. While it does not confirm that conflict is imminent, it clearly indicates that the risks are increasing and that conditions could change rapidly. The emphasis on immediate action suggests that authorities are prioritizing preparedness and caution in the face of uncertainty.

US Deploys F-22 Raptors to Israel for First Time Amid Iran Tensions

In a significant military development, the United States has deployed its advanced F-22 Raptor fighter jets to Israel for the first time, as tensions with Iran continue to rise.

The deployment marks a notable shift in US military strategy in the Middle East. These stealth combat aircraft have reportedly been stationed at Israeli air bases as part of preparations for a potential conflict scenario. The move is intended to strengthen both American and Israeli defense capabilities against possible threats and retaliation.

The F-22 Raptor is widely regarded as one of the most advanced fighter jets in the world. Designed primarily for air superiority, it also has capabilities for precision ground attacks, intelligence gathering, and electronic warfare. Its stealth technology allows it to evade radar detection, giving it a significant advantage in contested environments.

This deployment comes amid a broader US military buildup across the region. In recent weeks, Washington has increased its presence by moving additional aircraft, naval assets, and defense systems closer to the Middle East. The arrival of F-22 jets is seen as a major enhancement of that effort, signaling heightened readiness.

One of the factors influencing this decision is logistical constraints. Reports indicate that some regional countries have not permitted the use of their airspace or bases for certain US military operations. As a result, Israeli bases have become a strategic alternative for positioning advanced aircraft closer to potential areas of conflict.

The move also reflects the deepening defense cooperation between the United States and Israel. Over the years, both countries have strengthened military ties through joint exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordinated defense planning. Hosting such advanced aircraft underscores the level of trust and coordination between the two allies.

It is believed that multiple F-22 jets have been deployed, significantly boosting US airpower in the region. These aircraft are capable of flying at supersonic speeds, engaging multiple targets simultaneously, and operating in highly contested airspace, making them a critical asset in any potential military scenario.

Beyond operational readiness, the deployment serves as a strong deterrent signal. By positioning its most sophisticated fighter jets close to Iran, the United States is sending a clear message aimed at discouraging aggressive actions and maintaining strategic balance.

However, the move also adds to the already heightened tensions in the region. While it is intended as a defensive measure, such deployments can increase the risk of escalation or miscalculation, especially in a volatile geopolitical environment.

Overall, the arrival of F-22 Raptors in Israel represents a key moment in US military positioning in the Middle East. It highlights both the seriousness of the current situation and the increasing complexity of regional dynamics, as global powers navigate a delicate balance between deterrence and conflict prevention.

Pakistan Declares 'Open War', Launches Strikes on Kabul and Kandahar

Tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan have escalated dramatically after Islamabad launched major airstrikes on key Afghan cities, including Kabul and Kandahar, following a series of cross-border attacks.

Pakistani forces reportedly targeted multiple sites believed to be linked to the Taliban. These included military headquarters, weapons storage facilities, and logistical bases. Officials in Pakistan stated that the strikes caused significant damage to Taliban infrastructure, describing the operation as a decisive response to escalating threats.

The military action comes after Afghan forces allegedly carried out attacks on Pakistani border positions. In response, Pakistani authorities characterized the situation as an "open war," marking a serious escalation from previous skirmishes and signaling a shift toward more direct military confrontation.

For years, Pakistan has accused Afghan authorities of allowing militant groups to operate from within Afghan territory and launch attacks across the border. These claims have been a persistent source of friction between the two countries. Islamabad maintains that its latest strikes are aimed at neutralizing such threats and ensuring national security.

Afghanistan, however, has strongly condemned the airstrikes, calling them a violation of its sovereignty. Afghan officials argue that their own actions were defensive in nature, taken in response to earlier aggression. They have also alleged that the strikes affected not only military targets but also civilian areas, raising concerns about collateral damage.

Reports from the affected regions indicate widespread panic among civilians, particularly in Kabul, where explosions were heard in multiple areas. Residents in some neighborhoods fled their homes amid fears of further strikes, highlighting the growing humanitarian risks associated with the conflict.

Casualty figures remain unclear, with both sides presenting differing accounts. Pakistan claims to have inflicted heavy losses on Taliban forces, while Afghan sources suggest that their countermeasures have also caused damage to Pakistani positions.

The escalation follows weeks of mounting tension along the border, including intermittent clashes, airstrikes, and militant activity. What initially appeared to be isolated incidents has now evolved into a broader and more dangerous confrontation.

The international community is increasingly concerned about the situation, as further escalation could destabilize the wider region. There are growing calls for restraint and renewed dialogue to prevent the conflict from spiraling into a prolonged crisis.

Despite these calls, both sides continue to adopt firm positions, making immediate de-escalation uncertain. The use of strong rhetoric and military force suggests that tensions may persist in the near term.

Overall, Pakistan's declaration of "open war" and its strikes on major Afghan cities mark a critical turning point in relations between the two neighbors. The coming days will be crucial in determining whether the situation intensifies further or if diplomatic efforts can help restore stability.

Bill Clinton to Testify Before Congress Over Epstein Links

Former US President Bill Clinton is set to testify before a congressional panel as part of an ongoing investigation into his past association with Jeffrey Epstein.

The testimony will take place behind closed doors before the House Oversight Committee, marking a rare instance of a former president appearing before lawmakers in such a setting. The move is part of a broader inquiry into Epstein's network and connections with influential individuals, following renewed scrutiny of his case.

Clinton's appearance comes shortly after former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testified before the same panel. She stated that she had no knowledge of Epstein's crimes and did not recall meeting him, adding that she had no relevant information to contribute to the investigation.

The inquiry has intensified following the release of additional documents related to Epstein, which have brought renewed attention to individuals who had past interactions with him. While several public figures have been named in various records, many—including Bill Clinton—have not been accused of any criminal wrongdoing.

Clinton's ties to Epstein have been under scrutiny for years. Records indicate that he traveled on Epstein's private jet multiple times in the early 2000s after leaving office. Newly surfaced materials, including photographs and references, have further fueled public and political interest in understanding the nature of their association.

