

Telangana Cabinet Meeting Shifted Amid Pushkaram Preparations

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has decided to reschedule the State Cabinet meeting from May 21 to May 23 in view of the Saraswati Antya Pushkarams being held at Basara, a major spiritual event expected to draw large numbers of devotees from across the state.

The Cabinet meeting, originally planned for May 21, will now be conducted at Yadadri Temple. On the same day, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is also scheduled to inaugurate a Vedic school at Yadagirigutta.

The decision to postpone and relocate the Cabinet meeting has generated considerable discussion in political and administrative circles across Telangana. Government sources indicated that the change was necessitated as several ministers are expected to participate in the Saraswati Antya Pushkarams at Gnana Saraswati Temple, situated on the banks of the Godavari River.

The Pushkarams, considered one of the most significant spiritual events in the state, are scheduled to commence on May 21. The Telangana government has reportedly made elaborate arrangements for the festival, anticipating a heavy influx of pilgrims from the erstwhile Adilabad district and various other regions.

Officials said ministers and senior authorities are currently engaged in overseeing preparations and ensuring adequate facilities for devotees attending the religious event. As a result, the Cabinet meeting was rescheduled to avoid clashes with official duties connected to the Pushkarams.

The choice of Yadagirigutta

as the new venue for the Cabinet meeting is being viewed as part of the government's broader approach of conducting governance activities beyond Hyderabad and taking administrative processes closer to people and important cultural centres.

Political observers note that the Chief Minister appears keen on blending governance with symbolic and cultural significance by holding the Cabinet meeting at the temple town associated with Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy.

This is not the first time the Telangana Cabinet has convened outside the state capital. Earlier, during the famous Sammakka Saralamma Jatara at Medaram, the Chief Minister and Cabinet ministers held a meeting at the venue itself and announced several decisions related to festival management, infrastructure and funding.

Officials believe the same model is now being replicated at Yadadri to facilitate quicker decision-making and direct engagement with regional concerns.

Since assuming office, the Revanth Reddy government has adopted a distinctive style in administrative functioning, often combining governance initiatives with public outreach and symbolic programmes. The decision to hold the Cabinet meeting at Yadadri is being seen as another example of this approach.

With the Cabinet set to meet at one of Telangana's most prominent spiritual destinations, political and public attention is now focused on the key decisions and announcements likely to emerge from the meeting on May 23.

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Govt Committed to Completing Palamuru Projects: Uttam

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed that the State Government is giving top priority to the completion of irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, with a focus on ensuring irrigation and drinking water facilities for the region.

Speaking after a special review meeting held at the Dr. B.R. At the Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Tuesday, the Minister said the government is determined to complete pending projects in Palamuru district on par with major projects such as Devadula, SLBC and Sitarama.

The review meeting was attended by Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari, Government Whip Yennam Srinivas Reddy, MLAs from the undivided Mahabubnagar district and senior irrigation department officials.

Addressing the officials and public representatives, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government is committed to correcting the injustice allegedly faced by the Palamuru region during the previous BRS administration. He announced that another review meeting would be conducted within the next 15 days to assess the progress of ongoing



works and directed officials to prepare detailed reports on all irrigation projects in the district.

The Minister stated that the government is preparing a Detailed Project Report for desilting the Jurala project, where heavy silt accumulation has reportedly reduced the storage capacity to below 8 TMC. He said proposals have also been submitted under the Dam Re-

habilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), which would help improve reservoir safety, maintenance and storage efficiency.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also instructed officials to undertake desilting works in minor irrigation tanks before the arrival of the monsoon season to improve water retention capacity.

Criticising claims made by

BRS leaders regarding the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Minister dismissed assertions that 90 percent of the project work had already been completed. He termed the claims misleading and alleged that changes made to the intake point during the previous government adversely affected the project's progress.

According to the Minister, the earlier administration floated tenders for the distribution network without completing the required land acquisition process, which created complications in implementation.

Reiterating the State Government's commitment to the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the project would be completed on a priority basis. In the first phase, the government plans to provide drinking water to 1,226 villages spread across Nagarkurnool, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Vikarabad, Rangareddy and Nalgonda districts.

He further stated that upon completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project and its associated components, irrigation water would be supplied to nearly 12.30 lakh acres of agricultural land, significantly benefiting farmers and strengthening water resources in the region.

ACB Raids HMWS&SB Official's Properties

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Officials of the Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday carried out extensive searches at multiple locations linked to a senior official of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) following the registration of a disproportionate assets case against him.

According to officials, the raids were conducted at the residence of HMWS&SB General Manager Kumar in Malapuri and at several other properties associated with him and his relatives. Sources stated that simultaneous searches were launched at around eight locations as part of the investigation.

During the operation, ACB teams reportedly recovered a large quantity of cash from Kumar's residence. Officials used currency-counting machines to verify and calculate the seized amount, indicating that substantial sums of money were found during the searches. However, the exact amount recovered had not been officially disclosed at the time of reporting.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau initiated the action after regis-



tering a disproportionate assets case against the official. Investigators suspect that assets and wealth allegedly accumulated by the accused may be beyond his known and legitimate sources of income. The raids were aimed at collecting financial documents, property records, bank details and other material evidence connected to

the case.

Sources familiar with the investigation said the searches covered residences and other premises linked not only to the official but also to some of his close family members and relatives. The ACB teams reportedly examined documents related to movable and immovable properties, finan-

cial transactions and investments during the course of the operation.

Officials are also believed to be verifying details of bank deposits, land holdings and other assets as part of the ongoing probe. The investigation is expected to determine whether the official acquired wealth disproportionate to his official

earnings while serving in government departments.

The raids attracted attention in the Malapuri area as ACB personnel continued the searches for several hours. Security arrangements were reportedly tightened around the premises while officials carried out inspections and documentation procedures.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board is one of the key civic agencies responsible for drinking water supply and sewerage management in Hyderabad and surrounding regions. Cases involving allegations of disproportionate assets against government officials are generally investigated under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Senior ACB officials have not yet issued a detailed public statement regarding the total value of cash, documents or assets seized during the raids. More details are expected to emerge after officials complete the verification and assessment of the recovered materials.

The investigation remains underway, and officials indicated that further legal action would be taken based on the evidence collected during the searches.

Telangana Govt Forms Employee Health Care Trust for New Health Scheme

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has issued orders for the establishment of an exclusive Employee Health Care Trust (ECT) to implement the proposed New Employees Health Scheme for government employees and pensioners across the state.

As part of the initiative, the government has decided to collect comprehensive data relating to serving employees, pensioners and their eligible family members and dependents for the smooth and effective implementation of the scheme.

According to official instructions, all Secretariat Departments, Heads of Departments, Pension Sanctioning Authorities and Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) have been directed to begin the process of data collection and uploading through the IFMIS-HR module.

The data collection exercise will cover government employees, retired personnel and their dependents as defined under Section 7 of the Telangana Integrated Medical Attendance Rules, 1972, along with subsequent amendments and government orders issued from time to time.

Officials have been instructed to upload the required information in the

prescribed format using DDO login credentials in the IFMIS-HR portal on or before May 31 without fail.

Special Secretary to Government Sikta Patnaik stated that administrative departments must closely monitor the entire process to ensure that the information is collected accurately and uploaded within the stipulated deadline.

The government believes that creating a dedicated Employee Health Care Trust will help streamline implementation of the new healthcare scheme and improve medical support systems for employees and pensioners.

Officials said the data collection exercise is a crucial step toward establishing a comprehensive healthcare management framework under the proposed scheme. The information gathered through the IFMIS-HR system is expected to assist the government in identifying beneficiaries and ensuring efficient delivery of medical services.

The new initiative is aimed at strengthening healthcare coverage for government staff and retirees while improving transparency and administrative coordination in the implementation of employee health benefits across Telangana.

Hyderabad Police Launch AI Tool to Monitor Cyber Threats

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad City Police have introduced "Soceye," an artificial intelligence-based social media monitoring and cyber intelligence application aimed at tracking cyber-related threats, monitoring sensitive online activity and strengthening public safety measures across the city.

Launching the new platform, Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar stated that the initiative reflects the police department's commitment to adopting advanced technologies and using artificial intelligence to

improve law enforcement and maintain public order.

According to police officials, the Soceye application has been designed to identify and monitor cyber troublemakers, detect sensitive social media trends and provide analytical support during investigations. The system is capable of conducting automated surveillance and real-time monitoring, significantly reducing the need for manual round-the-clock observation of social media platforms.

Officials revealed that during its pilot phase, the application successfully identified 85 hateful and communally sensi-



tive posts connected to the Purnanapuri crossroad incident.

It also detected 126 objectionable posts linked to the Gudi-

malkapur issue. Police stated that the early detection of such content enabled authorities to initiate timely takedowns and identify individuals allegedly involved in spreading inflammatory material online.

The application features an integrated intelligent dashboard that combines data from multiple operational sources, including Dial-100 calls, internal police alerts, city events and other field inputs. This system reportedly provides real-time situational awareness and assists officers in responding quickly to emerging issues that could affect law and order.

Officials further explained that the AI-powered system is capable of identifying online offences such as child pornography, cyberbullying and stalking. Once objectionable or harmful content is detected, the system generates alerts and escalates the information to concerned authorities or social media platforms for necessary action. Police authorities said the technology would also strengthen grievance redressal mechanisms through official police social media channels. Citizens would be able to raise complaints more efficiently, while officials could respond faster using automated track-

ing and monitoring features.

The Hyderabad police believe the use of artificial intelligence and cyber intelligence tools will improve their ability to prevent the spread of misinformation, communal content and cyber abuse. Officials stated that the platform has been developed to support proactive policing and ensure quicker intervention in sensitive online matters.

Authorities added that Soceye represents a major step towards technology-driven policing and is expected to play an important role in maintaining cyber safety and public order in the city.

# High Expectations Ahead of CM's Visit

Adilabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district are looking forward with great expectations to the proposed visit of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on June 2, hoping that several long-pending educational and welfare demands of the district will finally receive government approval.

Locals recalled that during earlier visits and public interactions, the Chief Minister had assured the district of educational institutions such as a Polytechnic College or a Government Degree College. However, despite the construction of a DIET College building in the district, admissions have not yet commenced,

causing disappointment among students and parents.

Several Intermediate students, especially young women aspiring to pursue D.Ed courses, are eagerly waiting for the government to begin admissions at the local DIET College. Residents believe that operationalising the institution would greatly benefit students from rural and tribal communities who otherwise have to travel to distant towns for higher education.

Adivasi leaders from the district have also appealed to the Chief Minister to sanction an additional Tribal Ashram School for girls at the district headquarters. They pointed out that the

existing primary Tribal Ashram School for girls was converted into a sports school, which has created difficulties for many tribal girl students seeking regular residential education facilities in the area.

Meanwhile, district authorities and public representatives have intensified preparations for the Chief Minister's proposed public meeting. On Tuesday, officials inspected multiple locations to finalise a suitable venue for the programme.

