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Revanth Reddy Orders 'Mission Mode' Grain Procurement

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has directed District Collectors to carry out grain and maize procurement operations across the state in "Mission Mode" and ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience at procurement centers.

The Chief Minister made it clear that negligence in procurement activities would not be tolerated and instructed officials to personally inspect field-level operations.



ously to warehouses without delay. Revanth Reddy warned that contractors failing to provide sufficient lorries for grain transportation, as per contractual agreements, should face strict action, including criminal proceedings if necessary.

He also instructed the Transport Commissioner to ensure adequate vehicles are available for procurement operations.

Highlighting reports of warehouse shortages, the CM advised Collectors to use temporary facilities such as Rythu

Bazaars and function halls for grain storage until permanent space becomes available. He stressed the need for careful monitoring in maize-producing districts and directed officials to seek police assistance wherever required to ensure smooth procurement.

To protect farmers from losses caused by unseasonal rains, the Chief Minister ordered the supply of tarpaulins at drying yards and suggested creating a weather-alert mechanism at the mandal level.

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Thummala Nageswara Rao, and other senior officials participated in the review meeting.



Infiltration Bid Foiled Along LoC

Srinagar, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Army on Tuesday thwarted an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and killed a Pakistani intruder believed to be associated with the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Troops of the Army's Nagrota-based White Knight Corps immediately challenged the infiltrators, leading to a brief exchange of fire. During the operation, one militant was shot dead while the remaining members of the group are suspected to have retreated toward the Pakistani side of the border.

Defense officials stated that a massive search and sanitization operation is currently underway in the area to ensure that no infiltrator managed to breach the security grid and enter deeper into Indian territory.

The incident once again highlights the continued attempts by Pakistan-based terror groups to infiltrate militants into Jammu and Kashmir despite tight border security and increased surveillance along the LoC.



Another Arrest in Jubilee Hills Honey-Trap and Blackmail Case

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The Jubilee Hills police have arrested another accused in the sensational case involving a gang that allegedly posed as wealthy individuals to lure, exploit, and blackmail young women, including minors.

The latest accused arrested has been identified as Jitender, an associate of the prime accused, Koduri Chandrashekar Azad alias Arjun, who has already been booked under the provisions of the POCSO Act.

Among those already arrested are Arjun, his brother Ritesh, their mother Meena Kumari, and their uncle. Investigators allege that the family members played a key role in training gang members to impersonate affluent individuals in order to trap victims.

During interrogation, Arjun reportedly confessed to extorting nearly 13 lakh from a 17-year-old minor girl.

Police said he admitted to using social media platforms, particularly Instagram, where he uploaded photographs featuring luxury cars, lavish lifestyles, and nightclub scenes to attract young women.

Investigators revealed that the accused would lure victims with false promises before allegedly threatening and blackmailing them. Commissioner Sajjanar personally questioned the prime accused for nearly an hour and instructed officials to pursue the investigation aggressively and ensure strict legal action against all those involved.

Police sources stated that at least five complaints have been received so far in connection with the case. Special teams have intensified efforts to trace additional suspects who are currently absconding, including Meena Kumari's associates identified as Saraswati, Nishanth, and Sreejith. The investigation is continuing, and officials indicated that more arrests are likely in the coming days.

NEET Controversy Sparks Nationwide Debate on Exam Reforms

New Delhi, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The NEET-UG 2024 examination became one of the most controversial entrance tests in recent years after allegations of paper leaks, irregularities, and the awarding of grace marks triggered nationwide outrage.

The controversy intensified when results were declared on June 4, with an unusually large number of students securing top scores. Several candidates obtained rare scores such as 718 and 719, while as many as 67 students achieved a perfect 720 out of 720 marks, raising suspicions among students, parents, and educational experts.

In response, the National Testing Agency (NTA) clarified that certain candidates were awarded compensatory or grace marks due to loss of examination time at specific centers. However, the explanation failed to calm public anger. Bihar Police subsequently arrested multiple individuals accused of selling solved question papers to candidates for huge sums of money.



The CBI later traced the origin of the alleged paper leak to Hazaribagh in Jharkhand and arrested several accused persons, including individuals linked to educational institutions. Despite mounting pressure, the NTA initially refused to conduct a nationwide re-test. The matter eventually reached the Supreme Court.

While the apex court permitted a voluntary re-examination for 1,563 candidates who had received grace marks, it declined to order a complete nationwide re-test in July 2024, observing that there was insufficient evidence to prove a systemic breach affecting the entire examination process.

Throughout the controversy, the NTA maintained that the exam had been conducted under strict security measures, including GPS tracking of question papers, biometric verification, AI-based CCTV surveillance, and the deployment of 5G jammers at examination centers.

Following the uproar, the Centre constituted a high-level reform committee headed by former ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan to suggest improvements in the functioning of the NTA and national entrance examinations. The panel recommended reducing outsourcing in exam management, gradually shifting towards online or hybrid testing systems, and limiting the number of attempts for major entrance examinations such as NEET.

NEET itself has witnessed several controversies since its introduction in 2013. The examination was once struck down by the Supreme Court before being restored in 2016. Over the years, issues ranging from impersonation rackets to examination management disputes and allegations of paper leaks have repeatedly placed the medical entrance test under public scrutiny.

Severe Heatwave Alert Issued for Telangana

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

People across Telangana have been advised to remain cautious as severe heatwave conditions are expected to prevail in the state from May 14 to May 21. Weather officials and public safety authorities have warned that temperatures are likely to rise sharply, particularly in several districts of North and East Telangana.

According to the alert, some regions may record temperatures as high as 47 degrees Celsius during the peak heatwave period. Authorities cautioned that the risk of heatstroke and dehydration would increase significantly under such extreme weather conditions.

Residents have been urged to avoid venturing outdoors during afternoon hours unless absolutely necessary. Special care has been advised for children, senior citizens, outdoor workers, and people with existing health conditions, as they are more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. In Hyderabad, temperatures are expected to range between 42°C and 44°C over the coming days.



peratures are expected to range between 42°C and 44°C over the coming days. Citizens have been asked to stay hydrated, wear light clothing, and avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

Officials also advised people to consume sufficient water and fluids, avoid strenuous outdoor activities during peak afternoon hours, and seek immediate medical attention in case of symptoms such as dizziness, excessive sweating, fatigue, or high fever. The public has been requested to stay updated with weather advisories and follow precautionary measures until temperatures return to normal levels.

#StandWithHer Campaign Gains Momentum Across Telangana

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The Women Safety Wing (WSW) of the Telangana Police has launched an extensive awareness initiative titled #StandWithHer, emphasizing that remaining silent in the face of harassment is itself a form of complicity. The campaign urges citizens—particularly men—to actively participate in creating a safer and more respectful environment for women.



The initiative is being spearheaded by Charu Sinha, who stated that women's safety cannot be ensured solely through police presence or legal measures. She stressed that meaningful change can only be achieved when society transforms its mindset and treats every woman with the same dignity and respect accorded to women within one's own family. Charu Sinha called upon citizens not to remain passive spectators when witnessing harassment or misconduct against women.

She urged people to speak up, question inappropriate behavior, and contribute toward social transformation. According to her, every man has a responsibility in ensuring women feel secure in public and private spaces alike. The digital campaign has quickly gained widespread attention across Telangana, receiving strong support from social media users, influencers, and members of the film industry.

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Indian Tourist Dies After Mysterious Incident at Phuket Cafe

Bangkok, May 12 | TPN Bureau

An Indian national has died after he and three other Indian tourists reportedly lost consciousness under mysterious circumstances at a cafe in Thailand's Phuket province, according to officials and media reports. The incident occurred in the Kamala Beach area of Kathu district during the early hours of Saturday.

The Embassy of India in Thailand confirmed the death on Tuesday and expressed condolences to the bereaved family. In a statement posted on social media platform X, the Indian mission stated that it is closely coordinating with Thai authorities and monitoring the condition of the remaining tourists who are currently undergoing treatment.

According to reports in Thai media, five Indian nationals had arrived together at a cafe near Kamala Beach around 11 PM on Friday night. Security personnel at the establishment stated that, at approximately 1:54 AM, four members of the group suddenly began losing consciousness one after another.

All four individuals were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. Later on Saturday afternoon, police officials were informed that one of the hospitalized tourists had succumbed. The other three individuals are said to be in stable condition.

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#StandWithHer Campaign Gains Momentum Across Telangana

continued

Several influencers, including Virajita, Deepak Karumungiker, Sharath-Nisha Nalla, and Chillar Boy, have also amplified the campaign through videos and social media outreach. A major focus of the campaign is promoting consent and digital responsibility, stressing that sharing a woman's photo or video online without her permission is a

violation of her rights. The campaign further addresses everyday issues such as body shaming, ridicule in workplaces, and disrespect toward women's achievements and personal choices. Through its strong messaging and growing online reach, #StandWithHer is emerging as a broader social movement encouraging men to move beyond silence and become active supporters of women's dignity and safety.

Indian Tourist Dies After Mysterious Incident at Phuket Cafe

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The Indian Embassy stated that its officials are in constant contact with the deceased tourist's family and are extending all possible assistance during this difficult time. The mission also noted that Thai authorities are actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. However, the exact cause be-

hind the tourists losing consciousness remains unclear, and officials have not yet disclosed whether food poisoning, toxic exposure, or any other medical emergency may have contributed to the incident.

Authorities in Thailand have launched an inquiry, and further details are expected once the investigation progresses.



Jupally Krishna Rao Launches Free Electric Vehicle for Patients

Kollapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Tourism, Culture, and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao inaugurated a free battery-operated electric vehicle in Kollapur town on Tuesday to assist pregnant women and new mothers traveling to the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Hospital. The initiative was introduced to address transportation difficulties faced by patients traveling between the town bus stand and the MCH Hospital, which is located on the outskirts of Ramapuram. Many patients, particularly those from rural and remote areas, were reportedly facing hardships in reaching the hospital for medical services. Taking note of these challenges, the Minister facilitated the arrangement of the eco-friendly vehicle to provide safe and convenient transportation free of cost. The service is expected to benefit pregnant women, new mothers, and attendants visiting the hospital regularly. The electric vehicle was

provided through the joint support of Hyderabad-based service organizations Good Universe and Arcesium. Speaking at the inauguration, Jupally Krishna Rao appreciated the organizations for contributing to public welfare and extending support to needy patients. The Minister stated that the initiative would greatly help economically weaker families who travel from distant villages for treatment and maternal health-care services. He emphasized the importance of ensuring accessible health-care facilities and convenient transportation for patients. Representatives of the organizations, including Anushka and Vamsi, attended the program along with Hospital Superintendent Srinivasulu and hospital staff members. Officials expressed hope that the free transport facility would ease travel difficulties and improve access to health-care services for women and children in the region.

NARMUL Signs Agreement with NDDB for Dairy Development

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The Nalgonda-Ranga Reddy Milk Producers' Mutual Assistance Cooperative Union Ltd. has entered into a tripartite agreement with the National Dairy Development Board to strengthen and expand the dairy sector in Telangana.

Under the agreement, the NDDB will take responsibility for the development and management of the dairy sector associated with NARMUL for a period of 15 years. As part of the initiative, an initial amount of 10 crore will be released to clear pending dues owed to dairy farmers, providing immediate financial relief to milk producers. Officials from the Telangana State Dairy Department and the NDDB formally exchanged and finalized the agreements during a program held at the Ministers' Quarters in Hyderabad. The initiative is expected to improve dairy infrastructure, streamline operations, and enhance support for milk producers in the region. Officials stated that the collaboration would



help strengthen the cooperative dairy system and improve the livelihoods of farmers associated with the sector.

The event was attended by Vakkiti Srihari, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services, and Sports, along with Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah, Secretary for Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Fisher-

ies Ilambarthi, Mother Dairy Chairman Madhusudan Reddy, and senior NDDB officials were also present during the signing ceremony.

Officials expressed confidence that the partnership would play a significant role in modernizing dairy operations and ensuring better support systems for dairy farmers across the region.



Nurses Honored at Niloufer Hospital on International Nurses Day

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

International Nurses Day was celebrated at Niloufer Hospital with Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar attending as the chief guest. The event witnessed participation from several dignitaries, including Anil Kumar Yadav, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, District Collector Priyanka Ala, DM&HO Venkat, Niloufer Superintendent Dr. Vijay Kumar, RDO Ramakrishna, and members of the nursing staff.

During the program, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar felicitated nurses in recognition of their dedication and service in the healthcare sector. Extending his greetings on International Nurses Day, he described nursing as a profession rooted in compassion, sacrifice, and humanity. He appreciated nurses for their tireless service to patients, irrespective of the nature of illness or the challenges faced in hospital environments.

The Minister highlighted the importance of Niloufer Hospital, stating that the institution handles nearly 1,500 outpatient visits daily and provides care to around 2,000 inpatients. He

noted that the hospital has been serving children and families for several decades and holds a distinguished place in the healthcare system.

Ponnamp Prabhakar remarked that while medicines and treatment contribute to patient recovery, the care, encouragement, and emotional support provided by nurses are equally significant. He praised nurses for working day and night with dedication and said their contribution during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic would always be remembered.

Meanwhile, Damodar Raja Narasimha also extended his greetings to nurses across the state on the occasion. He commended their selfless service and stated that the government gives top priority to the welfare of nurses. He announced that appointment orders were being issued to 1,919 Nursing Officers who qualified through the Medical Recruitment Board examinations.

Both ministers acknowledged that nurses are the backbone of the healthcare sector and play a vital role in building a healthier society through their commitment and compassion.

Congress Leader Slams Centre Over Alleged NEET Paper Leak

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Dr. M. Rajiv strongly criticized the Central Government and the National Testing Agency over the alleged NEET paper leak controversy, accusing them of jeopardizing the future of lakhs of students across the country.

Addressing the media, Dr. Rajiv stated that nearly 22 lakh students appeared for the NEET examination nationwide this year, including around 70,000 candidates from Telangana. He said students and parents had expected the examination to be conducted with strict security measures, especially after previous allegations of paper leaks in earlier years. However, he alleged that the authorities once again failed to protect the integrity of the examination process.

The Congress leader expressed concern that repeated irregularities in national-level examinations were damaging the credibility of the country's education system. He alleged that the official confirmation regarding the compromise of a



large number of questions in the NEET examination had become a serious embarrassment for the nation. Dr. Rajiv further criticized the Centre over policies related to medical education, alleging that permissions were being granted to medical colleges without maintaining proper standards and regulations. According to him, such decisions could affect both the quality of medical education and public healthcare in the future. Holding the Central Gov-

ernment directly responsible, he pointed out that the NTA functions under the Centre's control and therefore accountability for the incident lies with it. He described the alleged negligence toward students' hard work and parents' aspirations as unacceptable. On behalf of the Indian National Congress, he demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged paper leak and called for strict action against all those found responsible.

Konda Surekha Directs Faster Wetland Conservation Measures

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Forest and Environment Minister Konda Surekha has instructed officials to speed up the conservation and notification process of wetlands, including lakes and water bodies, across the state. The directions were issued during a meeting of the Telangana State Wetlands Authority held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday.

Addressing officials, the Minister emphasized the critical role wetlands play in maintaining ecological balance and environmental sustainability. She directed all concerned departments to strictly implement the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and accelerate the identification, demarcation, and digital mapping of wetland boundaries.

Officials informed the meeting that ground verification of 12,249 wetlands identified through the SAC Atlas has already been completed across Telangana. Boundary demarcation work has reportedly been finished for around 4,023 wetlands so far. The Minister instructed the Irrigation and Revenue departments to jointly expedite surveys in the remaining areas and prepare the



required documentation without delay.

The meeting also reviewed draft notification proposals prepared for 28 important wetlands located in districts including Khammam, Jagtial, and Nizamabad. Officials stated that these proposals would soon move toward Gazette notification and public consultation stages.

