

BUZZ POINTS



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Deputy CM Reassures Residents on Musi Project

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka assured residents living along the Musi River that the government would safeguard their interests while implementing the Musi River Rejuvenation Project. He stated that families affected by the project would receive fair and lawful assistance.

The assurance came during a meeting held at Praja Bhavan on Friday, where representatives of the Madhupark Ridge (B-Block) Residential Association met the Deputy CM and Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu to discuss concerns related to the project. The residents submitted representations seeking clarity on rehabilitation, property impact, and future development plans.

Addressing the gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was approaching the issue with sensitivity and maintaining a positive attitude toward all residents in the af-

ected areas. He emphasized that the Musi rejuvenation initiative aims to improve environmental conditions in Hyderabad by providing cleaner air, better water management, and increased greenery.

The Deputy Chief Minister appealed to citizens to cooperate with the government and become active participants in the project, describing it as an important initiative for the city's long-term development and ecological restoration.

Following the discussions, members of the Madhupark Ridge Association expressed satisfaction with the assurances provided by the government and stated that they would extend full cooperation for the successful implementation of the Musi River Rejuvenation Project.

Association President Dodda Srinivas Reddy, Secretary G. V. Shekhar, and other representatives attended the meeting. Senior officials, including Musi Project Managing Director E. V. Narasimha Reddy, were also present.

PM Modi to Launch 9,400 Crore Development Projects in Telangana

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for major infrastructure and industrial projects worth around 9,400 crore during his visit to Telangana on May 10. The projects are aimed at boosting connectivity, industrial growth, logistics, and employment opportunities across the state.

One of the key projects to be launched is the four-laning of the Hyderabad-Panaji Economic Corridor passing through Mahabubnagar district. The 80-kilometre highway stretch, being developed at a cost of 3,180 crore, is expected to significantly improve road connectivity and reduce travel time between Hyderabad and Goa from nearly 12 hours to around eight hours. The corridor will pass through important regions including Maktal,



Maganur, Marikal, Devarakonda, and Narayanpet.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the proposed Zaheerabad Industrial Area, estimated to cost 2,360 crore. Officials believe the project will attract global investments and create substantial opportunities for Mi-

cro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.

In the railway sector, Modi will inaugurate and dedicate various sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada multi-tracking railway project covering 118 kilometres and developed at a cost of 1,250 crore. He will also dedicate the 21-kilometre

Kazipet Rail Under Bypass, expected to improve rail traffic movement and operational efficiency.

Another major project includes the foundation stone for a greenfield POL terminal at Malkapur, being developed by Indian Oil at a cost of 610 crore. The facility is expected to strengthen fuel storage and streamline petroleum distribution across the region.

Prime Minister Modi will also dedicate the PM MITRA Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, constructed with an investment of 1,700 crore, which is expected to boost textile manufacturing and employment generation in Telangana.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Giriraj Singh, G. Kishan Reddy, and Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar are expected to participate in the programme.

Telangana Pushes Ahead with People-Centric Musi Rejuvenation

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the Musi River Rejuvenation Project with a strong focus on public welfare, transparency, and community participation. The Cabinet Sub-Committee overseeing the project stated that the initiative is not limited to cleaning the river but is aimed at improving living standards and transforming Hyderabad's urban landscape.

A high-level review meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka was held at Praja Bhavan on Friday. Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, along with senior officials, par-



ticipated in discussions regarding the project's execution, funding, and timelines. The committee directed offi-

cial to ensure that the project causes minimal impact on homes and private properties. Authorities were instructed to

revise alignments wherever necessary and prepare plans that avoid inconvenience to residents. The government emphasized that development and public welfare should progress together and called for active public participation in the project.

Officials informed the ministers that the Musi rejuvenation works would cover a 55-kilometre stretch in five phases. Phase-1, estimated at around 7,055 crore, has already completed technical and financial negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for funding support. The government ordered immediate commencement of work on the first five-kilometre stretch between Himayat Sagar, Osman Sagar, and Bapughat.

The project includes river cleaning, flood-control structures, sewage canals, retaining walls, roads along both riverbanks, barrages for water storage, and riverfront development. Musi Project Managing Director E. V. Narasimha Reddy presented the Detailed Project Report and explained plans for a 55-kilometre elevated East-West corridor from Narsingi to Gourelli.

The ministers also reviewed proposals for rubber dams aimed at boosting water storage and tourism activities such as boating and water sports. Officials were instructed to secure environmental clearances quickly and complete all procedural formalities by August 2026, with a target to finish the project by December 2027.

Governor Launches Blood Donation Camp on Red Cross Day

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day 2026, Telangana Governor and President of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Telangana State, Shiv Pratap Shukla inaugurated a blood donation camp at the Lok Bhavan Samskruthi Community Hall on Thursday.

The Governor praised voluntary blood donors for their selfless contribution to society and described blood donation as a life-saving act of humanity. During the event, he also interacted affectionately with children suffering from thalassemia and distributed nutrition kits to support their health and well-being. Addressing the gathering, the Governor highlighted this year's theme, "United in Humanity," and urged citizens to strengthen the values of compassion, volunteerism, and social service. He called upon people, espe-

cially the youth, to actively participate in blood donation drives and humanitarian activities for the welfare of society.

Shiv Pratap Shukla appreciated the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society, corporate social responsibility (CSR) partners, volunteers, district-level teams, and families of children battling thalassemia for their continued dedication towards community service.

He stated that service to humanity is one of the highest values in life and emphasized the need for collective responsibility in supporting patients who require regular blood transfusions. The programme witnessed participation from Red Cross officials, healthcare workers, volunteers, donors, and members of families affected by thalassemia, who came together to spread awareness about the importance of blood donation and humanitarian support.

Handloom Expo Showcases Telangana's Weaving Heritage

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The "Handloom Textile Exhibition-2026" was inaugurated in Hyderabad on Thursday with the aim of promoting Telangana's rich handloom tradition and supporting the livelihoods of weavers across the state. The ten-day exhibition was formally opened by Telangana Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao and features a wide range of handwoven products crafted by artisans from different regions.

Senior officials, representatives of handloom associations, designers, and artisans attended the inaugural event alongside a large gathering of visitors.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Minister said the Telangana government is taking several steps under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to revive and strengthen the handloom sector. He stated that the government's initiatives are helping weaver families regain financial confidence and stability.

Thummala remarked that handlooms represent Telangana's culture and artistic identity, adding that exhibitions of this nature provide rural artisans with an opportunity to connect directly with consumers and showcase their craftsmanship on a wider platform.

The Minister highlighted the success of the "Indiramma Sarees" scheme, under which quality sarees are being distributed to women across the

state. According to him, the initiative has generated steady employment for thousands of handloom and powerloom workers while improving the economic condition of weaving families.

He also announced that the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) in Hyderabad is providing modern training in fashion technology, design, marketing, and digital skills to help youth adapt to global market demands.

The exhibition features renowned textiles from Gadwal, Pochampally, Narayanpet, and Sircilla, attracting strong public response on the opening day. Visitors showed particular interest in sarees that blend traditional weaving styles with modern designs.



Telangana Plans 100 Public Schools Across State

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Government Whips who visited the pilot Telangana Public School at Arutla on Friday said the State Government is preparing to establish 100 such schools across Telangana, along with one Young India Integrated School in every Assembly constituency.

The visiting delegation was guided through the campus by Akunuri Murali, chairman of the Telangana Education Commission (TEC), who explained the objectives behind the initiative and the facilities being introduced for students. He said the schools are designed to provide high-quality English medium education to children from economically weaker sections. During a presentation, Murali stated that the education sector had suffered from neglect in the past, making it necessary for the government to focus on improving standards and infrastructure in public education. He explained that the new institutions are being equipped with modern teaching methods, advanced facilities, and academic systems

comparable to reputed private schools.

Murali also highlighted that the government has introduced independent management committees to oversee the functioning of these schools on a daily basis. According to him, this approach is intended to ensure transparency and keep political interference away from school administration. Government Whips Adi Srinivas and Yenam Srinivas Reddy praised the Arutla institution, describing it as a model school for the rest of Telangana. They expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly improve the future of students and strengthen the state's education system. Local MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy also participated in the visit and said the government has given top priority to education and healthcare to address shortcomings from previous years. Parents, local leaders, and education officials attended the programme and reviewed the progress of the pilot project, which the government hopes to replicate throughout the state.



Telangana Speeds Up Maize Procurement Across State

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has intensified maize procurement operations during the Yasaangi 2026 season following a sharp increase in cultivation and record yields across the state. To ensure that farmers do not face hardships during procurement, the government has introduced several special measures and granted greater authority to district administrations. Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao reviewed the procurement situation at the Secretariat and instructed officials to accelerate the process. So far, the government has procured nearly 6.74 lakh metric tonnes of maize from around 1.22 lakh farmers, with total expenditure crossing 1,650 crore. During the review, officials discussed key challenges affecting procurement operations, including shortages of warehouses, gunny bags, hamalis (loaders), and transportation facilities. The minister directed District Collectors to take complete responsibility for resolving these issues and ensuring smooth procurement and transport activities in coordination with MARKFED officials. To strengthen monitoring, the government appointed special officers for the erstwhile districts. B. Gopi will oversee Warangal and Karimnagar,



while Rahul Raj will supervise Medak and Khammam. Other appointed officers include Yasmin Basha, K. Chandrasekhar Reddy, and Korra Lakshmi for different regions. The minister also requested Transport Commissioner Ilambarthi to ensure uninterrupted transport of maize from procurement centres to warehouses. Following the directions, Chandrasekhar Goud was appointed as the nodal officer for transportation coordination.

The government stated that procurement operations remain a top priority and assured farmers that all necessary steps are being taken to help them sell their produce without inconvenience.

Telangana Fifth in Fake Currency Seizures

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau
Telangana recorded the fifth-highest fake currency seizures in the country during 2024, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Authorities in the state seized counterfeit currency worth nearly 1.57 crore over the year. The NCRB figures revealed that fake 500 notes accounted for almost the entire seizure amount in Telangana, with counterfeit notes of this denomination alone valued at approximately 1.56 crore. Police reportedly recovered 31,388 fake 500 notes across the state. In addition, officials seized 43 counterfeit 200 notes and 54 fake 100 notes during the same period. Among all states, Karnataka recorded the highest fake currency seizures, with counterfeit notes worth more than 32 crore confiscated in 2024. Assam ranked second

with seizures valued at 4.9 crore, followed by Chhattisgarh at 3.8 crore and West Bengal at 1.5 crore. The data also indicated a sharp increase in fake currency recoveries in Telangana compared to the previous year. In 2023, authorities seized counterfeit currency worth 80.65 lakh in the state. Of this amount, fake 500 notes accounted for 75.67 lakh, while 200 denomination notes amounted to 1.68 lakh. Counterfeit 100 notes worth 2.84 lakh and fake 50 notes valued at 45,050 were also recovered during that year. Officials believe the rise in seizures reflects intensified surveillance and enforcement efforts against counterfeit currency circulation. Law enforcement agencies continue to monitor the movement of fake notes and strengthen measures to prevent their spread in the market.

Revanth Reddy Promises Rapid Development

Kodangal, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy outlined an ambitious vision for the transformation of Kodangal while addressing a massive public gathering on Friday. Emphasizing both spiritual and infrastructural development, he said Kodangal would emerge as a model constituency and a major educational and industrial hub in Telangana.

The Chief Minister described the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Kodangal as the "Tirupati of the Poor," attracting devotees not only from Telangana but also from Karnataka and Maharashtra. He praised former MLA Nandaram Suryanarayana for securing support from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams for the temple's development and proposed naming a pilgrim guest house after noted Agama scholar Sundaravaradacharyulu.

Recalling his political journey, Revanth Reddy credited party workers for his victories in Kodangal and Malkajgiri and said their support ultimately helped him become Chief Minister. He stated that his government is working 18



hours a day to implement welfare schemes, including farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, ration cards, housing programs, and fee reimbursement initiatives.

Highlighting development plans, the CM announced that the Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme would be completed within 18 months to bring Krishna River water to the region. He also said the Vikarabad railway line work is nearing completion and revealed plans for a cement factory, industrial park, medical

and engineering colleges, nursing and polytechnic institutions, and a Sainik School in Kodangal. Revanth Reddy said Kodangal would soon become a major "Education Hub," attracting students from across the state. He also announced road connectivity projects linking the region directly with the airport and urged public representatives to work together beyond political divisions to complete all development works in Kodangal by December 2027.



BJP Intensifies Preparations for PM Modi's Telangana Visit

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Friday reviewed the arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming public meeting scheduled to be held at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad on May 10 at 4:30 PM.

Speaking to the media during the inspection, Ramchander Rao said the Prime Minister would dedicate development projects worth nearly 8,000 crore to Telangana during his visit. He added that the Central Government has already sanctioned projects and funds amounting to nearly 13 lakh crore for the state.

Senior BJP leaders, including G. Kishan Reddy, BJP MLC Malk Komuriah, state general secretary Vemula Ashok, and senior leader Chintala Ramchandra Reddy, participated in the review of the venue preparations.

Ramchander Rao stated that extensive arrangements are being made for the massive gathering, including construction of the main stage, installation of barricades, crowd management measures, and

logistical facilities. Keeping the summer heat in mind, organizers have covered both the stage area and large sections of the meeting grounds to provide comfort to attendees. He described Modi's visit as significant, noting that it would be the Prime Minister's first visit to Telangana after beginning his third consecutive term in office. He also said the BJP leadership and cadres across the state are working round the clock to make the meeting a success, with expectations of nearly two lakh people attending the event. The BJP leader claimed that enthusiasm among party workers has increased following the party's recent electoral victories in several states. He also criticized Congress and INDIA bloc parties over their opposition to the Women's Reservation Bill. Ramchander Rao appealed to the public to attend the meeting in large numbers and urged police authorities to ensure smooth movement and security arrangements for participants arriving from across Telangana.

Hyderabad Emerging as India's Defence and Aerospace Hub

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said Hyderabad has become a major centre for India's rapidly expanding aerospace and defence sectors, with Telangana recording significant growth in exports and industrial investment.

Addressing the "MSME Spark-3.0" event at Taj Deccan on Friday, the minister stated that Telangana's aerospace and defence sectors have achieved over 30 percent annual growth. He noted that between 2024 and 2026, the state recorded a 103 percent compound annual growth rate in exports related to these industries.

According to Uttam Kumar Reddy, more than 1,500 small and medium enterprises in Telangana are currently contributing to aerospace and defence manufacturing. He said India, once heavily dependent on arms imports, is now exporting defence equipment to over 100 countries.

The minister highlighted Hyderabad's growing global

importance due to the presence of major defence and aerospace institutions, including DRDO laboratories such as DRDL and CABS, along with public sector companies like Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He also pointed to the operations of international aerospace firms including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Airbus and Safran in Hyderabad.

He said aerospace parks in Adibatla and the GMR region, along with upcoming clusters in Eliminedu and Medak NIMZ, are expected to create major opportunities for startups and manufacturers. The minister also revealed that the Telangana government is promoting partnerships with international institutions in fields such as artificial intelligence, drone technology, cybersecurity, and smart manufacturing. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed confidence that Hyderabad would continue to strengthen its position as a leading defence and aerospace hub in India over the coming years.

Ministers Push for Revival of Tummidihatti Project

Kumuram Bheem-Asifabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and G. Vivek Venkataswamy inspected the proposed Tummidihatti project site on Friday and reaffirmed the state government's commitment to reviving the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project.

The ministers visited the Pranahita River, performed traditional Jalaharati rituals, and reviewed technical details of the proposed barrage along with irrigation officials. Discussions focused on barrage height, storage capacity, environmental permissions, submergence concerns in Maha-

rashtra villages, and the status of earlier works undertaken during the united Andhra Pradesh period.

Addressing the media, Jupally Krishna Rao said the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy aims to restore the irrigation sector and revive projects neglected during the previous BRS administration. He recalled that former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy had launched the Pranahita-Chevella project in 2008 with plans to irrigate nearly 16 lakh acres.