Dande Vittal, District Collector K. Haritha, Superintendent of Police Nitika Pant and DCC president Atram Suguna visited Kagaznagar X Road, Vanjiri and Dada Nagar to assess possible venues for the Chief

Minister's meeting.

Officials stated that the Chief Minister is likely to launch the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme during his visit to the district.

In preparation for the programme, senior ministers including Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao and Gaddam Vivek, along with government adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy and K. Premsagar Rao, are scheduled to visit the district headquarters on May 20.

The ministers are expected to conduct a review meeting with district officials to oversee arrangements related to the Chief Minister's tour and the proposed public gathering.



## Bhatti Highlights Telangana's Waste Management Reforms at National Meet

New Delhi, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu participated in the two-day national review meeting on Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 held at Vigyan Bhavan on Tuesday. The meeting was inaugurated by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and focused on strengthening sanitation, urban cleanliness and scientific waste management systems across the country.

During the discussions, various states shared their experiences and best practices related to solid waste management, waste-to-energy projects, scientific disposal systems, door-to-door garbage collection and remediation of legacy dump yards.

Addressing the gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka explained Telangana's initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, scientific waste processing and circular economy practices. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the State government is pursuing environmentally responsible growth as part of Telangana Vision-2047.

The Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana is implementing development strategies based on the concepts of CURE, PURE and RARE, ensuring balanced growth across urban, peri-urban and rural regions. He observed that waste management is no longer limited to garbage collection, but has become closely linked with environmental sustainability, climate response, economic productivity and employment generation.

He noted that the newly introduced Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 are expected to transform urban waste handling practices by focusing on four-way segregation at source, decentralised processing systems, scientific remediation of dump sites and technology-based monitoring. According to him, Telangana had already



initiated several reforms even before the implementation of the new guidelines.

Bhatti Vikramarka informed the meeting that nearly 9,596 electric Swachh Auto Tipplers are being introduced in major urban regions of Telangana to support eco-friendly waste collection. These vehicles are equipped with separate compartments for waste segregation and QR code-based monitoring systems for efficient door-to-door collection.

He also highlighted the government's focus on decentralised waste processing centres to reduce landfill burden and improve recycling efficiency. Wet waste, he said, is being processed near the source itself to minimise transportation costs and environmental impact.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that scientific remediation of legacy dump yards remains a major priority. At the Jawaharnagar dump yard in Hyderabad, the government is receiving technical guidance from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay for long-term environmental management and monitoring systems.

He added that biomining operations are underway at the Autonagar dump site, where nearly 22 lakh metric tonnes of waste spread across 40 acres are being processed. About 30 percent of the waste has already been treated, and the reclaimed land is planned to be converted into parks, sports

facilities and public-use infrastructure instead of being reused for dumping.

Speaking about the State's sanitation campaigns, Bhatti Vikramarka said urban local bodies have undertaken large-scale cleanliness drives under the 99-Day Praja Palana-Pragathi Action Plan. These activities include removal of garbage vulnerable points, e-waste collection drives, construction waste clearance and pilot QR-code monitoring systems.

Referring to international models, he said Telangana's proposed Eco-Town project at Bandaraviryalala and Siddapur, inspired by Japan's Kitakyushu model, would become a landmark initiative in the State's circular economy efforts. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that cleanliness is directly connected to public health, dignity and quality of life. Calling for a "Waste to Wealth" approach, he urged greater emphasis on recycling, segregation and scientific processing of waste to create economic value.

He also appealed to the Centre for enhanced financial support and viability gap funding to help states establish modern recycling and waste-to-energy infrastructure.

Several senior officials and ministers from different states attended the meeting, including Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, Telangana MAUD Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan.

## SIT Probes Fake Social Media Posts Linked to Minister's Family Case

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Joint Commissioner N. Swetha has launched an investigation into the circulation of alleged fake news on social media concerning Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and his son Sai Bageerath in connection with a case under the POCSSO Act.

According to sources, the SIT is examining social media posts and messages that allegedly claimed the Union Minister had attempted to influence the judiciary in order to secure bail for his son. Officials stated that the matter is being treated seriously due to the sensitive nature of the allegations and their potential impact on public confidence in judicial institutions.

Police reportedly detained a social media user identified as Damodar, who is alleged to have posted and circulated the controversial content online. Investigators are currently questioning him as part of the ongoing probe into the origin and spread of the posts.

The investigation was initiated following a formal complaint lodged by the Registrar of the High Court at the Charminar Police Station on May 17. Based on the complaint, authorities constituted the SIT to thoroughly examine

the circulation of the alleged misinformation and identify those involved in spreading it across social media platforms.

Sources familiar with the investigation stated that the SIT is analysing digital evidence, including social media accounts, messages and online activity connected to the case. Officials are also attempting to determine whether the content was intentionally fabricated and circulated to mislead the public or damage reputations.

Police indicated that additional cases may be registered against other individuals found to have shared or amplified the alleged fake news. Authorities are reportedly tracing multiple online accounts and social media handles linked to the circulation of the content. Officials emphasized that strict action would be taken against those found responsible for spreading misinformation, particularly when it concerns the judiciary or sensitive criminal cases. The investigation team is expected to submit a detailed report after completing the inquiry.

Meanwhile, police urged social media users to exercise caution while sharing unverified information online and warned that circulating false or misleading content could attract legal consequences under relevant laws.



Special Investigation Team

## KTR Felicitates EAMCET Topper Malladi Rishi

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and K. T. Rama Rao congratulated Malladi Rishi for securing the first rank at the state level in EAMCET 2026 with an impressive score of 156.63 marks. Rishi, a student from the Chiluka Nagar division and daughter of Kondal Reddy, was honoured for her outstanding academic achievement during a special felicitation programme.

Under the guidance of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh was presented to Malladi Rishi by KTR in recognition of her exceptional performance. The MLA accompanied the student and her family to KTR's residence at Nanakramguda, where the congratulatory meeting took place. Speaking on the occasion, KTR praised Rishi's determination and hard work, stating that it was a remarkable accomplishment for a student from a modest family background to emerge as the state topper. He said her success had brought pride not only to Chiluka Nagar but also to the entire Uppal constituency. KTR further observed that

today's youth can achieve extraordinary milestones if they pursue their goals with commitment and discipline. He appreciated Malladi Rishi for becoming an inspiration to students across Telangana through her dedication and perseverance. MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy also lauded the student's achievement and said Telangana students are increasingly proving their talent at both state and national levels. He stressed that disciplined study habits, punctuality, continuous hard work and encouragement from parents and teachers play a crucial role in shaping a student's success. Expressing happiness over Rishi's accomplishment, the MLA hoped she would continue to excel in her future academic journey and inspire many more students in society. Several BRS leaders and party representatives attended the programme, including former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, former Meerpet Housing Board Division Corporator Prabhudas, BRS State leader Somasekhar Reddy, party activists and supporters.

# BJP Begins Preparations for Upcoming Corporation Elections

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana state president N. Ramchander Rao has called upon party leaders and workers to gear up for the upcoming municipal corporation elections in the areas formed after the reorganisation of the erstwhile GHMC limits, describing the polls as politically crucial for the party's future in Telangana.

Addressing a meeting of BJP division presidents and senior leaders at the party's city office in Barkatpura, Ramchander Rao urged the cadre to work with discipline, unity and commitment at the booth level to strengthen the party's position ahead of the elections.

The meeting was attended by Rekha Sharma, Rajya Sabha member from Haryana and former Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, along with several senior BJP functionaries from Hyderabad.

Speaking at the gathering, Ramchander Rao referred to the recent GHMC delimitation process and stated that the number of wards had increased to nearly 300 and could reportedly rise further to around 350. He noted that indications suggest the elections may be conducted in September or October, and therefore the party machinery must remain fully prepared.

The BJP leader recalled the party's performance in the 2020 GHMC elections, where it

secured 48 divisions independently despite facing strong competition from the BRS and AIMIM. He said the results reflected the growing confidence and support the BJP has been receiving from voters across Hyderabad.

Ramchander Rao stated that the BJP already maintains a strong parliamentary presence within the GHMC region and emphasised that achieving a significant victory in the corporation elections would strengthen the party's prospects of forming a government in Telangana in the future.

On the issue of candidate selection, he made it clear that party tickets would be given only to committed grassroots workers who maintain close contact with the public and ac-

tively work among voters. He cautioned leaders against internal disputes and factional politics, stating that indiscipline and groupism would not be tolerated within the organisation.

He further informed party workers that both the state and central leadership would jointly oversee the election strategy. Factors such as public support, grassroots performance, survey reports and winning potential would play a key role in selecting candidates for the corporation polls.

Party leaders at the meeting reportedly discussed organisational strengthening, booth-level coordination and strategies to expand the BJP's influence in Hyderabad ahead of the elections.





# Gandra Alleges Farmers Facing Severe Crisis

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Former MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy on Tuesday criticised the Telangana government over the difficulties being faced by farmers in selling their produce, alleging that lack of planning and poor management had pushed the farming community into distress.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Gandra Venkataramana Reddy claimed that farmers across the state were struggling to sell the grain cultivated after months of hard work. He alleged that inadequate advance planning by the state government was responsible for the prevailing situation.

The former MLA accused the government of failing to make proper arrangements for gunny bags required for grain procurement. He further criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that while he frequently visited Delhi, he was neglecting the problems faced by farmers in Telangana. Gandra stated that deductions exceeding seven kilograms per quintal were allegedly being imposed during grain procurement, causing additional losses to farmers. He also expressed concern over the condition of maize farmers, claiming that there were no proper procurement arrangements in Bhupalpally constituency and several other parts of

the state.

According to him, the issue was not confined to a single district but reflected a larger crisis affecting farmers throughout Telangana. He contrasted the present situation with the previous BRS government, praising former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for implementing farmer welfare measures and ensuring procurement even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The former MLA also criticised the Congress government over the introduction of a mobile application for urea distribution, alleging that the system had failed to serve farmers effectively. He warned that unless advance arrangements were made for urea supply during June, farmers could face severe shortages during the upcoming agricultural season.

Gandra further alleged that both the Central and State governments were pursuing policies that were harmful to farmers' interests. Emphasising the importance of agriculture to the state's economy, he remarked that farming could not prosper when farmers remained distressed.

He warned that public dissatisfaction among farmers was increasing and said the opposition would intensify protests if the government failed to respond to the concerns of the farming community.

# BJP Leader Prabhakar Alleges Congress-BRS Nexus

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Senior BJP leader and former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on both the Congress and BRS parties, alleging that the two political rivals were secretly protecting each other while misleading the people of Telangana.

Addressing a media conference at the BJP state headquarters in Hyderabad, Prabhakar claimed that the Congress and BRS were engaged in what he described as a "friendly political arrangement" despite publicly criticising one another. According to him, both parties have been extending mutual support whenever politically convenient.

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress party, which presents itself as a national political force, has lost credibility due to corruption allegations against several of its senior leaders. Referring to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, he claimed that the party's leadership was facing legal and political challenges.