Discussions were also held regarding the proposal to secure Ramsar Site recognition for the Manjeera Wildlife Sanctuary. Officials informed the Minister that the proposal is currently under review by the Irrigation Department and would later be forwarded to the Union Ministry of Environ-

ment, Forest and Climate Change.

Konda Surekha stressed the importance of scientific studies and expert guidance in wetland conservation and called for public awareness initiatives at the grassroots level. She also warned that encroachments, dumping of waste, and discharge of untreated sewage into wetlands are strictly prohibited under existing regulations.

Senior officials, including Principal Secretary Ahmed Nadeem, Head of Forest Force Dr. Suvarna, Chief Wildlife Warden Vinay Kumar, and representatives from various departments, attended the meeting.



Second Phase of Indiramma Houses to Begin on June 2

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme will be launched in Adilabad on June 2, coinciding with Telangana Formation Day. He stated that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is implementing the scheme with the objective of providing housing for the poor across the state.

Speaking during a review meeting of the combined Rangareddy and Hyderabad districts held at the Housing Corporation headquarters, the Minister said guidelines and modalities for the second phase would be finalized during the Cabinet meeting scheduled for May 21. The meeting was attended by Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnamp Prabhakar, and Mohammed Azharuddin, along with MPs, MLAs, MLCs, Collectors, and officials from various departments.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

directed officials to identify land parcels constituency-wise and ensure that Indiramma houses are constructed within a 5 to 8-kilometer radius of urban centers so that beneficiaries do not face livelihood issues. He observed that many beneficiaries were unwilling to occupy double-bedroom houses built far away from the city under previous schemes.

The Minister instructed officials to identify government lands, slum areas, Bhoodan lands, and dilapidated housing colonies for future housing projects while involving public representatives in the process. A special drive was also announced to allot completed and under-construction double-bedroom houses to eligible beneficiaries by the end of this month. He further directed officials to ensure basic facilities such as drinking water, drainage, and electricity in housing colonies. Warning against illegal occupation of public property, the Minister stated that the government would not tolerate encroachment of even an inch of government land and ordered strict action against violations.

BJP Slams Congress Over Remarks on PM Modi's Public Advisory

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao strongly criticized the Congress party for allegedly distorting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent suggestions to the public during his Hyderabad visit and attempting to politicize them.

Addressing a media conference at the BJP State Office in Hyderabad on Tuesday, Ramchander Rao stated that the Prime Minister's recommendations were aimed at promoting national interest, self-reliance, fiscal discipline, environmental protection, and energy conservation. He accused Congress leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, of spreading misleading propaganda against the Prime Minister and the Central Government.

He defended Prime Minister Modi's appeal encouraging citizens to use solar pumps, public transport, electric vehicles, and indigenous products under the "Vocal for Local" initiative. According to him, similar practices are widely followed in developed countries where even senior leaders and public representatives rely on public transportation to promote environmental responsibility

and financial discipline.

Ramchander Rao said patriotism is not limited to sacrificing one's life for the nation, but also includes contributing responsibly toward national development. He emphasized that individual financial discipline ultimately strengthens the country's economy.

The BJP leader also referred to historical examples from Congress governments, pointing out that former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Indira Gandhi had similarly appealed to citizens to reduce food consumption, avoid gold purchases, and adopt austerity measures during times of national crisis.

He further noted that former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram had once appealed to citizens to stop buying gold due to pressure on foreign exchange reserves. Questioning the Congress party's criticism of Modi's remarks, he asked why similar objections were not raised against Congress leaders in the past.

Ramchander Rao concluded by stating that global economic instability and developments in West Asia have severely impacted fuel prices worldwide, while India has managed to maintain relative price stability compared to several other nations.

Ponnam Prabhakar Criticizes Centre Over Alleged NEET Leak

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar strongly criticized the Central Government over the alleged NEET paper leak controversy, calling the incident deeply disturbing and accusing the authorities of failing to protect the future of students.

The Minister stated that nearly 22 lakh students appeared for the NEET examination across the country this year, including around 71,000 candidates from Telangana. He said students had worked hard with great hopes for their future, and allegations of irregularities in such an important examination had shaken the confidence of both students and parents.

Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the situation arose due to the failures of the BJP governments at the Centre and in Rajasthan. He claimed that the Union Government had failed to conduct examinations linked to the future of millions

of students in a transparent and efficient manner.

The Minister further stated that allegations of paper leakage had damaged the credibility of the country's education system and brought embarrassment to the authorities responsible for conducting the examination. He demanded that the Central Government take full responsibility for the controversy and ensure strict action against all those involved in the alleged leak.

Expressing concern for students affected by the situation, Ponnam Prabhakar appealed to NEET aspirants and their parents not to lose hope or become anxious. He assured them that the Congress government in Telangana would stand by students and support efforts aimed at protecting their educational future.

The Minister emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and stronger safeguards in the conduct of national-level examinations to restore public confidence in the system.

Bandi Sanjay Makes Emotional Remarks at Hindu Ekta Yatra

Karimnagar, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar made emotionally charged and politically significant remarks during the "Hindu Ekta Yatra" organized in Karimnagar on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. Referring to the ongoing controversy involving his son, Bandi Bhagirath, Sanjay stated that the law and the courts would decide the truth and asserted that no one is above the law.

Addressing a massive gathering at the rally, Bandi Sanjay said his son maintains that he has committed no wrongdoing, but clarified that if any wrongdoing is proven, he should face punishment according to the law. He stressed that the court's verdict would be final and that his family would abide by the legal process.

The Union Minister became emotional while speaking about the difficulties faced by his family. He stated that he had dedicated his entire life to public service and treated society as his own family, often neglecting his personal life in the process. "I stood by every fam-

ily in distress like an elder son, but I could not spend enough time with my own son. That is my mistake," he said, appealing to the people for forgiveness.

Alleging that political conspiracies were targeting his family, Bandi Sanjay remarked that those who "set fire" to his family would face political consequences in return. He declared that he would continue his fight against corruption and conspiracies without fear.

The Hindu Ekta Yatra, organized under his leadership, witnessed a huge turnout of supporters, with saffron-clad participants filling the streets of Karimnagar. Religious chants, cultural performances, and artistic displays marked the procession, turning the city into a sea of saffron.

Hampi Peetham Pontiff Vidyanarya Bharati attended the event as the chief guest and called upon Hindus to remain united and support Bandi Sanjay. During his speech, Sanjay reiterated his commitment to Hindutva and declared that he would continue serving society and protecting Hindu Dharma till his last breath.



KCR Holds Key Strategy Meeting at Erravelli Residence

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

A crucial meeting of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi was held under the leadership of party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao at his Erravelli residence on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao, party general secretaries, and deputy floor leaders from both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Senior leaders including Assembly Deputy Floor Leaders T. Harish Rao, Sabitha Indira Reddy, and Talasani Srinivas Yadav participated in the discussions.

Council Floor Leader S. Madhusudhanachari and Deputy Floor Leaders L. Ramana and Pochampally Srinivas Reddy were also present. Several party general secretaries and senior leaders attended the meeting, including MLC Takallapalli Ravinder Rao, MLA Dr. Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Dr. Banda Prakash Mudiraj, Joginipally Santosh Kumar, retired IPS officer R. S. Praveen Kumar, former Minister T. Jeevan Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, and Ravula Chandrasekhar Reddy.

Former MP K.R. Suresh Reddy, former Minister Mohammed Ali, and former Chairman Mareddy Srinivas Reddy attended the gathering as special invitees.

According to party sources, the meeting focused on several important organizational matters, including strengthening the party structure, accelerating the membership enrollment drive, appointing party in-charges, and preparing strategies to reinforce the party at the grassroots level.

The discussions are believed to be part of the BRS leadership's efforts to strengthen internal coordination and expand party activities across Telangana ahead of future political developments.

KTR Slams Centre Over Alleged NEET Paper Leak

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

K. T. Rama Rao strongly criticized the Central Government over the alleged NEET question paper leak controversy, calling it a matter of shame that the situation had reportedly reached the stage of cancelling the examination nationwide.

KTR alleged that the Centre had played with the future of lakhs of students who prepared for the examination with immense dedication and hard work. He stated that repeated failures in conducting national-level examinations securely reflected the incompetence of the NDA government.

Referring to previous contro-

versies surrounding the NEET examination, KTR said no lessons appeared to have been learned from the alleged paper leak incidents reported in 2024. According to him, the recurrence of such irregularities has created uncertainty and anxiety among students and parents across the country.

The BRS leader expressed concern that the alleged leak of more than a hundred questions before the examination exposed serious flaws in the system. He said nearly 23 lakh students who appeared for NEET this year, along with their families, were facing severe mental stress due to the controversy. Demanding immediate action, KTR called on the Central Government to order a

high-level inquiry into the alleged leak and ensure that all those involved are identified and punished, irrespective of their influence or position. He stressed that the complete facts surrounding the incident should be made public in the interest of transparency.

KTR further urged the authorities to conduct the NEET examination again at the earliest with stringent security measures to safeguard the future of students. He also demanded that the Centre accept responsibility for the controversy and issue an unconditional apology to students and parents affected by the situation.

GHMC Promotes Composting Through Awareness Drives

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

As part of the 99-day "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranalika" initiative, the Urban Biodiversity (UBD) wing of the GHMC organized a large-scale awareness seminar for Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to encourage eco-friendly waste management practices and promote composting at the household level. The program aimed to create awareness among citizens about sustainable sanitation methods, waste segregation, and environmental conservation. During the seminar, participants were educated on the proper use and maintenance of compost bins, techniques for converting wet waste into organic manure, and the benefits of composting

for home gardening and urban greenery development. Officials explained that adopting composting practices at the community level could significantly reduce the burden of waste disposal while also contributing to a cleaner and greener Hyderabad. The initiative received an encouraging response from members of various RWAs, who appreciated the awareness campaign and assured officials of their cooperation in promoting composting activities within their residential colonies.

As part of the drive, the GHMC conducted 28 special training sessions across different circles of the city, benefiting nearly 500 to 600 RWA representatives. Demonstration programs were organized in areas such as Kisanbagh, Met-

tuguda, and Kavadiyada, where residents were shown simple and environmentally friendly methods of converting household wet waste into organic compost. Officials stated that the campaign forms part of the broader efforts being undertaken under the Praja Palana action plan to strengthen community participation in sanitation activities and environmental protection. The civic body emphasized that active involvement from residents is essential for building a sustainable urban ecosystem and ensuring long-term cleanliness across the city. The GHMC reiterated its commitment to promoting environmentally responsible practices and expanding awareness programs aimed at encouraging citizens to adopt green living habits.

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Srinivas Goud Demands Dissolution of NTA Over NEET Leak

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud strongly condemned the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak and demanded the dissolution of the National Testing Agency during a protest held at RTC X Roads in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The demonstration was organized under the leadership of Telangana Student JAC Chairman Vemula Ramakrishna to protest against irregularities in the national medical entrance examination. Addressing the gathering, Srinivas Goud described the paper leak as unfortunate and said it had shattered the dreams of lakhs of students aspiring to become doctors. He stated that

the hard work of deserving students and the hopes of their parents had been pushed into uncertainty due to the incident. Questioning the credibility of the examination system, he argued that allowing unqualified candidates to enter the medical profession would adversely affect the country's healthcare standards. He alleged that repeated examination failures had exposed serious shortcomings in the functioning of the NTA and demanded that the agency be dissolved immediately.

The former minister also demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, stating that moral responsibility for the incident rested with the Centre. He called

for stringent legislation to prevent future examination leaks and suggested severe punishment for those involved in such crimes.

Srinivas Goud further proposed that a sitting Supreme Court judge should oversee an inquiry into the alleged leak and insisted that all individuals connected to the incident be brought to justice. He also argued that if the Central Government is unable to conduct nationwide examinations transparently, the responsibility should be handed over to state governments. Several student leaders, including Suresh, Nandagopal, Sai, Satish, Praveen, Hari Shankar, Vinay, and Vinod, participated in the protest program.

Governor Praises Telangana Prison Reforms

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla inaugurated the Telangana Prison Museum and the "Feel the Jail Experience" initiative at Chanchalguda Prison and lauded the reforms introduced in the state's prison system. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said prisons have gradually evolved from centers of punishment into institutions focused on reform, rehabilitation, and humane transformation. He appreciated the efforts of the Telangana Prisons and Correctional Services Department and commended Director General of Prisons Soumya Mishra along with her team for developing the museum and awareness initiatives. The Governor stated that the museum reflects the harsh realities of prison life during the pre-independence era and showcases the evolution of modern reform-oriented prison administration. He said exhibits including prison barracks, shackles, chains, galloes, rare artifacts, and audio-visual galleries offer visitors insight into the history of prisons and the struggles endured by inmates during British rule. Shiv Pratap Shukla empha-

sized that prisons should focus on transforming inmates rather than merely confining them. Recalling his own experiences, he said he had been jailed during the Emergency period for 21 days while serving as a student leader and had also introduced reforms during his tenure as Prisons Minister in Uttar Pradesh.

The Governor remarked that not every prisoner is inherently criminal and that many become offenders due to circumstances. He advised prison officials to create a positive environment that encourages behavioral change and rehabilitation.

Speaking at the event, Soumya Mishra said the museum was redeveloped at Chanchalguda after the closure of the old Sangareddy Prison Museum. She explained that the "Feel the Jail Experience" program offers visitors a supervised 12-hour or 24-hour immersive prison experience aimed at promoting awareness, empathy, and understanding of prison reforms.

The department also launched the official website, Telangana Jail Experience, for online bookings and visitor access.

Kavitha Summoned in Rail Roko Case Over BC Reservation Protest

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Kalvakuntla Kavitha has been issued summons in connection with a 'Rail Roko' protest conducted in Kamareddy district demanding 42 percent reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). The summons direct her to appear before the Second Judicial Magistrate of First Class Railway Court in Secunderabad at 10:30 AM on Wednesday.

Cases were reportedly registered under provisions of the Railways Act against Kavitha and 12 other leaders who participated in the agitation. The protest was organized on November 28, 2025, at the Kamareddy district headquarters, where demonstrators demanded immediate approval of the BC reservation bills passed by the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

During the protest, participants reportedly declared that their agitation would continue until 42 percent reservations

for BCs were implemented in education, employment, and local bodies. Police had detained Kavitha and several other leaders participating in the demonstration and later shifted them to a police station.

According to officials, the rail blockade disrupted train movement on the Hyderabad-Nizamabad railway route. The Devagiri Express traveling from Nizamabad to Hyderabad was halted between Sirnappalli and Indalwai railway stations due to the protest. A goods train on the same route was also affected.

The complaint in the case was reportedly filed by Railway ASI Ravindra Babu of Kamareddy. Based on the complaint, cases were booked against Kavitha and the other protesters under Sections 147 and 174(a) of the Railways Act.

The court has now directed all accused individuals named in the case to appear before the railway court in Secunderabad for further proceedings related to the matter.

NEET Irregularities Reflect Centre's Failure: Jupally Krishna Rao

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise, Jupally Krishna Rao, strongly criticized the BJP-led Central Government over the NEET examination controversy, stating that the cancellation of the exam due to alleged paper leaks and irregularities reflects a complete administrative failure. In a press statement issued on Tuesday, the Minister said the developments surrounding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) had pushed lakhs of medical aspirants and their families into deep anxiety across the country. He alleged that repeated lapses in the conduct of examinations under the National Testing Agency (NTA) had severely damaged the credibility of the nation's education system.

Jupally Krishna Rao accused the Centre of failing to protect the hard work and aspirations of students. He stated that despite repeated incidents of question paper leaks, malpractice, and irregularities in NEET examinations over the past several years, the Central Government had failed to introduce effective corrective measures.

The Minister observed that transparency and security standards in the examination process had become extremely weak, resulting in severe mental stress among students and emotional distress for parents. He asserted that the present situation vindicates concerns



repeatedly raised by senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi regarding the weakening of constitutional and institutional systems in the country.