The minister alleged that the earlier BRS government sidelined the project and spent heavily on the Kaleshwaram scheme. He argued that Tum-

midihatti would allow water to flow through gravity to the Sripada Yellampalli project, reducing electricity costs and benefiting farmers in Sirpur, Asifabad, Bellampalli, and Chennur. Jupally said the Telangana government would soon begin discussions with Maharashtra authorities to secure approval for a 150-meter barrage. He appealed to Union ministers, BJP MPs, and MLAs from Telangana to support the project and raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The minister urged political parties not to politicize the project and called for united efforts to strengthen irrigation facilities and support farmers in North Telangana.

Parliamentary Panel Reviews Urban Development Projects

Tirupati, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated in the study tour of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs held in Tirupati on Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and attended by representatives from several organizations, including the Forest Department, HUDCO, NBCC, CPWD, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA), Tirupati Municipal Corporation, Union Bank, and Indian Bank. During the session, the committee reviewed the progress of various urban development and housing projects, while also discussing challenges being faced in their implementation. Officials presented updates on infrastructure initiatives, housing

schemes, and urban planning measures currently underway. The Parliamentary Standing Committee is scheduled to arrive in Hyderabad later in the evening for further review meetings. A key meeting will be held at the Telangana Secretariat on May 9, where major issues such as Metro Rail Phase-2, the Musi River rejuvenation project, urban local body administration, housing programs, and the Urban Challenge Fund will be discussed.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to attend the review meeting. Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, ULB in charge Sridevi, and representatives from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the State Housing Department, will also participate in discussions on double-bedroom housing schemes and the rural housing initiative, Indiramma Illu

Vivek Venkataswamy Promises Revival of Tummidihatti Project

Kumuram Bheem-Asifabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Labour and Mines Minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy said the state government is committed to reviving the Tummidihatti project to bring irrigation and drinking water benefits to North Telangana.

The minister, along with Jupally Krishna Rao, visited the Tummidihatti project site on Friday and performed Jalaharati in the Pranahita River before addressing the media.

Vivek Venkataswamy alleged that the previous BRS government weakened the Pranahita-Chevella project and shifted focus to the Kaleshwaram project for financial gain. He stated that nearly 1,100 crore had already been spent on the Pranahita-Chevella project and claimed that the scheme could have been com-



pleted with an additional 25,000 crore.

The minister recalled that former Union Minister Kaka Venkataswamy strongly advocated the project to address irrigation and drinking water issues in North Telangana. He added that former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy had laid the foundation stone for the project. According to Vivek, the earlier proposal fixed the project height at 152 meters, which would have submerg-ed only limited land in

Maharashtra. He criticized the previous Telangana government for reducing the height to 148 meters, which he claimed weakened the original design.

The minister further alleged that the Kaleshwaram project costs escalated massively while providing limited water benefits. He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is now working to restore the Tummidihatti project, which is expected to provide irrigation to nearly two lakh acres in North Telangana.

Jupally Krishna Rao Inspects Kagaznagar Paper Mill

Kagaznagar, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao visited the paper mill in Kagaznagar on Friday and reviewed its manufacturing operations and worker-related facilities.

The minister was welcomed by the mill management and staff before conducting a detailed inspection of various production units within the factory. During the visit, he interacted with technical experts and sought information about the complete paper manufac-



turing process.

Officials explained how wood is processed through different stages, beginning with chipping and conversion into pulp, followed by chemical

treatment and machine operations that ultimately produce finished paper rolls. The minister closely observed the functioning of the machinery and the workflow across depart-

ments. Jupally Krishna Rao also held discussions with officials regarding production capacity, operational efficiency, and welfare measures for workers employed at the mill. He reportedly emphasized the importance of strengthening industrial growth while ensuring employee welfare and smooth functioning of manufacturing units. Dande Vithal and Palvai Harish Babu, along with other local representatives and officials, participated in the visit and accompanied the minister during the inspection of the facility.

Eatala Rajender Raises Public Issues at DISHA Meeting

Medchal-Malkajgiri, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender participated in the DISHA review meeting held at the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate and later addressed the media regarding the issues discussed during the session. He stated that although the meeting agenda included 49 subjects, discussions mainly focused on urgent public concerns. Eatala said he urged officials to ensure that double-bedroom houses are allotted only to genuinely deserving local poor families. The MP also expressed con-

cern over the poor implementation of the Ayushman Bharat health scheme. He stressed that the Centre's flagship healthcare program should be utilized effectively so that economically weaker sections receive proper medical support. Highlighting the problems faced by residents living under low-hanging power lines, Eatala said officials were asked to identify affected areas, prepare estimates, and submit proposals so that funds could be sanctioned for corrective measures. He further noted that while the Central Government is willing to provide loans for various sectors, strict

banking rules are creating obstacles for common people. He appealed to officials to simplify the process and ensure easier access to loans for education, businesses, and industries without excessive collateral demands. Eatala remarked that people expected quicker problem-solving after the creation of smaller districts, but the expected improvements were not visible. He also said discussions were held with the Chief Minister regarding dump yard issues in Jawahar Nagar and Balaji Nagar, and a permanent solution would be pursued soon.



CM Reviews Minority Welfare Initiatives

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting on Minority Welfare Department activities at the Secretariat on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Government Advisor Mohammed Shabbir Ali, and MLA Medipally Satyam. Senior offi-

cials and heads of various minority welfare organizations also participated in the discussions.

Among those present were Mohammed Fahimuddin Qureshi, Gulam Afzal Biabani, Azmatullah Hussaini, Obaidullah Kotwal, Taher Bil Hamad, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, and other senior officials.



Harish Rao Slams Government Over Farmers' Plight

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau
 BRS Deputy Floor Leader and former minister T. Harish Rao strongly criticized the Telangana government over the difficulties being faced by farmers in selling their produce.
 In a press statement issued on Friday, Harish Rao alleged that the present administration had pushed farmers into severe distress by failing to procure crops on time. He remarked that the government had earned the "dubious distinction" of forcing farmers—the very people who feed the nation—to plead before officials for crop procurement.
 The senior BRS leader questioned who would support farmers if the government itself failed to purchase the produce cultivated through months of hard work and struggle. He expressed concern that many farmers were spend-

ing days and nights guarding their harvested crops at procurement centers and threshing yards while waiting for official response.
 Harish Rao further alleged that the indifferent attitude of the authorities was causing emotional and financial hardship among farmers. Referring to reports of farmers collapsing from stress and exhaustion, he accused the ruling government of remaining silent instead of taking immediate action.
 He stated that farmers were being forced into humiliating situations where they had no option but to request officials to procure their crops. Concluding his remarks, Harish Rao warned that the pain and tears of farmers would eventually become a curse upon those in power if timely support was not extended to the agricultural community.



Harish Rao Criticizes Government Over Law and Order

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau
 Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao launched a strong criticism of the Telangana government, alleging that law and order had significantly deteriorated under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.
 In a press statement issued on Friday, Harish Rao cited NCRB statistics to claim that crime rates in Telangana had increased sharply during the Congress government's tenure. He expressed concern over the rise in cybercrime cases, stating that more than 27,000 cybercrime complaints were registered in the state during 2024, reflecting a major increase compared to previous years.
 The BRS leader also highlighted the growing number of missing persons and crimes against women and children. He alleged that thousands of missing persons cases remain unresolved and claimed that incidents involving women

and minors had increased across the state. Harish Rao further stated that Telangana's crime rate was reportedly higher than the national average. Referring to recent incidents, including the Karimnagar jewellery store robbery, attacks on MLA camp offices, and the murder of a retired IPS officer's wife in Hyderabad, he accused the government of failing to maintain public safety. He also mentioned the recent special operation conducted by Sumathi as an indication of growing concerns regarding women's safety and drug-related activities.
 Harish Rao alleged that the government was focusing more on publicity and political confrontations rather than strengthening policing and intelligence systems. He urged authorities to improve law enforcement, expedite investigations into cybercrime and missing person cases, and enhance security measures for women and children across Telangana.

Payal Shankar Criticizes BRS Over Karimnagar Bandh Call

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau
 BJP Assembly Deputy Floor Leader Payal Shankar on Friday questioned the purpose behind the Bharat Rashtra Samithi's bandh call in Karimnagar, alleging that the party has failed to learn from its electoral setbacks in Telangana.
 In a statement issued to the media, Shankar strongly criticized BRS leader Padi Kaushik Reddy for allegedly making personal attacks against Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, claiming that the remarks provoked a sharp response from

BJP leaders and workers.
 The BJP leader accused BRS cadres of previously targeting BJP activists during the Praja Sangrama Yatra and damaging vehicles belonging to BJP leaders who were visiting paddy procurement centres. He alleged that the BRS has repeatedly encouraged confrontational politics instead of constructive opposition.
 Shankar further blamed BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao for escalating the political tensions surrounding the Karimnagar incident. He claimed that KTR made allegations regarding alleged links between

CM Flags Off Haj Pilgrim Buses, Assures Minority Welfare

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday flagged off buses carrying Haj pilgrims from the Haj House in Nampally and reaffirmed the State Government's commitment to the welfare and development of minority communities.
 Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the government is taking steps to ensure minorities receive fair opportunities in welfare schemes and employment. He recalled last year's tragic bus accident during the Haj pilgrimage in which 44 people lost their lives and stated that the government had extended 5 lakh compensation to each bereaved family. Revanth Reddy said the government is also supporting minority students through overseas education scholarships. Emphasizing changing employment trends, he noted that blue-collar jobs currently offer strong opportunities, especially in countries such as Germany and Japan. To equip youth with better skills, the government is up-



grading Industrial Training Institutes into Advanced Training Centers (ATCs).
 Highlighting measures for Hyderabad's auto drivers, many of whom belong to minority communities, the Chief Minister announced free retrofitting of auto-rickshaws operating within the Outer Ring Road to convert them into electric vehicles. He said the initiative would help drivers reduce fuel expenses and improve their livelihoods. The Chief

Minister further stated that international conflicts have increased aviation fuel prices, leading to higher airfare for Haj pilgrims. To ease the burden on pilgrims, the Telangana government will bear the additional costs.
 Reiterating communal harmony, Revanth Reddy said Hindus and Muslims are like brothers and stressed the need for unity to protect Telangana's social fabric while advancing the state's development.

Srinivas Goud Announces Farmers' Padayatra

Mahabubnagar, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Srinivas Goud interacted with farmers waiting near the Ramreddy Gudem rice mill in Mahabubnagar mandal, where they had arrived with paddy-laden vehicles to sell their produce. During the visit, he assured farmers that the BRS party would launch a padayatra to highlight their problems and build confidence among the farming community.
 He said the party would soon hold discussions with senior leaders to finalize the route and action plan for the foot march. According to him, the padayatra aims to expose the alleged failures of the Congress government in addressing farmers' concerns.
 Srinivas Goud demanded timely procurement of crops, proper implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP), uninterrupted electricity supply for agriculture, availability of urea, release of



Rythu Bandhu funds, farmer insurance benefits, and completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project.
 He alleged that due to poor government policies, rice millers and private traders were deducting excessive weight from paddy stocks, causing financial losses to farmers. He also criticized the closure of

procurement centers and claimed many millers were refusing to purchase grain.
 The former minister stated that during the BRS government, paddy was procured directly from farmers and payments were made promptly. He assured farmers that the party would continue fighting until their issues are resolved and fair support is provided.

BRS Raises Alarm Over Rising Crime in Telangana

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

BRS leaders expressed serious concern over the recent rise in crime across Telangana, alleging that the state's law and order situation has worsened significantly under the present government.
 The criticism came even as a BRS delegation was meeting Telangana DGP CV Anand regarding public safety issues. During the meeting, news emerged about the murder of Tanuja Ray in the high-security Prashasan Nagar area of Hyderabad.
 The party also referred to the recent killing of a young



man in Secunderabad, where the victim was reportedly stabbed to death on a public road. BRS leaders alleged that police resources were being diverted toward political cases instead of focusing on crime prevention and public

security.
 The opposition party further cited NCRB data indicating an increase in cybercrimes and crimes against women in Telangana. According to the leaders, the rising number of criminal incidents reflects weaknesses in policing and intelligence operations.
 BRS leaders accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who also handles the Home portfolio, of failing to maintain law and order in the state. They demanded stronger policing measures, faster investigations, and greater focus on ensuring public safety across Telangana.

BRS Slams Government Over Farmers' Issues

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader Enugula Rakesh Reddy strongly criticized the Congress government during a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, accusing it of failing to protect the interests of farmers and mismanaging the state's agricultural sector.
 He alleged that false cases were being filed against BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) after he raised concerns in Warangal regarding farmers' hardships. Rakesh Reddy said the Congress government should apologize to farmers if it cannot fulfill the

promises made in its "Farmers' Declaration."
 Claiming that KTR was fearlessly fighting for farmers' rights, he asserted that the BRS leader would not be intimidated by legal cases or political pressure. He pointed out that thousands of people attended KTR's "Rythu Sangrama Sadassu," while Congress events reportedly failed to draw public support.
 The BRS leader accused the government of failing to deliver promised financial assistance to farmers and criticized the implementation of welfare schemes.



Bandi Sanjay Calls for Massive Turnout at Modi Rally

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday urged party workers and the public to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting at Parade Grounds on May 10 a grand success.
 Speaking to the media at RTC Cross Roads in Hyderabad, Bandi Sanjay claimed that the Central Government has been extending massive financial support for Telangana's development. He alleged that most of the ongoing development works in the state are being carried out with funds provided by the Centre.
 The BJP leader accused the Congress government of diverting Telangana's resources for party-related activities in Delhi, while asserting that only a "double-engine government" could ensure rapid progress for the state. He said Prime Minister Modi's visit was aimed at seeking the blessings of the people of Telanga-

na and strengthening the party's connection with the public.
 Highlighting the BJP's development agenda, Bandi Sanjay stated that the party's focus remains on infrastructure growth, welfare, and strengthening Telangana's future. He said the upcoming public meeting would echo with slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Telangana."
 The Union Minister also launched a sharp attack on BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao, accusing him of arrogance and political failure. He alleged that the BRS leadership had lost public support and maintained that the party's return to power was unlikely.
 Bandi Sanjay further stated that the BJP would emerge stronger in the coming elections and expressed confidence that the political atmosphere in Telangana would witness a major shift following Prime Minister Modi's public meeting in Hyderabad.

BRS Leaders Demand Action Over Attack

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of BRS MLAs and MLCs met Telangana DGP CV Anand and sought immediate action over the recent attack on the Karimnagar MLA camp office. The leaders demanded that Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar be named as an accused in the FIR, alleging his role in provoking the incident. They also requested enhanced security for Padi Kaushik Reddy.
 After the meeting, BRS leaders addressed the media and accused the state government of failing to maintain law and order. Palla Rajeshwar Reddy alleged that attacks were being carried out against opposition leaders and blamed police for negligence in handling the Karimnagar incident. He claimed that supporters were mobilized following provocative remarks allegedly made by Bandi Sanjay.

Assembly BRS LP Whip K. P. Vivekananda accused the BJP leader of making inflammatory statements and insisted that all evidence related to the attack had been submitted to the DGP. He demanded that Bandi Sanjay be listed as the primary accused in the case.
 BRS Legislative Council Whip Deshapathi Srinivas criticized the recent attacks on party offices and questioned the effectiveness of policing in the state. He warned that repeated attacks on opposition leaders could lead to serious political tensions.
 MLC Dasoju Sravan also condemned the alleged remarks made against BRS leaders and questioned the government's handling of public safety and law-and-order issues. The delegation stated that their protest would continue until strict action is taken against those responsible for the attacks.

Balram Naik Targets KCR and KTR

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Balram Naik launched a sharp attack on BRS leaders K. Chandrashekar Rao and K. T. Rama Rao during a press interaction in Hyderabad.
 Balram Naik alleged that KCR had shown discriminatory attitudes toward the Lambada community and claimed that he had worked against a Lambada candidate during a Rajya Sabha election. He further stated that while SC, ST, and BC communities actively participated in the Telangana movement, political benefits were largely enjoyed by KCR's family.
 The MP also blamed the previous BRS government for

pushing Telangana into financial difficulties. Criticizing KTR, Balram Naik said the former minister was making irresponsible remarks and warned him against targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.
 He accused KTR of damaging the livelihoods of ordinary people and claimed that the Congress party would expose alleged irregularities linked to the previous administration. Balram Naik further cautioned KTR against making derogatory political statements in the future and said strong political responses would follow if such remarks continued.