Prabhakar further accused the Congress and BRS of staging what he termed a "sham political fight" in Telangana while allegedly cooperating behind the scenes. He claimed that both parties had supported each other during political defections and controversies in the state.

Targeting former Chief Min-



# BRS Targets Congress Over Delay in Palamuru Project Works

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday accused the Congress government of neglecting the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and alleged that the administration responded to the issue only after the opposition party announced a "Porubata" padayatra to highlight the concerns of farmers and the region.

In a statement issued after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting on Palamuru projects with district ministers and MLAs, former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy alleged that the Congress government had wasted the last two-and-a-half years without completing the remaining works of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project.

The BRS leader claimed that nearly 90 percent of the project had already been completed during the previous government and accused the present administration of delaying the remaining works, resulting in escalation of project costs. He alleged that canal tenders had been cancelled and that no meaningful construction activity had taken place during the last two-and-a-half years.

According to Niranjan Reddy, if the pending works had been completed on time, around 45 TMC of water could have been stored this year in reservoirs at Narlapur, Yedula, Vattam and Karivena.

The former minister said BRS leaders had decided earlier this month to undertake a



padayatra from Narlapur to Udadapur under the banner of "Porubata" to protest against the alleged neglect of the irrigation project. He stated that former ministers, MLAs and MLCs had already met in Mahabubnagar to discuss the action plan for the protest programme.

He further revealed that a proposal had been made to invite former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to attend the concluding event of the proposed padayatra.

Niranjan Reddy alleged that the Congress government initiated discussions on the Palamuru projects only after realising that public opposition and farmer protests could intensify due to the BRS campaign. However, he maintained that the party would continue its agitation until the pending project works were completed on the ground.

The BRS leader also urged the government to immediate-

ly repair two damaged motors at the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme and ensure that all five motors become operational. He demanded that stalled works along the Narlapur-Yedula-Vattam stretch be resumed immediately so that reservoirs could be filled during the current season.

Criticising the Chief Minister, Niranjan Reddy claimed that despite projecting himself as a "son of Palamuru," Revanth Reddy had allegedly failed to conduct regular reviews on the irrigation projects earlier. He appealed to the government not to neglect the interests of farmers or the Palamuru region due to political rivalry with the previous BRS administration.

He concluded by stating that the BRS would continue exposing what it described as the government's failure to complete the project and would intensify public movements until visible progress is achieved.



# Congress Leaders Accuse BRS of Neglecting Palamuru Project

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Ministers Juppally Krishna Rao and Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS government over the execution of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, alleging financial mismanagement, incomplete works and misleading propaganda regarding the project's status.

Speaking at a press conference held at the CLP Office, the ministers, along with Government Whip Yennam Srinivas Reddy and several MLAs from the undivided Mahabubnagar district, questioned the BRS leaders' proposed padayatra from Narlapur to Udadapur.

Juppally Krishna Rao stated that BRS leaders had no moral authority to organise a protest march after allegedly failing to complete the Palamuru-Rangareddy project during their decade-long rule. He rejected claims made by BRS leaders that 90 percent of the project works had been completed and termed such statements misleading.

The minister recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had promised in 2015 that the project would be completed within two years. However, he alleged that even after spending thousands of crores on pumps, motors and surge pools, crucial works such as canals, distribution networks and land acquisition remained unfinished.

According to Juppally Krishna Rao, the project may now require nearly Rs. 1 lakh crore for completion. He accused the previous government of failing to secure the required 90 TMC water allocation for the project and alleged that Telangana's interests in Krishna river water sharing had been compromised.

The minister further claimed that the BRS administration failed to construct adequate reservoir storage facilities for the project's ayacut area and questioned why infrastructure comparable to Mallanna Sagar was not developed in Mahabubnagar district.

He said the Congress government is committed to securing Telangana's rightful share in Krishna river waters and completing all pending irrigation projects in the Palamuru region. He also stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had assured full support for the completion of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project and related works.

Juppally Krishna Rao additionally highlighted welfare initiatives being implemented by the present government, including Indiramma housing, subsidised gas cylinders, fine rice distribution, free RTC bus travel for women and procurement support for farmers. He claimed that the current government had paid Rs. 17,160 crore towards grain procurement since 2023 and assured that every grain produced by farmers would be purchased. Minister Vakiti Srihari also

# BRS Seeks Probe Into Alleged Land and Mining Irregularities

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

BRS official spokesperson Manne Krishank on Tuesday alleged irregularities involving assigned lands and black granite mining activities in Mahabubabad district, and demanded a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Krishank accused Vem Narender Reddy of allegedly misusing the 'Bhu Bharathi' portal to facilitate ownership changes and mining operations on assigned lands.

According to the BRS leader, assigned lands belonging to SC and ST beneficiaries in Arpanapalli village of Kesamudram mandal in Mahabubabad district were allegedly transferred into the name of Vem Narender Reddy's son, Vem Krishna Bhargav Reddy, through the online land records system.

Krishank claimed that nearly 15 acres of assigned land were linked to the family and alleged that black granite mining activities were being carried out under the name "Sri Sai Krishna Granites." He further alleged that the firm was being operated in the name of Vem Vijayalakshmi.

The BRS spokesperson stated that land passbooks, survey details, Mining Department records and election affidavits raised questions about how lands classified as "assigned" and "prohibited" in official records were allegedly transferred and subjected to ownership changes.

He further alleged that details regarding these lands were absent in earlier election

affidavits submitted by Vem Narender Reddy and surfaced only in more recent declarations after the Congress government came to power.

Krishank also alleged that officials, including former Mahabubabad Collector Advaith Kumar Singh, had approved ownership changes and registrations despite the lands being categorised as assigned properties.

Questioning how mining permissions were granted on such lands, he alleged that the approvals were issued under political pressure. He also claimed that subsequent appointments given to certain officials raised suspicions of a quid pro quo arrangement.

The BRS leader pointed to the transfer of Advaith Kumar Singh and his later appointment as Special Secretary to Telangana Bhavan in Delhi around the same period that Vem Narender Reddy assumed office as a Rajya Sabha member, calling the sequence of events suspicious.

Demanding immediate action, Krishank urged the government to cancel the land transfers and restore the assigned lands to the original beneficiaries. He also called for a judicial inquiry into the ownership transfers and mining activities, action against officials involved in granting permissions and an investigation into the alleged misuse of the Bhu Bharathi system.

He stated that the BRS party plans to approach the Lokayukta, file a Public Interest Litigation in court and submit formal complaints to the concerned authorities seeking a detailed probe into the allegations.

# Decadelong Standoff Resolved As Assets Transfers Approved For Regional Religious Board

Amaravati, May 19 | TPN Bureau

A major breakthrough has been achieved in resolving a decadelong pending dispute regarding the transfer of essential records, assets, and documentation to the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board from the neighboring state of Telangana. Following the state reorganization, crucial files, survey registers, district gazettes, and board resolutions belonging to the Andhra Pradesh division had remained under the administrative custody of the Telangana Waqf Board. Although structural guidelines framed under the Central Waqf Act of 1995 explicitly mandated the dynamic repatriation of these administrative documents alongside corresponding funds, the transition process faced systematic stagnation for several years. The breakthrough accelerated after the newly appointed Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board Chairman, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, prioritized the issue by initiating high-level direct consultations. Aziz personally met with his counterpart in the neighboring state and convened multiple strategic sessions with the chief executive officer and other administrative dignitaries to push the formal correspondence forward. Chief Minister N Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farook subsequently intervened at the ministerial level to provide crucial diplomatic leverage, which effectively expedited the bureaucratic clearances required to resolve the deadlock. As a direct consequence of

these persistent administrative negotiations, the Telangana government issued an official memorandum directing the Hyderabad Collector to release the designated records room to the Chief Executive Officer of the Telangana State Waqf Board for formal handover. The inventory scheduled for repatriation comprises 2,971 specialized files, eight detailed survey commissioner report volumes, and three institutional gazettes. The Andhra Pradesh board has already deployed dedicated teams of officials to expedite the preliminary verification, compilation of inventory data, and physical collection of these historical documents. Beyond the recovery of paperwork, the state board is actively pursuing financial dues and bank deposits totaling 55.5 crore rupees that have been withheld since the bifurcation. Aziz highlighted that these returned resources are vitally necessary for protecting public properties, handling complex ongoing litigation, validating spatial surveys, and uploading compliance data to the central government's digital portal. Emphasizing that every piece of property and single rupee belongs to the public, the board leadership affirmed that administrative struggles would continue without compromise to preserve religious assets for future generations. The chairman concluded by expressing deep gratitude to the leadership of both states, the Central Waqf Council, and the participating bureaucrats for their systemic cooperation in finalizing the transfer.

# Iconic Working Class Leader Memorialized On Death Anniversary Across Regions

Vijayawada, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The forty-first death anniversary of the legendary communist leader Puchalapalli Sundarayya was observed with solemn reverence at the state headquarters of the Communist Party of India (Marxist). Senior state secretary member Y. Venkateswara Rao, who unveiled and garlanded Sundarayya's portrait during a commemora-

tive meeting presided over by committee member J. Jayaram, described the late stalwart as the ultimate embodiment of people-centric politics. Venkateswara Rao highlighted how Sundarayya dedicated his youth to analyzing grassroots grievances, fighting against deep-rooted caste discrimination, and voluntarily donating his entire personal wealth for the upliftment of the impoverished.

# Alight; Police Probe CCTV Footage

**Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

A disturbing incident of harassment against a woman in broad daylight has sparked concern among residents of Manikonda after a teenage boy allegedly misbehaved with her near a residential apartment complex under the limits of the Narsingi Police Station.

The incident reportedly occurred near Pranati Eesha Apartment on Road No. 4 in Alkapur Township. According to local sources, the woman was returning home from school along with her child when the accused allegedly approached her from behind, lifted her dress and immediately fled from the scene.

The entire incident was captured on nearby CCTV cameras, and the footage later circulated widely on social media, drawing criticism and concern over women's safety even in residential localities considered secure.

Residents described the act as a serious case of harassment rather than mere juvenile behaviour. Many expressed concern over the increasing incidents of misconduct against women in public places and urged authorities to take strict action against the accused. Police officials stated that no formal complaint has been lodged by the victim so far, and her identity is yet to be established. However, despite the absence of a complaint, police teams have already begun efforts to identify and trace the accused seen

in the surveillance footage. Investigators said multiple CCTV recordings from surrounding areas are being examined carefully to track the movements of the suspect. Officials revealed that nearly 50 connected cameras in the vicinity have already been verified as part of the investigation.

A police officer associated with the probe stated that authorities are thoroughly reviewing every second of the available footage to avoid missing any crucial lead. Additional cameras from nearby residential colonies and roads are also being analysed.

Police further indicated that if the accused is identified before the victim approaches authorities, legal opinion would be sought regarding the possibility of registering a suo motu case and initiating formal proceedings.