Despite this, Clinton has consistently denied any knowledge of Epstein's illegal activities. His representatives have maintained that he was unaware of Epstein's actions and have expressed regret over any past association. There have been no formal allegations linking him to Epstein's crimes.

The congressional investigation is being led by Republican members of the committee, who argue that it is necessary to examine Epstein's connections thoroughly and determine whether any institutional failures allowed his activities to continue unchecked. At the same time, some Democrats have raised concerns about the political motivations behind the probe.

Initially, the Clintons resisted testifying, questioning the basis and intent of the subpoenas. However, they later agreed to cooperate after facing the possibility of contempt of Congress proceedings, which could have escalated the situation.

Lawmakers are expected to question Bill Clinton about his interactions with Epstein, including travel history and any knowledge he may have had regarding Epstein's activities. Although the session will be private, its implications could shape public opinion and influence political discourse.

This testimony is part of a broader effort by Congress to shed light on Epstein's network and ensure accountability. Years after Epstein's death, the case continues to have significant political and social repercussions.

Overall, Clinton's testimony represents a key moment in the ongoing investigation, as lawmakers seek clarity on one of the most controversial cases involving powerful figures in recent history.

Market Slump Deepens as Sensex Crashes 961 Points; Nifty Slips Below 25,200 Amid Broad Selling

Indian equity markets ended sharply lower on February 27, with benchmark indices witnessing heavy selling pressure across sectors. The Sensex plunged 961 points, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the crucial 25,200 mark, reflecting a widespread decline in investor sentiment.

The weakness persisted throughout the trading session, as both indices fell over 1 percent amid continuous selling. Almost all major sectoral indices closed in the red, highlighting the broad-based nature of the downturn. Auto, banking, FMCG, metal, realty, and telecom stocks were among the worst hit, declining between 1 and 2 percent. The absence of strong sectoral support contributed significantly to the market's overall fall.

Despite the overall bearish trend, a few sectors showed resilience. IT, media, and consumer durable stocks managed to end the session with modest gains. However, these pockets of strength were not enough to counterbalance the steep losses seen in other sectors, leaving the broader market under pressure.

On the stock-specific front, there were notable movements. Shares of Vishal Mega Mart declined sharply by around 7 percent, reflecting strong selling interest. In contrast, Netweb Technologies saw gains of nearly 4 percent, supported by company-specific developments. Such mixed performance indicates that while the broader market was weak, selective buying interest still existed in certain stocks.

Market participants remained cautious throughout the day, influenced by weak global cues and ongoing volatility. Early gains in the session were quickly erased as selling intensified, pushing indices lower as the day progressed. This pattern suggests that investors are currently adopting a risk-averse approach, particularly in sectors sensitive to economic cycles and interest rates.

The sharp decline also reflects underlying concerns about global economic conditions and sector-specific challenges. With indices closing near their intraday lows, the near-term outlook appears uncertain. Traders and investors are likely to stay cautious, keeping a close watch on global trends and macroeconomic signals.

Overall, the session highlighted a bearish undertone in the market, with widespread losses overshadowing limited gains in select areas. Unless supported by positive triggers, the market may continue to face pressure in the coming sessions.

Redington Surges 15% as Apple's 'Big Week' Teaser Sparks Hopes of New Launches

Shares of Redington Ltd witnessed a sharp rally on February 27, rising nearly 15 percent during the trading session as investor sentiment turned positive following a teaser from Apple Inc. hinting at a major product announcement.

The stock climbed to around Rs 281 during intraday trade, making it one of the top gainers in the broader market. The surge also significantly boosted the company's market capitalisation, reflecting strong buying interest among investors.

The rally was largely driven by speculation surrounding Apple's upcoming announcements. CEO Tim Cook recently hinted at a "big week," which has fuelled expectations of multiple product launches. Market participants anticipate the unveiling of new iPhones, updated iPads, and refreshed MacBook models. Although Apple has not officially confirmed details, the teaser alone was enough to generate optimism across related stocks.

Redington, a key distribution partner for Apple products across India and several emerging markets, is directly influenced by the tech giant's product cycles. The company distributes a wide range of Apple devices, including iPhones, iPads, and MacBooks, through its extensive network. As a result, any excitement around Apple's launches typically has a positive impact on Redington's business outlook.

Investors often see such product cycles as strong growth drivers for distributors. Expectations of increased demand for new Apple devices tend to translate into higher sales volumes, which in turn boosts investor confidence in companies like Redington. This anticipation played a major role in the stock's sharp upward movement.

Despite the strong single-day rally, Redington's performance over the past year has been relatively steady, with gains broadly in line with overall market trends. This suggests that the recent spike is largely driven by short-term sentiment linked to Apple's upcoming announcements rather than any major structural shift in the company's fundamentals.

Market participants are now closely watching for official confirmation from Apple regarding its product lineup and launch timelines. Any concrete announcements could further influence Redington's stock performance in the near term.

Overall, the surge in Redington shares highlights the strong connection between global technology companies and their distribution partners, where even early signals of product launches can trigger significant market reactions.

Clean Max Enviro IPO Signals Muted Listing; Experts Advise Long-Term Perspective

The upcoming listing of Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions is expected to be subdued, with grey market trends indicating limited gains for investors on debut. The company's shares are scheduled to list on stock exchanges on March 2, following the closure of its initial public offering (IPO).

Grey market premium (GMP), often seen as an indicator of listing performance, has remained weak throughout the IPO period. Estimates suggest only marginal or near-flat gains, with some signals even pointing to a discount compared to the issue price. This indicates that investors should not expect strong listing-day returns.

The ₹3,100 crore IPO received an overall subscription of around 94 percent by the end of the bidding process, reflecting moderate investor interest. However, participation was uneven across categories. While qualified institutional buyers showed strong demand, retail and non-institutional investors remained relatively cautious, contributing to the muted overall response.

Market experts attribute the weak GMP and subscription trends to broader market sentiment and valuation concerns. The IPO is considered fully priced by several analysts, limiting the scope for short-term upside. As a result, the offering appears less attractive for investors seeking quick listing gains.

Despite this, analysts remain constructive on the company's long-term prospects. Clean Max Enviro operates in the renewable energy space, providing solar, wind, and hybrid power solutions to commercial and industrial clients. The company has built a strong portfolio and benefits from long-term contracts with high-quality customers, ensuring stable cash flows.