GHMC Conducts Mosquito Awareness Drive

Quthbullapur, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) intensified its mosquito-control campaign by organizing a "Friday Dry Day" awareness program at Suchitra Venkateswara Enclave in Jeedimetla's 132nd Division on Friday.

The initiative was conducted by the GHMC Entomology Wing as part of ongoing efforts to prevent seasonal diseases and promote public health awareness. Officials and staff visited different parts of the colony to identify stagnant water sources that could become breeding spots for mosquitoes.

During the drive, residents were educated about the importance of maintaining cleanliness around their homes and preventing water accumulation in coolers, flower pots, overhead tanks, discarded containers, and other areas. The

team stressed that eliminating stagnant water is one of the most effective ways to control mosquito-borne diseases.

Sanitation and Health CMC member Tippari Yadhiah, Community Organizer Kishore, and members of the entomology department participated in the awareness campaign and explained preventive measures to local residents.

Representatives of the colony welfare association, including Krishna Kiran, Rangarao, Seshagiri, Ravi, and Dinesh, also joined the program. Senior BRS leaders Veerareddy Narendar Reddy and Sudhakar Goud participated and encouraged residents to support cleanliness initiatives.

Residents appreciated the awareness campaign and stated that conducting such programs regularly would help reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses and improve public hygiene in residential areas.



CM Focuses on Skill-Based Education for Minorities

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to establish special degree colleges for minority students in the headquarters of erstwhile districts, with a strong focus on skill development and Artificial Intelligence (AI) education.

During a review meeting of the Minority Welfare Department held at the Secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister emphasized that educational institutions should move beyond conventional academic courses and instead provide practical training that improves employment opportunities and self-reliance among students.

He instructed officials to introduce incentive schemes for meritorious minority students on the lines of benefits already provided to BC, SC, and ST students. The CM also proposed involving minority candidates selected for Group-1, Group-2, and Group-3 services in departmental activities to help them gain administrative experi-

ence and awareness of welfare programs.

Revanth Reddy further suggested inviting successful civil service candidates and sports persons to motivate students about the importance of education and sports. He directed authorities to ensure timely payment of honorariums to Imams and Mouzams and stressed the inclusion of AI-focused teaching methods in minority educational institutions.

The Chief Minister also announced plans to improve the livelihoods of auto-rickshaw drivers by converting petrol and diesel autos into electric vehicles. As part of the Musi River Front development project, the CM proposed constructing a mosque, church, gurudwara, and temple to reflect Telangana's composite culture and promote understanding of different religions and traditions.

Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Advisor Mohammed Shabbir Ali, and senior officials attended the review meeting.



Devotees Celebrate Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple Anniversary

Quthbullapur, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The 11th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple were observed with religious fervor and enthusiasm at Sri Krishna Nagar in the Suraram (Joint) 129th Division on Thursday. The temple premises witnessed large participation from devotees, local residents, and community leaders who gathered to take part in the special pujas and spiritual programs organized as part of the celebrations. The event was conducted in a devotional atmosphere with traditional rituals and prayers. Puppala Bhaskar attended the program as the chief guest and offered special prayers at the temple. He extended his wishes to the devotees and appreciated the organizers for conducting the



celebrations in a grand manner. During the event, senior local leader Sandhya was felicitated with a traditional shawl on the occasion of her birthday. Community members and party leaders conveyed their greetings and wished her success and good health. Several local leaders and residents actively participated in the celebrations, including Srinivas Reddy, Warala Vinod, Dodla Srinivas, Kalimuddin, Lakshman, Ganesh, Ashok Chari, Chandri Srinivas Mudiraj, Muralidhar, and David.

Mallareddy University Launches AI-Driven Media Courses

Quthbullapur, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Mallareddy University has introduced a range of future-focused degree programs in collaboration with Eros AI Education, aiming to prepare students for careers in the rapidly evolving digital and creative industries. The new courses will cover emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Creative Media, Filmmaking, Animation, Visual Effects (VFX), and Gaming.

The announcement was made during a press conference held at the university campus in Suraram. The event was attended by Chairman Bhadra Reddy, Vice-Chairperson Preethi Reddy, and Prashant Pandit, along with senior academic officials.

University representatives explained that the programs have been designed to meet the demands of the modern media and entertainment industry by combining advanced AI technologies with creative learning. They highlighted how artificial intelligence is transforming sectors such as filmmaking, animation, advertising, and digital storytelling.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Bhadra Reddy said the university's objective is to



reduce the gap between academic education and industry expectations. He stated that the collaboration would enable students to gain practical exposure through live projects and hands-on training.

Vice-Chairperson Preethi Reddy noted that the curriculum has been structured according to international standards. She said students would receive training in modern studios while also developing technical expertise, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking. According to her, companies today are searching for professionals who possess both innovative ideas and strong technological knowledge.

Eros AI Education CEO Prashant Pandit stated that the future belongs to individuals who can effectively combine creativity with technology. He observed that AI is reshaping communication, gaming, and advertising industries, creating significant employment opportunities in India and abroad.

University officials said the initiative reflects Mallareddy University's commitment to preparing students for global careers while contributing to the growth of India's digital creative economy. Chancellor Sudha Ramana and Vice-Chancellor Anil Kaul also attended the event.

Youth Jailed for Misconduct

Secunderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

A local court in Secunderabad sentenced a 26-year-old man to three days of simple imprisonment for misbehaving with a woman and causing a public disturbance.

The accused, identified as Kurma Sai Nikhil, is a resident of B.J.R. Nagar in Bansilalpet under the New Bhoiguda area. According to police officials, he was involved in inappropriate conduct toward a woman and also created nuisance in public, leading to the registration of a petty case against him.

The matter came before the XIII Special Judicial Magistrate Second Class Court at Marepally. After examining the case details, Judge B. Venkata Nagendra Reddy found the accused guilty and ordered three days of simple



imprisonment. Following the court's verdict on Thursday, police immediately shifted the accused to Chanchalguda Jail to serve the sentence.

Harish confirmed that the court's directions were carried

out without delay. Police officials stated that strict action would continue against individuals involved in harassment, indecent behavior, and activities disturbing public peace.



Midnight Crackdown on Drugs and Harassment

Dilsukhnagar, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Concerned over the growing cases of drug abuse, eve-teasing, and harassment in Dilsukhnagar and surrounding areas, Malkajgiri Police Commissioner Sumathi has launched a strict surveillance and awareness campaign aimed at protecting students and curbing anti-social activities.

Addressing hostel owners and students during a special awareness meeting, the Commissioner stressed that every hostel must maintain complete records of students, including personal details, movement patterns, and visitor information. She instructed administrators to closely monitor students returning late at night and immediately report suspicious behavior to parents or police authorities.

The CP expressed concern that several youths roaming on roads after midnight were getting involved in drug consumption, eve-teasing, and other criminal acts. She warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found violating the law.

As part of intensified policing, Sumathi recently conducted a surprise late-night "Spring Operation" in plain clothes across Dilsukhnagar. During the drive, police identified sev-

eral troublemakers and suspected drug users, who were later counseled at police stations and warned against repeating such activities.

To strengthen monitoring, police have introduced drone surveillance during nighttime patrols and equipped teams with drug detection kits for on-the-spot testing of suspicious individuals. Authorities are also relying heavily on CCTV surveillance, with more than 3,200 cameras installed in the region and linked to the Command and Control Center.

Special audits of hostels in the Saroornagar area have also been completed. Hostel operators were directed to install high-resolution CCTV cameras and cooperate fully with police investigations. The Commissioner warned that hostels found encouraging illegal activities could face seizure.

Police have additionally intensified checks on pan shops suspected of selling banned narcotic substances. Cases under the Preventive Detention Act will be filed against offenders.

Calling for public cooperation, CP Sumathi urged youngsters to stay away from drugs and focus on education and career growth, emphasizing that involvement in NDPS cases could permanently damage their future opportunities.



Sanitation Works Reviewed by Deputy Commissioner

Quthbullapur, May 8 | TPN Bureau

As part of the ongoing "Praja Palana Pragathi Plan" 99-day initiative, Deputy Commissioner S. Venkata Mani Karan conducted surprise inspections of sanitation and waste management activities in Dundigal Circle on Thursday.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner visited tree parks in the Dundigal area and examined compost pits set up for processing wet waste. He instructed sanitation officials to adopt scientific composting methods to ensure efficient waste disposal and better environmental management.

Later, he inspected the dumping yard at Dundigal Thanda-2 and reviewed the solid waste management system being implemented in the area. Stressing the importance of cleanliness, he directed officials to maintain proper sanitation standards and prevent garbage accumulation on roads and public spaces.

The Deputy Commissioner also announced strict enforcement of the "No Bin - No License" policy for commercial establishments. Shops, hotels, and other business units were instructed to install dustbins compulsorily. He warned that establishments violating the rules would face penalties and possible action regarding their licenses.

Residents were encouraged to separate household waste into wet and dry categories before handing it over to Swachh Auto sanitation vehicles. Officials were further instructed to clear roadside weeds and immediately remove Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste dumped along roads.

Solid Waste Management Deputy Engineer Anvesh Reddy, Assistant Engineer Ashok Kumar, Environment Engineer P. Sathvik, sanitation field assistants, and other staff members participated in the inspection program.

Geethika Excels in SSC Exams

Secunderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Jogu Geethika, a student of St. Philomena School, achieved an impressive score of 508 marks in the Class 10 examinations for the 2025-26 academic year, earning a place among the school's top-performing students. Geethika is the daughter of Jogu Rakesh Kumar and belongs to the IDH Colony area in the Bansilal-

pet division of Secunderabad. Her excellent performance brought joy to her family members, relatives, and friends, who congratulated her on the achievement. Well-wishers praised her hard work, dedication, and commitment towards academics. They expressed confidence that she would continue to excel in her higher studies and achieve greater success in the future. Family members stated that Geethika's accomplishment

would inspire many other students in the locality to focus on education and strive for academic excellence. They also wished her success in all her future educational and career goals. The achievement added another milestone to the academic results of St. Philomena School, with teachers and supporters appreciating the efforts of both students and faculty in maintaining strong academic standards.



Welfare Schemes to Reach Every Eligible Family: Jupally

Kagaznagar, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Minister for the combined Adilabad district Jupally Krishna Rao stated that the government is committed to ensuring welfare schemes reach every deserving beneficiary without political bias. He was speaking at the "Praja Palana Pragathi Plan" programme held at the SPM Club in Kagaznagar on Friday.

The minister said the state government is implementing welfare initiatives in phases to benefit all sections of society. He instructed officials to identify eligible beneficiaries across the district and ensure transparent implementation of government schemes. Jupally Krishna Rao also expressed satisfaction over the successful allotment of two-bedroom houses constructed near Borigama to

beneficiaries. MLC Dande Vithal announced that 630 Indiramma houses had been sanctioned for Kagaznagar town in the first phase. He assured applicants who were not included initially that eligible families would receive housing benefits in the second phase. MLA Palvai Harish Babu said the proposed barrage across the Pranahita River would transform the region by

providing irrigation facilities and improving agriculture. He appealed to public representatives to work together for the completion of the project and requested additional funds for the town's development. District Collector K. Haritha, Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla, Municipal Chairperson Shaheen Sultana, and officials from various departments attended the programme.

Later, the minister visited the SPM paper mill premises, where officials explained the paper manufacturing process and safety measures. Representatives of employee unions and local leaders also submitted memorandums seeking solutions to issues faced by outsourced workers and demanding development of the Bhatlupalli-Jidichenu BT road.



BJP Bike Rally Draws Huge Crowd

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar took part in a massive BJP bike rally held at RTC Cross Roads in Hyderabad on Friday. Rajya Sabha MP K. Lakshman also joined the rally alongside him.

Both leaders personally rode motorcycles at the front of the procession, leading thousands of party workers and supporters through several parts of the city. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from BJP cadres, with slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Jai Telangana" echoing throughout the route.

The procession began at RTC Cross Roads and moved through Musheerabad, Chil-

kalguda Gandhi Statue, Sitaphal Mandi Flyover, Tarnaka, Addagutta, Marepally, Sangeeeth Cross Roads, Secunderabad Clock Tower, Paradise, and Begumpet before concluding at Guru Gobind Stadium in Ameerpet.

Party workers carrying BJP flags accompanied the leaders throughout the rally, creating a vibrant atmosphere across the city roads. The event was organized as part of the party's mobilization efforts ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming public meeting in Hyderabad.

Senior BJP leaders and local cadres participated in large numbers, expressing confidence that the rally would further strengthen the party's presence in Telangana.



Mudiraj Leaders Submit Demands to CM

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

A delegation of Mudiraj community leaders met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat under the leadership of Minister Vakiti Srihari. The delegation included Telangana Mudiraj Cooperative Societies Corporation Chairman Borra Gnaneshwar Mudiraj, DCC presidents Sanjeeva Mudiraj and Rohit Mudiraj, along with several representatives and community leaders.

During the meeting, the leaders submitted a memorandum highlighting key concerns related to the Mudiraj community. One of the major demands was the reclassification of the Mudiraj community from the BC-D category to BC-A, based on assurances made during the elections and findings from the recently released caste census report.

Responding positively, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy di-

rected officials to begin the administrative process required for the proposed reclassification. He also instructed officials to organize a special meeting with BC Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar, Konda Surekha, and Vakiti Srihari to discuss the matter further and ensure that any decision taken would withstand legal scrutiny.

The delegation also sought government support for the construction and funding of Mudiraj Bhavan at Kokapet. The Chief Minister directed officials to consult community representatives regarding funding arrangements and the formation of a trust for the project.

Minister Vakiti Srihari thanked the Chief Minister for his positive response and called upon members of the Mudiraj community to remain united in working toward the resolution of their issues and overall development.

maya Devi, and Transport Department Commissioner Ilambathi. Officials from the Transport and BC Welfare Departments, along with RTC personnel and party leaders from different constituencies, also participated in the celebrations. Supporters wished Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar good health, happiness, and continued success in public service.



Govt School Student Secures Patent for Smart Parking Model

Kumram Bheem Asifabad, May 9 | TPN Bureau

A Class 7 student from a government school in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district has earned national recognition after receiving a patent registration for her innovative smart parking project. Asla Mamatha, a student of Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School in Bhupalapatnam village of Sirpur-T mandal, developed a project aimed at solving parking difficulties in crowded public places.

Her invention, titled "Parking Management in Crowded Places," uses an infrared sensor along with a liquid crystal display system to identify whether a parking space is occupied or vacant. The simple yet effective model is designed to help reduce confusion and save time in busy parking areas. The project initially won first prize at the district-level INSPIRE exhibition and later advanced to the state-level competition. The innovation has now been officially granted patent registration by the Office of the Controller Gen-

eral of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, bringing recognition to the student, her school, and the district. Mamatha, along with her mentor teacher Moulikari Keshav and district science officer Katukam Madhukar, received certificates for the achievement. The trio was felicitated in Hyderabad by Director of School Education E. Naveen Nicolas, who praised the accomplishment and said it highlights the creativity and innovation potential of students studying in government schools.

Rice Miller Arrested in 191 Crore Grain Misappropriation Case

Nalgonda, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Police arrested rice mill owner Konda Lakshmaiah in connection with a large-scale grain misappropriation case linked to the 2022-23 Yasangi procurement season. He was taken into custody two days ago and later remanded to judicial custody.

According to police officials, a team led by Nalgonda DSP Shivaram Reddy apprehended Lakshmaiah near the Vijayawada-Jaggayyapeta junction while he was allegedly attempting to escape. He was subsequently produced before a local court.

Lakshmaiah owns the Ramalakshman Parboiled Mill located on the Narketpally-Addanki highway near Nalgonda. Authorities stated that multiple rice mill owners were accused of diverting or misappropriating nearly 5.89 lakh quintals of grain valued at around 191 crore during the procurement season. The case involves several rice mills, including Varalakshmi Mill in Chityala mandal, Chamundeswari Mill in Ketepally, Murali Manohara Agro Foods in Munugode, and Ramalakshman, Kanakamahalakshmi, Sumanjali, and Gautami rice mills in Nalgonda district.

Cases were registered against the accused millers in February this year. Following the registration of cases, several of the accused reportedly went into hiding to evade arrest. Police had earlier arrested the owners of Sumanjali and Gautami rice mills in March. Officials said some of the accused approached the court seeking to quash the cases, but their petition was dismissed. Following the court's decision, police intensified efforts and arrested Lakshmaiah. Authorities indicated that the remaining absconding accused may also be taken into custody soon.