The incident has once again highlighted concerns surrounding women's safety in Hyderabad's residential neighbourhoods. It comes close on the heels of another recent harassment case involving a woman jogger on a city cycle track, where police reportedly faced difficulties tracing the suspect due to insufficient CCTV coverage in the area.

Residents and women's groups have demanded stronger surveillance systems, increased police patrolling and swift legal action in such incidents to ensure safer public spaces for women and children.

# Police Trace Auto, Recover 1.20 Lakh Left Behind by Passenger

**Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

The Ramgopalpet police acted promptly to recover a bag containing 1.20 lakh that was accidentally left inside an auto-rickshaw by a man rushing to the hospital for his father's surgery. According to police officials, the incident came to light after a complaint was lodged by Sai Kumar on May 18. He informed the police that he had travelled to KIMS Hospital in an auto-rickshaw at around 2 pm for his father's medical treatment. Amid the tension and urgency surrounding the surgery, he inadvertently left behind a bag inside the vehicle while getting down at the hospital. The bag reportedly contained 1.20 lakh intended for hospital and surgical expenses. Realising the loss shortly afterward, Sai Kumar approached the Ramgopalpet Police Station seeking immediate assistance.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, Inspector B. Suresh Kumar formed a special crime team and launched an investigation to trace the vehicle and recover the missing cash.

Police personnel examined CCTV footage collected from multiple locations along the route taken by the auto-rickshaw. After carefully reviewing the recordings, the team managed

aged to identify the registration number of the vehicle and successfully trace the driver within a short period.

Officials said the prompt coordination and systematic analysis of surveillance footage helped the police quickly locate the auto driver. Following police intervention, the driver voluntarily arrived at the police station and handed over the bag with the entire amount intact. The recovered cash was safely returned to Sai Kumar, bringing relief to the family during a critical medical emergency. Sai Kumar expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ramgopalpet police for their timely response and efficient efforts in tracing the missing bag.

In recognition of the driver's honesty and integrity, Inspector B. Suresh Kumar felicitated him with a shawl at the police station. The Inspector also appreciated the dedication of the crime team for their quick action and professional investigation that led to the successful recovery of the money.

Police officials stated that the incident reflects both the efficiency of the police force and the honesty displayed by the auto-rickshaw driver in returning the cash without any loss.

# Lawmaker Warns Supply Contractors Against Defying Infrastructure Guidelines

**Seethanagaram, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

The local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Battula Balaramakrishna, has issued a stern warning to mineral supply contractors, asserting that any actions causing public inconvenience during resource transit will face zero administrative tolerance. He made it clear that strict punitive measures would be initiated against any operators found defying established legal frameworks and transport guidelines. Presiding over a high-level review assembly held alongside Tahsildar Ankam Srinivasa Rao at the Seethanagaram mandal revenue office, the lawmaker expressed deep indignation over recurring civic operational lapses, explicitly highlighting issues such as loose mineral spillage on public thoroughfares, excessive vehicle overloading, and unchecked speeding within residential zones. The legislator attributed the hazardous accumulation of spilled debris along key trans-

port corridors directly to negligent practices, such as packing transport trucks beyond specified capacity limits and failing to secure them with protective tarpaulin sheets. Stressing that these logistical failures compromise commuter safety and disrupt daily public mobility, the lawmaker established a strict forty-eight-hour deadline for the operations teams. He mandated that the contractors must deploy their own financial resources and personnel to completely clear and restore the affected roadways within the next two days.

To systematically address these transit vulnerabilities, the administration outlined several non-negotiable operational parameters that contractors must implement immediately. All mining and transport operations must strictly align with the exact volume limits codified by the state framework, meaning that cargo vehicles must never be stacked beyond their authorized payloads.

# Students Thank CM for Job Age Relaxation

**Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

Unemployed youth and student representatives organized a symbolic "milk abhishekam" at Osmania University on Tuesday to express gratitude to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for increasing the upper age limit for government job recruitment from 34 years to 44 years.

The programme was led by senior Congress leader and Unemployed JAC convener Dr. Koturi Manavatarao, who described the government's decision as a historic step aimed at benefiting thousands of aspirants across the state. Participants poured milk over a portrait of the Chief Minister as a mark of appreciation, stating that the revised age limit would provide renewed opportunities to many candidates who had crossed the previous eligibility threshold.

Addressing the gathering, Manavatarao said the Telangana government is making serious efforts to fill nearly 40,000 vacancies in various government departments. He added that officials are also taking precautions to ensure the recruitment process proceeds smoothly without facing legal hurdles or administrative complications.



He further appealed to unemployed youth to remain cautious and not be influenced by individuals claiming to represent job seekers for personal or political gain. According to him, some self-styled unemployed leaders are attempting to mislead aspirants for financial and political benefits rather than genuinely working for their welfare.

The event witnessed participation from several political and social leaders, including TPC leader Koppula Pratap Reddy and Telangana Movement JAC leader Rathod Ravindra Naik. Unemployed JAC



# GHMC Promotes Fitness Through Sports Activities Across City

**Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) organised a series of sports competitions and recreational programmes across multiple zones in the city as part of the Praja Palana-Pragati Pranali (PP-PP) 99-day action plan aimed at encouraging fitness, discipline and healthy living among the public.

The initiative coincided with the successful completion of the 75th day and the 11th week of the action plan. Officials stated that the programme was designed to promote physical activity, improve mental well-being and strengthen unity among employees, workers, youth and local residents.

Sports events were conducted at various municipal sports complexes and facilities across GHMC circles, drawing enthusiastic participation from youngsters and residents.

Competitions in badminton, cricket, volleyball and several indoor games were organised as part of the programme.

According to officials, the primary objective of these activities was to spread awareness about the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle through regular exercise and participation in sports. They noted that sports help individuals remain physically fit while also developing qualities such as teamwork, discipline, cooperation and social interaction.

The events witnessed energetic participation from people belonging to different age groups, with many residents appreciating the opportunity to engage in recreational activities within their local communities. Officials observed

that such programmes also contribute towards reducing stress and encouraging healthier habits among citizens.

GHMC authorities appreciated the efforts of the Sports Department and field-level staff for successfully coordinating the competitions and ensuring smooth conduct of events at all venues. Adequate arrangements were reportedly made to facilitate participation and maintain proper organisation throughout the activities.

Special emphasis was placed on motivating youth to make effective use of municipal sports infrastructure and adopt disciplined and health-conscious lifestyles. Officials stated that the initiative reflects GHMC's broader commitment towards community welfare, youth engagement and social development through sports and public participation programmes.

The Praja Palana-Pragati Pranali initiative has been focusing on various welfare and public engagement activities across the city, and the inclusion of sports programmes was aimed at encouraging constructive community interaction.

Participants expressed happiness over the initiative and welcomed the efforts made by GHMC to organise sports activities at the local level. Many residents said the events provided a refreshing platform for recreation, physical fitness and community bonding.

Officials added that the sports competitions conducted under the PP-PP programme across various GHMC circles received a positive response and concluded successfully with active public participation throughout the city.



# Live KYC Verification Conducted for Aasara Pension Beneficiaries

**Secunderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

A live KYC verification drive for beneficiaries of the Telangana government's Aasara Pension Scheme was conducted on Tuesday in the Sunnabatti area of New Boyaguda under the Bansalipet division.

Revenue officials from the Secunderabad Mandal carried out the verification process using face-scanning technology for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, widows and single women receiving pensions under the welfare scheme. The programme was supervised by GPO Vijayarao. Speaking on the occasion, Vi-

jayarao said the verification process is being conducted every day from 10 am to 5 pm as per the directions of senior revenue officials. He explained that beneficiaries are required to complete live KYC verification to continue receiving benefits under the Aasara Pension Scheme.

He further stated that special arrangements are being made for elderly and differently-abled beneficiaries who are bedridden and unable to visit the verification centres. Upon receiving information, officials would visit their homes and complete the face-scanning process directly at their residences.

According to officials, bene-

ficiaries only need to carry their original Aadhaar card for the verification procedure. Vijayarao appealed to the public to cooperate with officials in case of temporary server or technical issues during the process.

He also urged all pension beneficiaries to complete the mandatory live KYC registration at the earliest to avoid inconvenience in future pension disbursements.

During the programme, several local community representatives and social activists, including R. Rahul, Srikanth and Sai, assisted elderly beneficiaries and helped coordinate the verification activities smoothly.

# Opposition Flays Ruling Coalition Over Fuel Hikes And Policy Reversals

**Rajahmundry, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

The YSRCP has launched a sharp attack against the ruling alliance for implementing further hikes in diesel prices, demonstrating a complete disregard for the widespread public agitations held across Andhra Pradesh demanding an immediate rollback. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, former Member of Parliament Margani Bharath expressed deep indignation over the administration's financial directives. He emphasized that even though massive public demonstrations had rocked the state to protest escalating fuel costs, the coalition government still had the audacity to add an extra 90 paise to the price of diesel. This latest upward revision, the opposition leader cautioned, is bound to trigger a severe cascading inflationary effect on essential goods, thereby placing an immense financial burden on all segments of society, most notably lower-income demographics.

The opposition leadership brought up past political assurances, highlighting that Nara Lokesh had categorically promised the public during his state-wide foot march that fuel tariffs would remain unchanged under their governance. During that campaign, Lokesh had frequently clicked selfies and circulated comparative pricing charts of petroleum products while offering explicit assurances that Value Added Tax (VAT) on fuel would be entirely dismantled. Contrary to those public pledges, the prevailing petrol and diesel rates in Andhra Pradesh have climbed exponentially,

transforming the region into one of the most expensive states for automotive fuel nationwide.

The main opposition party also took strong exception to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's recent public announcements encouraging citizens to expand their families by having a third and fourth child, backed by state financial incentives. Labeling this demographic strategy as utterly absurd, Bharath pointed out that such regressive measures would drastically lower the standard of living for economically vulnerable households. He questioned how poor parents could realistically afford the upbringing and welfare of larger families when the ruling alliance is simultaneously enforcing anti-people policies that maximize day-to-day economic strain on ordinary citizens. Furthermore, Bharath raised serious equity concerns regarding the state education system, questioning why underprivileged children are being cut off from opportunities when top leaders like Naidu and Lokesh, who raise single children, opt for English-medium instruction. He stated that the previous administration led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had successfully rolled out landmark educational reforms, which featured the universal introduction of English as a medium of instruction in government-run institutions alongside the distribution of digital learning tablets. The current coalition, however, has allegedly dismantled these progressive structures, forcing students to bear the structural brunt.

# 40-Year-Old Tree Relocated to Ease Traffic Congestion

**Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau**

In an effort to improve traffic movement while safeguarding the city's greenery, officials successfully relocated a nearly 40-year-old Peltophorum tree near the busy Shyamal junction in Begumpet on Tuesday.

The tree, situated under the jurisdiction of the Begumpet Traffic Police Station, was identified by traffic authorities as a major obstruction affecting vehicular movement and commuter safety at the congested junction. The relocation exercise was carried out under the supervision of Traffic DCP-I Rahul Reddy and Additional DCP Shakeer Hussain.