Demanding accountability, Jupally Krishna Rao called upon the Central Government to apologize to students and parents for the failures in conducting the examination process. He urged the Centre to implement stringent safeguards to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future and emphasized the need for comprehensive reforms in the education system.

The Minister also demanded an immediate overhaul of the National Testing Agency, alleging that the institution had become synonymous with inefficiency and administrative failure. He further called for strict action against all individuals responsible for the alleged paper leak and examination irregularities.

Reaffirming support for students and parents, he stated that the Congress party would continue to stand by them until justice is ensured and confidence in the examination system is restored.



Railway Safety Wall Construction Receives Praise

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The Travelers Association has welcomed the initiative taken by South Central Railway authorities to construct a protective wall and fencing near the railway track opposite the Sri Umar Alisha Visva Vignana Vidya Adhyatmika Peetham in Pithapuram. The association appreciated the efforts of the Divisional Railway Manager and the Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination) of the Vijayawada Division for responding positively to public concerns and prioritizing commuter safety.

According to Mohammed Noor, a member of the Association as well as the Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUC), the demand for safety measures had been raised several times by local residents, devotees, and railway passengers. People had expressed concern over the frequent crossing of railway tracks near the Road Under

Bridge (RUB), which posed a serious risk to public safety.

Following these appeals, railway officials acted promptly and initiated the construction work to prevent unauthorized crossing of tracks and reduce the chances of accidents in the area. The fencing and wall are expected to guide pedestrians toward safer routes and improve overall safety standards around the railway premises.

Residents of Pithapuram and devotees visiting the nearby spiritual centre have expressed satisfaction over the quick response of the railway department. Many locals stated that the move reflects the commitment of railway authorities toward ensuring the welfare and protection of the public. The Travelers Association thanked the officials for taking immediate action and hoped that similar safety measures would be implemented at other vulnerable railway locations to safeguard passengers and residents.

Questions Raised Over Massive Shed Construction

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

A large shed being constructed near Chinnadamara pond in the Dundigal Circle has sparked controversy, with locals alleging that the structure is being built without the required permissions. Residents claim that despite apparent violations of building regulations, officials from the Town Planning Department have not initiated any action against the construction. The issue has triggered criticism from the public, particularly because authorities are often seen taking immediate action against small residential constructions undertaken by ordinary citizens. Locals are now questioning why no steps have been taken in the case of a massive commercial-style shed that is visibly under construction. Residents have expressed suspicion over the silence of Town Planning officials, including ACP and TPS authorities in Dundigal. Many are asking whether the officials are unaware of the construction activ-

ity or are intentionally ignoring it despite the work being carried out openly. The controversy has intensified further due to the location of the structure near a lake area, where specific development and environmental regulations are usually applicable. Locals have raised concerns about whether the necessary clearances and land-use norms are being followed in this case. Some residents also suspect that the construction may be continuing under political influence or with the support of certain officials, as no inspection notices or enforcement measures have reportedly been issued so far. People in the area are now urging the Deputy Commissioner of the Dundigal Circle to intervene immediately and conduct a detailed inquiry into the permissions, land ownership records, and compliance with building norms related to the project. They are demanding strict action if any violations are found and are calling for transparency in the enforcement process.

Lawyer Injured in Chain-Snatching Incident

Warangal, May 12 | TPN Bureau

A fresh chain-snatching incident in Warangal city has created concern among residents as cases of theft and snatching continue to rise in several localities. The latest incident took place in Society Colony of Kashibugga, where unidentified miscreants allegedly snatched a gold chain weighing around two tolas from the neck of a lawyer. According to reports, the advocate was sitting in front of his house and speaking on the phone when the offenders approached and carried out the theft before fleeing from the spot. The victim reportedly at-

tempted to chase the accused immediately after the incident. However, during the pursuit, he lost balance, fell down, and sustained injuries.

The incident caused panic among local residents, who expressed concern over the increasing number of chain-snatching cases in the city. People in the area are demanding stronger police patrolling and stricter surveillance to curb such crimes.

Police officials are believed to have begun an investigation into the incident and efforts are underway to identify and trace the accused. Further details are awaited.

Eatala Rajender Visits Fire Accident Victims

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender visited Mahadevapuram in the Gajularamaram division following a major fire accident that caused severe damage to several families. During his visit, he inspected the affected area and interacted with residents who suffered losses in the incident.

The MP spoke to the victims and gathered details about the hardships they are currently facing. He assured the affected families that he would support them in every possible manner and stand by them during this difficult time. He also encouraged the victims and expressed concern over the damage caused by the fire.

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party who accompanied him urged the government to provide immediate financial assistance and rehabilitation support to the families impacted by the accident. They



stressed the need for prompt relief measures to help the victims recover from their losses.

The BJP leaders also called for a detailed investigation into the reasons behind the fire accident. They stated that proper safety measures should be implemented to prevent similar incidents from occurring in residential areas in the future.

Several party leaders and representatives participated in the visit, including District President Mallareddy, District General Secretary Girivardhan Reddy, BJP leader KKP Kantarao, State Council Member Bakka Shankar Reddy, Telangana State Municipal Cell Convener Ravula Seshagiri, and other local leaders.

BKR Foundation Holds Free Medical Camp

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The 37th free medical camp organized by the BKR Foundation was conducted on a large scale at Srinivasa Colony in D. Pochampally, Gandimaisamma, under the Quthbullapur constituency. The camp was inaugurated by Bongunuri Kishore Reddy, President of the BKR Foundation and Vice Chairman of the Telangana Congress Party's Protocol and Coordination Committee.

Addressing the gathering, Bongunuri Kishore Reddy appealed to economically weaker and middle-class families to take advantage of the free healthcare services being provided through such camps. He stated that the foundation is committed not only to improving public health but also to supporting the education of students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Kishore Reddy assured local residents that the problems faced in the colony would be brought to the notice of the



concerned authorities and that efforts would be made to resolve them at the earliest. He emphasized the importance of community welfare initiatives and reiterated the foundation's commitment to serving the public. He also thanked the doctors, medical staff, and management of CMR Hospital for extending their cooperation and support in successfully conducting the medical camp.

Several leaders and mem-

bers of the Indian National Congress attended the event, including Gopi, Mahender Reddy, Bongunuri Naveen Reddy, Rajasekhar Yadav, Kavali Ganesh, Prem Kumar, Narasimha Reddy, Sadhu Yadav, and Shiva Reddy. A large number of residents from Srinivasa Colony also participated in the camp and availed themselves of the free medical services provided during the program.

Cash Rewards for Meritorious Students

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

A felicitation program was held at the Government School in Bhaurampet under the Dundigal Circle limits to honor students who achieved outstanding results in the Class 10 examinations. The event was conducted under the leadership of former Bhaurampet Councillor Narsareddy Srinivas Reddy.

The highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of Lakshminarayana, a student from Indiramma Colony in Bhaurampet, who secured the first rank in Medchal district in the recently announced SSC results. In appreciation of his achievement, he was awarded a cash incentive of Rs. 50,000.

Another student who secured third rank at the Mandal level received a cash award of Rs. 30,000. In addition, four students who scored above 500 marks were presented with Rs. 10,000 each, while five students



who obtained more than 490 marks were given Rs. 5,000 each as encouragement for their academic excellence.

Addressing the gathering, Narsareddy Srinivas Reddy said that students can achieve great success through dedication and hard work. He described the district-level first rank secured by Lakshminarayana as a proud moment for the entire Bhaurampet area. He further stated that society has a responsibility to en-

courage talented students and assured that he would continue supporting deserving students in the future. The event also highlighted the importance of government schools in producing meritorious students through quality education and determination. Headmaster Ramireddy, local leaders Manne Shekhar Mudiraj, Midela Mallareddy, Katakam Viresh, teachers, students, and parents attended the program in large numbers.

SFI Demands Action Over Alleged NEET Irregularities

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The SFI Telangana State Committee has strongly criticized the National Testing Agency (NTA) over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination conducted across the country on May 3. The student organization stated that repeated incidents of question paper leaks have raised serious concerns about the transparency and credibility of the examination system managed by the NTA.

SFI leaders said that if the ongoing allegations regarding the NEET paper leak are confirmed and the examination is cancelled, the future of nearly 2.2 million students across India would be severely affected. They argued that the growing centralization of education by the Union Government has weakened the role of states in conducting examinations and has resulted in repeated administrative failures.

Referring to the cancellation of the NEET and NET examinations in 2024 following leak allegations, the organization claimed that no substantial re-

forms or corrective measures were introduced despite widespread criticism. According to SFI, the recurrence of such incidents shows the inability of the NTA to conduct large-scale examinations in a transparent and secure manner.

The student body also pointed out that a paper leak in one region impacts candidates throughout the country because of the centralized nature of the examination process. It stressed that education should be decentralized and that states must be given the authority to conduct entrance examinations independently.

Demanding immediate intervention from the Central Government, the SFI called for a thorough investigation into the alleged leak and strict action against those responsible. The organization urged the Centre to ensure justice for students and reconsider the existing centralized examination system. SFI leaders S. Rajinikanth and T. Nagaraju appealed for urgent reforms to protect the interests of students nationwide.

Satyakumar Urges Nurses to Emulate Kerala's Reputation

Guntur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav on Tuesday called upon nurses in the state to strive for the same level of recognition enjoyed by nurses from Kerala, stressing the need for compassion, dedication and professional excellence in patient care. Addressing International Nurses Day celebrations at the Government Medical College Gymkhana Auditorium in Guntur, the Minister said nurses play a crucial role in healthcare and that patients recover faster when treated with warmth and empathy. Mr. Yadav said Andhra

Pradesh produces nearly 38,000 nursing graduates annually through about 700 nursing colleges and noted that the reputation of the state's nurses should improve further through better service standards and self-reflection.

He also announced that language training, including German, is being provided to nursing students seeking overseas employment opportunities.

During the event, the Minister presented Florence Nightingale Awards to five nurses for excellence in research, administration, education and public service.

GHMC Demolishes Illegal Building

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation have intensified action against unauthorized constructions in the Dundigal Circle, targeting buildings raised in violation of approved permissions. The latest demolition drive was carried out in Bahadurpally, where a massive G+5 structure was reportedly being constructed illegally opposite Tech Mahindra.

A special team from the Town Planning Department reached the site and initiated demolition proceedings using cutting equipment to remove slabs and walls that exceeded the sanctioned building plan. The operation drew significant attention from local residents and has sparked discussions among builders and property owners in the area. Officials stated that strict action would continue against constructions violating municipal norms and warned builders against deviating from approved plans. The crackdown comes shortly after Venkata Mani Karan assumed

charge as Deputy Commissioner of the Dundigal Circle. Residents believe the Town Planning wing has adopted a tougher stance under the new administration and is actively monitoring illegal developments.

Locals observed that authorities are now sending a strong message that violations of building permissions will not be tolerated. However, many residents also expressed cautious optimism, pointing out that similar drives launched in the past were short-lived and eventually lost momentum.

The ongoing enforcement campaign has therefore raised questions about whether the present action will continue consistently or remain limited to temporary measures. Builders in the region are reportedly anxious as officials continue inspections and monitoring of unauthorized structures.

Assistant City Planner Srinivas, along with Town Planning staff, participated in the demolition drive and supervised the enforcement action at the site.

GHMC Intensifies Sanitation Drive

Quthbullapur, May 12 | TPN Bureau

As part of the 99-day 'Praja Palana Pragathi Plan' initiative, sanitation and waste management activities were organized in the Dundigal Circle by Additional Commissioner (CMC) Yadagiri Rao. The inspection focused on improving cleanliness standards and creating awareness among residents about effective waste management practices.

An awareness session on compost preparation was conducted for members of the Residents' Welfare Association at



PNR Meadows in Dommara Pochampally. During the program, residents were educated on the importance of environmental protection and the role

of proper waste segregation and composting in maintaining a clean and healthy locality. Officials also directed commercial establishments, including

shops and hotels, to compulsorily install dustbins on their premises. Authorities warned that the "No Bin - No License" policy would be strictly enforced and that penalties would be imposed on businesses failing to follow sanitation norms. Addressing residents, officials advised households to separate waste into wet and dry categories before handing it over to Swachh Autos for collection. The move is aimed at improving recycling and scientific disposal of waste.

Instructions were also issued to field staff to ensure cleanliness of roads and public

areas. Officials were asked to remove roadside weeds, prevent garbage accumulation, and immediately clear construction and demolition waste dumped along roadsides.

The sanitation inspection and awareness activities were carried out in the presence of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials, including Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Mani Karan, Solid Waste Management Deputy Engineer Anvesh Reddy, Assistant Engineer Ashok Kumar, Environmental Engineer P. Sathvik, SFAs, and other sanitation staff members.

POCSO Case: Police Summon Bandi Bhagirath for Questioning

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The investigation into the POCSO case involving Bandi Bhagirath, son of Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, has intensified, with the Cyberabad Police issuing notices directing him to appear for questioning on Wednesday at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station. Police officials also served notices to Bhagirath's maternal uncle, Vamsi Krishna, a resident of Karimnagar, instructing him to present Bhagirath before the investigating officers. The case, which has attracted significant public and political attention, is currently being closely monitored by senior police officials.

Meanwhile, Bandi Bhagirath approached the High Court seeking interim bail. His petition is expected to come up for hearing in the next two days.

According to police sources, the developments stem from complaints filed on May 8. Bhagirath initially lodged a complaint against a girl and her parents at the Karimnagar

Two Town Police Station. Later the same day, the girl's mother filed a counter-complaint at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station, naming Bhagirath along with former journalist and BJP leader Sangappa.

After examining the complaint and preliminary evidence, police registered a case under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against Bhagirath. Authorities later reportedly altered and added sections to the case based on the victim's statement recorded during the course of the investigation.

The probe gathered further momentum after the Director General of Police reportedly instructed officials to closely supervise the investigation. Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj has been entrusted with overseeing the inquiry.

Police officials are continuing their investigation and are expected to question all parties connected to the case in the coming days.

Saffron Spirit Engulfs During Hanuman Jayanti

Jagtial, May 12 | TPN Bureau

The famous Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy Temple has been beautifully decorated for the grand Hanuman Jayanti celebrations, with the entire temple surroundings immersed in saffron hues as thousands of devotees gathered to participate in the festivities.

Devotees of Lord Hanuman and those observing Deeksha arrived at Kondagattu from different districts of Telangana as well as neighboring states. The temple premises echoed with chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and devotional slogans dedicated to Lord Anjaneya Swamy, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere throughout the region.

Temple priests began special Abhishekams and Pujas for the presiding deity in the early hours of Tuesday morning. On behalf of the state government, ceremonial silk robes are also scheduled to be offered to Lord Anjaneya as part of the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations.

Many devotees who had undertaken Deeksha and reached



the shrine on Monday night fulfilled their vows at the temple before formally concluding their observances at the Kalyanakatta building. After completing the rituals, several devotees began their return journey following prayers and offerings. Anticipating a huge turnout, the district administration made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth darshan and the comfort of devotees. Facilities including drinking water, cooling shelters, and special queue lines were established across the

temple premises.

To manage the large crowds and regulate vehicle movement, a significant number of police personnel were deployed around the temple and nearby roads. Officials stated that all necessary steps were taken to ensure that devotees could participate in the celebrations without inconvenience.

The festive atmosphere at Kondagattu reflected the deep devotion of devotees who gathered in large numbers to celebrate Hanuman Jayanti with faith and enthusiasm.

Collector Orders Faster Grain Unloading at Rice Mills

Nalgonda, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Collector B. Chandrasekhar directed officials to ensure there are no delays in unloading grain at rice mills and instructed the administration to intensify procurement operations in "mission mode." The directions were issued during a district-level review meeting held after Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a statewide video conference on grain and maize procurement.

The Collector instructed officials to achieve a daily procurement target of 20,000 to 25,000 metric tonnes and warned that strict action would be taken against anyone responsible for delays in unloading grain from lorries at mills. He also directed officials to ensure that 'Grade A' and 'Common' grain varieties are not mixed during transportation and processing.