Ex-IPS Officer's Wife Found Murdered in Jubilee Hills

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

In a disturbing incident reported from Prashasan Nagar in Jubilee Hills, Tanuja Ray, wife of retired IPS officer Vinay Ranjan Ray, was found murdered at her residence on Friday.

According to preliminary information, the former DG-rank officer was out of station at the time of the incident, while their children were present on the upper floor of the house. Police suspect that the murder may have been committed during a robbery attempt, as gold ornaments and cash were re-

portedly stolen from the residence.

Senior police officials, including Telangana DGP CV Anand and Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar, visited the crime scene and reviewed the ongoing investigation. Clues teams and fingerprint experts were also deployed to collect forensic evidence. Speaking to the media, Commissioner Sajjanar stated that investigators suspect the involvement of a Nepali gang and a Nepali woman who had reportedly been employed as domestic help at the residence. Police said the victim's hands

were tied and her mouth was gagged with cloth before she allegedly died of suffocation.

Authorities are currently verifying the exact quantity of valuables stolen from the house. Special police teams have been formed to trace the accused, and investigators are examining all possible angles linked to the crime.

Danam Nagender, who visited the residence, said strict action would be taken against those responsible. Police officials stated that the investigation is progressing on priority and further details are expected soon.

Officials Inspect Waterlogging Issues

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Jubilee Hills MLA Naveen Yadav, along with GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan and Water Board Commissioner A.V. Ranganath, conducted an inspection in the Krishna Nagar and Yousufguda circles to review recurring waterlogging problems during the monsoon season. The team visited areas that frequently experience road flooding, clogged drains, and sewage overflow due to heavy silt accumulation during rains. Residents explained the difficulties they face every year, including traffic congestion, poor sanitation, and water stagnation on roads. During the field inspection, the officials directed engineering and



sanitation staff to immediately begin desilting operations and improve drainage flow in the affected localities. They also instructed departments to prepare long-term measures to prevent recurring flooding and sewage issues during the rainy season. The officials reviewed ongoing civic infrastructure

works and stressed the need to complete all monsoon preparedness activities without delay. Local residents welcomed the visit and expressed hope that the authorities would implement lasting solutions to provide relief from the annual rain-related hardships faced in the area.

Vakiti Srihari Greet Ponnamp Prabhakar on Birthday

Hyderabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Vakiti Srihari extended birthday greetings to Ponnamp Prabhakar during a visit to the Ministers' Quarters on Friday.

Vakiti Srihari, who handles the Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services, and Sports portfolios, praised Ponnamp Prabhakar for his commitment to public service and his efforts toward the welfare of Backward Classes

and the development of the Transport Department.

He stated that Ponnamp Prabhakar has earned recognition as a leader who actively addresses public issues and works closely with people.

Srihari conveyed his best wishes for the minister's good health, long life, happiness, and continued success in serving the people and achieving greater milestones in his political journey.



New Pragathi Vidyalayam Achieves 100% Pass Rate

Adilabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Students of New Pragathi Vidyalayam in Shantinagar delivered an outstanding performance in the Class 10 annual examinations by securing a 100 percent pass result. The school, which has been serving students for nearly 45 years, once again upheld its reputation for academic excellence and disciplined education.

The management credited the achievement to the dedication of the teaching staff under the leadership of Correspondent Vakulabharanam Adinath and Principal Srinivas. Teachers focused on maintaining discipline, improving learning standards, and encouraging students to develop genuine interest in academics. A special attention was given to students who required additional support. The school conducted regular assessments, extra coaching sessions, and

close monitoring to strengthen students' understanding of subjects and boost their confidence. Faculty members said these efforts helped students approach studies with enthusiasm and determination rather than pressure. Parents appreciated the institution for emphasizing the overall development of students instead of focusing only on academics. Along with classroom education, the school also encouraged participation in sports, yoga, and healthy lifestyle practices, including the provision of nutritious meals. The consistent guidance of teachers, cooperation of parents, and hard work of students were highlighted as the key reasons behind the remarkable results. School management, faculty members, and parents congratulated all the students for their excellent performance and wished them success in their future academic journey.

Unseasonal Rains Damage Crop Stocks in Adilabad Region

Adilabad, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Unseasonal rainfall caused heavy damage to paddy, maize, and jowar stocks stored in market yards and procurement centres across the erstwhile Adilabad district on Thursday. Farmers appealed to the state government to procure the rain-affected produce and provide immediate support.

At the Adilabad market yard, farmers who had brought jowar for sale were forced to store their produce in the open due to insufficient covered storage facilities. Large quantities of maize were also left exposed to the rain. Farmers said the sudden downpour gave them little time to protect their crops, while strong winds blew away several tarpaulin sheets used to cover the stocks.

In many places, rainwater seeped into stored produce,

damaging paddy and jowar bags. Farmers were seen collecting scattered grain washed away by the water. The losses created anxiety among cultivators who had already spent heavily on cultivation and transportation. Crop damage was reported from several areas in Nirmal district, including Dilawarpur, Narsapur (G), Thanur, Bhainsa, Lokeshwar, and Mudhole, where jowar stocks suffered significant losses. Paddy stocks stored on the outskirts of Bhainsa were also affected by the rain. Similar incidents of crop damage were reported from parts of Mancherial district as well. Farmers urged authorities to take immediate steps to assess the losses, arrange proper storage facilities at market yards, and ensure procurement of the damaged produce to prevent further hardship.



Joyalukkas Grand Reopening with Diamond Jewellery Show

Rajamahendravaram, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Leading jewellery brand Joyalukkas has reopened its showroom in Rajamahendravaram with a grand ceremony, introducing the exclusive "Brilliance Diamond Jewellery Show" for jewellery lovers.

The showroom was inaugurated by Joyalukkas Group Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Joy Alukkas along with Rajamahendravaram City MLA Adireddy Vasu. Speaking on the occasion, they said the revamped showroom is designed to offer a premium shopping experience with modern interiors and world-class collections.

The exhibition features cut and uncut diamond jewellery,

precious gemstone designs, bridal collections, and contemporary ornaments crafted to match evolving customer preferences. Special focus has been given to wedding jewellery collections.

As part of the reopening offers, the company announced up to 40% discount on gold, silver, and gemstone jewellery. Customers purchasing diamond jewellery worth 1 lakh or more will receive a free gold coin. These offers are valid till May 24.

The three-storey showroom has been redesigned with spacious interiors, premium facilities, and parking conveniences, making it a major attraction for jewellery shoppers in the city.

Mega Blood Donation Camp Marked World Red Cross Day

Visakhapatnam, May 8 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Visakhapatnam District Branch, organized a mega blood donation camp at the Red Cross Bhavan. Joint Collector Smt. G. Vidadhari attended as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to Red Cross founder Sir Jean Henry Dunant. Along with District Revenue Officer

M. Vishweshwara Naidu, she hoisted the Red Cross flag and highlighted the organisation's humanitarian legacy.

The Joint Collector also visited the newly launched IRCS diagnostic laboratory, which aims to provide affordable "Janata rate" medical testing services for the public, and interacted with children undergoing treatment in the thalassemia wing.

Addressing the gathering, she praised IRCS for its self-

less service in healthcare, blood donation, and disaster response. She urged youth and citizens to actively participate in voluntary blood donation to support thalassemia patients.

IRCS Chairman C. Balasathish said the new lab aims to provide quality diagnostics to BPL families. The event also honoured 25 platinum donors who had donated blood more than 50 times.



SBI Employees Protest in Tirupati; Nationwide Strike Set for May 26-27

Tirupati, May 08 | TPN Bureau:

Employees of the State Bank of India (SBI) staged a placard protest in Tirupati on Friday, demanding the immediate filling of long-vacant positions for messengers, armed guards, and clerical staff. Led by VV Prasad, Deputy General Secretary of the SBI Staff Union Amaravati Circle, the protesters announced a nationwide strike on May 26 and 27 to address unresolved grievances. Union leaders highlighted that acute staff shortages and the outsourcing of core banking

functions are compromising security and service standards. Key demands include NPS reforms, pension updates, inter-circle transfers for employees appointed since 2019, and an end to the forced sale of third-party products. Vice President Giridhar further called for the revival of career progression schemes and the appointment of a workmen director to the bank board. Warning that the deterioration of the public sector banking system is imminent, the federation urged management to act swiftly to prevent nationwide service disruptions.



Intermediate Supplementary Exams to Be Conducted in Strict Vigilance: JC Vidadhari

Visakhapatnam, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidadhari has directed officials to ensure the smooth and error-free conduct of the Intermediate Advanced Supplementary Examinations scheduled from May 21 to June 2 in the district. During a coordination review meeting held on Friday, she said that a total of 60 examination centres have been set up for first and second-year Intermediate public theory and practical examinations. First-year exams will be conducted from 9 AM to 12 noon, while second-year exams will be held from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. She in-

structed officials to ensure all basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, lighting, furniture, and sanitation are available at every centre. She stressed that students should not face any inconvenience during examinations. The JC made it clear that mobile phones, smartwatches, and other electronic gadgets will not be allowed inside exam centres. She also ordered strict police bandobust, implementation of Section 144, and closure of Xerox centres within 200 meters. Medical and RTC officials were instructed to provide emergency services and transport facilities for students.

State Fully Prepared for Kharif Season, Says Atchannaaidu

Amaravati, May 8 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu on Thursday said the Andhra Pradesh government has made comprehensive arrangements to ensure a smooth and productive Kharif-2026 season by guaranteeing adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation water to farmers across the State.

The Minister stated that the Agriculture Department has prepared an extensive action plan to support farmers and prevent shortages during the cropping season. He announced that 7.46 lakh quintals of quality seeds would be supplied on subsidy through the State Seed Development Corporation with an allocation of 294 crore. In addition, 93,000 quintals of green manure seeds would be distributed with a 50 per cent subsidy, while 2.20 lakh quintals of groundnut seeds would be supplied at a 40 per cent subsidy.

Atchannaaidu said paddy seed distribution would begin from May 15 through Rythu Seva Kendras, while seeds for pulses, millets, and other crops



would be distributed from June 15. He emphasized that all seeds undergo strict quality testing before distribution.

Assuring farmers that there would be no fertilizer shortage, the Minister said the State currently has 7.77 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizer stocks, including urea, DAP, potash, and complex fertilizers. He warned that strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to create artificial shortages or sell fertilizers at inflated prices.

The Minister also said irri-

gation water release would commence in phases from May 15 after reviewing reservoir storage levels and canal preparedness. Canal repair, desilting, and maintenance works are progressing rapidly in major irrigation systems, including the Godavari and Krishna deltas.

Atchannaaidu said the coalition government was committed to providing complete support to farmers through coordinated efforts by the Agriculture and Irrigation Departments.

Land Pooling Offers Better Benefits to Farmers: APCRDA Chief

Amaravati, May 8 | TPN Bureau

APCRDA Commissioner V. Vijayarajarama Raju on Friday called upon farmers in the capital region to actively participate in the development of Amaravati by opting for the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS), stating that it offers better benefits than direct land acquisition.

Addressing Gram Sabhas organised by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) at Lingayapalem and Uddandarayunipalem villages in Thullur mandal, the Commissioner

held discussions with farmers on issues relating to land pooling and Gramakantham lands.

Mr. Vijayarajarama Raju clarified that although land acquisition notifications had been issued for road construction and development works in LPS zones, farmers still had the opportunity to voluntarily join the Land Pooling Scheme. He urged them to make use of the scheme to secure long-term benefits.

Responding to concerns raised by villagers regarding Gramakantham lands, the Commissioner assured that the APCRDA was preparing a

comprehensive action plan to resolve pending issues and provide permanent solutions at the earliest.

He also informed farmers that the process of releasing annual lease payments for the 12th year was under way and advised beneficiaries to complete Aadhaar seeding and registration formalities for returnable plots without delay.

APCRDA Additional Commissioner A. Bhargava Teja, Guntur Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava, and other officials participated in the meetings.

BJP Expanding Rapidly Across South India, Says AP Chief Madhav

Vijayawada, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh BJP president P.V.N. Madhav on Friday said the BJP is rapidly expanding its footprint across southern states and expressed confidence that the party would soon emerge as a major political force in Kerala as well. Addressing a meeting of BJP state office-bearers at the party's state headquarters in Vijayawada, Madhav said the BJP's victory in West Bengal marked a "historic political milestone" and reflected growing public trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Union minister Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, MP Daggubati Purandeswari, Rajya Sabha member Paka Satyanarayana, MLAs and senior party leaders attended the meeting. Madhav alleged that West Bengal had witnessed political vio-

lence and instability under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, but asserted that people had now voted for development. He said the BJP had also strengthened its position in Puducherry, Assam and Tamil Nadu, while making significant gains in Kerala. The BJP leader said Prime Minister Modi would soon address a major public meeting in Telangana and discuss several key national issues. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh-related developments, Madhav credited the BJP-led Centre for granting permanent status to Amaravati and establishing the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone, which he said would become fully operational from June 1. The party also resolved to hold monthly meetings for Shakti Kendras, mandal and district committees to strengthen grassroots coordination.

Chirala Rural Police Conduct Awareness Meet on Women Safety

Chirala Rural, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Police conducted an awareness programme at a belt factory in Totavaripalem under Chirala Rural Police Station limits, focusing on women's safety and cyber security. The session was organised as per the directions of Bapatla District SP B. Uma Maheswar and under the guidance of Chirala DSP M.D. Moin. Rural CI led the programme, where members of the Shakti Team educated women workers on safety measures and social awareness. Officials explained the importance of the government's 'Shakti App', stating

that it acts as an instant safety tool during emergencies. Women were encouraged to install the app on their mobile phones and approach police without hesitation in case of any threat or harassment. Police also educated participants on cybercrime prevention, POCSO Act provisions, and the ill effects of child marriages. They urged workers to remain vigilant in daily life and follow traffic rules under the "Helmet for Protection" campaign to ensure road safety. Officials reiterated that women and child safety remains the top priority of the police department.

AP Waqf Board's 'Taleem-e-Hunar' Programme Gets Huge Response

Vijayawada, May 8 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz on Thursday said the "Taleem-e-Hunar" programme, launched to provide free residential corporate education and competitive exam coaching to underprivileged Muslim students, has received an overwhelming response across the State.

Addressing the media, Mr. Aziz said more than 3,000 applications had been received within just three days of the programme's launch. He described the initiative as the first of its kind in the country to be implemented under the aegis of a State Waqf Board. The programme aims to pro-

vide free Intermediate education along with coaching for IIT-JEE, NEET, and EAMCET examinations to talented Muslim students from economically weaker sections. Mr. Aziz said 250 students would be selected purely on merit through a statewide talent test for the 2026-27 academic year. He added that 33 per cent reservation had been earmarked for girl students. The programme is being implemented in line with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision that poverty should not become a barrier to education, he said.

He urged eligible students to apply online before May 12, the last date for submission of applications.



Three New BC Hostels Sanctioned for Penukonda Constituency

Penukonda, May 8 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government has sanctioned three new Backward Classes (BC) hostels in the Penukonda constituency of Sri Sathya Sai district to improve access to higher education for students from economically weaker sections.

State BC Welfare Minister S. Savitha said the hostels would begin functioning from the upcoming academic year in Parigi, Roddam, and Somandepalli

mandals. Two girls' hostels will be established in Parigi and Roddam, while a boys' hostel will be set up in Somandepalli.

The Minister said the initiative was aimed at reducing dropout rates among BC students, particularly children of poor and migrant labourer families, by providing residential educational facilities along with food and health security.

Officials of the BC Welfare Department have initiated



measures for student admissions and the appointment of

Hostel Welfare Officers (HWOs). District authorities

are also coordinating with Mandal Education Officers and school headmasters to identify eligible students for admission.

Ms. Savitha said the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was giving priority to BC education by strengthening hostels and residential schools with better infrastructure, nutritious food, purified drinking water, sanitation facilities, and academic support.

New Dawn in Bengal

"Hey nuton, dekha dik aarbaar, jonmero prothomo shubhokshon" — O new one, reveal yourself once more in the auspicious first moment of birth.