Officials from the traffic wing coordinated the operation jointly with the Forest Department and the GHMC Urban Biodiversity division.

Begumpet Traffic Inspector G. Janaki Ramulu, RSI Ashok Reddy and other traffic personnel actively supervised the relocation process.

Authorities stated that all required permissions were obtained before carrying out the transplantation. The tree was shifted to the premises of the Begumpet cemetery, where officials believe it will have adequate space and conditions for survival. As part of the scientific relocation process, the tree's branches were carefully pruned before transportation to reduce stress on the plant and improve its chances of adapting to the new location. Experts involved in the operation said such measures are essential for preserving mature trees during transplantation.

Officials noted that the relocation was undertaken as part of broader junction develop-

ment and traffic management initiatives aimed at reducing congestion at Shyamal junction, one of the busiest traffic points in the Begumpet area.

Traffic authorities said the successful transplantation demonstrates that urban development and environmental conservation can be balanced through proper planning and coordination. They further added that regular monitoring and maintenance would be carried out in the coming weeks to ensure the tree successfully adapts to its new surroundings and continues to thrive. The initiative has drawn appreciation from environmentalists and commuters alike, as it reflects efforts to protect Hyderabad's green cover while simultaneously addressing traffic-related challenges in rapidly growing urban areas.

## Rathod Bapurao Re-Enters Active Politics

Adilabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Former Boath MLA Rathod Bapurao has returned to active politics, intensifying political activity in the Boath constituency through the platform of the Telangana Rakshana Sena. His renewed public outreach and organisational efforts have sparked fresh political discussions across the region.

Known for his role during the Telangana statehood movement, Rathod Bapurao has been actively touring villages in the constituency and interacting with residents on issues related to rural development, tribal welfare, farmers' concerns and employment opportunities for youth.

During his tenure as MLA, Rathod Bapurao focused on the development of tribal ar-

eas and implemented initiatives related to roads, drinking water facilities, education and farmer welfare. He also gained recognition for his participation in various Telangana movement protests and public campaigns.

As part of his recent political activities, the former MLA visited several villages in the constituency, where he received a warm welcome from party workers and supporters. Addressing gatherings amid Telangana slogans and rallies, he stated that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would continue to work for protecting the rights of Telangana people. Rathod Bapurao said many sacrifices had been made for the formation of Telangana, but several aspirations of rural communities were yet to be fully realised. He stressed the need to

continue fighting for tribal land rights, better opportunities for farmers and employment generation for unemployed youth. A major public meeting was organised in Boath town under his leadership, where Telangana Rakshana Sena State President Kavitha also participated. During the event, more than 250 leaders, youth and activists from different political backgrounds reportedly joined the organisation. The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation, with supporters carrying Telangana flags, raising slogans and organising rallies through the town. Newly joined members, including women and youth, were welcomed into the party by leaders during the programme.

Speaking at the gathering, Kavitha said the Telangana

Rakshana Sena is committed to protecting Telangana's interests, supporting farmers, ensuring social justice and creating employment opportunities for youth. Rathod Bapurao stated that the organisation is gradually emerging as an alternative political force in Telangana and would be strengthened further from the grassroots level. He maintained that resolving public issues and addressing the concerns of ordinary people would remain the party's main objective.

Several speakers at the meeting criticised the present situation in rural areas, alleging that farmers were not receiving fair prices for their produce, employment opportunities were limited and development activities had slowed down. Political observers believe Rathod Bapurao's return to active poli-



tics could influence political equations in the Boath constituency in the coming months, generating interest over the future strategy of the Telangana Rakshana Sena.

## Police Intensify Checks Ahead of Bakrid

Kotapalli, May 19 | TPN Bureau

In view of the upcoming Bakrid festival, the Mancheri police have intensified surveillance and enforcement measures across the district to prevent illegal transportation of animals and maintain law and order.

Mancheri DCP Bhaskar on Tuesday inspected the interstate check-post near Rapanalli village in Kotapalli mandal and reviewed records related to vehicle inspections and monitoring activities.

Speaking to officials during the visit, the DCP said the Police Department, in coordination with other government departments, has initiated strict measures to curb illegal transportation of animals across district borders. He stated that special check-posts have been established at multiple locations in the district as part of enhanced security arrangements ahead of the festival.

Bhaskar informed that officials had been instructed to closely monitor cattle markets functioning within the limits of every police station. He also directed authorities to ensure



proper supervision at temporary check-posts established specifically for Bakrid-related inspections.

The DCP clarified that illegal transportation or slaughter of cows and calves would not be tolerated anywhere in the district and warned that strict legal action would be taken against those violating the rules. He added that round-the-clock surveillance has been implemented at the check-posts, with police personnel and staff from other departments conducting continuous vehicle inspections.

Apart from animal transportation checks, the DCP also instructed officials to coordinate

with the Agriculture and Revenue departments to prevent illegal transportation of grain from neighbouring Maharashtra into the district.

Officials said the intensified monitoring was aimed at ensuring peaceful festival celebrations while preventing unlawful activities during the festive season. The police department has also increased patrolling and verification drives in sensitive areas across the district.

During the inspection, Jaipur ACP Venkateshwarlu accompanied the DCP along with Kotapalli and Bhimaram Sub-Inspectors Rajasekhar and Rajender.

## Nalgonda Ensures Medicine Availability During Nationwide Bandh

Nalgonda, May 19 | TPN Bureau

The Nalgonda district administration has made special arrangements to ensure uninterrupted access to essential medicines during the nationwide bandh called by the All India Chemists and Medical Shops Association.

District Drugs Inspector K. Sampath Kumar stated that directions have been issued to pharmacy owners and medical shop operators across the district to maintain limited but essential services for the benefit of the public during the bandh period. As part of the contingency plan, officials have decided that at least two private medical shops in every major town of the district will remain open. In smaller towns and semi-urban areas, at least one pharmacy outlet will continue operations to cater to emergency medical needs and prevent inconvenience to patients.

According to Sampath Kumar, the arrangements were made to ensure that people requiring urgent medicines, in-



cluding senior citizens and patients suffering from chronic illnesses, do not face difficulties during the strike. He clarified that pharmacies functioning within government hospitals and private hospitals would continue to operate normally and provide emergency medicines and healthcare support without disruption.

The Drugs Inspector appealed to the public not to panic over the bandh, assuring residents that sufficient precautionary measures had already been implemented to maintain the availability of medicines through designated pharmacy outlets. Officials from the district administration and the Drugs Control Department are closely monitoring the situation to

ensure that there is no shortage of medicines in any part of the district. Special attention is being given to emergency healthcare cases and patients who require regular medication.

Sampath Kumar also stated that citizens facing any problems in purchasing medicines during the bandh could directly contact the Drugs Inspector's office for assistance. He provided the contact number 8333925882 for emergency support related to medicine availability and procurement.

Authorities reiterated that the arrangements were made purely in the interest of public health and patient welfare. They stressed that the objective is to avoid inconvenience to the public during the nationwide strike by chemists and medical shop associations.

Officials further noted that continuous coordination is being maintained with pharmacy managements, healthcare institutions and medical officers to ensure smooth functioning of emergency healthcare services across Nalgonda district throughout the bandh period.

## Woman Killed at Spa Centre; Husband Surrenders

Hyderabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

A woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband at a spa centre in Kawadiguda on Tuesday following a domestic dispute.

According to preliminary information, the victim, identified as Bangi Debora, was a resident of Kishan Bagh in Bahadurpura and worked as a beautician at a spa centre in Kawadiguda.

Police said Debora had reportedly left for work in the morning after an argument with her husband at home. A few hours later, her husband allegedly reached the spa centre carrying a knife and attacked her.

Officials stated that the accused stabbed her multiple times inside the premises,



causing severe injuries. She reportedly died on the spot due to the attack.

After committing the crime, the accused fled from the location. However, police said he later surrendered at the Attapur Police Station.

Police teams reached the spot soon after receiving information and shifted the body for

postmortem examination. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to the incident.

Authorities are also examining statements from witnesses and staff members present at the spa centre at the time of the attack. Further details are

## Police Intensify Vigil Along Border

Adilabad, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Police in Adilabad district have stepped up surveillance and security measures following intelligence inputs that inter-state robbery gangs are allegedly using border areas adjoining Maharashtra to enter Telangana, commit crimes and quickly escape across state borders.

The heightened alert comes in the wake of developments linked to the recent PMJ Jewellery shop robbery case in Karimnagar, which prompted authorities to strengthen monitoring in border districts. Officials stated that Adilabad district's geographical proximity to Maharashtra and its extensive transport connectivity make it vulnerable to movements of organised criminal groups. The Maharashtra border lies barely 20 kilometres from Adilabad town, while several interior village routes



along the Penganga River reportedly provide easy access between the two states.

Police have now alerted owners of gold and jewellery establishments, particularly those located in areas bordering Maharashtra, to enhance security measures and remain vigilant against suspicious activity.

The Adilabad Police have in-

tensified inspections at bus stands, railway stations and busy market areas across the district. Special checking operations are also being carried out with the assistance of "Roma," a trained sniffer dog used for narcotics detection and surveillance support. Officials said close monitoring is being maintained on sus-

picious individuals moving through the district. Police teams are also conducting regular inspections at lodges and hotels to verify guest details and identify any possible movement of criminal gangs.

Meanwhile, the Asifabad Police have advised residents to exercise caution while hiring domestic workers, drivers, cooks and security guards. Authorities urged people to share employee details with local police stations for verification purposes. Police referred to recent incidents, including the murder of the wife of a retired IPS officer in Hyderabad allegedly involving Nepali domestic workers, while stressing the importance of background verification. Officials stated that surveillance operations and security checks will continue across the district to prevent criminal activities and ensure public safety in border regions.

## Collector Stresses Better Healthcare Services at PHCs

Nalgonda, May 19 | TPN Bureau

Yadadri-Bhongir District Collector Anuraag Jayanti has directed medical officers and healthcare staff working in government Primary Health Centers (PHCs) to provide quality treatment and remain fully accessible to patients in order to strengthen public confidence in government healthcare institutions.

During an inspection visit to the Primary Health Center at Tangedapalli in Choutuppal Municipality on Tuesday, the collector reviewed the func-

tioning of the hospital, availability of medical services, patient care facilities and infrastructure being provided to the public. He interacted with officials and inquired in detail about the healthcare services available for pregnant women, including ultrasound scanning and maternal care facilities.

Anuraag Jayanti instructed medical officers to ensure that expectant mothers undergo regular health checkups without fail. He emphasized the need for conducting routine blood pressure and blood sugar examinations for pregnant women to prevent complica-



tions and improve maternal healthcare outcomes.

The collector also directed healthcare staff to identify

high-risk pregnancy cases at an early stage and ensure that such patients receive timely medical supervision, proper

monitoring and uninterrupted supply of medicines. He stressed that no pregnant woman should face inconvenience while accessing essential healthcare services at government hospitals.