Brokerages have highlighted that while the valuation may cap near-term returns, the company's positioning in India's growing clean energy sector offers potential for sustained growth. The increasing demand for green energy, especially from corporates aiming to reduce carbon footprints, is expected to support long-term expansion.

Additionally, proceeds from the IPO are expected to be used for debt reduction and general corporate purposes, which could improve the company's financial profile over time.

Given these factors, experts generally recommend a cautious approach for short-term investors but suggest a "long-term hold" strategy for those willing to ride out initial volatility. The company's fundamentals and sectoral tailwinds could deliver value over an extended investment horizon.

Overall, while the listing may remain underwhelming, Clean Max Enviro's growth story in renewable energy keeps it relevant for long-term investors rather than short-term traders.

SIFs and Category III AIFs Serve Distinct Roles in Evolving Investment Landscape

As India's investment ecosystem becomes more sophisticated, fund managers are increasingly highlighting that Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs) and Category III Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) are not competing products but complementary tools designed for different investor needs.

SIFs, introduced recently by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), aim to bridge the gap between traditional mutual funds and high-end investment products. They are designed for relatively affluent investors who seek more advanced strategies than conventional mutual funds but may not meet the steep entry requirements of AIFs. Typically, SIFs require a minimum investment of around 10 lakh and allow fund managers to deploy strategies such as long-short investing and derivatives usage, offering greater flexibility compared to standard mutual funds.

On the other hand, Category III AIFs cater primarily to high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors. These funds employ complex and often aggressive strategies aimed at generating absolute returns, including leveraging, short-selling, and dynamic portfolio allocation. They can invest across asset classes such as equities, debt instruments, and structured products, making them more versatile but also inherently riskier.

Fund managers emphasize that the choice between SIFs and Category III AIFs should not be viewed as an either-or decision. Instead, both serve distinct purposes within a diversified portfolio. SIFs are positioned as a more accessible entry point into advanced investment strategies, offering a balance between risk and regulatory oversight. In contrast, Category III AIFs provide seasoned investors with opportunities to pursue higher returns through sophisticated and often less constrained approaches.

The growing popularity of Category III AIFs reflects increasing investor appetite for strategies that can hedge against market volatility. Data indicates strong inflows into these funds, driven by investors seeking diversification beyond traditional equity and debt products.

Meanwhile, SIFs are gaining traction as a democratizing force in the investment landscape, enabling a broader segment of investors to access strategies previously reserved for ultra-wealthy individuals. Industry experts believe this new category could reshape how investors allocate capital, particularly in volatile or uncertain market conditions.

Ultimately, both SIFs and Category III AIFs are expected to coexist and grow, each fulfilling a unique role. While SIFs offer accessibility and structured flexibility, AIFs deliver depth and sophistication. Together, they expand the spectrum of investment options available, helping investors better align their portfolios with their financial goals and risk tolerance.

Bharat Biotech Considers $500 Million IPO to Fuel Expansion Plans

Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech is reportedly evaluating plans to launch an initial public offering (IPO) that could raise over $500 million, marking a potential entry into the public markets.

Sources indicate that the company is currently in the early stages of discussions regarding the offering. Key aspects such as the size, structure, and timing of the IPO are yet to be finalized and may evolve as plans progress.

The proposed move comes amid steady activity in India's IPO market, with several companies exploring listings to raise capital despite intermittent volatility. For Bharat Biotech, going public could provide significant financial resources to support its expansion strategy, enhance research and development capabilities, and strengthen its global footprint.

The company gained widespread recognition for developing Covaxin, an indigenous COVID-19 vaccine that played a crucial role during the pandemic. This achievement positioned Bharat Biotech as a key player in the global vaccine landscape and significantly boosted its reputation.

Beyond its COVID-19 efforts, the company has built a diversified portfolio of vaccines targeting various infectious diseases. It has also been actively investing in advanced technologies, including new vaccine platforms and biologics, indicating a long-term focus on innovation and scientific advancement.

An IPO of this scale could represent a major milestone for the company, offering not only capital infusion but also greater visibility and credibility in international markets. It may also allow early investors to partially monetize their holdings.

However, the success and timing of the IPO will depend on market conditions and investor sentiment. While the Indian primary market has shown resilience, global economic trends and sector-specific challenges could influence the final decision.

As of now, the company has not made any official announcement regarding the IPO, and there is no certainty that the plan will materialize.

Overall, the potential listing reflects a broader trend of Indian biotech and healthcare companies looking to tap public markets, driven by strong growth prospects and increasing global demand for innovative healthcare solutions.

From American Dream to Indian Reality: NRI Shares 6 Reasons They're Grateful to Be Back Home

An NRI who returned to India after spending nearly a decade in the United States has sparked an online conversation by sharing six reasons why the move back home turned out to be deeply fulfilling. The individual revealed that despite initial adjustment challenges, relocating to India in 2024 was one of the best decisions they had made.

In a social media post, the returnee reflected on trading the so-called "American dream" for a life rooted in familiarity, family, and comfort. While life in the US offered professional growth, the emotional and practical advantages of living in India ultimately outweighed those benefits.

One of the biggest reliefs, the NRI noted, was escaping the stress associated with the H-1B visa system. The uncertainty of visa renewals and the pressure of finding a job within limited timeframes had been a constant source of anxiety. Returning to India removed that burden entirely.

Another major advantage was access to affordable and fresh food. The individual appreciated the availability of homemade vegetarian meals and reasonably priced groceries, something they found difficult to maintain in the US.

Equally significant was the ease of hiring domestic help. Services such as cooks and housemaids are far more accessible and affordable in India, contributing to a better work-life balance.

The NRI also highlighted the quality of urban living, particularly in cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Well-maintained gated communities with modern amenities provided a comfortable and secure lifestyle comparable to global standards. Additionally, the presence of green spaces like Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park added to the appeal of city life.

However, the most meaningful aspect of the move was the opportunity to be close to family—especially ageing parents. Being physically present and spending time with loved ones brought a sense of emotional satisfaction that life abroad could not offer.