Rabindranath Tagore wrote these words as an invocation — a prayer to Bengal's ever-renewing spirit. Sung on his birth anniversary, they celebrate renewal and awakening. Gurudev understood that Bengal does not merely change; it is continually reborn.

It is a happy coincidence that just days before his 165th birth anniversary, West Bengal has witnessed a historic political shift. On May 4, the Bharatiya Janata Party secured a landmark victory in the Assembly elections. For the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this was not merely an electoral contest, but an opportunity to restore the lost glory of a great civilisation.

This moment calls for reflection beyond political debate. What is Bengal, and what does it mean to restore her? To understand her present, one must turn to her deeper past, a history shaped by spirituality, reform, and intellectual awakening.

In the 15th century, on the banks of the Ganga in Nabadwip, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu led a devotional movement that transcended caste and social divisions. His kirtans became a form of social reform, embracing all sections of society. The Vaishnavism he inspired shaped Bengal's spiritual character — inclusive, joyful, and humane.

This spirit later found expression in the Baul tradition, embodied by Lalan Fakir, whose songs transcended religious boundaries and celebrated the "man of the heart." This syncretic identity remains central to Bengal's cultural ethos.

In the modern era, Bengal anchored India's intellectual and social awakening. Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought against regressive practices like sati, while Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar championed education and women's empowerment. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay gave the nation Vande Mataram, a song that inspired generations of freedom fighters. Trailblazers like Kadambini Ganguly paved the way



for women's progress, while Syama Prasad Mukherjee dedicated his life to national unity.

Among these towering figures, Swami Vivekananda stands as one of the most influential voices. His 1893 address at the World's Parliament of Religions introduced India's spiritual heritage to the world and called for harmony among faiths. At home, he urged strength, service, and compassion — reminding society that true spirituality lies in uplifting the poor and empowering the nation.

This is Bengal's legacy, a land of spirituality, reform, and intellectual brilliance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi envisions a Bengal that reawakens this civilisational strength, not by looking backwards alone, but by realising its full potential in the present.

For decades, sections of Bengal's intellectual and political discourse distanced themselves from this rich heritage. The result, it is argued, was a phase of stagnation, institutional decline, and the weakening of cultural confidence. The recent electoral verdict, therefore, represents more than a political outcome; it reflects a renewed aspiration to reconnect with Bengal's roots.

For Prime Minister Modi, this is not a pursuit of power but a larger mission of service, a 'yajna' to restore Bengal's dignity and dynamism. His association with Belur Math and reverence for Swami Vive-

kananda reflect a philosophy where governance is seen as 'seva', service to the people.

Restoring Bengal means building modern infrastructure while preserving its spiritual heritage. It means strengthening education in the land that once led India intellectually. It means empowering tribal communities and addressing the aspirations of people in hilly regions who have long sought equitable development. "Hey nuton" — O new one — this is the call for renewal. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and with the blessings of the people, this moment represents an opportunity for Bengal to move forward with confidence. For a time, it seemed that Bengal's finest days lay in the past. Today, there is renewed hope that the state stands at the threshold of a vibrant future — one defined by prosperity, peace, and a rediscovery of its enduring civilisational spirit.



Rajnath Singh
Union Minister of Defence

Andhra Pradesh Sees Sharp Rise in Human Trafficking Cases

NCRB - 2024 Data Reveals Growing Challenge

Human trafficking continues to be one of the gravest human rights challenges confronting India, with vulnerable women, children, and economically marginalised communities increasingly targeted by exploitation networks operating across states. The latest NCRB Crime in India 2024 data presents a disturbing picture for Andhra Pradesh, which has emerged as one of the country's major trafficking-affected states.

According to the NCRB Human Trafficking chapter for 2024, Andhra Pradesh recorded 159 trafficking cases, placing it third after Telangana and Maharashtra. The state accounted for about 7.45 per cent of all cases nationwide. With a trafficking crime rate of 0.3 per lakh population against the national average of 0.2, the data signals a serious and expanding law-and-order concern.

A comparison between 2023 and 2024 shows a sharp rise in trafficking-related crimes. Cases increased from 120 in 2023 to 159 in 2024, marking a 32.5 per cent rise. Experts attribute this to both the expansion of trafficking networks and improved detection and reporting by law enforcement. Increased awareness, stronger intervention by Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), and intensified policing may also have contributed to higher case registration.

The number of victims identified rose significantly from 209 in 2023 to 313 in 2024. Adult victims formed the largest share, with women emerging as the most vulnerable group. At the same time, the rise in minor victims highlights that children remain at serious risk despite ongoing awareness efforts. The data suggests that organised trafficking networks are increasingly targeting women and girls for commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse.

Commercial sexual exploitation continues to dominate as the primary purpose of trafficking in the state. Cases linked to sexual exploitation rose from 149 in 2023 to 279 in 2024, reflecting the growing influence of organised rackets. Forced labour, which had no



recorded cases in 2023, emerged as a concern in 2024 with 22 victims. Meanwhile, cases related to forced marriages and begging declined. These shifts indicate that trafficking networks are adapting to economic and social vulnerabilities.

Rescue operations by police and AHTUs improved during 2024. The number of rescued victims increased from 201 in 2023 to 314 in 2024, nearly matching the total number of identified victims. Officials view this as evidence of stronger rescue and recovery efforts. However, activists caution that rising rescues also point to larger trafficking operations functioning within and across state borders.

Cases under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA) also rose sharply. Andhra Pradesh recorded 119 ITPA cases in 2024 compared to 68 in 2023, while rescued victims under the Act nearly doubled from 84 to 165. This reflects stronger enforcement against prostitution-linked trafficking networks and increased activity by specialised anti-trafficking units.

Despite improved enforcement, judicial outcomes reveal serious systemic weaknesses. Arrests remained largely unchanged, with 623 persons arrested in 2023 and 624 in 2024. Convictions rose only marginally from eight to twelve, while acquittals and discharges re-

mained high, pointing to gaps in investigation quality, evidence collection, prosecution support, and witness protection.

The most concerning trend is the sharp fall in conviction rates. Although police achieved a 100 per cent charge-sheeting rate in 2024, the conviction rate dropped drastically from 20.3 per cent in 2023 to just 2.4 per cent in 2024. Experts attribute this to delays in trials, hostile witnesses, weak inter-agency coordination, and inadequate survivor protection, all of which undermine successful prosecution.

At the national level, the Ministry of Home Affairs has emphasised strengthening AHTUs, improving inter-state coordination, and enhancing technology-driven policing. Across India, 819 Anti Human Trafficking Units are operational, supported by funding mechanisms such as the Nirbhaya Fund to improve infrastructure and response systems.

However, civil society organisations stress that institutional mechanisms alone are insufficient without effective implementation. Trafficking cases often span multiple districts and states, requiring coordination among police, welfare departments, legal services authorities, and rehabilitation agencies. Persistent challenges in survivor commu-

nication, documentation, and long-term rehabilitation continue to weaken justice outcomes.

The Andhra Pradesh data thus presents a mixed picture. While improved detection, rescue efforts, and enforcement indicate growing institutional attention, rising victim numbers, expanding exploitation networks, and falling conviction rates show that trafficking remains deeply entrenched.

The data underscores the urgent need for stronger investigations, survivor-centred protection systems, faster judicial processes, better institutional coordination, and sustained community-level prevention. Without addressing these systemic gaps, anti-trafficking efforts risk remaining focused on rescue operations while falling short of ensuring long-term justice and accountability for survivors.



Ram Mohan Nimmaraju
Secretary - HELP organisation

Balancing Crisis and Calm in Uncertain Times

India Manages Turbulent West Asia Tensions

Amid the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia, India has moved swiftly to reassure citizens, stabilize essential supplies, and safeguard its strategic interests. A high-level media briefing at the National Media Centre brought together key ministries to present a coordinated response spanning energy security, maritime safety, and the welfare of Indian nationals abroad. The message is clear: preparedness, coordination, and public cooperation are critical in navigating uncertainty.

At the forefront of concern is energy security. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has emphasised that there is no immediate shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG. Citizens have been urged to avoid panic buying and rely on official communication. This advisory is significant, as artificial demand spikes can strain even well-managed supply systems. Encouraging the use of digital LPG booking, alternate fuels such as PNG and electric cooktops, and general energy conservation reflects a proactive demand-side strategy.

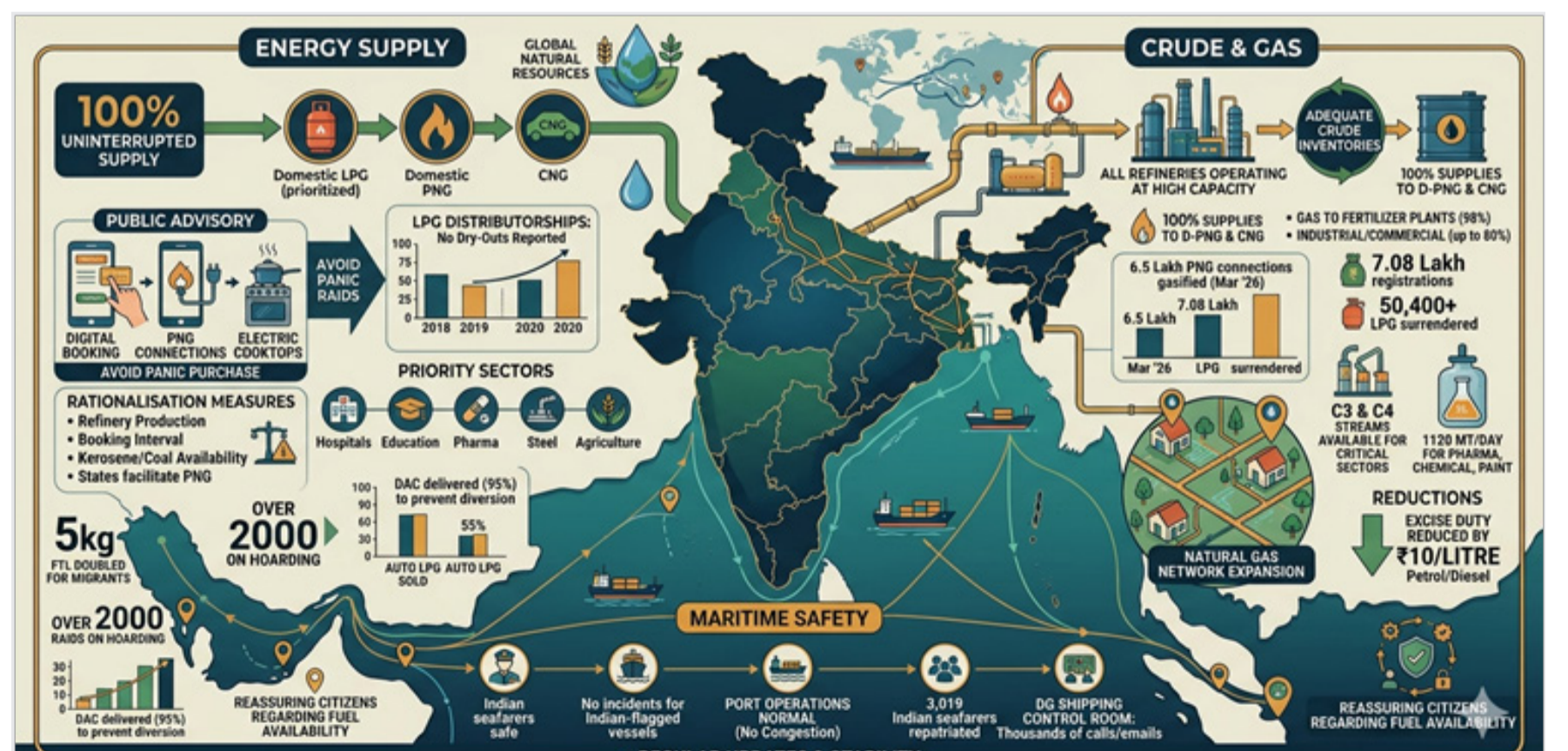
On the supply front, the government has ensured the uninterrupted delivery of domestic LPG, PNG, and CNG. Commercial LPG distribution has been rationalised, prioritising hospitals, educational institutions, and key industrial sectors such as pharma and agriculture. Notably, the supply of 5 kg free trade LPG cylinders to migrant labourers has been doubled, reflecting sensitivity to vulnerable sections. Additional measures, in-

cluding increased refinery output, extended booking intervals, and availability of kerosene and coal, underscore the government's multi-pronged approach to managing fuel demand.

Equally important is the role of states. Empowered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and LPG Control Order, state governments are responsible for monitoring supply and curbing hoarding and black marketing. The Centre has reinforced this through regular reviews, urging states to maintain daily briefings, intensify enforcement drives, and counter misinformation. The scale of action is evident—over 2,000 raids conducted nationwide in a single day and penalties imposed on hundreds of LPG distributorships highlight a robust enforcement mechanism.

The LPG supply chain, though impacted by global conditions, remains stable. Domestic supply has been prioritized, with no reported dry-outs and a near-total shift to digital bookings. Delivery authentication systems have been strengthened to prevent diversion. Commercial LPG availability has been restored to about 70 per cent of pre-crisis levels, supported by targeted allocation and awareness campaigns. These measures indicate that while constraints exist, the system is adapting effectively.

In parallel, the government is accelerating the transition to natural gas. City Gas Distribution networks are being expanded, with companies offering incentives for PNG connections. Policy interven-



tions, including streamlined approvals and infrastructure expansion under new regulatory frameworks, aim to reduce dependence on LPG in the long term. The push for a gas-based economy is not merely a crisis response but a strategic shift toward cleaner and more resilient energy systems.

Beyond domestic concerns, maritime safety remains a critical priority. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has confirmed that Indian vessels and seafarers in the Persian Gulf remain safe, with no incidents reported in recent

days. Continuous coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs and global stakeholders has ensured operational continuity. The repatriation of over 3,000 Indian seafarers reflects both preparedness and responsiveness.

The welfare of Indian nationals in the region is another key pillar of the government's response. Diplomatic outreach has been extensive, with high-level visits and continuous engagement with countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. Special control rooms, 24/7 hel-

plines, and active embassy coordination have ensured that citizens receive timely assistance. The facilitation of over 2,500 Indians exiting Iran amid partial airspace closures demonstrates the government's commitment to citizen safety.

Air connectivity, a vital link in crisis management, is gradually stabilising. While some airspaces remain partially operational, flights continue from major Gulf hubs, ensuring mobility for Indian nationals. Regular advisories and coordination with airlines have helped maintain clarity and

prevent confusion among travellers.

Taken together, these developments reveal a comprehensive and calibrated response. The government's strategy balances immediate crisis management with long-term structural adjustments, particularly in energy and infrastructure. However, the success of these efforts depends equally on public cooperation and institutional efficiency at the state level.

This moment serves as a reminder that global crises demand domestic resilience. India's ability to maintain supply

chains, protect its citizens, and adapt its policies in real time reflects growing administrative maturity. Yet, vigilance remains essential. Sustained coordination, transparent communication, and continued reforms will determine how effectively the country navigates the uncertainties ahead.

In times of global instability, calm governance backed by decisive action becomes the strongest assurance a nation can offer its people.

WHO Warns of More Hantavirus Cases Amid Cruise Outbreak

The World Health Organization has warned that more cases of hantavirus could emerge following a deadly outbreak linked to a cruise ship, even as it stressed that the spread is likely to remain limited with proper precautions.

The alert comes after three passengers aboard the vessel MV Hondius died due to the rare virus. Another infected passenger was flown to Europe on Thursday as the ship continued its journey towards the Canary Islands, prompting health authorities across multiple countries to intensify monitoring efforts.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that five confirmed and three suspected cases have been identified so far. He added that while the situation is serious, the virus is far less contagious than COVID-19, reducing the likelihood of a widespread global outbreak.

The outbreak has triggered concern after a Dutch couple, who had travelled across South America before boarding the ship in Ushuaia, Argentina, became the first fatalities. Health authorities in Argentina said they are yet to determine the origin of the infection, with investigations ongoing across provinces.

Cases linked to the ship have been reported in countries including United Kingdom, Ger-



many, Netherlands, Switzerland and South Africa, where affected individuals are either receiving treatment or isolating.

Hantavirus is a rare disease typically transmitted through infected rodents and can cause severe respiratory illness, cardiac complications, and haemorrhagic fever. There is currently no vaccine or specific cure. Officials believe one infected passenger may have contracted the virus before boarding and subsequently transmitted it to others during the voyage.