Emphasizing real-time monitoring, the Collector ordered officials to process truck receipts immediately after consignments reach rice mills. Special focus was placed on Miryalaguda rice mills, which reportedly have the capacity to unload nearly 1.34 lakh metric

tonnes of grain. To avoid transportation bottlenecks, Transport Department officials were instructed to ensure smooth rotation of lorries over the next 20 days and dispatch vehicles immediately to procurement centers where grain stocks have accumulated. The Collector noted that nearly 2.6 lakh metric tonnes of grain still remain to be procured in the district.

District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Power stated that police support would be provided if rice millers refuse to unload grain deliberately.

During the video conference, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed Collectors to personally supervise procurement operations, appoint dedicated officers at procurement centers and rice mills, and remain vigilant regarding weather-related challenges. He also instructed officials to arrange tarpaulins to protect grain from unseasonal rains and warned that officials would be held accountable for lapses.

Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Thummala Nageswara Rao, and Seethakka also participated in the review meeting.

Two Drivers Killed in Fiery Lorry Collision

Khammam, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Two lorry drivers were burnt alive in a tragic road accident that took place on Tuesday morning near Mekala Thanda in Thirumalayapalem Mandal of Khammam district. The accident occurred on the Warangal-Khammam highway near Ekalavya Nursery when two lorries traveling in opposite directions collided head-on.

According to local residents, one of the vehicles was transporting potatoes while the other was carrying coal. Soon after the collision, both lorries caught fire, and the flames spread rapidly, engulfing the vehicles within minutes. Due to the intensity of the fire, both drivers were trapped inside and died on the spot.

The incident created panic among people in the surrounding area as huge flames and thick smoke rose from the ac-

cident site. Two cleaners traveling in the vehicles sustained minor injuries in the mishap. Locals immediately shifted them to a nearby hospital for treatment.

After receiving information about the accident, fire department personnel rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after intensive efforts. Police officials also arrived at the scene and initiated rescue and relief operations.

Traffic movement on the busy Warangal-Khammam highway was disrupted for some time due to the accident and the subsequent firefighting operations. Police registered a case and launched an investigation into the cause of the collision.

Authorities stated that the identities of the deceased drivers had not yet been confirmed. Further details regarding the accident are awaited as the investigation continues.

NSUI Demands Action Over NEET Controversy

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Rithish Rao criticized the Central Government and the National Testing Agency over the alleged irregularities surrounding the NEET examination, stating that repeated paper leak incidents have severely affected the future of students.

Addressing the issue of the reported cancellation controversy and examination irregularities, Rithish Rao alleged that exam paper leaks have become frequent over the past decade and accused the NTA of repeatedly failing in the conduct of national-level examinations. He claimed that the agency's handling of examinations

has raised serious concerns among students and parents across the country.

The NSUI leader further alleged that the Union Government gives greater importance to political agendas than to protecting students' academic futures. Referring to national political discussions, he remarked that the seriousness shown toward issues such as "One Nation - One Election" was missing when it came to ensuring fair and transparent examinations for students.

Demanding accountability, he called for the immediate resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan and urged the Centre to take stringent action against

those responsible for the alleged NEET scam.

Rithish Rao expressed concern that the hard work and aspirations of crores of students and parents were being undermined due to repeated irregularities in competitive examinations. He alleged that access to quality education was increasingly becoming limited to financially privileged sections, while students from economically weaker backgrounds were facing injustice.

Appealing to Narendra Modi, he urged the Prime Minister to intervene and take immediate steps to protect the future and interests of students across the country.



Ponnam Prabhakar Offers Special Prayers on Hanuman Jayanti

Hyderabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with his family members, visited Rama temples at Lakdikapul and Somajiguda in Hyderabad and offered special prayers to Lord Anjaneya Swamy.

During the visit, temple priests performed Vedic rituals and blessed the Minister. He also presented him with sacred Teertha and Prasadam following the prayers. The atmosphere at the temples was marked by devotion as devotees gathered in large numbers to celebrate the festival.

Extending Hanuman Jayanti greetings to the people of Telangana, the Minister prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness, and good health for all citizens of the state. He de-

scribed Lord Hanuman as a symbol of devotion, courage, strength, and selfless service.

Ponnam Prabhakar also offered prayers seeking divine blessings for the smooth implementation of welfare and development programs being undertaken by the Praja Palana government. He expressed hope that no obstacles would arise in the path of the state's progress and public welfare initiatives.

The Minister stated that festivals such as Hanuman Jayanti strengthen spiritual values and promote unity and harmony among people. He urged citizens to celebrate the festival with devotion and positivity. The prayer ceremony was attended by Anil Kumar Yadav, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, and several other leaders and devotees.

Court Awards Jail Term in Drunk Driving Cases

Ichoda, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Authorities in Ichoda have intensified action against drunk driving, with the local court imposing jail terms and fines on offenders involved in driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to police officials, Judicial First Class Magistrate K. Sandeep Kumar sentenced two individuals to one day of imprisonment in separate drunk driving cases heard on Tuesday. In addition to the jail punishment, fines were imposed on five other offenders for violating traffic and safety regulations.

The individuals sentenced to jail were identified as Navahare Babarao, a resident of Mannur village in Gudihathnur Mandal, and Sidam Subhash from Kuntala village in Neradigonda Mandal.

Speaking about the enforcement drive, K. Naresh Kumar stated that drunk driving remains one of the major causes of road accidents and loss of human life. He urged motorists to act responsibly and avoid operating vehicles after consuming alcohol.

The SHO warned that police



will continue conducting strict enforcement drives against drunk driving and that offenders would face serious legal consequences. He emphasized that road safety is a shared responsibility and appealed to the public to cooperate with police efforts aimed at preventing accidents.

Police officials reiterated that regular checks and awareness programs would continue in order to reduce road mishaps and ensure safer travel for the public.



Congress Workers Will Get Due Recognition: Nirmala Jaggareddy

Sangareddy, May 12 | TPN Bureau

Nirmala Jaggareddy stated that every activist who has worked sincerely for the Indian National Congress would be given proper recognition within the party structure.

She made these remarks while participating in the application reception program organized for the formation of the new Congress Party SC Cell executive committee in Sangareddy town on Tuesday. Joint Medak District Observer Raja Badrayya attended the event as the chief guest.

Addressing party workers, Nirmala Jaggareddy said the committee formation process was aimed at encouraging and recognizing grassroots activists who had dedicated themselves to strengthening the Congress party. She explained that the new SC Cell committee would be constituted after consultations with senior party

leaders, including Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, Jaggareddy, Suresh Shetkar, and other important district-level leaders.

She urged eligible party activists to actively participate in the process by submitting applications for various positions in the SC Cell committee. According to her, applications will be accepted until May 15.

The program witnessed the participation of several Congress leaders and party functionaries, including TPCC General Secretary Topaji Ananth Kishan, district leader Chidruppa Raghu, SC Cell President Hanumanthu Yadagiri, Vice President Gangeri Srihari, and other activists.

Party leaders emphasized that strengthening organizational committees at the grassroots level would help expand the Congress party's reach and improve coordination among workers across the district.



Drinking Water Crisis Deepens

Adilabad, May 12 | TPN Bureau

A severe drinking water shortage has created distress among residents of Harkayi village in Bazar Hathnour Mandal of Adilabad district after the supply under the Mission Bhagiratha reportedly remained disrupted for the past two days.

With temperatures rising sharply across the region, villagers are facing increasing hardships as their primary source of drinking water has come to a halt. Adding to the crisis, the water level in the village's only well has been declining steadily, while several other wells in nearby areas have reportedly dried up due to

intense summer heat and falling groundwater levels.

Residents, including women, elderly people, and children, are being forced to wait in long queues near wells from early morning to collect water in pots and containers. Some villagers are reportedly traveling long distances in search of drinking water, while farmers are worried about the lack of water for their cattle and livestock.

Villagers alleged that despite repeatedly informing officials about the issue, no permanent solution has been provided so far. They expressed concern that the situation could worsen further as summer progresses if immediate measures are not taken.

The residents demanded that authorities immediately arrange drinking water supply through tankers and restore the disrupted Mission Bhagiratha pipeline at the earliest. They also urged the government to sanction additional borewells to ensure a permanent solution to the recurring water shortage.

Locals emphasized that officials should proactively identify villages likely to face drinking water problems during summer and take preventive measures in advance. The situation in Harkayi village highlights the growing water crisis affecting several rural areas during the ongoing heat-wave season.



Chintan Shivir: Aligning India's Sporting Future Through Shared Vision

Having had the opportunity to be part of two Chintan Shivirs, I can say with conviction that this is one of the most timely and impactful initiatives in Indian sport today. We find ourselves at a significant moment in our nation's sporting journey—one where intent, investment, and inspiration are converging like never before. Over the past decade, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, sport in India has moved from the margins to the mainstream. There is a palpable national awareness about its importance—not just as a competitive pursuit, but as a vehicle for health, discipline, and national pride. Today, we see an ecosystem that is both vast and diverse: state governments, NGOs,

corporates, federations, and grassroots institutions are all actively contributing to the growth of sport. What makes the Chintan Shivir particularly valuable is its ability to bring all these stakeholders onto a common platform. Sport, by its very nature, intersects with multiple sectors—manufacturing, entertainment, fitness, media and education. The Shivir helps align these moving parts, creating a shared vision that is essential for long-term success. It brings the country's collective perspective to the forefront while also showcasing best practices from different states, encouraging replication and innovation. More than just a conference, the Chintan Shivir is a learning ecosystem. It allows stakeholders to exchange ideas, understand challenges,

and collaboratively build solutions. It also serves as a powerful motivator—highlighting success stories and reinforcing the idea that sport in India is not limited to elite medals alone, but is about participation, inclusivity, and nation-building. Initiatives like Fit India Movement, the celebration of International Day of Yoga, and community-driven activities such as cycling events have helped redefine how we view sport. The emphasis is now on "sport for all" alongside excellence at the highest level. Medal aspirations and mass participation are no longer separate conversations—they are part of the same continuum. Hosting the Shivir in Srinagar added another layer of significance. The city's serene beauty provides not just

a picturesque backdrop, but also a sense of calm reflection—something that is essential for meaningful dialogue. A particularly important outcome of this Chintan Shivir was the adoption of the Srinagar Khel Sankalp. This Sankalp is more than a statement of intent—it is a unifying framework that binds together the aspirations of all stakeholders in Indian sport. Clearly outlining shared goals, priorities, and responsibilities, it creates a roadmap that encourages collaboration rather than fragmentation. The true strength of the Srinagar Khel Sankalp lies in its ability to bring diverse partners—governments, federations, private sector, and civil society—onto the same page. It reinforces the idea

that India's sporting rise cannot be driven by isolated efforts. Instead, it must be powered by a coordinated, collaborative approach where resources, knowledge, and expertise are pooled together. This alignment is critical for India to achieve its long-term ambition of becoming one of the top 10 nations at the Olympic Games by 2036. Building world-class athletes requires not just talent, but a seamless ecosystem—grassroots identification, scientific training, infrastructure, coaching excellence, competition exposure, and sustained financial and institutional support. The Sankalp provides the strategic glue that can connect all these elements into a cohesive system. What stands out most from these interactions is the opti-

mism across the ecosystem. There is a shared belief that India's sporting future is bright and that through collaboration, we can build a robust, inclusive, and high-performing sporting culture. The Chintan Shivir is, in many ways, a unique experiment—but one that is already proving to be successful. It underscores the importance of dialogue, alignment, and mutual understanding. For a country as diverse as India, such platforms are not just beneficial—they are essential. If we are to truly realise our ambitions on the global sporting stage, these conversations must continue—and be backed by collective action. The Srinagar Khel Sankalp gives us that direction. The Chintan Shivir gives us that platform. To-

gether, they provide India with a powerful foundation to transform its sporting aspirations into sustained Olympic success.



Pullela Gopichand
Chief national coach
The Indian national
badminton team

"Beyond the Scroll: The Battle for India's Future"

India stands at a dangerous yet powerful crossroads. As a youth mentor, I do not see a generation lacking talent; I see one overflowing with potential but drowning in distraction. We are the youngest nation on Earth, a "youth-rich" powerhouse with a demographic dividend that is the envy of the world. But having the tools is not the same as using them. Our youth are not just a statistic; they are a reservoir of raw energy that can either power a revolution or evaporate into thin air.

The Fog of Digital Sedation
Today's youth live in a world built by the sacrifices of those before them, yet many are trapped in "digital sedation." Constant scrolling and instant gratification act as a persistent fog, blurring the vision required to understand one's true potential. When eyes are fixed on the immediate dopamine hit of a screen, it becomes impossible to "foresee" a long-term future. We are becoming "profile-rich" but "purpose-poor," perfecting Instagram bios while our real-world capabilities gather dust. A viral moment is not a career, and a "like" is not a legacy.

The Societal Cage
Societal pressure adds a suffocating weight, further clouding an already blurred vision. Young people today are caught in a brutal tug-of-war. They are commanded to seek "success" through rigid, outdated standards, yet they lack the clarity to define what success means for



themselves. In their desperate attempt not to succumb, many fall into the trap of aimless rebellion. "They are running away from one cage only to walk into another." -trading the cage of traditional expectations for the cage of mindless consumption.

What worries me most is not failure; it is the tragedy of wasted potential buried under the fear of "what people will say." **From Job Seekers to Nation Builders**
India is not a land of limited competition; it is a battlefield

where millions strive for the same narrow openings. As global borders tighten and economic volatility increases, the old dream of escaping abroad is fading. Our future must be built on our own soil. Indian youth must stop viewing themselves merely as job

seekers and start seeing themselves as nation builders. The same energy that influences elections and demands social accountability must be redirected towards innovation, governance, and the arts. Recent political awareness proves that when this generation be-

comes conscious, they don't just participate in the system—they reshape the very fabric and direction of the nation. **A Collective Accountability**
Awareness without alignment is chaos. Guidance is the missing bridge. The responsibility of shaping this genera-

tion cannot rest on schools alone; it is a mission for parents, mentors, and society. We must move beyond teaching teenagers how to "earn" and start teaching them how to think. We must equip them with emotional resilience, the discipline of deep work, and radical accountability.

India does not lack intelligence; it lacks focused direction. Every habit formed today is a brick in the foundation of our country's future. If this generation spends its most productive years chasing temporary pleasures, the coming decades will be an uphill battle. But if that energy is redirected toward purpose, India will not just participate in the 21st century—it will lead it.

The future of India will not be decided in Parliament alone. It is being decided right now, in the attention span, the discipline, and the quiet decisions of our youth. Will you be the architect of your own life, or just a spectator in someone else's?



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Rahul Gandhi Targets BJP, EC Over Bengal Bureaucratic Appointments

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp attack on the BJP and the Election Commission after former West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal was appointed as the state's Chief Secretary by the newly formed BJP government in West Bengal. Gandhi described the development as evidence of alleged collusion between the BJP and the Election Commission.



In a post on social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi used the phrase "BJP-EC ke chor bazaar mein, jitni badi chori, utna bada innaam," implying that bigger alleged wrongdoing was being rewarded with bigger positions. His remarks intensified the ongoing political controversy surrounding recent bureaucratic appointments in the state.

The controversy erupted after the BJP government appointed Manoj Agarwal as Chief Secretary shortly after taking office. Agarwal, a senior IAS officer, had earlier supervised the recently concluded Assembly elections in the state as the Chief Electoral Officer. Opposition parties questioned the timing of the appointment and raised concerns over the neutrality of the electoral process.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also criticized the appointments, pointing out that retired IAS officer Subrata Gupta, who reportedly oversaw parts of the electoral roll revision process, was appointed as adviser to the Chief Minister. According to Congress leaders, these decisions strengthen allegations of close coordination between the BJP and the Election Commission during the Assembly elections.