The post quickly gained traction online, with many users agreeing that proximity to family and cultural familiarity often outweigh the financial or professional advantages of living overseas. Some even shared similar experiences, reinforcing the idea that returning home can be both a practical and emotional win.

Ultimately, the story highlights a growing sentiment among some NRIs: success is not just about career growth abroad, but also about quality of life, relationships, and peace of mind back home.

Mumbai Police Turns Viral Baby Monkey Story Into Powerful 112 Awareness Campaign

Mumbai Police has taken a creative approach to public awareness by using the viral story of a baby monkey named Punch to promote India's emergency helpline number, 112.

Punch, a young Japanese macaque, recently captured global attention after heartwarming videos showed him clinging to a soft toy for comfort. Abandoned by his mother at birth, the monkey's emotional journey resonated widely with social media users, turning him into an internet sensation.

Leveraging this popularity, Mumbai Police shared a series of posts on Instagram that combined the monkey's story with an important public message. The campaign cleverly used the traditional "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" concept, featuring images of monkeys paired with messages like "Bura Mat Dekho," "Bura Mat Suno," and "Bura Mat Kaho." The final slide included Punch's image along with a strong message encouraging people not to engage in wrongdoing and to report crimes responsibly.

The campaign also introduced catchy phrases and hashtags such as "Just Punch in 112" and "Wise Monkey Advise," creatively linking the monkey's name to the helpline number. This wordplay made the message more engaging and easier to remember, especially for younger audiences active on social media.

The 112 helpline is a nationwide emergency number that connects citizens to police, fire, and ambulance services. It can be accessed through calls, SMS, email, panic buttons, and even a dedicated mobile application, making it a critical resource during emergencies.

Delhi Police also joined the trend, using Punch's story in their own social media outreach. Their message emphasized that help is always available and encouraged people to dial 112 whenever needed.

The campaign received widespread appreciation online, with many users praising the police for using a viral and emotional story to spread an important civic message. Social media reactions suggested that such creative strategies are more effective in capturing public attention than traditional awareness campaigns.

Overall, the initiative highlights how law enforcement agencies are adapting to digital trends to communicate with the public. By blending emotion, storytelling, and social relevance, Mumbai Police successfully transformed a viral moment into a meaningful awareness drive, reminding citizens that help is just a call away.

"Tried To Trap Me": Tenant Exposes Hidden Clause in Bengaluru Rent Agreement

A tenant in Bengaluru has gone viral after accusing their landlord of quietly altering the rent agreement without prior notice, bringing attention to transparency issues in the city's rental market.

The situation emerged when the tenant, who had been living in the same apartment since 2022, renewed their lease in 2026. Before signing the updated agreement, they reportedly confirmed with the landlord whether any terms had changed. The landlord allegedly assured them that everything remained the same. However, upon closely reviewing the document, the tenant noticed a significant modification that had not been communicated.

The key change involved the notice period required before vacating the property. While the earlier agreement specified a one-month notice, the new version extended it to two months. The tenant described this as an attempt to "trap" them, as the change could limit flexibility and create inconvenience if they needed to move out quickly.

The tenant later shared their experience on social media, explaining that they only discovered the alteration by carefully comparing the new agreement with the previous one. They urged others to read rental documents thoroughly instead of relying solely on verbal assurances from landlords.

Despite maintaining a good relationship with the landlord—paying rent on time and adhering to rules—the tenant felt disappointed by what they viewed as a lack of transparency. After identifying the discrepancy, they decided to vacate the property and informed the landlord of their concerns.

The story quickly gained traction online, with many users sharing similar experiences. Several people reported encountering unexpected changes in agreements, such as longer notice periods, increased security deposits, or additional clauses introduced without proper explanation.

The incident highlights broader challenges faced by tenants in competitive housing markets. In cities with high demand, renters often feel they have limited bargaining power and must remain cautious when signing agreements.

Overall, the episode serves as a reminder for tenants to carefully review lease documents, compare them with previous versions, and clarify every detail before signing. It also underscores the importance of honesty and clear communication between landlords and tenants to prevent disputes and build trust.

Giant Python Spotted Swimming Through Flooded Streets in Bali

A shocking video from Bali has gone viral, showing a massive python gliding through floodwaters after days of heavy rainfall submerged large parts of the island.

The unusual sight emerged after nearly three days of continuous rain turned roads into streams and residential areas into waterlogged zones. As floodwaters rose, locals and tourists began spotting large snakes moving through the streets, with some reportedly measuring up to five metres in length.

Videos captured from balconies and nearby buildings show the python calmly swimming across submerged roads and villa courtyards, creating a mix of fear and fascination among viewers online.

The clips quickly spread across social media, with many users expressing shock at seeing such a large reptile navigating urban floodwaters.

The presence of these snakes is not entirely unusual for the region. Bali is home to several species of large reptiles, including the reticulated python, which is native to Indonesia and known for its strong swimming ability. During extreme weather events like floods, wildlife is often displaced from natural habitats and forced into human-populated areas.

The flooding itself has caused widespread disruption across the island. Streets in several towns became impassable, vehicles were partially submerged, and residential properties experienced water ingress. Authorities issued warnings urging people to avoid flooded areas and remain cautious, as conditions can be unpredictable during intense rainfall.

Emergency teams were deployed to assist affected residents and secure vulnerable zones. In some heavily impacted areas, rescue operations were carried out using boats to move people to safer locations. Despite the alarming visuals, no snakebite incidents have been reported so far.

The viral video has once again highlighted how extreme weather can lead to unexpected encounters between humans and wildlife. Experts note that such incidents tend to increase during monsoon seasons, when heavy rains disturb ecosystems and push animals out of their usual environments.

Overall, while the sight of a giant python swimming through city streets may appear dramatic, it also serves as a reminder of nature's adaptability—and the growing impact of extreme weather events on both people and wildlife.

Viral Challenge Backfires: China Boy Promises Skipping for Every Like, Gets 1.8 Million

A seven-year-old boy in China has gone viral after making a bold promise that quickly spiralled out of control. What began as a simple fitness challenge turned into an overwhelming task when the internet responded in massive numbers.

The young boy, nicknamed Tangdou, agreed to skip rope once for every "like" his video received online. The idea was introduced by his father as a fun way to encourage exercise and weight loss. Confident and unaware of the potential outcome, the boy happily accepted the challenge on camera.