Expressing concern over the relatively low outpatient turnout at the PHC, the collector stated that the quality of services in government hospitals must improve further to encourage more people to seek treatment at public healthcare institutions. He noted that the availability of doctors, prompt treatment and patient-friendly services play a key role in building trust among the

public.

He urged doctors, nurses and hospital staff to discharge their duties with commitment, discipline and compassion. According to him, public confidence in government hospitals can be strengthened only through dedicated medical care, efficient service delivery and respectful treatment of patients.

Officials said the inspection was part of the district administration's efforts to assess healthcare delivery at the grassroots level and improve standards in government-run medical facilities across Yadadri-Bhongir district.

During the visit, the collector also reviewed the hospital's infrastructure, sanitation, medicine availability, staff attendance and patient services. He instructed officials to ensure that all essential facilities remain available to the public without interruption.

Anuraag Jayanti further emphasized that strengthening PHCs is essential for improving healthcare access in rural and semi-urban areas. He directed medical officials to work proactively and ensure that patients visiting government hospitals receive timely and effective treatment without any inconvenience.

# Red Cross striving for 100% Voluntary Blood Donations

Blood is the essence of human life, yet healthcare systems worldwide face a chronic and dangerous shortage of it, especially during pandemics and the summer. Technological advancements in modern medicine can transplant organs, clone genes, and manufacture complex synthetic drugs; however, science cannot manufacture human blood. It can only come from one source—a generous human donor.

To build a resilient healthcare network, societies must shift away from crisis-driven donation models. We must actively foster a culture centered on 100% voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.

Many hospitals and Blood Centers still rely heavily on replacement donation, in which family members or friends donate blood to replace the units used for their loved ones. Sometimes, it is observed that the blood units are sourced from paid blood donors compromising the safety of the blood.

As a thumb rule, it is estimated that 1% of the population in our country needs blood units per year. At present, only 75% of the blood is collected voluntarily from the camps and in-house blood donors; the balance 25% is by way of replacements or from paid blood donors.

The common risks from replacement or paid blood donations are

**Concealed Health Risks:** Relatives under intense emotional stress or fear of displeasing their family often conceal their own medical histories or high-risk behaviours just to pass the screening interview.

**Exploitation by Paid Donors:** In desperate situations, families sometimes resort to paying commercial donors. Paid donors frequently lead lifestyles that expose them to transfusion-transmissible infections (TTIs) like HIV and hepatitis, solely motivated by financial gain. In many cases, paid donors are found to be drug addicts.

**Inherent Inequity:** A replacement system inherently puts the patient or their attendants under tremendous

pressure or trauma to find a suitable blood donor in emergencies.

## Need for Voluntary Donation

Voluntary, unpaid blood donors are the ultimate foundation of a safe national blood supply. According to data tracked by the World Health Organisation (WHO), voluntary donors, especially regular, repeat donors, have the lowest rates of blood-borne infections.

Because voluntary donors give out of pure altruism rather than for financial needs or family panic. They are highly honest during the medical selection process. This self-selection serves as the first line of defence in protecting vulnerable patients from contaminated transfusions.

The demand for blood continues to escalate globally due to advancements in complex surgeries, trauma care, cancer treatments, and the management of chronic blood disorders like thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia.

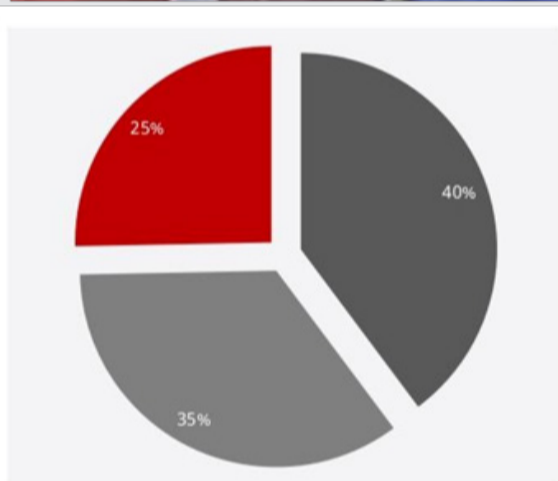
Furthermore, blood products have a remarkably short shelf life: platelets must be used within 5 to 7 days, and red blood cells last only up to 42 days. This means a single, massive blood drive-style collection event cannot solve a long-term shortage. What hospitals need is a steady, predictable, and continuous stream of regular donors, which facilitates the availability of safe blood around the clock.

## Need to Build a Blood-Donation Culture

Despite the undeniable benefits, voluntary donation numbers remain low in many developing nations like India. To bridge this gap, public health authorities and communities must target the root causes of donor hesitation.

Dismantling myths and fears of many first-time donors, who hesitate to donate blood due to a fear of pain, fainting, or the false belief that donating permanently weakens the immune system. Awareness campaigns must clarify that the human body replenishes lost fluid volume within days.

Bloodcenters need to pri-



oritise donor comfort by optimising waiting times, offering friendly staff, and providing positive environments. A pleasant first-time experience drastically increases the likelihood that a person will become a lifelong, repeat donor.

Modern awareness campaigns should utilise social media platforms to broadcast the need and advantages of blood donations and make them heroes in protecting and saving valuable lives, which will be a lifetime memory.

While cash rewards undermine safety, ethical non-monetary incentives such as health screening packages, certificates of appreciation, or paid "blood donation leave" days from work—have proven highly effective at boosting donor registries.

**Red Cross ahead in Voluntary Blood Donations**  
The Indian Red Cross Society, AP State branch has made significant progress in promoting voluntary blood donation during the year 2025-26, achieving an impressive 96% voluntary blood donation rate across its blood centers.

The AP State Branch is currently operating 20 blood centers across the state. Andhra Pradesh has around 225 licensed blood centers, of which 44 are run by the Government, 20 by the Red Cross, and 161 by private organizations and NGOs.



**B.V.S. KUMAR**  
State Coordinator  
Red Cross Blood  
Centers  
Andhra Pradesh

The annual blood requirement of Andhra Pradesh is approximately 5.00 lakh units. Despite operating only 20 blood centers, the AP Red Cross has issued 1,16,462 units of blood during the year 2025-26, contributing nearly 24% of the total state requirement.

Increasing voluntary blood donation is not just a logistical task for hospitals, it is a

fundamental measure of community solidarity and civic responsibility. Every single donation can save up to three lives by being separated into red blood cells, plasma, and platelets. By shifting from a reactive mindset to a proactive, voluntary habit, we can ensure that no patient ever has to wait in jeopardy for a life-saving transfusion.

# Smartwatch Heart Alerts Useful But Not a Final Diagnosis

Wearable ECGs are transforming heart care but require proper clinical interpretation.

A middle-aged gentleman recently came to my cardiology OPD with his Apple Watch ECG recordings. He had received an irregular rhythm alert and was understandably concerned. He had no chest pain, no fainting episode and no breathlessness, but the word "irregular" was enough to make him seek medical advice.

When we reviewed his watch tracings, most showed a normal rhythm. One recording looked unclear because of artefact, likely due to movement or poor contact during recording. His clinical ECG was normal. He did not have atrial fibrillation at that visit, but the watch had done something useful: it made him pay attention and consult a doctor.

This is the right way to look at smartwatches. They are not toys, and they are not replacements for doctors. They are screening tools that can bring timely attention to a possible heart rhythm problem.

Many modern smartwatches can measure heart rate and some can record a single-lead ECG. This can help detect atrial fibrillation, commonly called AFib. In AFib, the heartbeat becomes irregular because the upper chambers of

the heart are not beating in an organised way. Some people feel palpitations, fluttering, fatigue, dizziness or breathlessness. Some feel nothing at all. AFib is important because, in selected patients, it can increase the risk of stroke. Early detection gives doctors a chance to confirm the diagnosis, assess risk and start appropriate treatment when needed.

A smartwatch can be especially useful because rhythm problems often come and go. A patient may feel palpitations at night, but the ECG done in the clinic the next morning may be normal. A watch ECG taken during symptoms can provide a valuable clue.

At the same time, every recording must be interpreted carefully. A smartwatch ECG may be affected by hand movement, a loose strap, sweat or water on the skin, poor contact with the wrist, cold hands, tremors or nearby electrical interference. Recording immediately after exercise, climbing stairs or during anxiety may also give confusing results. These are not device failures; they are practical limitations of recording a medical signal from the wrist in everyday life.

A hospital ECG records the heart from multiple angles. A smartwatch ECG usually records from one angle. That single-



lead tracing can be very helpful for rhythm assessment, but it cannot diagnose everything. It cannot rule out a heart attack. It cannot tell whether

heart arteries are blocked. It cannot replace clinical examination, a 12-lead ECG, Holter monitoring, echocardiography or blood tests when these are

required.  
**So what should a person do after an alert?**  
First, stay calm and check how you feel. If possible, sit

down and repeat the ECG recording properly: keep the watch snug, keep the wrist dry, rest the arm on a table or lap, and avoid moving during the

30-second recording. Save the tracing.

Second, show the recording to a doctor, especially if alerts are repeated or if you have risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea, obesity, previous stroke, known heart disease or a family history of heart disease.

Third, seek urgent care if palpitations are associated with chest pain, fainting, severe dizziness, breathlessness, sweating, weakness of one side of the body, slurred speech or a very fast heartbeat that does not settle.

The message is simple: respect the smartwatch alert, but do not self-diagnose. The watch can start the conversation; the doctor must complete it.

Used wisely, wearable technology can make people more aware, help capture rhythm problems early and improve communication between patients and doctors. The future of heart care will likely include more such devices. The key is not to fear them or blindly trust them, but to use them intelligently.

Technology can alert us. Medical judgment tells us what the alert means.

**Dr. Ram Manohar Talupula**  
MD, DM, (AIIMS, New Delhi)  
Interventional Cardiologist  
**Aster Ramesh Hospitals**  
Vijayawada

## Court Issues Notice To AAP Leaders In Contempt Case Linked To Judge Remarks



A court has issued notices to several Aam Aadmi Party leaders in a contempt case related to remarks allegedly made against a judge, intensifying the legal and political confrontation involving the party. The case is connected to statements reportedly linked to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders regarding judicial proceedings.

The court's action came after allegations that certain public comments made by AAP leaders could amount to contempt of court by attempting to undermine the dignity and authority of the judiciary. The notices reportedly seek responses from the concerned leaders over their statements and conduct.

The controversy emerged after remarks were allegedly made questioning judicial decisions and the handling of cases involving senior AAP fig-

ures. Petitioners in the matter argued that such statements could erode public confidence in the judicial system and influence ongoing legal proceedings.

The court has now asked the leaders to explain why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them. The matter is expected to be heard further in the coming days.

The development adds to the mounting legal challenges faced by the Aam Aadmi Party in recent months. Several senior party leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal, have been involved in legal and political disputes linked to corruption allegations, governance issues, and ongoing investigations.