The All India Trinamool Congress also reacted strongly, accusing the BJP of undermining democratic institutions. Party leaders questioned whether the Election Commission functioned impartially during

the elections and termed the appointments "beyond shameless."

The BJP, however, dismissed the allegations and defended the appointments as administrative decisions taken by the newly elected government. The party maintained that the elections were conducted fairly and in accordance with constitutional procedures.

The controversy has once again placed the functioning of the Election Commission at the center of political debate, with opposition parties alleging institutional bias while the BJP continues to reject those accusations as politically motivated attacks.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Sworn In for Second Consecutive Term as Assam Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the Chief Minister of Assam for a second consecutive term after the BJP-led NDA secured a decisive mandate in the Assembly elections. The swearing-in ceremony was held at Khanapara in Guwahati and witnessed the presence of several prominent national leaders, party workers, and supporters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and senior BJP leaders attended the ceremony, underlining the political importance of the event for the BJP and the NDA alliance in the Northeast.

Along with Sarma, several senior leaders and alliance representatives also took oath as cabinet ministers in the new government. The cabinet formation reflected the BJP's strategy of maintaining a balance between experienced representation, and alliance partners. Political observers believe the composition of the cabinet is aimed at ensuring continuity in governance while also strengthening the party's political reach across different communities and regions of the state.

The BJP-led alliance secured a comfortable majority in the Assembly elections,



further consolidating the party's dominance in Assam and the Northeast. Analysts attribute the victory largely to Sarma's leadership, welfare-oriented governance, organizational skills, and strong public outreach. During his previous term, the government focused heavily on infrastructure development, road connectivity, education, healthcare, and measures related to law and order.

Addressing the gathering after taking oath, Sarma thanked the people of Assam for placing their trust in his leadership once again. He

stated that the new government would continue working toward economic growth, employment generation, industrial development, and welfare schemes for all sections of society. He also emphasized the importance of peace, stability, and inclusive development in the state.

Sarma said the government would continue prioritizing investment, tourism, digital infrastructure, and social welfare initiatives. He assured that efforts would be intensified to strengthen Assam's economy and improve opportunities for youth and entrepreneurs.

The swearing-in ceremony also highlighted the BJP's growing influence in the Northeast, where the party has significantly expanded its political base over the last decade. Party leaders described the victory as a reflection of public confidence in the NDA's governance model and development agenda.

With the new government officially taking charge, attention is now shifting toward the administration's policy priorities and implementation of key election promises in the coming months.

Sports Authority of India and MyBharat Launch Nationwide Campaigns Ahead of CWG 2030

Ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2030 scheduled to be hosted in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in collaboration with MyBharat, has launched three nationwide engagement initiatives aimed at encouraging youth participation, creativity, and sporting enthusiasm across the country.

The initiatives include the 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Torch Design Contest', the 'CWG Reel Challenge', and the 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Quiz'. All three campaigns are free of cost and open to MyBharat users nationwide. The programmes are designed to build awareness and excitement around the vision of "#CWG2030InBharat".

The 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Torch Design Contest' invites citizens to create torch concepts inspired by India's culture, heritage, innovation, sustainability, and sporting excellence. Participants can submit digital or hand-drawn designs along with an optional concept note of up to 200 words. The contest will run online from May 11 to May 20, 2026. Winners will receive Fit India hampers and recogni-

tion certificates, while all eligible participants will receive digital participation certificates.

Another major initiative, the 'CWG Reel Challenge', encourages participants to create short original reels showcasing India's growing sports culture, local sports infrastructure, fitness awareness, and enthusiasm for hosting the Commonwealth Games. Participants are also encouraged to include messages supporting India's preparedness for CWG 2030 and wishes for the Indian contingent participating in CWG 2026. Reel duration must not exceed 60 seconds. The challenge runs from May 7 to May 16, 2026, and the top five creators will receive Fit India hampers from SAI.

The 'Commonwealth Games 2030 Quiz' focuses on India's sporting legacy and the country's journey in Commonwealth Games history. The online quiz contains 10 multiple-choice questions to be completed within five minutes. Participants must score at least eight marks to qualify. The quiz is open from May 9 to September 26, 2026, and top performers will be recognized every week.

Officials said the initiatives are intended to strengthen public participation in India's sporting movement while promoting national pride, creati-

ty, and collective excitement ahead of the country's proposed hosting of the Commonwealth Games 2030 in Ahmedabad.

Opposition Seeks Urgent Discussion in Maharashtra After PM's Call for Economic Restraint

Opposition parties in Maharashtra have demanded an all-party meeting following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal urging citizens to adopt austerity measures amid rising crude oil prices and growing economic uncertainty. Leaders from opposition parties expressed concern that the Prime Minister's remarks indicate the possibility of a worsening economic situation due to escalating geopolitical tensions and increasing fuel prices. They argued that the state government should convene an all-party discussion to assess the potential impact on Maharashtra's economy, industries, transport sector, and common citizens.

The controversy emerged after Prime Minister Modi appealed to people to avoid unnecessary spending, reduce fuel consumption, postpone non-essential foreign travel, and limit gold purchases in order to help conserve foreign exchange reserves and reduce pressure on the economy. His comments came amid surging global crude oil prices triggered by tensions in West Asia.

Opposition leaders stated that Maharashtra, being one of India's largest industrial and commercial states, could face significant challenges if fuel prices continue to rise. They warned that sectors such as transportation, manufacturing, tourism, aviation, and small businesses may come under pressure due to higher operational costs and weakening consumer demand.

Several opposition parties questioned whether the Centre is preparing for possible economic stress and argued that citizens deserve clarity on the government's strategy to handle inflation and rising import costs. They demanded that both the Centre and the Maharashtra government share detailed plans to protect employment, control prices, and support industries likely to be affected by the global situation.

Leaders also highlighted concerns over the impact of rising fuel prices on essential commodities and household expenses. According to opposition parties, inflation could place additional pressure on middle-class and lower-income families al-

ready dealing with higher living costs.

The ruling alliance, however, defended the Prime Minister's appeal, describing it as a precautionary and responsible measure during a period of global uncertainty. BJP leaders argued that the government is closely monitoring international developments and taking necessary steps to maintain economic stability.

Political observers believe the issue may trigger wider national debate over economic preparedness, fuel pricing, inflation management, and fiscal policy if crude oil prices remain elevated for a prolonged period.

Meanwhile, economists have cautioned that sustained high oil prices could affect India's fiscal balance, weaken the rupee further, and increase inflationary pressure across sectors. As uncertainty continues in global markets, both governments and businesses are expected to closely monitor developments in the coming weeks.

C. Joseph Vijay Orders Closure of 717 TASMALC Liquor Shops Across Tamil Nadu

In one of his first major policy decisions after assuming office, C. Joseph Vijay has ordered the closure of 717 TASMALC liquor outlets located near temples, schools, colleges, and bus stands across Tamil Nadu. The move is being projected as a major public welfare initiative by the newly formed government.



According to the government order, all identified liquor shops operating within restricted distances of religious places, educational institutions, and bus depots must be shut down within two weeks. Officials stated that the decision was taken in the interest of public safety, social welfare, and protection of students and women.

A government review reportedly found that hundreds of TASMALC outlets were functioning close to sensitive public locations across the state. The administration said the closures are aimed at reducing the social impact of alcohol consumption and improving the environment around educational and religious institutions.

The decision marks a significant step toward fulfilling the election promises made by Vijay and his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, which strongly campaigned on issues related to alcohol regulation

and public welfare. During the Assembly election campaign, the party criticized previous governments for allegedly prioritizing liquor revenue over social concerns.

Several political leaders and social organizations welcomed the move, describing it as a long-standing public demand. Supporters of the decision argued that liquor shops located near schools, temples, and bus stands created safety concerns and negatively affected local communities.

However, some experts

pointed out that TASMALC remains one of the Tamil Nadu government's largest sources of revenue, and the closure of hundreds of outlets could have financial implications for the state. Analysts believe the government may eventually look for alternative revenue sources while continuing its welfare-focused governance approach.

The Vijay government has also announced additional welfare initiatives, including women's safety measures, anti-drug enforcement drives, and

social welfare programmes. Political observers believe these early decisions are part of the government's effort to establish a strong administrative identity and reinforce its commitment to public welfare and social reform.

The move has sparked widespread political discussion across the state, with supporters calling it a bold social reform measure while critics question how the government plans to balance welfare policies with revenue management in the coming years.

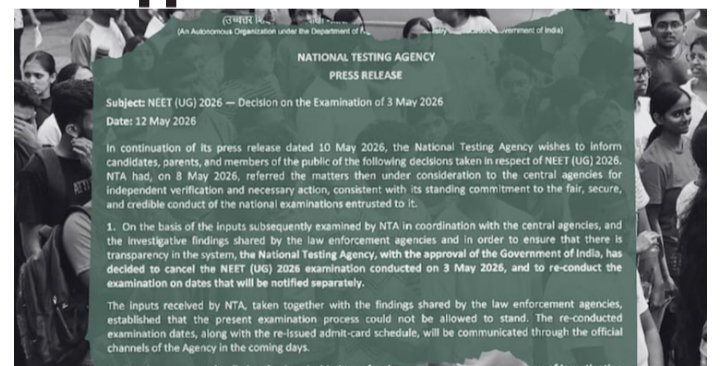
NEET-UG Paper Leak Row Turns Into Fresh Political Battle Between Opposition and Centre

The controversy surrounding the alleged leak of the NEET-UG 2026 examination paper has escalated into a major political confrontation between opposition parties and the Centre after the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the exam amid mounting allegations of malpractice.

The examination, conducted for more than 22 lakh medical aspirants across the country, came under scrutiny after investigators reportedly found that a "guess paper" circulating before the exam contained several questions closely matching the actual question paper. The alleged leak is believed to have originated in Maharashtra before spreading through networks operating in multiple states.

Following growing outrage from students and parents, the NTA announced the cancellation of the exam and stated that a fresh examination would be conducted. The agency also confirmed that the matter has been handed over to central investigating agencies for a detailed probe.

Opposition leaders sharply criticized the Centre over the controversy, accusing the government of failing to protect the integrity of one of India's most important entrance examinations. Rahul Gandhi attacked the BJP-led government, claiming that the futures of lakhs of students had been jeopardized due to administra-



tive failures and alleged corruption in the examination system.

Several opposition parties demanded accountability from the Centre and questioned the functioning of the National Testing Agency, which has faced criticism over repeated controversies involving national-level examinations in recent years. Student organizations also staged protests in several cities, demanding transparency, strict action against those responsible, and reforms in the conduct of competitive examinations.

The Centre and the NTA, however, defended the examination process, stating that the exam had originally been conducted under strict security arrangements, including AI-based monitoring, biometric verification, GPS tracking, and multi-layered surveillance systems. Officials said the agency acted immediately after receiving inputs regarding possible irregularities and co-operated fully with investigat-

ing authorities. Investigating agencies are currently examining digital evidence, financial transactions, and communication trails linked to the alleged leak network. Multiple suspects connected to coaching centres, counselling agencies, and education consultancies have reportedly been detained during the investigation.

The controversy has once again raised serious concerns about the credibility and security of India's high-stakes competitive examination system. Education experts and student groups have called for stronger safeguards, technological reforms, and stricter legal action against organized paper leak networks to restore confidence among students and parents.

Political observers believe the issue may continue to dominate national debate in the coming weeks, especially with growing demands for accountability and systemic reforms in the examination process.

Keir Starmer Faces Leadership Pressure After Labour Election Setbacks



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is under growing political pressure after a series of poor election results for the Labour Party triggered internal unrest and renewed calls for his resignation.

According to reports, more than 70 Labour MPs have publicly urged Starmer to step down or at least set a clear timeline for leaving office. The rebellion follows heavy losses for Labour in recent local and regional elections, where the party lost control of several councils and saw rivals like Reform UK and the Greens make significant gains.

The election results have been widely interpreted as a

setback for Starmer's leadership, less than two years after Labour returned to power in the 2024 general election. Critics within the party argue that the losses reflect voter dissatisfaction over key issues such as the cost of living, immigration policy, and the overall direction of government decisions.

Despite the mounting pressure, Starmer has refused to resign. He has defended his leadership by pointing out that frequent changes in leadership would create political instability. He has insisted that stepping down would not serve the country's interests and has instead promised to

continue focusing on delivering policy reforms and rebuilding public trust.

However, tensions within Labour appear to be deepening. Several senior party figures, including cabinet ministers and backbench MPs, are reportedly divided over whether Starmer should remain in charge. Some have called for an orderly leadership transition, while others have warned that internal disputes could weaken the party further if not resolved quickly.

The situation has also sparked speculation about potential successors within Labour, as discussions grow about the party's long-term direction and strategy ahead of the next general election. Analysts say the current unrest reflects broader challenges facing the party in maintaining unity while responding to shifting voter sentiment. For now, Starmer remains in office, but the pressure from within his own party suggests that his leadership could face further scrutiny in the coming months if electoral performance does not improve. The crisis highlights the fragile nature of political leadership in the UK, where poor election results—especially in local polls—can quickly escalate into national-level leadership debates and internal party challenges.

US Moves to Expand Military Presence in Greenland as Tensions With Denmark Grow



The United States is reportedly in discussions with Denmark to expand its military footprint in Greenland by seeking access to three additional bases in the strategically important Arctic territory, intensifying an already sensitive geopolitical situation.

According to reports, senior US military officials confirmed that Washington is negotiating with Copenhagen to secure new defence sites across Greenland. The discussions are taking place under existing defence arrangements between the two NATO allies, which already allow the US to operate from the Pituffik Space Base in northern Greenland.

The proposed expansion would significantly increase America's operational reach in the Arctic region, an area that has gained growing strategic importance due to its proximity to Russia, emerging shipping routes, and untapped natural resources.

The talks come amid heightened diplomatic tensions triggered earlier by statements

from US leadership suggesting stronger control or influence over Greenland for national security reasons. Those remarks had already sparked controversy in Denmark and across Europe, with concerns raised about sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Greenland, while part of the Kingdom of Denmark, has extensive self-governing powers. Both Danish and Greenlandic authorities have consistently maintained that any decisions regarding the territory must respect its autonomy and the wishes of its people.

Despite political friction, military cooperation between the US and Denmark has continued under long-standing Cold War-era agreements. These frameworks allow American forces to operate in Greenland in coordination with Danish authorities, particularly for missile defence, space surveillance, and Arctic monitoring.

The current discussions focus on expanding access to additional locations, potentially including previously used or abandoned military sites. If

approved, the move would mark a significant strengthening of US presence in the region without formally altering Greenland's sovereignty status.

The developments reflect broader global competition in the Arctic, where melting ice has opened new shipping routes and increased interest in energy, mineral resources, and strategic positioning. Countries including Russia and China have also expanded their Arctic activities, prompting NATO members to reinforce their presence in the region.

While officials describe the negotiations as cooperative, the issue remains politically sensitive. Any expansion of foreign military infrastructure in Greenland is expected to be closely scrutinized by both local communities and European partners, given the island's strategic importance and unique political status within the Danish realm.

As talks continue, the situation underscores the growing geopolitical value of Greenland and the Arctic, where military strategy, natural resources, and sovereignty concerns increasingly intersect.

Hezbollah Releases Footage Claiming Strike on Israeli Iron Dome Battery

Hezbollah has released video footage claiming that it successfully struck an Israeli Iron Dome air defence battery, escalating tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border as cross-border attacks continue to intensify.

According to reports and circulated clips, the footage shows drones approaching and hitting what is claimed to be an Iron Dome installation in northern Israel. The strike appears to be part of a series of recent Hezbollah operations targeting Israeli military positions in the border region.

The Iron Dome system, which is designed to intercept short-range rockets and projectiles, has been heavily used by Israel during ongoing clashes with Hezbollah and other regional groups. Despite its high interception rate, the system has faced repeated attempts to overwhelm or bypass its defences using drones and rocket barrages.