However, the video soon gained massive attention on social media, far beyond what the family had expected. Within just a day, it crossed an astonishing 1.8 million likes, leaving both the boy and his father shocked.

The challenge, which initially seemed manageable, quickly became unrealistic. Skipping rope over a million times was clearly impossible for a child. Realising this, Tangdou admitted he could not complete the task and humorously asked his father to help him finish it.

The story resonated widely with viewers, who found the situation both amusing and relatable. The combination of innocence, ambition, and an unexpected twist contributed to the video's viral success.

The idea reportedly stemmed from the boy's school routine, where daily rope-skipping was assigned as part of physical activity. His father decided to build on this by creating a structured plan to improve his fitness. To make it more engaging, he introduced a reward system, offering incentives for weight loss and mild penalties for weight gain.

Despite the humorous outcome, the father later clarified that the intention was never to push his son beyond his limits. Instead, he planned to monitor the activity carefully and ensure it remained safe and beneficial.

The incident highlights how quickly social media challenges can escalate once they capture public attention. What starts as a simple idea can grow unexpectedly when it reaches a large audience.

In the end, the viral moment served as both entertainment and a reminder about setting realistic goals—especially in the age of social media, where even the smallest challenges can take on a life of their own.

Harmanpreet Kaur's Funny Scoop Attempt Steals the Show Despite Fighting Fifty in 2nd ODI

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur provided an unexpected light-hearted moment during the second women's ODI against Australia, even as she played a crucial innings for her side.

The experienced batter scored a composed half-century, making 54 off 70 balls to help India post a competitive total of 251/9. Her knock came at a time when India needed stability in the middle overs, and she delivered with a mix of caution and calculated aggression.

However, it was a peculiar incident during her innings that grabbed widespread attention. Facing a delivery from pacer Megan Schutt in the later stages of her knock, Harmanpreet attempted an audacious scoop shot. The execution, though, went hilariously wrong.

Instead of clearing the ball over the wicketkeeper or fine leg, she mistimed the shot completely. The ball ended up gently striking her helmet grille and dropped straight down near her feet, leaving everyone momentarily stunned.

The unusual moment quickly turned into a source of amusement on the field. Players and commentators couldn't help but react to the awkward attempt, and even those watching found humor in the rare miscue from the seasoned cricketer. Despite the mishap, Harmanpreet appeared unhurt, and play resumed after a brief check.

While the incident added comic relief, her innings itself was significant. She anchored India's batting effort and ensured the team reached a respectable total after some middle-order struggles. Her partnership contributions helped India recover from a slightly shaky phase and push towards a defendable score.

India's total of 251 looked competitive, but Australia once again proved too strong in the chase. The hosts chased down the target comfortably, powered by a dominant batting performance, securing victory with plenty of overs to spare.

Harmanpreet's knock, therefore, stood out as one of the positives for India in an otherwise disappointing outing. It highlighted her experience and ability to step up under pressure, even as the team struggled to contain Australia's batting firepower.

The humorous scoop incident, meanwhile, became a talking point among fans and on social media, showing how even top-level athletes can have their lighter moments on the field.

As the series progresses, India will look to bounce back and address their bowling concerns, while also building on the positives from their batting performances. Harmanpreet's form with the bat remains a key factor for the team moving forward, and if she continues to contribute consistently, India will have a strong foundation to compete in the upcoming matches.

In the end, while the scoreboard reflected Australia's dominance, it was Harmanpreet Kaur's mix of resilience and an unforgettable funny moment that left a lasting impression on the game.

Ravichandran Ashwin Defends Abhishek Sharma, Slams Mohammad Amir Over 'Slogger' Remark

A fresh debate has erupted in the cricketing world after Ravichandran Ashwin strongly defended young Indian opener Abhishek Sharma, hitting back at former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir for labelling him a "slogger" during the ongoing T20 World Cup.

The controversy began when Amir criticised Abhishek during his poor run in the group stage, where the youngster registered three consecutive ducks. Questioning his technique, Amir remarked that the Indian batter lacked a defensive game and described him as someone who relies purely on power-hitting.

However, Ashwin dismissed this assessment, calling it both inaccurate and unfair. Speaking publicly, he emphasized that while every player can be criticised for specific weaknesses, branding Abhishek as a slogger oversimplifies his batting ability.

Ashwin highlighted the technical strength of the left-hander, particularly praising his bat swing. He pointed out that Abhishek possesses one of the most elegant and powerful backlifts in modern cricket, even going so far as to compare it favourably with that of his mentor, Yuvraj Singh. According to Ashwin, such a refined technique cannot be associated with reckless slogging.

He also explained that the confusion may arise from Abhishek's natural attacking style. Because the young opener hits the ball with such power and timing, it can sometimes give the impression of uncontrolled aggression. In reality, Ashwin argued, his strokeplay is based on sound fundamentals rather than mere brute force.

At the same time, Ashwin did acknowledge an area where Abhishek could improve. He noted that the batter sometimes tries to attack every delivery, especially when under pressure to score runs. This tendency, he suggested, can be refined with experience and better game awareness.

The timing of Ashwin's defence is significant. Abhishek recently silenced critics with a match-winning knock against Zimbabwe, scoring a quickfire 55 off 30 balls. The innings marked a turning point in his campaign after a disappointing start and played a key role in keeping India's semi-final hopes alive.

The episode reflects the intense scrutiny young players face on the international stage, particularly during high-profile tournaments. It also underscores the ongoing rivalry between Indian and Pakistani cricketing voices, where comments often spark strong reactions across borders.

For Abhishek Sharma, the support from a senior figure like Ashwin could prove crucial. As the tournament progresses, his ability to balance aggression with composure will be closely watched, especially after turning early criticism into a statement performance.

With form regained and backing from experienced players, the young opener now has an opportunity to further establish himself as a key part of India's T20 setup.

India's Bowling Woes Surface Despite Dominant Win Over Zimbabwe

India may have registered a convincing victory over Zimbabwe in their T20 World Cup Super 8 clash, but underlying concerns about their bowling unit have come into sharp focus. While the margin of victory suggested control, a closer look at the performance revealed inconsistencies that could pose challenges in tougher encounters ahead.