Authorities in Argentina are planning to test rodent populations in Ushuaia, from where the ship departed on April 1.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway to trace passengers and crew who may have been exposed, including those who disembarked earlier in the journey at Saint Helena.

Despite the fatalities, officials have sought to reassure the public. The government of Saint Helena said the majority of its population faces an "extremely low risk" of infection, as most residents had no direct contact with those on board.

The WHO has urged countries to maintain vigilance, strengthen surveillance, and ensure timely isolation of suspected cases to prevent further spread, while emphasising that the outbreak remains contained for now.

US Court Strikes Down Trump's Global Tariffs

In a significant legal setback, the United States Court of International Trade has struck down former President Donald Trump's 10% global tariffs, ruling them "invalid" and not authorised under existing law.

The judicial panel held that the administration failed to provide adequate legal justification for imposing the levies under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. The provision allows the President to impose temporary tariffs of up to 15% for 150 days without Congressional approval, but only in cases of serious balance-of-payments difficulties.

The tariffs, imposed on February 20, 2026, came shortly after the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated a separate set of reciprocal tariffs. However, the trade court ruled that Section 122 could not be used to justify broad-based duties aimed at reducing trade deficits, as such measures fall outside its intended scope.

While the ruling offers relief to certain importers and exporters, its impact remains



limited. The court clarified that the decision applies only to the parties involved in the case, including the state of Washington and select businesses. As a result, the tariffs will continue to apply to other importers while the US government pursues an appeal.

Legal experts noted that the court refrained from issuing a nationwide injunction, instead

restricting relief to the litigants. This approach is often adopted in sensitive cases involving executive authority.

With both the reciprocal tariffs and the Section 122 tariffs now struck down, the US tariff regime is expected to revert largely to its earlier structure based on World Trade Organization norms and Most-Favoured-Nation rates. However,

uncertainty over US trade policy persists.

Analysts believe the administration may now rely more heavily on targeted measures such as Section 301 investigations and Section 232 national security tariffs. These tools could be deployed in key sectors including steel, semiconductors, automobiles, pharmaceuticals and critical minerals.

The ruling has also triggered caution among global trade partners. Some countries are reassessing their trade negotiations with the US, citing policy instability. Experts have advised India to adopt a wait-and-watch approach before finalising any bilateral trade agreement with Washington, given the evolving legal landscape and repeated judicial interventions in US tariff policies.

Despite the relief offered by the ruling, uncertainty continues to loom over global trade, with businesses and governments closely monitoring the outcome of the appeal and the future direction of US trade measures.

Iran Reviews US Messages Routed via Pakistan

Iran is reviewing diplomatic messages conveyed by the United States through Pakistan, with no decision taken yet, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Friday.

Baghaei confirmed that multiple communications have been received via Islamabad and are currently under examination by Iranian authorities. He said Tehran will respond only after a comprehensive assessment of the contents and broader geopolitical implications. The indirect exchange comes amid continued tensions between Iran and the United States, with both sides avoiding direct engagement. Pakistan has emerged as a key interme-

diary, facilitating backchannel communication at a sensitive time in regional diplomacy. Iranian officials indicated that the messages are being evaluated in the context of larger strategic concerns, including sanctions relief, regional stability, and security assurances. The leadership is also assessing the credibility and intent behind Washington's outreach before taking a formal position. "There is no deadline for a response," Baghaei said, underlining Tehran's cautious and calculated approach. He added that any decision would be guided by national interests and evolving regional dynamics. The development sig-

nals that while formal negotiations remain stalled, diplomatic channels have not been entirely closed. Analysts say such indirect exchanges often serve as precursors to potential dialogue, though outcomes remain uncertain. Observers believe Iran's measured response reflects its wariness of past engagements and shifting policy signals from Washington. The government is expected to continue internal consultations before making any move. With geopolitical tensions still high, the outcome of these communications could influence the trajectory of relations between the two countries and impact broader regional stability.

A new report has suggested that Russia may be exploring ways to significantly enhance Iran's military capabilities in its ongoing tensions with the United States, particularly through advanced drone technology.

According to the report, the plan linked to the government of Vladimir Putin involves supplying thousands of short-range fibre-optic drones along with longer-range satellite-guided drones. These systems are considered highly advanced, especially because fibre-optic drones cannot be jammed using conventional electronic warfare methods and can deliver precise strikes over distances exceeding 40 km.

The proposal is said to have been prepared by the GRU, Russia's military intelligence wing. It reportedly includes training programmes for Iranian personnel to operate these systems effectively, suggesting a deeper level of military cooperation between the two countries.

Experts believe such technology could significantly improve Iran's battlefield capabilities. Fibre-optic drones, already used by Russia in conflicts like Ukraine, provide high-quality real-time visuals and avoid detection by not emitting radio signals. This makes them difficult to counter and highly effective in tar-



geted operations.

The report also mentions the possibility of Russia offering satellite-guided drones equipped with communication systems similar to those developed by Elon Musk's Starlink network, although access to such systems has previously been restricted in conflict zones like Ukraine.

Additionally, the plan is said to include recruitment and training of drone operators, potentially drawing from Iranian students in Russian uni-

versities and other groups with linguistic and regional familiarity. Each candidate would reportedly undergo strict screening.

While there is no confirmation that the proposal has been implemented, analysts say it aligns with growing strategic ties between Moscow and Tehran. Reports of similar drone technologies appearing in conflict zones such as Lebanon used by groups like Hezbollah have further raised questions about the spread of such sys-

tems. The development, if confirmed, could mark a significant escalation in the region, potentially increasing risks for US and allied forces.

However, officials caution that much of the information remains unverified, and the full extent of cooperation between Russia and Iran is still unclear. The situation underscores the evolving nature of modern warfare, where advanced drone systems and indirect alliances are playing an increasingly decisive role.

2 Indians Among Crew on Hantavirus-Hit Cruise, Status Unclear

At least two Indian nationals are among the crew aboard the MV Hondius, where a hantavirus outbreak has led to multiple infections and deaths, raising global health concerns.

According to reports, the Dutch-operated vessel had around 150 passengers and crew from 28 countries on board. Among them were two Indians, whose health status remains unclear as authorities continue to monitor the situation. The ship is operated by Oceanwide Expeditions and began its voyage from Ushuaia in Argentina on April 1. It is scheduled to reach the Canary Islands on May 10. The World Health Organization has confirmed five cases of

Hantavirus out of eight suspected infections, with three fatalities reported so far. Among the deceased are a Dutch couple and a German national. Investigations are ongoing to determine the source and spread of the outbreak. Health officials said dozens of passengers disembarked earlier at Saint Helena, prompting a large-scale contact tracing effort across multiple countries. Individuals who left the vessel are now being tracked and monitored by authorities across four continents. Experts have clarified that the outbreak does not indicate a pandemic. Maria Van Kerkhove noted that the virus spreads primarily through close and intimate contact,

unlike highly contagious diseases such as COVID-19 or influenza.

Passengers and crew on board have been advised to follow strict safety measures, including wearing masks and using enhanced protective equipment while caring for suspected cases. The WHO also noted that while hantavirus is typically transmitted through rodents, limited human-to-human transmission has been observed in this outbreak.

Authorities worldwide are continuing surveillance and containment efforts as the vessel proceeds toward its destination, with health agencies remaining on alert to prevent further spread.



Russia Declares Ceasefire for WWII Victory Anniversary

Russia has announced a temporary ceasefire in its ongoing conflict with Ukraine to mark the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.

The ceasefire, declared by the Russian Defence Ministry, will be in effect from midnight on May 8 until May 10. The announcement coincides with the 81st anniversary of what Russia refers to as the "Great Patriotic War," commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany.

President Vladimir Putin had earlier indicated that a two-day ceasefire would be observed during the commemorative period. The move is being seen as symbolic, aligning with national celebrations and remembrance events across Russia.

According to the defence

ministry, Russian forces will suspend military operations during this period. The announcement was made via official communication channels, emphasising that the pause in hostilities is intended to honour the historic occasion. However, there has been no immediate confirmation from Ukrainian authorities regarding their response to the ceasefire declaration. Past instances of temporary truces have seen both sides accusing each other of violations, raising questions about how effectively the ceasefire will hold on the ground. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has continued for over two years, with intense fighting reported across several regions. While short-term ceasefires have occasionally been declared, they have rarely resulted in



World War II take place across Russia, attention will remain on whether the ceasefire leads

to any meaningful pause in hostilities or remains largely ceremonial.

Markets Slide as Geopolitical Jitters Drag Sensex Down 516 Points

Indian equity benchmarks ended sharply lower on Friday, with the BSE Sensex plunging 516 points and the Nifty 50 settling at 24,176, as renewed tensions between the United States and Iran rattled investor sentiment. Banking and financial stocks bore the brunt of the selling pressure, dragging the broader markets into negative territory.

The session remained volatile throughout the day, mirroring cautious global cues. Investors turned risk-averse amid escalating geopolitical concerns, prompting profit booking in rate-sensitive sectors. Market participants also remained wary of potential disruptions in crude oil supplies, which could have infla-

tionary implications for emerging economies like India.

Despite Friday's decline, the Nifty managed to post a modest weekly gain of about 0.74 per cent, marking its second consecutive week of advances. However, analysts noted that the broader trend remains range-bound, with the index struggling to gain strong upward momentum.

Technically, the Nifty continues to hover within a narrow band, forming small-bodied candles on daily charts, an indication of indecision among traders. The index has established a higher base near the 23,800 level, where buying interest has consistently emerged during dips.

This suggests that underlying sentiment remains cautiously optimistic, even as upside momentum appears limited.

On the higher side, the 24,500-24,600 zone is acting as a strong resistance band. This level aligns with key technical indicators, including the 61.8 per cent retracement of the recent decline from the 26,000 peak, as well as the 89-day exponential moving average. Analysts believe a decisive breakout above this range is essential to trigger a sustained rally towards the 25,000-25,100 levels.

Momentum indicators offer mixed signals. The Relative Strength Index (RSI) has been hovering near the 60 mark, indicating moderate strength

but lacking a clear bullish trigger. A sustained move above this level could reinforce upward momentum, while failure to do so may keep the index confined within its current range.

In the near term, key support for the Nifty is placed between 24,000 and 23,900, while immediate resistance is seen in the 24,350-24,500 zone. Market experts advise investors to adopt a cautious approach, suggesting that dips may continue to offer selective buying opportunities until a clear breakout emerges.

With geopolitical developments likely to remain in focus, analysts expect markets to stay volatile in the coming sessions.



West Asia Conflict Tests Wall Street's Deep Ties to Middle East Capital

Renewed geopolitical tensions in West Asia are emerging as a critical stress test for major global financial institutions, exposing Wall Street's growing dependence on capital flows and business opportunities from the Middle East.

Leading US banks and asset managers have significantly expanded their footprint in the Gulf region in recent years, drawn by sovereign wealth funds and large-scale investment mandates. However, the escalating conflict involving the United States and Iran is now threatening to disrupt these financial ties.

Wall Street firms have increasingly relied on Middle Eastern investors for capital raising, deal-making, and asset management mandates. Sovereign wealth funds from countries such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE have become key clients, deploying billions of dollars into global markets. This growing exposure has made US financial institutions more vulnerable to geopolitical instability in the region.

The renewed tensions have heightened concerns over capital flows, deal pipelines, and investment commitments. Any escalation could delay or derail major transactions, particularly in sectors such as infrastructure, technology, and energy, where Gulf investors have been actively expanding their global presence.



The broader market implications are equally significant. Geopolitical risks in West Asia have historically triggered volatility in global equities, driven largely by fluctuations in crude oil prices and investor risk sentiment. Analysts warn that disruptions in critical supply routes such as the Strait of Hormuz could push oil prices higher, fueling inflation and tightening financial conditions worldwide.

For Wall Street, the challenge lies in balancing long-term strategic partnerships with short-term geopolitical uncertainties. While the Middle East remains a vital source of capital and growth, persistent instability could force firms to reassess risk exposure

and diversify their funding sources.

Experts note that financial markets tend to react sharply to geopolitical shocks but often stabilise over time as clarity emerges. However, the current situation remains fluid, with no clear timeline for de-escalation. As a result, global financial institutions are expected to adopt a cautious approach, closely monitoring developments while safeguarding their investments.

The unfolding crisis underscores a broader reality: as global finance becomes increasingly interconnected, geopolitical fault lines are playing a more decisive role in shaping market dynamics and institutional strategies.

Nippon India, HDFC MF Lead Surge in Investor Accounts in FY26

Nippon India Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund emerged as the frontrunners in adding new investor accounts in FY26, highlighting strong retail participation and a growing preference for established fund houses.

Data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India showed that four fund houses, including ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and Tata Mutual Fund, together accounted for more than half of the total mutual fund folio additions during the financial year.

The industry added nearly 46.8 million new folios in FY26, with these four players contributing about 24 million accounts, representing roughly 51 per cent of the total additions. The concentration reflects investor preference for large, well-established asset managers with strong distribution networks and consistent performance across equity and passive investment products.

A key driver behind this surge has been robust equity market performance, coupled with rising financial awareness and increasing adoption of systematic investment plans. Digital platforms and wider distribution reach have also played a crucial role in expanding investor participation beyond metro cities.

Exchange-traded funds linked to precious metals witnessed notable traction during the year. Gold and silver ETFs attracted strong inflows as investors looked to benefit from rising bullion prices. Passive



investment options, particularly low-cost ETFs and index funds, continued to gain popularity among retail investors seeking diversified exposure.

Among the standout performers, Tata Mutual Fund recorded one of the fastest growth rates in folios, driven by demand for its commodity-linked ETF offerings and fund-of-funds products. Meanwhile, Nippon India Mutual Fund strengthened its position in the passive investment segment, particularly in precious metals

funds.

Other asset managers such as Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund, SBI Mutual Fund, Bandhan Mutual Fund, and PPFAS Mutual Fund also reported significant additions, each contributing over two million new accounts during the year. However, a few players saw a decline in folio counts amid intensifying competition and shifting investor preferences.

Market experts note that while folio growth reflects expanding retail participation, it

does not fully capture the industry's financial performance. A comprehensive assessment requires analysing net inflows and assets under management alongside folio data. The steady rise in mutual fund accounts underscores deepening financial inclusion and growing investor confidence in capital markets. As participation widens, fund houses are expected to focus on innovation, digital outreach, and investor education to sustain growth momentum.

AirAsia Places Mega \$19 Billion Order for 150 Airbus A220-300 Aircraft

Low-cost carrier AirAsia has placed a landmark order for 150 Airbus A220-300 aircraft, marking one of the largest deals ever for the fuel-efficient narrow-body jet. The agreement, valued at approximately \$19 billion (around 1.79 lakh crore), was announced at Airbus's manufacturing facility in Mirabel, Quebec, Canada, in the presence of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The order represents the biggest single commitment for the A220 programme to date and underscores growing airline demand for more fuel-efficient and cost-effective aircraft amid rising global energy prices and operational expenses. The aircraft are designed to significantly reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, making them an attractive option for airlines navigating volatile fuel markets.

AirAsia said the decision to

expand its fleet with A220-300 aircraft is driven by the need to manage increasing fuel costs and operational pressures, especially in the wake of geopolitical tensions that have pushed up global energy prices. The aircraft, with a seating capacity of around 160 passengers, are also considered economically viable even on routes with moderate passenger demand.

The airline plans to deploy the A220 fleet across short to medium-haul routes in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. According to AirAsia co-founder and advisor Tony Fernandes, the carrier will continue to operate Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft for medium-range routes, while A330 aircraft will be used for long-haul destinations including Europe, Australia and North America. Deliveries of the newly or-

dered aircraft are scheduled to begin in 2028, allowing AirAsia to gradually modernise its fleet over the coming years. The airline also indicated flexibility in expanding the order further, with provisions to scale up to as many as 300 aircraft depending on future growth and demand conditions.

The deal is also a significant milestone for Airbus, as the total orders for the A220 programme have now crossed the 1,000-unit mark. As of March 2026, Airbus has already delivered 501 A220 aircraft to 25 airlines worldwide, reflecting strong global adoption of the model.