In the latest incident, Hezbollah has presented the footage as evidence of a successful



hit, though independent verification of the extent of damage has not been confirmed. Israeli authorities have not issued detailed public comments on the specific claim but have previously acknowledged ongoing attempts by Hezbollah to target air defence systems and military infrastructure.

The release of such videos is part of a broader pattern of information warfare between the two sides, where both Israel and Hezbollah frequently publish footage of strikes, interceptions, and attacks to assert military gains and influence public perception. The escalation comes amid a wider surge in hostilities along the Israel-

Lebanon border, with reports of increased rocket fire, drone attacks, and retaliatory airstrikes on both sides. Civilian areas near the border have also been affected, raising concerns about further escalation of the conflict. Military analysts note that while systems like Iron Dome remain highly effective against conventional rocket attacks, evolving tactics such as low-flying drones and coordinated strikes are creating new challenges for air defence networks.

The situation remains volatile, with both sides continuing operations and signalling readiness for further escalation if hostilities persist.

Pakistan Announces Austerity Measures Amid Oil Crisis Triggered by Iran Conflict



Pakistan has been forced to roll out strict austerity and emergency economic measures as the ongoing Iran-related conflict in the Middle East disrupts global oil supply chains and pushes fuel prices higher, creating a severe strain on its already fragile economy.

The crisis has been driven largely by instability in the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route for global crude oil and gas shipments. With supply disruptions affecting imports, Pakistan—heavily de-

pendent on foreign fuel—has come under immediate pressure to reduce consumption and stabilize its energy needs.

In response, the government has introduced sweeping cost-cutting steps, including reduced working days for public offices, limits on non-essential government expenditure, and temporary closures or schedule changes in parts of the education sector to save fuel and electricity.

Authorities have also encouraged reduced use of trans-

port and energy-intensive services.

Officials have described these measures as necessary to manage the short-term shock in energy availability and prevent a deeper economic crisis. Pakistan imports the majority of its oil from Gulf countries, making it particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in global crude supply and maritime disruptions.

The situation has also highlighted broader regional ripple effects. The Iran conflict

has not only impacted oil prices but has also disrupted trade routes and created uncertainty across South and West Asia. Countries dependent on Middle Eastern energy imports, including Pakistan and India, are being forced to adjust fiscal and energy policies rapidly.

Analysts note that Pakistan's economic challenges were already severe before the crisis, with high inflation, low foreign reserves, and external debt pressures. The current oil shock has intensified those vulnerabilities, forcing policymakers to prioritize immediate stabilization over long-term reforms.

While the government has tried to reassure citizens that these are temporary measures, concerns remain about prolonged fuel shortages and their impact on transportation, industry, and daily life if the geopolitical situation does not improve.

The developments underline how closely regional conflicts are tied to global energy security, with even indirect disruptions in the Middle East capable of triggering austerity measures and economic stress in distant economies like Pakistan.

Pakistan Market Blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kills 7, Including Police Officers



A powerful explosion at a marketplace in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has killed at least seven people, including two police officers, and left several others injured, according to local authorities.

The blast took place in the Lakki Marwat district, a region close to the Afghanistan border that has witnessed repeated militant and security-related violence in recent years. Police said the explosion targeted a busy market area, causing panic and significant damage in the surrounding locality.

Officials confirmed that among the dead were both civilians and security personnel, while dozens of others sustained injuries and were rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment. Emergency services and police teams quickly reached the site and cordoned off the area to begin investigations and rescue operations.

Preliminary reports suggest that the explosion may have been caused by an improvised explosive device, although authorities have not yet confirmed the exact nature of the blast or identified those responsible. No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

The incident adds to a growing number of violent episodes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a province that has frequently been targeted by militant groups in recent years. Security forces have intensified operations in the region, but attacks on police convoys, checkpoints, and public places continue to pose serious challenges.

Officials said the victims included both law enforcement personnel and civilians who were present at the market at the time of the explosion. The wounded are being treated in local hospitals, where emer-

gency measures have been put in place due to the severity of some injuries.

The Pakistani government has condemned the attack and ordered a detailed investigation. Security has been tightened in surrounding areas, and additional forces have been deployed to prevent further incidents.

The blast highlights the continuing instability in parts of northwestern Pakistan, where militant violence has persisted despite ongoing counterterrorism operations. Authorities say efforts are underway to identify the perpetrators and determine whether the attack is linked to broader insurgent activity in the region.

As investigations continue, the incident has once again raised concerns about the security situation in border regions and the risks faced by both civilians and law enforcement personnel in daily life.

Hantavirus Outbreak on MV Hondius, Passengers Disembark in Canary Islands Amid Global Health Alert

A hantavirus outbreak aboard the expedition cruise ship MV Hondius has led to multiple deaths, international evacuations, and a large-scale health response as passengers were finally allowed to disembark in Spain's Canary Islands after days of uncertainty.

The outbreak, linked to the Andes strain of hantavirus, began during the ship's voyage from South America to the Atlantic. At least three passengers have died and several others have been infected or placed under observation, while health authorities across multiple countries coordinated emergency evacuations and quarantine measures.

The ship, carrying nearly 150 passengers from more than 20 countries, had been stranded at sea for days as authorities debated where and how to safely offload those onboard. After initial refusals from some ports and strict monitoring protocols advised by the World Health Organization, the vessel was eventually permitted to proceed toward Tenerife for controlled disembarkation.

Health teams in protective gear screened passengers before allowing them to leave the ship in carefully managed groups. Those evacuated have been transferred to hospitals or quarantine facilities de-



pending on their health status and risk level. Some passengers have already been flown back to their home countries, while others remain under medical supervision.

Authorities have emphasized that the risk to the general public remains low. However, strict isolation protocols have been recommended due to the nature of the virus, which can cause severe respiratory illness and, in some cases, can be transmitted between humans through close contact.

The situation has also triggered an international coordination effort involving health agencies from the United States, Europe, and other regions, with contact tracing underway for passengers who had disembarked earlier before the outbreak was confirmed.

The MV Hondius incident due to the rapid spread of infections on board, the challenges of managing disease outbreaks at sea, and the logistical difficulties of repatriating passengers from multiple countries

under strict health controls. As evacuation efforts continue, officials say the priority remains monitoring exposed individuals, preventing further spread, and ensuring that all passengers receive appropriate medical care and follow-up quarantine where necessary.

The cruise ship has since left its anchorage and is expected to undergo further inspections and disinfection procedures as part of ongoing containment efforts.

PM Modi's Austerity Appeal Triggers Selloff in Jewellery and Realty Stocks



Shares of jewellery and Bengaluru-based real estate companies remained under pressure for the second consecutive trading session after Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to cut down on discretionary spending amid rising global economic uncertainty and ongoing tensions in West Asia.

The market reacted sharply after the Prime Minister urged people to postpone gold purchases and avoid unnecessary foreign travel for a year in order to help conserve foreign exchange reserves. His remarks came at a time when India is facing rising crude oil prices, a growing import bill, and continued pressure on the rupee.

Jewellery stocks witnessed heavy selling as investors feared a possible slowdown in

consumer demand. Shares of Titan, Kalyan Jewellers, Senco Gold, and several other jewellery companies declined significantly over two trading sessions. Analysts believe the sector may face short-term pressure if consumers delay purchases ahead of the wedding and festive seasons.

Real estate stocks, particularly Bengaluru-based developers such as Brigade Enterprises, Prestige Estates, and Puravankara, also witnessed declines after the Prime Minister encouraged companies and employees to adopt work-from-home practices to reduce fuel consumption. Investors interpreted the comments as a possible indication of weaker demand for office and commercial real estate if remote working gains momentum once again.

Brokerage firms stated that the Prime Minister's comments should be viewed as an early signal of possible fiscal and monetary measures if geopolitical tensions continue to intensify. Analysts believe the government may consider additional steps to control imports and stabilize the rupee if crude oil prices remain elevated for a prolonged period.

Despite the sharp correction in jewellery stocks, several market experts pointed out that India's long-term demand for gold remains deeply rooted in cultural traditions and investment preferences. They noted that while short-term sentiment may weaken, sustained demand destruction is unlikely unless stricter policy measures such as higher import duties are introduced.

The broader market also remained volatile, with rising crude oil prices, foreign investor selling, and inflation concerns weighing heavily on investor sentiment. Analysts expect continued volatility in sectors linked to discretionary spending until there is greater clarity on global geopolitical developments and the trajectory of oil prices.

Meanwhile, defensive sectors and select energy-related stocks continued to show relative resilience as investors shifted toward safer investment options during the ongoing market uncertainty.

Dalal Street Bleeds as Sensex Crashes 1,450 Points Amid Oil Shock and Rupee Fall



Indian stock markets witnessed a massive sell-off on Tuesday as rising crude oil prices, a weakening rupee, and continued foreign investor outflows triggered panic across Dalal Street. Benchmark indices closed sharply lower, with the Sensex plunging over 1,450 points and the Nifty slipping below the crucial 23,400 mark.

The market downturn was largely driven by escalating tensions in West Asia, which pushed Brent crude oil prices above 107 dollars per barrel. Since India imports a majority of its crude oil requirements, higher oil prices raised concerns over inflation, fiscal pressure, and the country's overall economic outlook. Investors reacted nervously as fears of prolonged geopolitical instability intensified.

Adding to market worries, the Indian rupee touched a fresh record low against the US dollar. Currency weakness increased concerns over import costs and foreign capital outflows, further dampening investor confidence. Analysts noted that persistent Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) selling has created sustained pressure on Indian equities in recent sessions.

Selling pressure remained broad-based, with IT, realty, and consumer durable stocks

witnessing sharp declines. Technology stocks were among the biggest losers after concerns emerged over increasing AI-driven disruption and pricing pressure in the global tech industry. Shares of major IT companies such as Infosys and HCLTech declined significantly, dragging the Nifty IT index down nearly 3 percent.

Financial and banking stocks also traded weak amid fears of rising volatility and slowing global growth. Market sentiment worsened as India VIX, often referred to as

the fear index, surged sharply, indicating heightened uncertainty among investors.

However, not all sectors ended in the red. Oil and gas stocks, especially upstream energy companies, managed to post gains as higher crude prices are expected to improve their earnings outlook. ONGC shares rallied after the government reduced upstream royalty rates, which analysts described as a positive move for the sector.

Broader markets also faced heavy selling pressure, with midcap and smallcap stocks

witnessing steep declines. Analysts believe volatility could continue in the coming sessions as investors closely monitor geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, global inflation trends, and institutional fund flows.

Despite the sharp correction, market experts maintain that India's long-term economic fundamentals remain intact. However, they advise investors to remain cautious in the short term and focus on quality stocks while avoiding panic-driven decisions.

Crude Oil Shock Hits Aviation, Paint and Fuel Stocks as Brent Crosses \$107

Indian stock markets witnessed heavy selling in crude-sensitive sectors on Tuesday after Brent crude oil prices surged above 107 dollars per barrel amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The sharp rise in oil prices triggered concerns over rising input costs, inflationary pressure, and weakening corporate margins, dragging several sectors lower.

Shares of aviation companies, oil marketing firms, paint manufacturers, and logistics-related businesses came under pressure as investors reacted to the possibility of prolonged high energy costs. Stocks such as BPLCL, HPCL, Asian Paints, Indigo, and SpiceJet declined sharply during trading, with

some counters falling up to five percent.

Oil marketing companies were among the worst affected as rising crude prices increase the risk of margin pressure if retail fuel prices are not revised immediately. Investors fear that state-run fuel retailers may have to absorb part of the increase in global crude prices, impacting profitability in the short term.

Aviation stocks also remained weak because higher crude prices directly raise aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs, one of the largest operating expenses for airlines. Market experts noted that airline companies may struggle to fully pass on increased fuel costs to passengers if travel demand weak-

ens amid economic uncertainty.

Paint companies such as Asian Paints and Berger Paints also faced selling pressure due to concerns over rising raw material costs. Crude oil derivatives form a major component in paint manufacturing, and sustained increases in oil prices could impact margins and profitability for the sector. The broader market sentiment remained negative as investors worried that rising energy costs could fuel inflation and delay interest rate cuts globally. The Indian rupee also weakened against the US dollar, adding to concerns about higher import costs for crude oil and other commodities.

Analysts believe the market may remain volatile in the near term if geopolitical tensions continue and crude oil prices stay elevated. Sectors heavily dependent on oil-linked inputs are expected to remain under pressure, while upstream energy companies such as ONGC and Oil India could benefit from higher crude realizations. Despite the sharp correction in several sectors, experts advise investors to remain selective and focus on companies with strong balance sheets and pricing power. They also caution that continued fluctuations in crude oil prices could influence inflation, consumer demand, and overall market sentiment in the coming weeks.

Sunil Bharti Mittal Receives CII Lifetime Achievement Award

Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has been honoured with the prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The award was presented in recognition of his outstanding contribution to India's industrial and business sectors.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw presented the award at a special ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Mittal stressed the need for India to reduce its dependence on imports and strengthen the 'Make in India' initiative.

He urged industrialists and businesses to shift their focus away from excessive gold imports and instead invest in innovation, technology, and manufacturing sectors. Mittal



said India's long-term economic growth depends on building strong domestic production capabilities and encouraging entrepreneurship.

He also highlighted the importance of innovation-driven industries in helping India

emerge as a major global economic power. Encouraging young entrepreneurs to think beyond traditional investments, Mittal called for greater emphasis on research, development, and advanced manufacturing.

Travel and Hospitality Stocks Slide Again After PM Modi's Austerity Appeal



Travel, aviation, and hospitality stocks remained under pressure for the second straight trading session after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged citizens to reduce non-essential spending and avoid unnecessary travel amid rising global economic uncertainty and soaring crude oil prices.

The Prime Minister's appeal, aimed at conserving foreign exchange reserves and reducing fuel consumption, triggered fresh concerns among investors about a possible slowdown in tourism, air travel, and discretionary spending. As a result, shares

of major aviation and hospitality companies witnessed sharp declines during trading.

Aviation stocks were among the worst hit as rising crude oil prices pushed aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs significantly higher. Shares of IndiGo and SpiceJet fell as investors worried that airlines could face severe margin pressure if fuel prices remain elevated for an extended period. Analysts noted that higher ticket prices may also affect passenger demand in the coming months.

Hospitality companies such as Indian Hotels Company

Limited (IHCL), Lemon Tree Hotels, and Chalet Hotels also traded weak amid fears that reduced leisure and corporate travel could impact hotel occupancy and revenue growth. Investors believe the Prime Minister's remarks may lead companies and consumers to postpone travel plans and cut discretionary spending temporarily.

The broader market sentiment remained cautious due to ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which pushed Brent crude oil prices above 107 dollars per barrel. Rising energy prices have increased concerns over infla-

tion, import costs, and pressure on the Indian rupee, all of which could affect consumer spending and economic activity.

Travel-related businesses, including online booking platforms and tourism-linked companies, also faced selling pressure as investors shifted toward defensive sectors amid rising uncertainty. Market experts said the current environment may continue to weigh on sectors directly linked to consumer spending and mobility. Despite the sharp correction, analysts pointed out that India's long-term travel and tourism growth story remains intact due to rising disposable incomes, improving infrastructure, and strong domestic demand. However, they cautioned that near-term volatility could persist if crude oil prices continue to rise and geopolitical tensions escalate further.

Experts also noted that any prolonged increase in fuel prices may force airlines to raise fares, which could temporarily affect passenger traffic and profitability across the aviation sector. Meanwhile, hospitality firms may adopt cost-control measures to protect margins during the uncertain period. Market participants are now closely monitoring global developments, crude oil movements, and government policy measures for further direction on sector performance.

Chinese EV Giants Expand Globally but Continue Facing Resistance at Home



Chinese electric vehicle manufacturers led by BYD are rapidly expanding their footprint across international markets, emerging as serious competitors to established global automobile brands. However, despite their growing global influence, these companies continue to face several structural and competitive challenges within China's domestic market.