India piled up a massive total and eventually secured a comfortable 72-run win, keeping their semifinal hopes alive. However, the bowling display, particularly in certain phases of the innings, left room for improvement. Zimbabwe managed to post a competitive score despite being under pressure for much of the chase, exposing gaps in India's attack.

The pace bowlers were the standout performers, maintaining discipline and control. They managed to keep the Zimbabwean batters in check during crucial periods, ensuring that the opposition never truly threatened the steep target. Their ability to strike at key moments and restrict scoring provided India with a solid foundation in the field.

In contrast, the spin department struggled to find rhythm. Both Axar Patel and Varun Chakaravarthy appeared off-colour, failing to exert the kind of control expected of them in the middle overs. Their lines and lengths lacked consistency, allowing Zimbabwe's batters to rotate strike and find boundaries more easily than anticipated. This lack of penetration meant that the pressure built by the pacers was not fully capitalized upon.

Another major concern was the performance of Shivam Dube with the ball. He proved to be the weakest link in the bowling lineup, conceding runs at a high rate and failing to maintain control. In a format where every over can shift momentum, such spells can prove costly, especially against stronger opposition. His struggles highlighted the need for better balance and reliability in the team's bowling combinations.

Despite these issues, India's overall performance ensured a comfortable win. The team's batting effort had already put Zimbabwe on the back foot, and the bowlers, despite their inconsistencies, managed to defend the total without serious danger. However, the match served as a reminder that dominance in one department cannot always compensate for lapses in another.

As the tournament progresses, India will face stronger teams with more capable batting lineups. Against such opponents, any lack of discipline or rhythm in bowling could be severely punished. The team management may need to reassess combinations, particularly in the spin department and all-rounder roles, to ensure greater consistency.

In high-stakes matches, balance and execution become crucial. While India's victory was emphatic on paper, the performance highlighted areas that require urgent attention. Addressing these concerns will be essential if the team aims to go deep into the tournament and compete for the title.

Tragedy Strikes Rinku Singh as Father Dies After Battle With Cancer, Cricket Fraternity Pays Tribute

Indian cricketer Rinku Singh is mourning a profound personal loss after his father, Khanchand Singh, passed away on Friday following a prolonged battle with advanced-stage liver cancer. The news has cast a shadow over Indian cricket, with players and fans coming together to express their condolences.

Khanchand Singh had been undergoing treatment at a hospital in Greater Noida, where his condition deteriorated in recent days. He was admitted earlier this week and later placed on ventilator support as doctors monitored his critical health. Despite medical efforts, he passed away in the early hours of Friday.

Rinku, who was part of India's squad in the ongoing T20 World Cup, had rushed back home after learning about his father's worsening condition. His sudden departure from the national camp highlighted the seriousness of the situation and the emotional strain he was under during a crucial phase of the tournament.

The loss is especially poignant given Rinku's journey from humble beginnings to international recognition. His father worked as a cylinder delivery worker and played a significant role in supporting the family through financial hardships. While initially hesitant about Rinku pursuing cricket, he later became one of his strongest supporters, taking pride in his son's achievements on the global stage.

As news of the tragedy broke, tributes poured in from across the cricketing world. Several current and former players expressed their grief and extended heartfelt condolences to Rinku and his family. The outpouring of support reflects not only his popularity but also the strong sense of camaraderie within the cricketing community during times of personal loss.

The timing of the incident adds another layer of emotional difficulty, as Rinku was expected to play a key role for India in the tournament. His availability for the remaining matches remains uncertain as he stays with his family during this period of mourning.

This tragic moment serves as a reminder of the personal challenges athletes often face behind the scenes, even while representing their country on the biggest stages.

Sunil Gavaskar Hails Abhishek Sharma After Match-Winning Knock Silences Critics

India's young opener Abhishek Sharma staged a strong comeback in the T20 World Cup, earning high praise from former captain Sunil Gavaskar after delivering a crucial performance against Zimbabwe.

Abhishek, who had been under pressure following a string of poor scores, responded in style with a composed and impactful innings. The left-hander smashed 55 runs off just 30 balls, playing a key role in India's commanding 72-run victory. His innings not only helped India bounce back but also silenced critics who had questioned his consistency and temperament.

Gavaskar lauded the youngster's approach, highlighting the maturity and discipline he showed at the crease. Known for his aggressive style, Abhishek surprised many by adopting a more measured strategy early in his innings. He took time to settle, avoided unnecessary risks, and built his knock with patience before accelerating.

What particularly caught Gavaskar's attention was Abhishek's willingness to play defensively—something rarely associated with his attacking brand of cricket. The former India captain noted that this ability to adapt and read match situations is a crucial trait for long-term success at the international level. He emphasized that the innings reflected a thoughtful and methodical approach rather than reckless stroke play.

The knock came at a crucial time for Abhishek, who had endured a difficult run in the tournament. After missing one match due to illness, he struggled to find form in subsequent games, including registering back-to-back ducks. His lean patch had drawn criticism from several quarters, with some questioning his place in the playing XI.

However, the 55-run effort marked a turning point, showcasing both resilience and growth. Gavaskar described the phase as a learning curve for the young cricketer, noting that every player goes through ups and downs in their career. He stressed that what matters most is the ability to learn from failures and come back stronger.

India's dominant win over Zimbabwe also reflected the team's ability to regroup after setbacks. Following earlier inconsistencies, the batting unit showed improved cohesion and intent, with Abhishek's performance setting the tone at the top of the order.

As the tournament progresses, Abhishek's return to form is a positive sign for India. His ability to combine aggression with composure adds depth to the batting lineup and strengthens the team's chances in crucial matches ahead.

With renewed confidence and backing from senior figures like Gavaskar, Abhishek Sharma appears ready to play a pivotal role in India's campaign, having turned criticism into motivation with a timely and impressive knock.

Manchu Manoj Launches Teaser of 'Rukmini', Film Sparks Early Buzz

The teaser of the upcoming Telugu film Rukmini was officially launched in a special event by actor Manchu Manoj, creating a wave of excitement among cinema fans. The film, which is already generating curiosity for its intriguing title and concept, received a positive initial response following the teaser reveal.