Industry analysts view the order as part of a broader trend among global carriers prioritising fuel efficiency, lower emissions, and operational flexibility in response to persistent volatility in global energy markets.



Oil Companies Suffer 30,000 Crore Monthly Loss as Fuel Prices Remain Frozen Amid Global Oil Surge

India's state-run oil marketing companies are reportedly facing severe financial stress, with estimated monthly losses of around 30,000 crore, as retail fuel prices remain unchanged despite a sharp rise in global crude oil prices. The continuing mismatch between international oil costs and domestic pump prices has significantly widened under-recoveries for public sector refiners.

Companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd are bearing the brunt of the price freeze, which has been in place since 2022. While global crude prices have fluctuated sharply due to geopolitical tensions and supply uncertainties, domestic petrol and diesel prices have largely stayed static, forcing oil firms to absorb the additional cost burden.

Industry sources indicate that the daily losses being incurred by oil marketing companies have reached unsustainable levels, translating into billions of rupees in revenue leakage each month. The gap between procurement cost and selling price has expanded further as crude oil benchmarks remain elevated in global markets, driven by instability in key producing regions.



Although fuel prices in India are technically market-linked, they have remained effectively frozen in recent years as part of efforts to shield consumers from inflationary pressures. However, this policy has transferred the financial strain to state-owned oil companies, which are now struggling to maintain profitability and manage cash flows.

The rising under-recoveries are also impacting investment plans in the energy sector. Analysts warn that prolonged financial stress could delay capi-

tal expenditure on refinery upgrades, exploration activities and cleaner fuel transition projects. The pressure is particularly significant as oil companies are simultaneously required to invest in long-term energy transition goals.

At the same time, policymakers face a difficult balancing act. While keeping fuel prices stable has helped contain inflation and supported household budgets, it has also created structural financial stress within the energy distribution system. Any immediate correc-

tion in prices, however, carries the risk of increasing inflationary pressure across sectors such as transport, agriculture and logistics. With global oil markets expected to remain volatile due to ongoing geopolitical developments and supply-side uncertainties, the financial strain on India's oil marketing companies is unlikely to ease in the near term. The situation underscores the growing challenge of aligning consumer protection with the financial health of key public sector energy firms.

Tech Giants Flag Privacy Risks in Canada's Encryption Bill

In a debate that blurs the line between national security and personal privacy, tech majors Apple Inc. and Meta Platforms have raised concerns over a proposed Canadian law that could potentially weaken encryption safeguards. The controversy revolves around Canada's proposed Bill C-22, which aims to grant law enforcement agencies faster and more efficient access to digital data in criminal investigations. While authorities argue the move is essential to tackle evolving cyber threats and organized crime, technology companies warn that the implications could extend far beyond policing. At the heart of the issue is end-to-end encryption, a system that ensures only the sender and the in-

tended recipient can read messages. This technology is widely used across platforms like WhatsApp and iMessage, and is considered a cornerstone of modern digital privacy. Apple has cautioned that the proposed legislation could force companies to create "backdoors" in their systems—hidden access points that allow authorities to retrieve user data. According to the company, such measures would undermine the integrity of encryption, making systems vulnerable not only to government access but also to hackers and cybercriminals. Meta has echoed similar concerns, warning that the bill's broad provisions might require companies to redesign their platforms in ways

that bypass encryption altogether. This, they argue, could erode user trust and expose sensitive communications to potential misuse. Canadian officials, however, have sought to reassure the public, stating that the bill is not intended to weaken encryption but to ensure lawful access under regulated conditions. They maintain that adequate safeguards would be in place to prevent misuse and protect civil liberties. The debate highlights a growing global dilemma: how to balance the need for security with the right to privacy. Governments worldwide have been grappling with the challenge of accessing encrypted data to combat terrorism, child exploitation, and cybercrime, while tech firms and

privacy advocates stress that any compromise on encryption could have far-reaching consequences. Experts warn that even minor vulnerabilities introduced into encryption systems can be exploited on a large scale, potentially affecting millions of users. As digital communication becomes increasingly central to everyday life, the stakes in such policy decisions continue to rise. As Canada deliberates on the bill, the outcome could influence similar legislative efforts in other countries. For now, the clash between Silicon Valley and policymakers serves as a reminder that in the digital age, protecting privacy is as complex as ensuring security—and achieving both may be the toughest challenge of all.



One in 55 Million: Ethiopian Woman Delivers Quintuplets Naturally

In an extraordinary twist of fate, a woman in Ethiopia's Harari Region has given birth to five babies naturally, an event so rare that medical experts estimate its probability at just one in 55 million.



The woman delivered quintuplets, four boys and one girl, all reported to be healthy. Doctors attending to the delivery have described the case as both remarkable and highly unusual, noting that multiple births of this scale typically occur with the assistance of fertility treatments.

What makes the story even more compelling is the mother's long and emotional journey to parenthood. She had reportedly been trying to conceive for 12 years, enduring disappointment and uncertainty. Against all odds, she eventually became pregnant without relying on procedures such as in vitro fertilisation, which are commonly associated with higher chances of multiple births. Medical professionals say natural quintuplet pregnancies are exceedingly uncommon. Such cases often come with significant risks, including premature delivery, low birth weight, and complications for both the mother and the babies. However, in this instance, early reports suggest that both the mother and her newborns are doing well under careful medical supervision. The birth has sparked curiosity and admiration, not just within the region but beyond, as stories of rare natural phenomena continue to fascinate people worldwide. Experts point out that while modern reproductive technologies have made multiple births more common, naturally conceived quintuplets remain a medical rarity. Doctors are con-

tinuing to monitor the babies closely, as the first few weeks are critical for their growth and development. The family is also receiving support from healthcare workers to ensure the well-being of the newborns.

For many, the story is more than just a medical anomaly, it is a powerful reminder of resilience and hope. After more than a decade of waiting, the woman's journey has culminated in an outcome that defies both expectation and probability.

In a world often driven by science and predictability, this rare birth underscores the enduring mystery of nature, where even the most unlikely miracles can become reality.

AI Shop Assistants Arrive: WhatsApp Unveils Smart Tool for Small Businesses

In a move that feels straight out of a futuristic marketplace, WhatsApp has rolled out a new artificial intelligence feature designed to help small businesses run smarter, faster, and round the clock.



Launched by parent company Meta Platforms, the new "Business AI" tool is aimed at transforming how small and medium enterprises interact with customers. Instead of manually replying to hundreds of messages daily, businesses can now rely on an AI-powered assistant that chats, recommends, and even closes deals.

The feature works like a virtual employee that never sleeps. It can instantly respond to customer queries, suggest products, book appointments, and resolve complaints without human intervention. For many small business owners who depend heavily on WhatsApp for orders and enquiries, this could mean a dramatic reduction in workload.

What sets this tool apart is its simplicity. Businesses can

customise the AI by linking it to their product catalogues, pricing details, and booking systems. Once set up, the assistant learns and adapts, handling conversations in a more natural and human-like manner. It can even communicate in multiple Indian languages, making it accessible to a wider user base.

Industry observers say this marks a significant shift in how digital commerce operates at the grassroots level. With

millions of small businesses already using WhatsApp as their primary communication channel, integrating AI directly into the platform removes the need for additional software or technical expertise.

Early trials have shown promising results. Some businesses reported noticeable increases in sales within weeks of deploying the AI assistant, thanks to faster response times and improved customer engagement. The tool is current-

ly being offered free of cost, lowering the barrier for adoption among small entrepreneurs.

The development also highlights a broader trend where artificial intelligence is moving beyond big corporations and becoming accessible to everyday businesses. From neighbourhood stores to home-run ventures, AI is now stepping in as a silent partner, managing conversations and boosting efficiency.

However, the shift also raises questions about how automation might reshape small business operations and customer relationships in the long run. While efficiency improves, the human touch that defines many local businesses could evolve in unexpected ways.

For now, though, WhatsApp's Business AI feels less like a distant innovation and more like a practical upgrade, turning a simple messaging app into a powerful business tool that fits right into the palm of a shop owner's hand.



"Changed My Perspective Forever": Young Climber Survives Everest Avalanche

A young mountaineer's close encounter with death on Mount Everest has turned into a gripping story of survival after a sudden avalanche struck during an expedition.

The climber was making his way up the world's highest peak when massive sheets of snow broke loose and came crashing down the slope. Within seconds, what seemed like a routine climb turned into a life-threatening situation as visibility dropped and panic spread among fellow climbers.

Describing the terrifying moment, the survivor said the experience "changed my perspective forever," reflecting on how quickly conditions can shift in the mountains. The avalanche, he noted, came with little warning, leaving barely any time to react.

Despite the chaos, the young climber managed to escape, surviving what could have easily turned fatal. Avalanches are among the most dangerous hazards on Everest, capable of sweeping away climbers,

equipment, and even entire camps in an instant.

Experts say such incidents are often triggered by unstable snow layers, sudden weather changes, or ice movements. The risks increase significantly at high altitudes where conditions remain unpredictable and rescue operations are extremely difficult.

For the survivor, the incident has left a lasting impact. Beyond the fear, it has reshaped his outlook on adventure and risk. What was once seen as a challenge to conquer has now become a reminder of nature's overwhelming power.

Mount Everest continues to attract climbers from around the world, offering both glory and danger in equal measure. Each season brings stories of triumph as well as tragedy, highlighting the fine balance between ambition and survival. As the young climber reflects on his narrow escape, his words serve as a reminder that in the mountains, survival itself is the greatest victory.

Up to \$95 Back? Apple's \$250 Million Settlement Sparks Buzz Among iPhone Users

In a surprising development, millions of iPhone users could soon receive cash payouts after Apple Inc. agreed to settle a \$250 million lawsuit linked to its artificial intelligence features.

The case revolves around Apple's promotion of advanced AI capabilities, particularly enhancements to its voice assistant, Siri. When the company introduced its next-generation "Apple Intelligence" features alongside newer iPhone models in 2024, it showcased a smarter, more intuitive Siri designed to handle complex and personalised tasks.

However, the lawsuit claimed that several of these features were either delayed or unavailable at launch, despite being prominently advertised. Con-



sumers argued that they purchased devices expecting those capabilities, only to find that

the promised upgrades were not immediately accessible. Without admitting any

wrongdoing, Apple chose to settle the case, avoiding a prolonged legal battle. The settlement applies to select iPhone models sold in the United States between mid-2024 and early 2025, potentially covering millions of devices.

Under the agreement, eligible users may receive compensation ranging from \$25 to \$95 per device. The exact payout will depend on the number of claims filed, meaning individual amounts could vary if participation is high.

The case has drawn attention not just for the payout but for what it represents in the evolving tech landscape. As companies race to lead in artificial intelligence, there is increasing pressure to showcase cutting-edge features, some-

times even before they are fully ready for public use.

Industry observers say this settlement highlights the fine line between innovation and overpromising. While consumers are eager to embrace new technology, expectations can quickly turn into disputes when products fail to deliver as advertised.

For iPhone users, the settlement offers a modest financial return. For the tech industry, it serves as a cautionary tale about transparency and timing in the age of AI-driven innovation.

As the case moves toward final approval, affected customers are expected to receive details on how to file claims and access their share of the settlement.

'Big Mistake': Swanand Kirkire Flags Spam Call Surge, Toyota Motor Corporation Responds

A car purchase turned into an unexpected privacy concern for lyricist, actor and singer Swanand Kirkire, who has accused Toyota India of sharing his personal contact details, triggering a flood of spam calls.

In a strongly worded social media post, Kirkire described buying the vehicle as a "big mistake," alleging that his phone number was passed on to multiple insurance companies soon after the purchase. He said the result was an endless stream of unsolicited sales calls, forcing him to repeatedly answer marketing pitches throughout the day.

Expressing frustration, Kirkire pointed out that while



the callers were only doing their jobs, the situation placed customers in an uncomfortable position. He also questioned the ethics behind such practices, asking why companies would sell or share customer data despite already profiting

from vehicle sales. The post quickly went viral, striking a chord with many users who shared similar experiences of receiving unwanted calls after making purchases or registering with services. The incident reignited concerns about data

privacy and how customer information is handled across industries.

Responding to the backlash, Toyota India issued a statement expressing regret over the inconvenience caused. The company requested Kirkire to share his contact and dealership details so its team could look into the matter and resolve the issue at the earliest.

In a follow up update, Kirkire said a company representative had reached out to him and informed that an internal case had already been filed regarding possible data leaks. He noted that even the company appeared uncertain about how such leaks might have occurred. Interestingly, the singer

also mentioned that the barrage of spam calls stopped soon after his complaint gained public attention, suggesting that corrective action may have been taken. While the immediate issue seems to have been addressed, the episode has once again highlighted a broader concern in the digital age: the vulnerability of personal data. As consumers become increasingly connected, questions around who has access to their information and how it is used continue to grow louder. For many, Kirkire's experience serves as a reminder that data privacy is not just a technical issue but a deeply personal one, affecting everyday life in unexpected ways.

RCB's Top-Two Hopes Dent After Defeat to LSG in IPL 2026 Thriller

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's push for a top-two finish in IPL 2026 suffered a setback after a narrow defeat to Lucknow Super Giants in a high-intensity clash that kept playoff permutations wide open. The loss comes at a crucial stage of the league, where every point is shaping the final standings and the race for direct qualification to Qualifier 1. Lucknow Super Giants delivered a commanding performance with the bat after being asked to set a target. Their innings was anchored by a dominant top-order display, with one batter producing a standout century that put RCB under immediate pressure. The in-

nings was built around aggressive stroke play and steady acceleration in the middle and death overs, allowing LSG to post a challenging total. RCB's bowling unit struggled to find consistent breakthroughs, especially in the middle phase of the innings. While a few wickets slowed the momentum briefly, the overall control remained with the batting side, who capitalised on loose deliveries and maintained a strong scoring rate throughout. In response, RCB's chase began on a shaky note with early wickets disrupting their top order. However, the middle order attempted to rebuild the innings with cal-

culated aggression. A key partnership brought Bengaluru back into contention, and at one stage, the chase looked evenly balanced. The momentum shifted again in the death overs as LSG's bowlers executed their plans effectively under pressure. Despite a late surge from RCB's finishers, the target proved just out of reach, resulting in a narrow defeat that could have significant implications for their playoff positioning. The result impacts RCB's chances of finishing in the top two, a crucial advantage in the IPL playoff format that provides two opportunities to reach the final. While they remain in contention,

the loss tightens the margin for error with only a few league matches left. RCB are still placed in the upper half of the table, but the competition among multiple teams for playoff and top-two spots has intensified. With net run rate and consistency likely to play a decisive role, every upcoming match now carries added importance. For RCB, the focus will shift to bouncing back quickly and regaining momentum before the league stage concludes. The defeat against LSG serves as a reminder of how small margins can define playoff trajectories in a tightly contested season.



Cristiano Ronaldo Scores 100th Saudi Pro League Goal as Al-Nassr Edge Closer to Title Glory

Cristiano Ronaldo has reached yet another landmark in his glittering career, scoring his 100th goal in the Saudi Pro League as Al-Nassr strengthened their push for the league title in the 2026 season. The Portuguese superstar struck during Al-Nassr's latest league outing against Al Shabab, where his late finish sealed a crucial win and pushed his side closer to securing the championship. The goal, coming in the second half, underlined Ronaldo's continued influence in decisive moments despite being in the twilight of his career. Al-Nassr produced a dominant attacking display, with early breakthroughs setting the tone for a high-tempo contest. Ronaldo's

milestone strike arrived after sustained pressure, as he capitalised on a well-delivered assist inside the box to register yet another historic achievement. The goal also marked a continuation of his extraordinary consistency since joining the Saudi club. With this milestone, Ronaldo becomes one of the few players in world football to reach 100 league goals in multiple top-flight competitions, further strengthening his legacy as one of the game's greatest scorers. His contribution has been central to Al-Nassr's title challenge, with the team maintaining strong form in the closing stages of the season. The victory keeps Al-Nassr in a commanding position in the title race, as they

edge closer to lifting the Saudi Pro League trophy. With only a handful of matches remaining, every point is now critical, but the team's momentum and Ronaldo's form have given them a clear edge over their rivals. Beyond the title implications, the milestone highlights Ronaldo's remarkable longevity and adaptability. Even in a new league and environment, he continues to deliver at an elite level, consistently finding the net and guiding his team in high-pressure situations. As Al-Nassr move into the final stretch of the season, all eyes remain on Ronaldo and whether he can add a league title in Saudi Arabia to an already unmatched collection of honours.