AAP leaders, however, have repeatedly accused central agencies and political opponents of targeting the party for political reasons. The party has maintained that its leaders have the right to question ac-

tions they consider unfair or politically motivated.

Legal experts note that contempt of court cases involving political leaders often attract significant attention because they involve the balance between freedom of speech and maintaining respect for judicial institutions. Courts generally treat any attempt to scandalise or lower the authority of the judiciary seriously.

The case has already triggered political reactions, with opposition parties accusing AAP leaders of repeatedly attacking institutions whenever legal pressure increases. Meanwhile, AAP supporters argue that criticism of judicial processes should not automatically be treated as contempt if expressed within democratic limits.

Judicial independence and public confidence in the legal system remain highly sensitive issues in Indian politics. Courts have frequently emphasised that criticism must remain fair and should not cross into attempts to influence proceedings or damage institutional credibility.

The upcoming hearings are likely to be closely watched because the case involves prominent political leaders and broader questions surrounding free speech, political criticism, and the authority of courts in democratic systems.

As the legal battle continues, the controversy has once again placed the relationship between politics and the judiciary at the centre of national attention.

## Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister BC Khanduri Passes Away At 91



Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Major General Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri passed away at the age of 91, marking the end of an era in Indian politics and public service. Known for his clean image, disciplined leadership, and contributions to infrastructure development, Khanduri remained one of Uttarakhand's most respected political figures.

Khanduri reportedly passed away after age-related health complications. Leaders across political parties expressed condolences and paid tribute to his long public life dedicated to the nation both as an army officer and a politician.

Born in 1934 in present-day Uttarakhand, BC Khanduri served in the Indian Army before entering politics. He retired as a Major General and later joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, where he built a reputation as a straightforward and honest administrator.

Khanduri served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand twice and played a significant role in shaping the hill state during its early years after formation. He was widely appreciated for focusing on road connectivity, infrastructure, governance reforms, and anti-corruption measures.

Before becoming Chief Minister, he also served as a Union

Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, handling the crucial Road Transport and Highways portfolio. During his tenure, he was associated with major infrastructure initiatives, including expansion of the National Highways network and implementation of large-scale road development projects.

Political observers often credited Khanduri with bringing military-style discipline and administrative efficiency into governance. His simple lifestyle and strong public image earned him respect even among political opponents.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior BJP leaders, and leaders from other parties ex-

pressed grief over his demise. Many described him as a dedicated patriot, disciplined administrator, and leader who always prioritised public welfare.

In Uttarakhand, tributes poured in from across the state, with many remembering his contribution toward improving connectivity and governance in difficult hill regions. Supporters highlighted his role in strengthening infrastructure and promoting development in remote areas.

Khanduri also remained popular among ex-servicemen and defence communities because of his military background and continued advocacy for veterans' welfare after entering politics.

Throughout his political career, he maintained a reputation for integrity and honesty, qualities that distinguished him in Indian public life. Even critics often acknowledged his commitment to transparent governance and public accountability.

His death marks a major loss for Uttarakhand politics and the BJP, where he was considered one of the party's tallest leaders from the state. Many political leaders noted that his legacy would continue to inspire future generations of public servants and political workers.

With BC Khanduri's passing, India has lost a soldier, administrator, and politician whose career reflected decades of service to both the armed forces and democratic governance.

## MK Stalin Predicts Collapse Of Vijay's TVK Government, Urges DMK Cadre To Stay Prepared

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin has made a strong political statement by predicting the eventual fall of actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government, while urging DMK party workers to remain prepared for future political developments in the state.

Stalin's remarks come amid increasing political buzz surrounding actor Vijay's formal entry into active politics through his party TVK. The actor has rapidly gained public attention and support among sections of youth and first-time voters, creating fresh excitement in Tamil Nadu's political landscape.

Addressing party members, Stalin reportedly expressed confidence that the DMK would continue to remain a dominant force in Tamil Nadu politics despite the emer-

gence of new challengers. He called on party cadre to stay united, strengthen grassroots work, and be ready for any political scenario in the future.

The comments are being seen as one of the strongest direct responses so far from the DMK leadership toward Vijay's growing political presence. Although TVK is still a relatively new political force, Vijay's popularity as one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars has generated speculation about his potential electoral impact.

Political observers believe Stalin's statement reflects increasing attention within established parties toward Vijay's ability to attract younger voters and create anti-establishment momentum. Tamil Nadu politics has historically seen strong links between cinema and political success, with legendary actors such as MG

Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa successfully transitioning into major political leadership roles.

Vijay officially launched Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam earlier and has positioned the party as an alternative focused on governance, transparency, and public welfare. While the party has not yet faced a major electoral test, its public meetings and organisational expansion have drawn significant media attention.

The DMK, however, continues to remain politically strong under Stalin's leadership after securing a decisive victory in the 2021 Assembly elections. The ruling party has consistently highlighted welfare schemes, infrastructure projects, and social justice policies as key achievements of its government. Political analysts say Stalin's remarks could also

be aimed at energising DMK workers ahead of future elections by reinforcing the message that the party should not underestimate emerging political forces.

Meanwhile, supporters of Vijay and TVK have reacted strongly on social media, with many arguing that the actor's political rise reflects growing public desire for fresh leadership and change in Tamil Nadu politics.

The rivalry between established Dravidian parties and emerging political movements is expected to intensify as the state gradually moves toward future electoral battles. With Vijay continuing to expand his political presence and the DMK determined to protect its stronghold, Tamil Nadu politics could witness a highly competitive phase in the coming years.



## Centre Denies Reports Of Gold Monetisation Scheme For Temples

The Central government has strongly denied reports claiming that it plans to introduce a gold monetisation scheme specifically targeting temples and religious institutions across the country. Officials clarified that no such proposal is currently under consideration, calling the circulating reports "false" and misleading.

The clarification came after speculation spread on social media and some reports suggested that the government was preparing a special initiative to mobilise gold held by temples under a monetisation programme. The reports triggered widespread discussion and criticism in certain sections, with concerns being raised about religious institutions and temple assets.

Responding to the controversy, government sources stated that there is no proposal to collect or monetise gold belonging to temples through any special scheme. Officials emphasised that the existing Gold Monetisation Scheme remains voluntary in nature and is open to all individuals and institutions, not specifically targeted at religious bodies.

The Gold Monetisation Scheme was originally launched to encourage people and institutions to deposit idle gold with banks in exchange



for interest returns. The broader objective of the scheme is to reduce dependence on gold imports and bring unused gold into the formal financial system.

However, rumours suggesting that temples would be specifically asked to hand over their gold reserves led to political reactions and public debate. Several social media posts and discussions questioned whether religious assets could be brought under

government control through such a policy.

Government representatives dismissed these claims and urged people not to believe unverified reports circulating online. Officials reiterated that no discussions or policy decisions have been made regarding compulsory or targeted monetisation of temple gold.

India is estimated to have one of the world's largest privately held gold reserves, including substantial quantities

stored in temples and religious institutions. Over the years, debates have occasionally emerged over whether idle gold reserves could be utilised more productively for the economy. However, such discussions have also remained highly sensitive due to religious and cultural sentiments attached to temple wealth.

Political observers noted that the government's quick clarification appears aimed at preventing unnecessary controversy and misinformation from spreading further. Religious institutions often hold deep emotional significance for devotees, making any rumours related to temple assets politically sensitive.

The issue also sparked wider conversations online about the balance between economic policy, religious autonomy, and public trust. While some economists have previously argued that monetising idle gold could benefit the economy, critics believe religious institutions should remain free from state intervention in matters involving sacred assets.

With the Centre now officially denying the reports, the controversy appears to have been driven largely by misinformation and speculation rather than any actual policy proposal.

## Army Chief Calls Operation Sindoor A Display Of "Smart Power" After 88 Hours Of Planning

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi has described Operation Sindoor as a carefully planned demonstration of "smart power," saying the military action was executed after 88 hours of deliberate strategic thinking and preparation. His remarks have brought fresh attention to the operation and the broader approach adopted by India's armed forces in dealing with complex security challenges.

Speaking about the operation, General Dwivedi said the mission reflected a combination of military capability, strategic restraint, technology, coordination, and precise execution rather than impulsive action. He stressed that the planning process involved continuous assessment of operational conditions, intelligence inputs, and broader national security considerations before any decision was implemented.

The Army Chief highlighted that modern warfare and security operations are no longer driven only by raw force but increasingly depend on intelligence-based planning, technological integration, and calibrated responses. According to him, Operation Sindoor demonstrated how India's armed forces are evolving toward a more sophisticated and strategically balanced operational doctrine.

General Dwivedi explained that the 88-hour preparation pe-

riod was used to evaluate multiple scenarios, minimise risks, and ensure maximum operational effectiveness. He indicated that such operations require coordination between different branches of the military and security establishment, with careful attention to timing and execution.

The phrase "smart power" generally refers to the combined use of military strength, diplomacy, strategic communication, and technology-driven capabilities. Analysts believe the Army Chief's remarks signal India's growing emphasis on precision-based operations rather than prolonged conventional confrontation.

Although specific operational details remain limited, the comments suggest that Operation Sindoor involved a high level of tactical planning and decision-making under sensitive circumstances. Security experts note that military leadership increasingly prefers calculated responses designed to achieve strategic objectives while controlling escalation risks.

General Dwivedi also praised the professionalism and preparedness of Indian soldiers involved in the operation. He said the armed forces remain committed to safeguarding national security while adapting to rapidly changing warfare environments and emerging threats.

The remarks come at a time when India continues to focus

heavily on defence modernisation, indigenous military technology, surveillance systems, and integrated command structures. Military experts say future operations are likely to rely even more on real-time intelligence, cyber capabilities, drones, and rapid-response coordination.

The Army Chief's comments have drawn attention across strategic and defence circles, with many viewing them as an insight into the evolving mindset of India's military leadership. Observers believe the emphasis on planning, restraint, and precision reflects an effort to project India as a responsible but capable military power.

Operation Sindoor has now become part of broader discussions around India's security strategy, with General Dwivedi's remarks underlining the importance of patience, preparation, and calculated execution in modern military operations.



# Donald Trump's Approval Ratings Fall As Iran War Concerns Grow

US President Donald Trump is witnessing a sharp decline in public approval ratings as concerns surrounding the ongoing Iran conflict and rising fuel prices continue to impact American voters. Multiple recent opinion polls suggest growing dissatisfaction with his handling of the economy and the war situation, creating political pressure ahead of the upcoming midterm elections.

According to several surveys, Trump's approval rating has dropped to one of the lowest levels of his second term. Public frustration appears to be driven largely by the economic fallout linked to tensions with Iran, including rising gasoline prices and inflation concerns. Many Americans reportedly believe the conflict has

increased financial pressure on households already struggling with the cost of living.

Polls also show strong opposition to the US military's involvement in the Iran conflict. A significant section of voters reportedly disapprove of Trump's handling of the war, with concerns ranging from economic impact to fears of prolonged instability in the Middle East.