At the launch event, Manchu Manoj extended his support to the film's team and appreciated their efforts in bringing a fresh story to the audience. Known for encouraging new talent and unique projects, Manoj's presence added significant attention to the occasion. He reportedly praised the film's visuals and theme, expressing confidence that Rukmini would connect well with viewers.

The teaser offers a glimpse into the film's tone, hinting at an emotional and possibly intense narrative. Though the makers have kept the storyline largely under wraps, the visuals suggest a blend of drama and strong character-driven moments. The cinematography and background score appear to play a key role in setting the mood, leaving audiences curious to learn more.

The film's cast and crew are said to include a mix of emerging and experienced talent. The makers are focusing on delivering a content-driven film rather than relying solely on commercial elements. This approach has been increasingly gaining traction in Telugu cinema, with audiences showing appreciation for meaningful storytelling.

During the event, the team behind Rukmini expressed gratitude to Manchu Manoj for unveiling the teaser and supporting their project. They shared that the film has been crafted with dedication and passion, aiming to offer something different from routine cinema.

Industry observers note that teaser launches like these play a crucial role in building early momentum for films, especially smaller or mid-budget projects. With Manoj backing the teaser, Rukmini has managed to capture attention across social media platforms as well.

While an official release date has not yet been announced, the teaser has successfully set the stage for further promotional activities. Fans are now eagerly waiting for more updates, including the trailer and music releases.
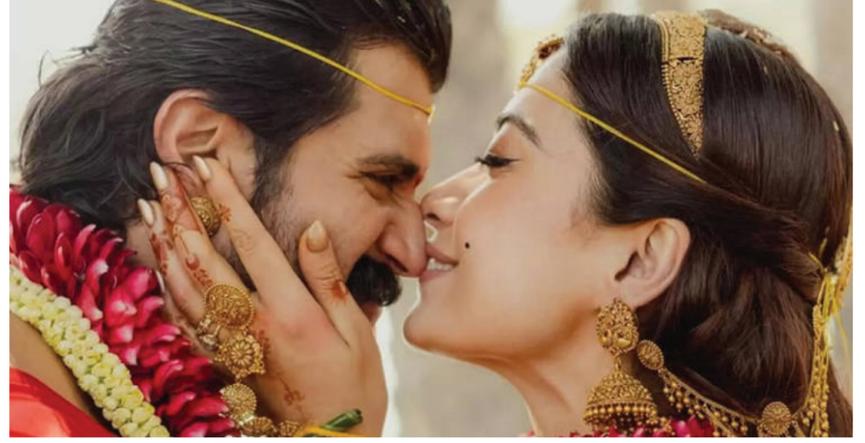
With a promising start and growing buzz, Rukmini could emerge as an interesting addition to the upcoming slate of Telugu films.

Hombale Films Expands Horizons, Enters International Distribution Space

In a significant move reflecting the growing global reach of Indian cinema, Hombale Films has announced its entry into the international distribution sector. The decision marks a new phase in the company's evolution from a successful production house to a global player in film distribution.

The production banner, founded by Vijay Kiragandur in 2012, began its journey with modest projects before rising to prominence with large-scale productions. Over the years, the company has built a strong reputation for backing high-quality, commercially successful films.

Its rise to international fame was largely driven by the massive success of the KGF franchise, which established the banner as a powerhouse in Indian cinema. The company further strengthened its position with critically acclaimed and commercially successful films like Kantara and Salaar, both of which expanded its reach beyond domestic audiences.

With its latest announcement, Hombale Films is aiming to capitalize on this growing global appeal. By entering the distribution space, the company seeks to directly manage the international release of films, including its own productions as well as projects from other filmmakers. This strategic shift is expected to provide greater control over how content is marketed and delivered to audiences worldwide.

The move comes at a time when Indian cinema is increasingly gaining recognition across global markets. Films from various regional industries are finding audiences beyond borders, supported by growing interest in diverse storytelling and large-scale cinematic experiences.

While the company has not yet revealed details about its initial slate for international distribution, industry observers believe this step could create new opportunities for Indian filmmakers. A stronger distribution network could help regional films reach wider audiences and strengthen India's position in the global entertainment landscape.

The expansion also reflects a broader trend within the industry, where production houses are exploring new avenues beyond filmmaking. With international markets becoming more accessible and demand for Indian content rising, companies are looking to establish a more direct presence overseas.

For Hombale Films, this development signals ambition and confidence in its brand. Having already proven its ability to deliver blockbuster hits, the company is now positioning itself as a key player in taking Indian cinema to a global stage.
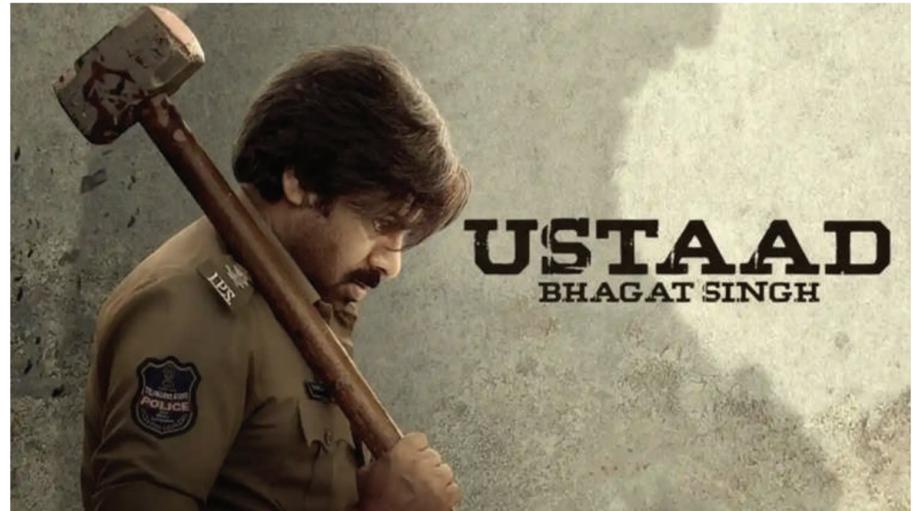
As it ventures into international distribution, expectations remain high that Hombale Films will continue to uphold its reputation for quality while expanding the reach of Indian storytelling worldwide.