BCCI Issues Strict Warning to IPL Franchises Over Honey-Trap Threats and Security Breaches

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a strong advisory to all IPL 2026 franchises, warning them about potential "honey-trap" risks and tightening security protocols across team environments, including hotels, travel, and match venues. According to the directive, the BCCI has flagged serious concerns over unauthorized individuals gaining access to restricted areas such as team hotels, dressing rooms, team buses, and players' personal spaces. The board has cautioned franchises that such breaches could pose not only security threats but also legal and integrity-related risks during the high-profile tournament.



The advisory reportedly comes after multiple instances of protocol violations were observed by the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). These included unauthorized persons travelling with teams, entering hotel premises, and interacting with players and support staff without proper clearance. The board has described these developments as "irregularities" that need immediate corrective action from franchises. In its communication, the BCCI has made it clear that all franchises will be held accountable for enforcing strict compliance. Team managements have been instructed to ensure that only accredited personnel are allowed access to players and officials, with no

exceptions. The board has also stressed that violations in the future will invite stringent disciplinary action. One of the key concerns highlighted in the advisory is the risk of targeted compromise of players through external influences, often referred to as honey-trap situations. The BCCI has urged teams to remain vigilant and ensure that players are not exposed to unnecessary or unverified contacts during the season. Additionally, the board has

reinforced existing security norms, including tighter hotel entry rules, mandatory accreditation checks, and restrictions on movement of non-team members within secured zones. The advisory also reflects the BCCI's broader push to maintain the integrity of the IPL, which remains one of the most closely monitored cricket leagues in the world. With multiple high-profile stakeholders involved, the governing body has consistently tightened reg-

ulations in recent seasons to address off-field risks. As IPL 2026 progresses, franchises are now expected to implement the new guidelines immediately, with compliance likely to be reviewed closely by the BCCI throughout the tournament.

KSCA's Request for Extra Complimentary Tickets Sparks Controversy in IPL 2026 Decision

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly cited the Karnataka State Cricket Association's (KSCA) demand for additional complimentary tickets as one of the key factors behind the shift of IPL 2026 playoff and final matches away from Bengaluru. According to sources, KSCA had requested nearly 10,057 additional complimentary tickets over and above the standard allocation permitted under IPL guidelines. This development has triggered widespread discussion within cricket administration circles and is believed to have influenced the BCCI's decision to move marquee knockout fixtures, including the final, to other venues. Under IPL hosting rules, state associations are entitled to a fixed percentage of complimentary tickets based on stadium capacity. However, the KSCA's reported request exceeded this norm significantly, including allocations for association members, affiliated clubs, and various stakeholder groups. The request also reportedly included tickets earmarked for political representatives and government-linked allocations, further escalating concerns within the BCCI. The issue gained traction during internal discussions on venue allocations for the playoff stage. While Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium was initially considered a strong candidate

to host high-profile knockout matches, the ticketing controversy appears to have weighed heavily in the final decision-making process. The BCCI, while not issuing a detailed public statement on the matter, has maintained that all venue selections for IPL playoffs and the final are made based on established guidelines, operational feasibility, and adherence to tournament protocols. The decision has come as a disappointment for the KSCA, which had expressed readiness and enthusiasm to host the playoffs and the final in Bengaluru, especially given the strong home support for Royal Challengers Bengaluru. However, logistical concerns and compliance with ticket distribution norms are understood to have taken precedence. The controversy also adds to ongoing discussions around ticket allocations in the IPL, where demand for complimentary and VIP tickets often becomes a point of friction between franchises, associations, and governing bodies. With the IPL 2026 playoffs now scheduled across alternative venues, the focus will shift back to on-field action. Yet, the KSCA episode has once again highlighted the growing tension between administrative demands and tournament governance standards in India's most-watched cricket league.



'Labbaru Bomma' Adds Mass Buzz to Anakapalli

The makers of the upcoming rustic entertainer Anakapalli have released a high-energy mass number titled "Labbaru Bomma," further amplifying the film's growing buzz. Produced by Kandregula Naidu and Thrinadha Rao Nakkina under the banners of Bhavya Sri Movie Makers and Nakkina Narratives, the film is directed by Khagesh Tammineni and promises a wholesome commercial package.

Featuring Tarak Ponnappa and Nandini Rai, "Labbaru Bomma" is designed as a vibrant, foot-tapping number aimed squarely at mass audiences. Tarak Ponnappa showcases impressive dance moves with electrifying energy, while Nandini Rai adds glamour and screen presence, making the song visually appealing. The track is choreographed by Yash Master, whose dynamic composition enhances the song's lively appeal.

Penned by Rambabu Gosala, the lyrics strike a chord with their catchy and colloquial fla-



vor. The music, composed by Devzand, stands out with its pulsating beats and addictive rhythm. Singers Sri Krishna and Sahithi Chaganti bring the track to life with energetic vocals, making "Labbaru Bomma" an instant crowd-pleaser. The song is expected to perform strongly across digital platforms and join the list of popular mass numbers this season.

Earlier, the devotional track "Ammoru Diginadhi" from the

film gained significant traction on YouTube, setting high expectations for the album. With "Labbaru Bomma" now out, the makers seem confident of delivering another chart-buster that will resonate with both youth and mass audiences.

Anakapalli stars Vikram Sahidev and Sandhya Vasishtha in the lead roles, supported by a diverse ensemble cast including Thrinadha Rao Nakkina, Indrāja Absar, Mahaboob Ba-

sha, Srinivas Vadlamani, Kandregula Naidu, Nandini Rai, and Sangeetha Krish. Interestingly, Thrinadha Rao Nakkina has also penned the story and screenplay while playing a key role in the film.

On the technical front, cinematography is handled by Maaya V, promising a raw and earthy visual tone that complements the film's backdrop. Editing is overseen by Srikrishna Attaluri, while dialogues are written by Uday Bhagavatula. The production design by Raghu Kulakarni adds authenticity to the setting.

Blending action-packed sequences for mass appeal, a youthful romantic track, and emotionally engaging moments for family audiences, Anakapalli is gearing up for a theatrical release soon. An official release date announcement is expected in the coming days, as the makers continue to build momentum with promotional content.

RISING STAR

Swati Ghatkar



Chiranjeevi's Fun Visit Lights Up Peddi Sets

The team of Peddi, director Buchi Babu Sana's much-anticipated rural action drama starring Ram Charan, has delighted fans by sharing a special behind-the-scenes video featuring Chiranjeevi's memorable visit to the film's sets.

Taking to Instagram, Buchi Babu Sana described the moment as one of his "best memories," calling Chiranjeevi both "The BOSS and my GURU." The video captures the Megastar arriving on set and interacting warmly with the cast and crew. Light-hearted moments unfold as Chiranjeevi chats with director Sukumar, cinematographer R. Rathnavelu, and Ram Charan. In a playful sequence, Buchi Babu Sana, Sukumar, and Ram



Charan flex their biceps while Chiranjeevi records them, prompting Ram Charan to joke about the director's impressive physique. The release of the video comes shortly after the makers announced that shooting for Peddi had been wrapped on May 1. Rathnavelu shared an emotional note marking the end of the shoot, praising Ram

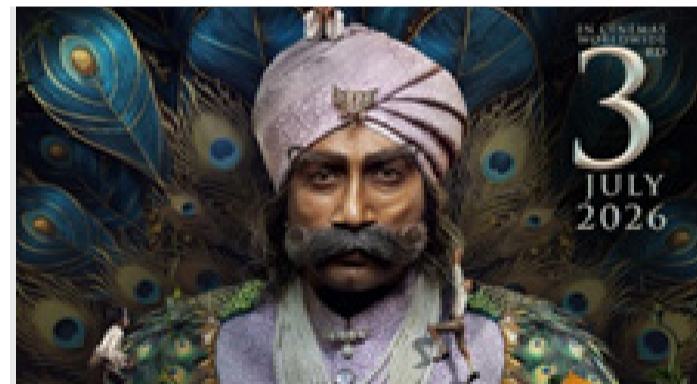
Charan as a "powerhouse performer" and a "wonderful friend," while expressing gratitude for the creative journey.

The film has been generating significant buzz since its announcement, with its final schedule including the shoot of a grand special song. Sources reveal that the number, composed by A. R. Rahman, was

filmed in Hyderabad on an elaborate set and promises a "surprise element" designed to thrill audiences. With its energetic choreography and large-scale presentation, the song is expected to be a major highlight and a chart-topping hit.

Slated for release on June 4, Peddi features an impressive ensemble cast. Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor plays the female lead, while veteran actors Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, Divyendu, and Boman Irani appear in pivotal roles. Technically, Peddi boasts a strong crew. Rathnavelu handles cinematography, promising striking visuals, while Navin Nooli is in charge of editing. Production designer Avinash Kolla has crafted the

film's grand sets, adding scale and authenticity to the rural backdrop. With a powerful cast, acclaimed technicians, and growing anticipation, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu releases of the year.



'Rao Bahadur' Locks July 3 Release

The much-anticipated psychological drama Rao Bahadur, starring Satya Dev, is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on July 3. Presented by Mahesh Babu and Namrata Shirodkar under GMB Entertainment, the film is jointly produced by A+S Movies and SriChakraas Entertainments.

Directed by the unconventional filmmaker Venkatesh Maha, who also handles writing and editing, the film has been generating strong buzz since its first glimpse. The recently released single "O Sundari" further elevated expectations, with its vintage aesthetic, soulful melody, and visually rich presentation transporting audiences to a bygone era.

The makers recently unveiled a new poster while announcing the release date, offering a deeper look into the film's intriguing world. Satya Dev is seen in a striking elderly avatar, dressed in royal-purple attire and adorned with layered pearls, exuding the aura of a powerful aristocrat. The intricate detailing — from the ornate background to the traditional accessories — enhances the film's atmospheric tone. His intense expression hints at a narrative layered with secrets, legacy, and psychological

depth. Actress Deepa Thomas plays the female lead, while Vikas Muppala, Bala Parasar, Anand Bharathi, Pranay Vaka, and Master Kiran feature in key roles, adding strength to the ensemble cast.

On the technical front, Rao Bahadur is backed by a skilled crew. Cinematographer Kartik Parmar is expected to bring a visually immersive experience, capturing the grandeur and mood of the aristocratic setting. Music composer Smaran Sai lends a hauntingly evocative score, while production designer Rohan Singh has crafted elaborate sets that reflect the richness and decay of a royal past.

With its blend of psychological intrigue, period grandeur, and emotionally layered storytelling, Rao Bahadur promises a cinematic experience that goes beyond conventional narratives. The film is expected to explore themes of legacy, hidden truths, and the lingering shadows of an aristocratic world.

As the countdown to its July 3 release begins, the makers are likely to unveil more promotional content in the coming weeks, further building anticipation among audiences and film enthusiasts.

Urvashi Rautela Opens Up on Her Intense Return in Inspector Avinash 2

Mumbai: Actress Urvashi Rautela is gearing up to reprise her role as Poonam Mishra in the second season of the action crime thriller Inspector Avinash, and she says the emotional core of her character this time is defined by "survival wrapped in silence."

Sharing insights into her role, Urvashi explained that beneath the high-octane action and crime-driven narrative lies a deeply emotional journey. "In crime dramas, people often focus on violence and power, but underneath, there is fear, emotional isolation, and the need to protect oneself. My character carries that conflict internally," she said.

What makes Poonam Mishra compelling, according to the actress, is her quiet resilience. Unlike typical portrayals driven by overt emotions, Poonam is shaped by restraint and endurance. Urvashi noted that her character's strength lies in silently navigating turmoil while maintaining emotional balance. "Sometimes strength isn't about aggression, but about holding yourself together in the face of adversity," she added.

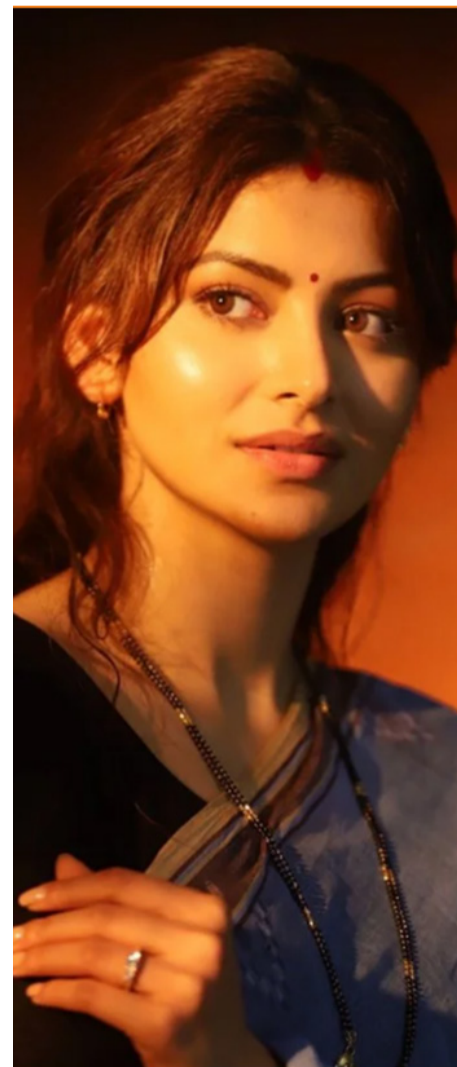
The series, headlined by Randeep Hooda, first premiered in 2023 and received attention for its gritty storytelling. Directed by Neeraj Pathak, the show is inspired by real-life events and follows the journey of Uttar Pradesh super-cop Avinash Mishra as he battles rising crime. The first season featured a strong ensemble cast including Amit Sial, Shalin Bhanot, Zakir Hussain, Bidita Bag, and Rajneesh Duggal, among others.

Urvashi's return in the second season is expected to add emotional depth to the narrative, balancing the intense action with a nuanced portrayal of personal struggle and resilience.

The actress, who made her debut opposite Sunny Deol in Singh Saab the Great, has had a varied career with films like Sanam Re and Great Grand Masti. She recently witnessed a resurgence in popularity with the 2025 film Daaku Maharaaj, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna. Her

dance number "Dabidi Dabidi" from the film went viral across social media platforms, further boosting her visibility.

With Inspector Avinash 2, Urvashi Rautela appears set to showcase a more layered and emotionally intense side of her acting, adding fresh intrigue to the much-awaited sequel.



Telangana's Rashmi Thakur Heads to Cannes 2026

Hyderabad: In a proud moment for Telangana, model and achiever Rashmi Thakur has been selected to attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2026, marking her debut on one of the world's most celebrated cinematic platforms.

Hailing from Karimnagar district in Telangana, Rashmi Thakur has steadily built an impressive profile in the fashion and social advocacy space. She first gained national recognition after winning the Miss Planet India title in 2016. Over the years, she has added multiple accolades to her name, including Miss Andhra Pradesh 2014 and Mrs Telangana at the Mrs South India pageant. Her achievements extend to international platforms as well, with titles such as Miss Asia Pacific International (2017, Malaysia) and Miss India Star Universe (2018, USA).

Rashmi's journey is marked not just by beauty pageant success but also by her active involvement in social and cultural initiatives. She has served as a brand ambassador for Telangana Tourism and has been associated with the promotion of national handloom initiatives under the Ministry of Textiles. In addition, she has worked closely with organizations focused on mental health awareness and suicide prevention, acting as an official spokesperson for anti-suicide campaigns.

Her contributions have earned her several recognitions, including a doctorate honor from Peace Karnataka and the Young Achiever Award from Karnataka University. Rashmi currently holds key positions in various organizations, serving as President of the World Women Federation and as a member of international human rights bodies. She is also actively involved in advocating for handloom weavers' rights and participates in global peace initiatives, including in-

tergenerational dialogue forums.

With her upcoming appearance at the Cannes Film Festival 2026, Rashmi Thakur is set to represent Telangana on an international stage, bringing attention to her state's cultural identity and her own multifaceted journey. Her participation is expected to inspire many young aspirants from the region, highlighting how dedication and perseverance can open doors to global recognition.

As she prepares to walk the iconic red carpet, Rashmi Thakur's presence at Cannes stands as a testament to her achievements and her commitment to making a difference beyond the world of glamour.