Over the past few years, Chinese EV makers have aggressively entered markets across Europe, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and parts of the Middle East by offering technologically advanced electric vehicles at comparatively lower prices. Companies such as BYD, Nio, and XPeng have gained attention for their rapid innovation, battery technology, and cost-efficient manufacturing capabilities.

Among them, BYD has emerged as one of the strongest challengers in the global EV race. The company has significantly increased exports and expanded dealership networks in

multiple countries. Its ability to produce batteries and vehicles in-house has helped it maintain competitive pricing even amid rising global supply chain pressures.

Despite their overseas success, Chinese EV manufacturers are facing intense competition within China itself. The domestic market has become overcrowded, with dozens of automakers competing aggressively on pricing, technology, and consumer incentives. This fierce competition has triggered price wars that are squeezing profit margins across the industry.

Another challenge for Chinese EV companies is slowing domestic demand growth. While China remains the world's largest EV market, consumer demand has become more selective, with buyers increasingly focusing on brand value, advanced software features, autonomous driving capabilities, and long-term reliability.

Global trade tensions are also adding pressure. Several Western coun-

tries have raised concerns over low-cost Chinese EV imports, leading to discussions around tariffs, subsidies, and trade restrictions. European and American policymakers argue that Chinese manufacturers benefit from strong state support, giving them an unfair pricing advantage in international markets.

At the same time, traditional global automakers are intensifying their EV strategies to counter the rise of Chinese competitors. Companies such as Tesla, Volkswagen, and Toyota are investing heavily in next-generation electric mobility technologies and expanding production capacities worldwide.

Industry experts believe Chinese EV firms may continue to dominate emerging markets due to affordability and fast innovation cycles. However, sustaining long-term global leadership will depend on brand trust, regulatory acceptance, profitability, and their ability to withstand growing geopolitical and trade-related challenges.

Self-Driving Google Cars Spark Complaints In London's Shoreditch

Residents of Shoreditch in East London are expressing frustration after self-driving cars operated by Google-owned Waymo repeatedly entered a narrow dead-end street and disturbed locals with loud reversing alarms during the night. The issue has triggered debate about the challenges of introducing autonomous vehicles into busy urban neighbourhoods.

The controversy centres around Elder Street, a quiet cobbled road in Shoreditch that ends with a metal barrier. According to reports, Waymo's autonomous Jaguar vehicles repeatedly attempted to drive down the street during testing operations. Once the cars reached the dead end, safety drivers inside the vehicles were forced to reverse out while the cars emitted loud

warning alarms, often in the early hours of the morning.

Residents say the repeated incidents have disrupted sleep and caused irritation among families living in the area. One local resident reportedly confronted a Waymo driver after hearing the alarm several times over recent weeks. The driver allegedly explained that the vehicle was operating in self-driving mode as part of testing procedures and that human operators intervene when the system makes mistakes.

Many locals questioned why the vehicles continued entering the same dead-end road despite repeated failures. Residents argued that advanced autonomous systems should be capable of learning from such situations and avoiding the route in the future. Some also pointed out that sounding loud

vehicle warnings during nighttime hours violates normal expectations in residential areas.

Waymo recently began testing autonomous vehicles in London as part of preparations for a future robotaxi service in the UK capital. The company, owned by Alphabet — Google's parent company — is among several firms racing to expand self-driving transportation technology globally. London is expected to become one of Waymo's first international markets outside the United States.

Following complaints from residents, Waymo responded by saying it had restricted its vehicles from driving into Elder Street. The company stated that it values community feedback and is continuing to refine its technology while test-

ing across London roads.

The incident highlights both the promise and the growing pains of autonomous vehicle technology. While self-driving cars are designed to improve safety and efficiency, critics argue that real-world testing in crowded cities still faces major practical challenges. Supporters of the technology, however, believe such issues are temporary and part of the learning process needed before autonomous transport becomes widely accepted.

As cities around the world prepare for a future driven by artificial intelligence and automation, the Shoreditch episode serves as a reminder that technology must adapt not only to roads and traffic systems, but also to the daily lives of the communities it aims to serve.



Chinese Vendor Shuts Food Stall To Care For Cancer-Stricken Child, Receives Nationwide Support

A heartwarming story from China has touched thousands of people online after a street food vendor temporarily closed his stall to care for a three-year-old child battling cancer. What began as a family's struggle soon turned into a nationwide wave of compassion, with customers, neighbours, and strangers stepping forward to help.

According to reports, the man ran a small food stall that was popular among local residents for its affordable snacks and warm service. However, life took a devastating turn when his young child was diagnosed with a serious form of cancer that required urgent and expensive treatment. Faced with mounting hospital bills and the emotional burden of caring for the child, the vendor decided to shut down his business for several weeks so he could stay by the child's side during treatment.

The closure surprised many regular customers who had grown familiar with the stall and its owner. When they learned about the reason behind the sudden disappearance, several people began sharing the family's story on social media. The post quickly gained attention, triggering an outpouring of support from across the country.



Many customers offered financial help, while others visited the family in person to provide food, encouragement, and emotional support. Some even organised fundraising efforts online to help cover medical expenses. Messages of hope and prayers flooded social media platforms, with people praising the father's dedication and sacrifice.

The emotional story reminded many internet users of the power of community and kindness during difficult times. Several people commented that the vendor had always treated customers with sincerity, and now society was returning that kindness when he needed it most.

Stories of collective compassion have increasingly captured public attention in Chi-

na. In another recent incident, street food vendors in Fujian province donated an entire day's earnings to help a fellow vendor battling cancer by re-directing customer payments directly to his account.

The latest case once again highlights how ordinary people can come together in extraordinary ways during moments of crisis. For the struggling father, the support from strangers became more than financial assistance — it became a source of strength and hope as his child continues the fight against cancer.

The incident has since gone viral online, with many calling it a powerful reminder that humanity and compassion still thrive even in the busiest corners of everyday life.

Bengaluru Woman Reveals Cost Of Working From A Cafe, Internet Relates

A Bengaluru woman has sparked discussion online after sharing how much she spent while working from a cafe for an entire day. Her detailed expense breakdown, posted on Instagram, has resonated with many young professionals who increasingly use cafes as alternative workspaces instead of offices or home setups.

The woman, identified as Harleen N, documented her "work from cafe" experience and explained why she chose to spend the day working from a coffee shop. According to her video, the total expense for the day came to nearly Rs 800, including travel, food, and beverages.

The video began with Harleen travelling to the cafe by auto-rickshaw, which cost her Rs 85. After reaching the cafe, she settled in with her laptop and spent the day working while enjoying the calm atmosphere, air conditioning, and background music. She described the cafe environment as peaceful and productive compared to working elsewhere.

Throughout the day, she or-



dered food and coffee, which together cost around Rs 700. Despite the expense, Harleen suggested that the experience was worthwhile because of the comfort and work-friendly ambience offered by the cafe. In her post, she also jokingly mentioned that air conditioning was the "biggest perk" of working from a cafe in Bengaluru's warm weather.

The video quickly went viral on social media, with many users sharing their own opinions on cafe culture and

urban work lifestyles. Some people felt the spending was reasonable considering the facilities, internet access, and peaceful surroundings provided by cafes. Others argued that regularly spending such amounts while working remotely could become expensive over time.

The discussion also reflects a broader conversation about the rising cost of living and lifestyle choices in Bengaluru, a city known for its startup culture and remote-working

professionals. Similar posts about personal expenses and urban living costs in Bengaluru have frequently gone viral online in recent months.

Harleen's post also highlighted how work habits have changed after the pandemic, with many professionals preferring flexible work environments over traditional office spaces. Cafes across major Indian cities have increasingly adapted to this trend by offering Wi-Fi access, charging points, and quiet seating areas designed for remote workers.

While some social media users viewed the cafe expense as a luxury, others said the amount was justified for a full day of comfort, productivity, and uninterrupted work. Many users also pointed out that spending on occasional cafe workdays can help break the monotony of working from home.

The viral post has once again shown how everyday experiences related to work, lifestyle, and urban expenses continue to connect with people online, especially among young professionals navigating modern city life.

Bengaluru Couple Creates History By Swimming From Sri Lanka To India



A Bengaluru-based couple has captured widespread attention after successfully swimming from Sri Lanka to India through the historic Ram Setu route, completing the challenging journey in nearly 11 hours. Their remarkable feat has been praised by adventure enthusiasts and social media users alike.

The couple, identified as Sarath and Divya, undertook the ambitious open-water swim across the Palk Strait, covering a distance of around 30 kilometres between Talaimannar in Sri Lanka and Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu. The route is closely associated with the legendary Ram Setu, also known as Adam's Bridge, a chain of limestone shoals connecting India and Sri Lanka.

According to reports, the swim demanded months of intense preparation, endurance training, and mental conditioning. Open-water swimming is considered far more difficult than pool swimming because of unpredictable sea currents, waves, changing weather conditions, and physi-

cal exhaustion over long distances.

The couple reportedly began their swim early in the morning under expert supervision and safety arrangements. Support boats accompanied them throughout the journey to ensure their safety and provide hydration and medical support when required. Despite the difficult sea conditions, they maintained a steady pace and completed the crossing in around 11 hours.

Their achievement has been described as historic because very few swimmers have attempted or successfully completed the route together as a couple. Social media users praised their determination, discipline, and teamwork, with many calling the feat both inspiring and extraordinary.

The swimmers later shared that the journey was not only a physical challenge but also an emotional and spiritual experience because of the Ram Setu's mythological and cultural significance in India. In Hindu mythology, Ram Setu is believed to have been built by

Lord Ram's army to reach Lanka during the events described in the Ramayana.

Adventure sports and endurance challenges have gained popularity in India in recent years, with more athletes attempting record-breaking feats in swimming, cycling, mountaineering, and long-distance running. However, open-sea swims remain among the most dangerous endurance activities due to changing tides and marine conditions.

The Bengaluru couple's achievement has now become a source of inspiration for aspiring athletes and fitness enthusiasts across the country. Many online users applauded not only their physical strength but also their courage to take on such an uncommon challenge. Their successful crossing stands as a powerful example of perseverance, teamwork, and human endurance. As their story continues to go viral online, the couple has earned admiration for turning a demanding dream into reality through dedication and relentless preparation.

Bengaluru Couple's Rs 1.3 Lakh Monthly Expenses Trigger Online Debate

A Bengaluru couple has sparked widespread discussion on social media after sharing a detailed breakdown of their monthly household expenses, which total nearly Rs 1.3 lakh. The post quickly went viral, with internet users debating whether the spending reflected a comfortable urban lifestyle or an excessively expensive way of living.

The couple reportedly shared their monthly budget online to highlight the rising cost of living in Bengaluru, one of India's major technology and startup hubs. According to the expense sheet, a significant portion of their income goes toward rent, groceries, transportation, dining out, utilities, and lifestyle-related spending.

Their monthly rent alone was said to account for a major share of the expens-

es, reflecting Bengaluru's rapidly increasing housing costs in premium residential areas. Additional spending included domestic help, gym memberships, online subscriptions, fuel, shopping, and frequent food deliveries.

The couple also mentioned expenses related to maintaining a work-life balance, including weekend outings, entertainment, and personal wellness. While some social media users felt the expenses were understandable for a dual-income urban household, others argued that many of the costs were optional and could be reduced through budgeting and lifestyle changes.

The post quickly attracted thousands of reactions online. Many professionals living in metropolitan cities said they could relate to the rising monthly

costs, especially in Bengaluru, where rent and everyday expenses have increased significantly in recent years. Others pointed out that the city's growing demand for housing and premium services has made it difficult for young working professionals to save money despite earning high salaries.

Several users also compared the couple's spending to living expenses in cities such as Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Pune. Some argued that Bengaluru's lifestyle-driven culture encourages higher spending on cafes, fitness, dining, and convenience services.

At the same time, many users criticised the couple's budgeting habits, saying a monthly expenditure of Rs 1.3 lakh reflected luxury choices rather than basic living costs. Social media dis-

cussions soon turned into a broader debate about financial planning, urban aspirations, and the pressure to maintain a certain standard of living in big cities.

The viral post comes amid increasing online conversations around salaries, rent, and personal finance among India's urban middle class. Similar expense breakdowns shared by professionals and families have frequently gained attention on social media, with people openly discussing the realities of managing finances in expensive metropolitan areas.

Despite the mixed reactions, the couple's post successfully sparked conversation about how lifestyles, priorities, and city living continue to shape personal spending habits in modern India.



Gujarat Thrash SRH by 82 Runs

Gujarat Titans delivered a clinical all-round performance to dismantle Sunrisers Hyderabad by 82 runs in a one-sided Indian Premier League (IPL) encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday. Chasing a target of 169, Sunrisers Hyderabad collapsed spectacularly, slumping to 86 all out in just 14.5 overs, handing Gujarat their most comprehensive win of the season.

The chase began disastrously for Sunrisers as Travis Head was dismissed for a duck off the very first ball, triggering a dramatic top-order meltdown. Gujarat's pace battery proved too hot to handle, with Kagiso Rabada and Jason Holder ripping through the batting lineup with three wickets each. Rabada finished with impressive figures of 3/28, while Holder returned career-best IPL-like numbers of 3/20 in a fiery spell. Prasad Krishna chipped in with two wickets, and Mohammed Siraj claimed one as SRH's vaunted batting order was dismantled with clinical efficiency.

Captain Pat Cummins fought a lone battle at

the top of the order, emerging as the highest scorer with a gritty 19. None of the other batters could muster double figures of note, underlining the total dominance exerted by the Gujarat bowlers. The visitors were bundled out well inside 15 overs, falling short by a staggering 82 runs.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans posted a competitive 168 for 5 after losing the toss and being asked to bat first. Shubman Gill's side suffered early blows as key wickets fell cheaply, but a superb recovery was engineered by Sai Sudharsan and Washington Sundar. Sudharsan played a mature knock of 61 off 44 balls, while Sundar provided excellent support with a quickfire 50 off 33 deliveries. Their crucial partnerships stabilized the innings and propelled Gujarat to a defensible total on a pitch that offered assistance to the bowlers.

For Sunrisers Hyderabad, Prafull Hinge and Sakib Hussain picked up two wickets apiece but lacked the penetration needed to restrict Gujarat further. The bowling attack looked

toothless once the middle-order duo settled in.

Gujarat's victory was built on complete dominance across all departments. Their bowlers executed plans perfectly under pressure, while the top-order recovery with the bat showcased depth and character. This result not only boosts Gujarat Titans' playoff prospects but also sends a strong message to other teams about their growing credentials as serious contenders this season.

Sunrisers Hyderabad, on the other hand, will be left pondering their batting frailties. Despite possessing a star-studded lineup, repeated top-order failures continue to haunt them. With the IPL season intensifying, SRH will need to regroup quickly and find answers to their middle-order fragility.

The match highlighted the growing influence of overseas pace talent in the IPL, with Rabada and Holder stealing the show. Gujarat fans will head home celebrating a thumping win that reaffirms their team's status as one of the most balanced sides in the competition.



Shreyas Iyer Faces Criticism for Not Using Chahal in PBKS Loss, Explains Tactical Call

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer has come under heavy criticism after Yuzvendra Chahal was left unused during their match against Delhi Capitals in IPL 2026, a decision that many former cricketers described as "baffling" and "foolhardy."

The controversy erupted after Punjab suffered another disappointing defeat in a tightly contested game. Despite Chahal being one of the team's key spin bowlers, Iyer did not hand him a single over, instead relying entirely on his pace attack in conditions that later proved costly for the team.

Former players and experts questioned the move, arguing that Chahal's experience and wicket-taking ability could have made a difference, especially in the middle overs where Delhi Capitals gained control of the chase. Critics felt that ignoring a specialist spinner in a high-pressure match was a tactical error that Punjab could not afford.