Vijay Deverakonda–Rashmika Mandanna Wedding Breaks the Internet with Record-Breaking Buzz

The wedding of Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna has taken social media by storm, creating unprecedented buzz and setting new records online. The much-loved celebrity couple, often referred to by fans as "Virosh," finally tied the knot in a grand yet intimate ceremony in Udaipur after keeping their relationship largely private for years.

The wedding was conducted in a traditional manner, blending cultural rituals from both sides. The couple first married according to Hindu customs in the morning, followed by another ceremony in the evening that honored Rashmika's Kodava traditions. The celebrations were attended only by close family members and friends, maintaining a sense of privacy despite their immense popularity.

What truly caught attention, however, was the overwhelming response on social media. Within just 12 hours of sharing their wedding pictures, the couple received a staggering number of likes. Vijay's post alone crossed millions of likes rapidly, while Rashmika's post garnered even more engagement. Combined, their wedding photos amassed over 26 million likes in a short span, marking a new milestone and highlighting their massive fan following.

While an official release date has not yet been announced, the teaser has successfully set the stage for further promotional activities. Fans are now eagerly waiting for more updates, including the trailer and music releases.

Fans had long speculated about their relationship, which reportedly began during the filming of the popular movie Geetha Govindam. Over the years, the duo maintained secrecy, rarely appearing together publicly. However, observant fans often noticed subtle hints—such as similar backgrounds in their social media posts—suggesting they were spending time together.

The couple's relationship gained more attention after reports of a private engagement surfaced last year, further fueling excitement about their eventual wedding. Their decision to keep personal matters away from the spotlight only added to the curiosity and admiration among fans.

The wedding itself was not just a union of two stars but also a celebration of a longstanding relationship built away from constant public scrutiny. Their journey from co-stars to life partners has resonated deeply with audiences, making the event even more special.

As soon as the wedding pictures were released, they went viral across platforms, with fans and celebrities alike pouring in congratulatory messages. The scale of engagement clearly reflects the couple's popularity and the emotional connection they share with their audience.

With this grand celebration, Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have not only begun a new chapter in their personal lives but also created a historic moment in the entertainment world—one that fans are likely to remember for a long time.

Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna Meet PM Narendra Modi, Invite Him to Grand Wedding Reception

Newlyweds Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna are continuing their wedding celebrations with a high-profile gesture, as they met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and personally invited him to their upcoming reception.

The star couple, who tied the knot in a private ceremony in Udaipur on February 26, recently visited the Prime Minister in New Delhi to seek his blessings. The meeting has since gained widespread attention after photos of the interaction surfaced online and quickly went viral.

Dressed in elegant traditional attire, Vijay and Rashmika were seen warmly greeting the Prime Minister and presenting him with their wedding reception invitation. The couple reportedly extended a personal request for him to attend the grand celebration scheduled to take place in Hyderabad on March 4.

Although the Prime Minister could not attend their wedding ceremony, he had earlier conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and blessings to the couple and their families. His message described their union as the beginning of a "beautiful chapter" in their lives, adding a special significance to the occasion.

Interestingly, reports suggest that Vijay and Rashmika had met the Prime Minister even before their wedding to extend the invitation. However, the photographs from their meeting came into the spotlight only after the wedding, further fuelling excitement among fans.

The couple's wedding itself was an intimate yet grand affair, attended by close family members and friends. They followed multiple traditions during the ceremony, reflecting their cultural backgrounds. Despite keeping the event private, their wedding pictures quickly took over social media, receiving massive engagement and admiration from fans across the country.

Their meeting with the Prime Minister has added another layer of buzz to their celebrations, blending cinema and national prominence in a unique way. Fans have been widely sharing the pictures, celebrating not just their marriage but also this special moment.

Meanwhile, the Hyderabad reception is expected to be a star-studded event, with several prominent figures from the film industry, politics, and business likely to attend. With the couple enjoying immense popularity, anticipation around the reception continues to grow.

From a long-rumoured relationship to a much-celebrated wedding, Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have captured public imagination at every step. Their meeting with the Prime Minister now stands as one of the most talked-about moments of their wedding journey, further cementing their status as one of the most beloved celebrity couples in the country.

Power-Packed 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' Glimpse Announced, Fans Await Pawan Kalyan's Mass Comeback

The makers of Ustaad Bhagat Singh have officially announced a 40-second power-packed glimpse of the film, sparking excitement among fans eagerly waiting to see Pawan Kalyan back on the big screen in a high-energy role.

The short teaser, described as intense and impactful, is expected to offer a first look at Pawan Kalyan's character while setting the tone for the film. Known for his strong screen presence and mass appeal, the actor's return in a full-fledged commercial entertainer has already created significant buzz across the industry.

Directed by Harish Shankar, the film marks a much-anticipated collaboration between the actor and the filmmaker after their earlier successful outing. Their previous project had struck a chord with audiences, and expectations are now even higher for this upcoming venture. The director is known for presenting larger-than-life characters and engaging storytelling, which has further raised curiosity about how he will showcase Pawan Kalyan this time.

The announcement of the glimpse has triggered a wave of excitement on social media, with fans celebrating the update and counting down to its release. The teaser is expected to highlight key elements such as action, attitude, and dialogue delivery—hallmarks of a typical mass entertainer.

While the makers have kept most details about the storyline under wraps, industry insiders suggest that the film will feature a strong mix of action, drama, and commercial elements. The glimpse is likely to serve as a launchpad for the film's promotional campaign, giving audiences a taste of what's to come.

The production of Ustaad Bhagat Singh has been progressing steadily, and the team is focused on delivering a film that meets the high expectations of fans and moviegoers alike. With Pawan Kalyan's popularity and Harish Shankar's directorial style, the project is already being seen as one of the most anticipated releases.

The upcoming glimpse is not just a teaser but a strategic move to build momentum and generate widespread attention. For fans, it represents the beginning of a larger promotional journey leading up to the film's release.

As anticipation continues to grow, all eyes are now on the glimpse, which promises to deliver a powerful preview and set the stage for what could be one of the biggest cinematic events in the coming months.