Addressing the decision after the match, Iyer explained that the pitch conditions in Dharamsala played a major role in his strategy. He said the surface was more supportive of seam bowling, which influenced his choice to go with pacers throughout the innings. However, he also acknowledged that the ex-



cutation from the bowling unit did not meet expectations, contributing to the team's defeat.

The match added to Punjab Kings' struggles in the ongoing season, as they suffered their fourth consecutive loss after a strong start to IPL 2026. While their early campaign showed promise, recent performances have exposed inconsistencies in both bowling plans and field-

ing standards.

The decision not to use Chahal has sparked wider debate among cricket analysts about team balance and in-game adaptability. Many argue that even on pace-friendly pitches, a bowler of Chahal's calibre can be used strategically to break partnerships or control scoring during crucial phases.

Despite the backlash, Iyer's explanation suggests

the call was based on match conditions rather than overlooking the spinner entirely. Still, the outcome has intensified scrutiny on Punjab Kings' leadership decisions at a critical stage of the tournament. As the season progresses, the team will likely face further pressure to refine their tactical approach and make better use of their experienced players in key situations.

Krunal Pandya Says He's "Excited" By Virat Kohli's Back-to-Back Ducks, Explains His Comment

Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder Krunal Pandya has drawn attention for his reaction to Virat Kohli's rare back-to-back ducks in IPL 2026, saying he is actually "excited" rather than concerned, while also explaining the intent behind his statement.

Kohli, one of RCB's most consistent performers over the years, recently registered two consecutive dismissals for zero, a surprising dip in form that immediately sparked discussions among fans and experts. However, Krunal took a different view, backing the senior batter and expressing confidence in his comeback.

Speaking after RCB's recent match, Krunal said that such moments do not define a player of Kohli's calibre. Instead, he suggested that failures often bring out the best version of elite players, as they re-

spond strongly under pressure and criticism.

He clarified that his "excited" remark was not meant in a negative or disrespectful way. Instead, he meant that it is interesting to watch how a champion player like Kohli responds after setbacks, given his history of bouncing back with big performances. Krunal emphasized that the dressing room atmosphere remains calm and confident, as the team has full faith in Kohli's ability. The all-rounder also highlighted Kohli's influence within the squad, noting that even when he does not score runs, his presence, energy, and intensity continue to motivate the team.

According to him, Kohli's experience and mindset make him one of the most dependable players in pressure situations. Krunal further added that the team is

not worried about a temporary dip in form, as elite players often go through such phases in T20 cricket. He expressed belief that Kohli will soon return to scoring runs and deliver match-winning performances, as he has done consistently throughout his career. The comments have sparked debate among fans, with some appreciating Krunal's confidence in his teammate, while others felt the wording of his "excited" remark was unusual given Kohli's stature. Nevertheless, the overall message from Krunal was one of support rather than criticism. As IPL 2026 progresses, RCB will be hoping their senior batter regains form quickly, while the dressing room continues to back him strongly through the lean patch.



Rahul Dravid Opens Up on Owning T20 Team, Clarifies Expectations from Captain R Ashwin

Former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid has spoken about his new role as a franchise co-owner in a T20 league, while also laying out clear expectations for Ravichandran Ashwin, who is associated with the team in a leadership capacity.

Dravid, who has recently stepped into the business side of franchise cricket, said the move into team ownership is an extension of his long-standing interest in developing cricket structures and nurturing young talent. He emphasized that his focus remains on building a strong, balanced team culture rather than chasing short-term results.

Speaking about the team setup, Dravid highlighted that leadership will play a crucial role in shaping the franchise's identity. He made it clear that Ashwin, who has been given a key responsibility as captain or senior leader within the setup, is expected to bring his experience and tactical intelligence into decision-making on and off the field. Dravid praised Ashwin's cricketing brain, noting that his deep understanding of the game makes him well-suited for leadership in the fast-paced T20 format. He added that modern T20 cricket demands adaptability, clarity in roles, and strong communi-



cation between players and management.

At the same time, Dravid cautioned that expectations must remain realistic in the early stages of any new franchise. He stressed that building a successful T20 team takes time, especially when combining players from different backgrounds and cricketing systems. According to him, consistency in planning and execution will matter more than immediate results.

He also underlined the importance of backing players through form fluctuations, saying that confidence from leadership often helps individuals perform better under pressure. The approach, he said, is to create an environment where players feel secure and are encouraged to take responsibility. Ashwin's involvement in leadership has already generated interest among fans, given his reputation as one of India's most analytical and strategic

cricketers. His ability to read match situations and adapt quickly has often been praised throughout his international and IPL career.

Dravid's comments reflect a broader vision of blending experience, strategy, and player development in franchise cricket. As the new T20 venture takes shape, attention will remain on how the leadership duo of Dravid and Ashwin shapes the team's direction in a highly competitive format.

Tamim Iqbal Breaks Silence on Bangladesh T20 World Cup Row

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal has spoken openly about the controversy surrounding Bangladesh's T20 World Cup participation decision, saying the International Cricket Council (ICC) showed flexibility and that there was still scope to resolve the issue through dialogue.

Tamim addressed the situation while reflecting on the administrative chaos that led to Bangladesh being excluded from the tournament. He suggested that the situation did not reach an unavoidable stage and that better communication between stakeholders could have helped find a workable solution.

According to Tamim, the ICC had not taken an overly rigid stance during discussions and was open to adjustments. He implied that Bangladesh cricket authorities had opportunities to negotiate and prevent the situation from escalating, but those chances were not fully utilized.

His remarks come amid ongoing debate about how the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) handled the issue, which eventually led to the national team being replaced in the competition after failing to resolve concerns regarding participation and logistics.

Tamim stressed that such major decisions require calm thinking and long-term planning rather than emotional re-



actions. He has repeatedly urged administrators to consider the broader impact on players and the future of Bangladesh cricket before taking drastic steps.

The controversy had earlier triggered strong reactions within Bangladesh cricket circles, with disagreements between officials, players, and former cricketers over the handling of the World Cup participation issue. Tamim himself had previously advocated for a more practical approach, emphasizing that cricketing decisions should prioritize players and the sport's development.

His latest comments add another layer to the ongoing discussion, highlighting internal differences in how the situa-

tion was perceived by different stakeholders. While some officials defended their stance as being in the country's interest, others, including Tamim, believe the matter could have been resolved through negotiation.

The episode has become one of the most talked-about administrative controversies in recent Bangladesh cricket history, raising questions about governance, communication, and decision-making under pressure. As the dust settles, Tamim's remarks underline a key takeaway: in high-stakes international cricket matters, even rigid situations often leave room for compromise if handled with patience and clarity.

Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Trailer Release Date Announced, Fans Excited

The makers of Ram Charan's upcoming pan-India film Peddi have officially announced the release date of the movie's trailer, increasing excitement among fans ahead of the film's theatrical release. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the sports-action drama is one of the most anticipated Telugu films of 2026.

According to the latest announcement, the official trailer of Peddi will be released on May 18. The update was shared along with a new poster featuring Ram Charan in a rugged rural avatar, further raising curiosity about the character and storyline.

The film stars Ram Charan alongside Janhvi Kapoor and also features Kannada super-

star Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendu Sharma in important roles. Music for the film has been composed by A.R. Rahman, while cinematography is handled by acclaimed filmmaker R. Rathnavelu.

Reports suggest that the trailer launch event itself is being planned on a grand scale in Bhopal, with the film's cast and crew expected to attend. There are also reports that A.R. Rahman may perform live during the event, making it one of the biggest promotional events for a Telugu film this year.

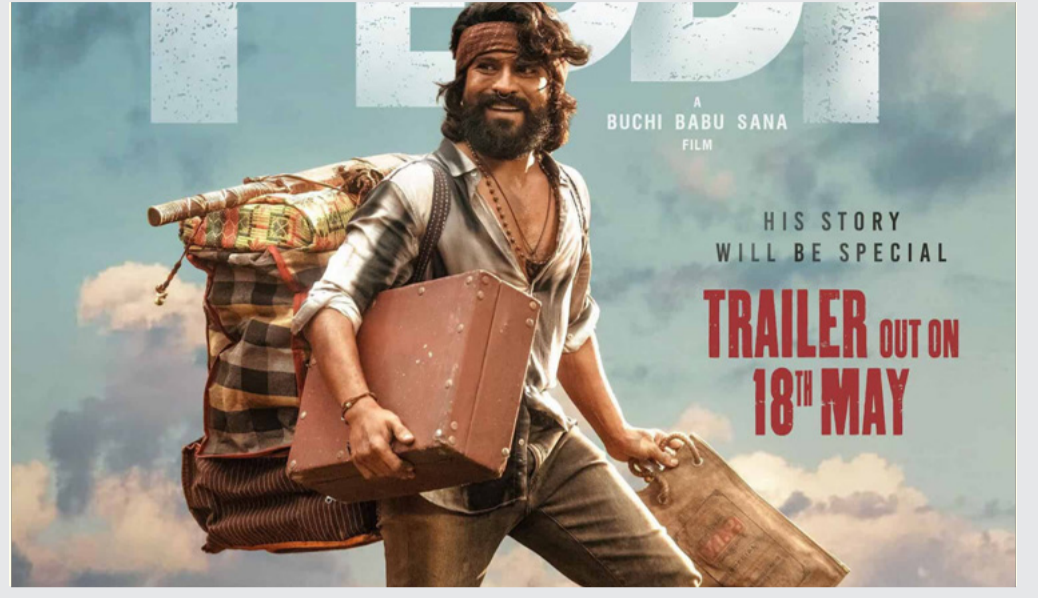
Initially viewed as a sports drama centered around cricket and wrestling, the film is now being described as a large-

er emotional and action-packed entertainer. Cinematographer Rathnavelu recently hinted that the movie contains several powerful action sequences and an intense climax that will surprise audiences.

The movie is set against a rural Andhra Pradesh backdrop and reportedly showcases Ram Charan in a raw and earthy role unlike his recent urban-action characters. His transformation, including long hair, beard, and rustic body language, has already generated strong reactions from fans on social media.

Peddi is currently in its final stages of post-production, with editing work reportedly completed. The film is sched-

uled for a worldwide theatrical release on June 4, 2026, with premieres planned a day earlier in select international markets. The buzz around the film continues to grow online, with many fans hoping Peddi will become another major success in Ram Charan's career following the global popularity of RRR. The combination of Buchi Babu Sana's direction, A.R. Rahman's music, and Ram Charan's intense screen presence has already created high expectations among movie lovers. With the trailer release now just days away, fans are eagerly waiting to get a first full glimpse of the film's scale, action, and emotional depth.



Nara Rohith's New Film 'RN23' Launched, Koratala Siva Attends as Chief Guest

Actor Nara Rohith's upcoming film, tentatively titled RN23, has been officially launched with a formal muhurtham ceremony, drawing attention from the Telugu film industry. The launch event was attended by several industry personalities, with director Koratala Siva gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

The project marks Rohith's next collaboration with Karan C Productions LLP and is being referred to as Production No. 5 for the banner. The film is planned as a fresh entertainer aimed at blending romance, family emotions, and light-hearted comedy, offering a wholesome cinematic experience for audiences.

The film is being directed by debutant Chinimilli Manikumar, who is also handling the story and screenplay. With a new filmmaker at the helm, the project is expected to bring a fresh narrative style while focusing on relatable emotions and engaging storytelling. The makers have hinted that the film will have strong family appeal along with entertaining elements designed for a wide audience.

During the launch, the team unveiled a concept poster that created curiosity among fans. The tagline associated with the



film has already generated buzz, suggesting that more updates about the cast and technical crew will be revealed soon. The production team is expected to announce the full cast, crew, and shooting schedule in the coming days.

Actor Nara Rohith, known for choosing content-driven and unique scripts, continues his trend of experimenting with different genres. Over the years, he has built a reputation for working in films that focus on strong narratives rather than mainstream commercial formulas.

The involvement of Koratala Siva as the chief guest added further significance to the

launch event, highlighting the industry support behind the project. His presence also increased curiosity among fans, as he is one of the well-known directors in Telugu cinema.

With RN23 now officially launched, expectations are steadily building around the project. The film is currently in pre-production stage, and shooting is expected to begin soon once the remaining cast and crew details are finalised.

As anticipation grows, fans are looking forward to seeing what this new collaboration brings to the screen and how Rohith's next outing shapes up in terms of storytelling and entertainment value.



Priyanka Chopra Recalls Working With Vijay In 'Thamizhan', Calls It A Defining Early Experience

Priyanka Chopra has once again spoken about her debut film experience in the Tamil industry, recalling how working alongside actor Vijay in Thamizhan became one of her earliest lessons in fame, discipline, and the film world.

The actress shared that she was just 18 when she entered cinema with the 2002 Tamil film. Having recently stepped out of her Miss World win phase, she admitted she had very little understanding of how the film industry worked at the time. During the shoot, she was exposed to an entirely new environment, including language barriers, unfamiliar workflows, and the intensity of film sets.

What left the strongest impression on her was Vijay's massive popularity even back then. She recalled that wherever the team shot, large crowds would gather just to watch him perform. Seeing hundreds of fans waiting to watch him dance and shoot scenes gave her an entirely new perspective on what stardom meant in India. She described the experience as almost surreal, saying it felt like witnessing a level of admiration she had never seen before.

Priyanka also noted that the experience initially made her associate acting with fame, but

later she realised that fame is only a byproduct of the profession, not the purpose of it. That understanding, she said, came with time and experience in the industry.

Apart from the fan frenzy around Vijay, she also appreciated his professionalism on set. She recalled that he remained focused throughout the shoot and maintained a disciplined work ethic, which later influenced her own approach to acting. Over time, she developed a habit of staying on set, observing the process, and engaging with the crew rather than isolating herself during breaks.

Her comments have resurfaced in the context of discussions about her early career, with many fans revisiting Thamizhan as a significant starting point for both actors in different ways—Vijay as an established star and Priyanka as a newcomer exploring cinema for the first time.

Today, Priyanka Chopra has gone on to build a global career in both Bollywood and Hollywood, while Vijay continues to be one of the most influential stars in Tamil cinema. Their brief collaboration remains a memorable entry point in both their journeys, often highlighted by Priyanka as a formative experience that shaped her understanding of the entertainment world.

Rakul Preet Singh to Play Shurpanakha in 'Ramayana', Internet Reacts

Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh has reportedly been cast as Shurpanakha in the upcoming big-budget mythological film Ramayana, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, according to recent industry reports. The film, which is being made as a grand two-part adaptation of the epic, continues to expand its star-studded ensemble cast.

Shurpanakha, the sister of Ravana, is a key character in the epic narrative. Her encounter with Lord Rama and Lakshmana is widely considered a major turning point in the story, eventually leading to the chain of events that results in Sita's abduction and the central conflict of the Ramayana.

Rakul Preet Singh's casting has drawn attention because the role is both emotionally complex and pivotal to the storyline. The character is often depicted as intense, expressive, and crucial in setting the larger epic's events into motion. Filmmakers are reportedly aiming to present a fresh interpretation of the role in this adaptation.

This is not the first time Rakul's name has been linked to the project. Earlier reports suggested she had been in talks for the role and had even undergone look tests before being finalized for the character. The makers are said to be building a detailed and visually rich

portrayal of the mythological world, with strong emphasis on character depth and storytelling.

The film already features a high-profile cast, including Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana. With such a lineup, expectations around the project are extremely high, and each casting announcement has generated significant discussion among fans and film circles.

Social media reactions to Rakul Preet's inclusion have been mixed but highly engaged, with some viewers expressing curiosity about how she will approach the role, while others are eager to see how the film reimagines lesser-explored characters from the epic.

The Ramayana project is currently one of the most ambitious films in Indian cinema, aiming to bring a modern cinematic vi one of the country's oldest and most influential epics. The first part of the film is expected to release in the coming years, with production still in progress.

As anticipation builds, Rakul's portrayal of Shurpanakha is already being seen as one of the most intriguing aspects of the film, given the character's importance in shaping the larger narrative of the epic.