The Iran conflict has remained a major issue in American politics since tensions escalated earlier this year. Rising crude oil prices and disruptions linked to the Strait of Hormuz have affected global energy markets, leading to increased fuel prices in the United States. Analysts say these economic consequences are di-

rectly influencing public opinion against the administration.

Reports indicate that many independent voters and younger Americans have become increasingly critical of Trump's foreign policy approach. Surveys suggest that support among some Republican voters has also weakened slightly compared to earlier months, though he still retains strong backing from a large portion of his party base.

At the same time, Trump has attempted to project confidence by claiming that diplomatic negotiations with Iran could still produce a breakthrough. Recently, he reportedly paused plans for possible military escalation, signaling that discussions and mediation efforts

were continuing.

Despite the political pressure, Trump and his supporters argue that his administration's tough stance on Iran is necessary for US national security. However, critics claim the conflict has damaged economic stability and increased uncertainty both domestically and internationally.

Political analysts believe the declining approval ratings could become a major challenge for Republicans in the upcoming elections if inflation, fuel prices, and geopolitical tensions continue to dominate public debate. Many observers are now closely watching whether diplomatic efforts with Iran can reduce tensions and improve economic conditions in the coming months.



## Iran Tightens Control Over Strait Of Hormuz With New Shipping Rules

Iran has introduced a new regulatory framework for ships passing through the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz, raising fresh concerns across global energy and shipping markets. The move comes amid continuing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and growing uncertainty over maritime security in one of the world's busiest oil transit routes.

According to reports, Tehran has created a new body called the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) to oversee and regulate vessel movement through the narrow waterway. Under the new system, ships may be required to obtain transit authorisation, share operational details, and comply with specific navigation procedures before entering the strait.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints, handling nearly one-fifth of global oil and gas trade. Any disruption or tighter control over the route has immediate implications for global energy prices, shipping costs, and international trade.

Reports suggest Iran may also impose transit-related charges or security fees on some vessels using the route. Iranian officials argue that the measures are necessary for maintaining maritime safety and securing the waterway during ongoing regional instability. However, Western countries and several shipping experts have questioned the



legality of imposing unilateral transit fees on an international shipping corridor.

The new rules are linked to the wider conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel earlier this year, which severely disrupted commercial shipping in the region. At one stage, tanker traffic through the strait reportedly dropped sharply, creating fears of a global energy supply crisis.

India has been closely monitoring the situation because a significant portion of its crude oil and LPG imports passes through the Strait of Hormuz. Indian officials have clarified that India-flagged vessels are currently not paying any transit tolls and continue to move based on safety assessments and diplomatic coordination.

Reports indicate that Iran has shown flexibility toward ships from countries such as India, China, and Russia, while vessels linked to the United States and its allies may face stricter scrutiny or operation-

al restrictions.

Shipping companies worldwide are now reassessing routes, insurance costs, and security risks linked to Gulf operations. Insurance premiums for vessels using the route have already increased sharply since the conflict began, adding further pressure on global trade and energy markets.

The latest developments have also intensified debate over freedom of navigation and maritime law. Iran maintains that it has sovereign rights to regulate security in the waterway, while Western powers argue that international shipping lanes must remain open without unilateral restrictions. Analysts believe the situation could continue affecting global oil prices, freight costs, and geopolitical relations in the coming months. As major powers closely watch Iran's next steps, the Strait of Hormuz once again remains at the centre of global strategic and economic tensions.

## Putin's China Visit Highlights Beijing's Balancing Act Between Russia And US

Russian President Vladimir Putin is visiting China for high-level talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a closely watched diplomatic meeting that comes just days after US President Donald Trump completed his own visit to Beijing. The back-to-back meetings have drawn global attention, with analysts viewing them as a sign of China's growing influence in global diplomacy and international power politics.

Putin's visit is expected to focus on strengthening economic cooperation, energy partnerships, and strategic coordination between Russia and China. The two leaders are also likely to discuss major global issues, including the Ukraine conflict, Middle East tensions, and evolving relations with the United States.

The visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Sino-Russian Treaty of Friendship signed in 2001, a symbolic milestone that highlights the longstanding partnership between Beijing and Moscow. Over the past few years, China and Russia have significantly expanded trade, energy cooperation, and diplomatic engagement, especially after Western sanctions isolated Moscow following the Ukraine war.

At the same time, China is also trying to maintain relatively stable ties with the United States. Trump's recent Beijing summit with Xi Jinping focused on trade disputes, Tai-



wan, artificial intelligence, and the Iran conflict. The Chinese leadership appears to be carefully balancing its strategic partnership with Russia while avoiding a complete breakdown in relations with Washington.

Analysts believe the timing of Putin's visit is particularly important because it allows China to project itself as a major diplomatic power capable of engaging with both rival global powers within days. Beijing is increasingly presenting itself as a stabilising force amid rising geopolitical tensions across multiple regions.

Energy cooperation is expected to remain one of the key agenda items during the Xi-Putin meeting. Russia has

become one of China's largest energy suppliers, especially after Europe reduced dependence on Russian oil and gas. Discussions are likely to include the proposed Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline, which could further deepen energy ties between the two countries.

The Middle East situation and the Iran conflict are also expected to feature prominently in discussions. China maintains close relations with both Russia and Iran and has increasingly positioned itself as a potential mediator in global conflicts. Beijing is particularly concerned about stability in the Strait of Hormuz because disruptions there directly affect Chinese trade and energy security. Western

countries continue to closely monitor the growing China-Russia partnership. Critics in the West argue that China's economic support has helped Russia withstand international sanctions. However, Beijing insists it remains neutral on the Ukraine conflict and supports diplomatic solutions rather than military escalation.

Putin's latest trip underlines how rapidly shifting global alliances are reshaping international politics. As competition between major powers intensifies, China appears determined to strengthen its strategic ties with Russia while simultaneously managing its complex and often tense relationship with the United States.

## Pakistan Restores Lahore's Pre-Partition Street Names In Major Heritage Revival Drive

Pakistan's Punjab government has approved a major plan to restore several pre-Partition names of streets, neighbourhoods, and roads in Lahore as part of a large cultural heritage revival project. The move, backed by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, aims to reconnect Lahore with its historical identity and multicultural past.

Over the decades following the 1947 Partition, many streets and localities in Lahore that once carried Hindu, Sikh, Jain, or British-era names were renamed with Islamic or nationalist identities. Under the new initiative, authorities are reversing many of those changes and bringing back older names that had remained alive in public memory for generations.

One of the most widely discussed changes is the restoration of Krishan Nagar, which had previously been renamed Islampura. Similarly, Sant Nagar is replacing Sunnat Nagar, while Dharampura is regaining its original identity after years as Mustafabad. Jain Mandir Chowk, Laxmi Chowk, Bhagwan Pura, Shanti Nagar, Ram Gali, and Mohan Lal Bazaar are among several historic names being revived across the city.

The decision is part of the



Lahore Heritage Areas Revival project, a large-scale urban restoration programme launched to preserve the city's architectural and cultural legacy. Officials say the effort is designed to celebrate Lahore's layered history as a city shaped by Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Christian, and colonial influences over centuries.

Reports indicate that new signboards carrying the restored names have already appeared in several parts of Lahore over the past two months. Authorities believe the project will help protect the city's heritage while also encouraging tourism and cultural awareness.

Supporters of the initiative have praised

the move as an important recognition of Lahore's multicultural roots before Partition reshaped the region. Many residents reportedly continued using the old names informally despite official renaming over the years. Historians and heritage experts argue that restoring these names helps preserve the memory of communities that once played a major role in Lahore's social and cultural life.

The restoration drive has also drawn attention because it represents a rare attempt in Pakistan to publicly acknowledge pre-Partition Hindu and Sikh heritage at such a visible scale. Analysts say the move signals a broader shift to-

ward heritage conservation and urban identity restoration rather than purely political or religious symbolism.

Lahore, often regarded as the cultural heart of Pakistan, was historically home to diverse religious communities before the violence and migration caused by Partition in 1947. Many temples, gurdwaras, colonial buildings, and heritage markets from that era still remain across the city, though several fell into neglect over time.

The government's heritage programme also includes restoration of historical buildings, preservation of old markets, removal of encroachments around heritage sites, and revival of culturally significant areas. Officials involved in the project say the goal is to restore Lahore's historic character while modernising infrastructure in a way that protects the city's architectural legacy.

The move has generated significant discussion across India and Pakistan, with many social media users describing it as an emotional reminder of the shared cultural history of undivided Punjab. Others believe the initiative could encourage broader conversations about preserving South Asia's diverse historical heritage beyond political and religious divisions.

## Fresh Ebola Outbreak In Congo Raises Global Health Concerns

Health authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo have confirmed a fresh outbreak of Ebola virus disease, triggering renewed global concern over the spread of the deadly infection in Central Africa. The outbreak involves the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, a relatively rare variant that has previously caused serious epidemics in parts of Africa.

Officials confirmed that several infections have been detected in eastern Congo, prompting emergency response measures from local health authorities and international organisations. Medical teams have been deployed to identify infected individuals, trace contacts, and contain the spread of the virus before it expands into neighbouring regions.

The latest outbreak has raised particular concern because eastern Congo has repeatedly struggled with Ebola outbreaks over the past decade due to fragile healthcare systems, armed conflict, population displacement, and limited medical infrastructure. Health workers fear that instability in the region could make containment efforts more difficult.

The Bundibugyo strain is considered different from the more widely known Zaire Ebola strain, which caused large outbreaks in West Africa and previous epidemics in Congo. Although the Bundibugyo variant generally shows a slightly

lower fatality rate compared to some other Ebola strains, it still remains extremely dangerous and highly infectious.

Symptoms of Ebola typically include fever, severe weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea, muscle pain, and in some cases internal and external bleeding. The virus spreads through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, contaminated surfaces, or infected animals.

Health experts are particularly concerned about cross-border transmission because Congo shares borders with several African countries, including Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan. Increased regional movement and trade raise the risk of the virus spreading beyond the immediate outbreak zone.

Uganda has already intensified health surveillance measures along its border with Congo to prevent possible infections from entering the country. Authorities in neighbouring regions are screening travellers, strengthening emergency response systems, and preparing isolation facilities in case new cases emerge.

The World Health Organization and other international health agencies are closely monitoring the situation and assisting local authorities with medical supplies, laboratory support, vaccinations, and emergency response teams. Rapid detection and isolation are considered critical for controlling Ebola outbreaks be-

fore they escalate into larger health emergencies.

Vaccination campaigns are expected to play a major role in the containment strategy. In recent years, Ebola vaccines have significantly improved the ability of health agencies to reduce transmission and protect frontline healthcare workers during outbreaks.

Public health experts warn that repeated outbreaks in the region highlight ongoing weaknesses in healthcare infrastructure and disease surveillance systems across parts of Central Africa. Poverty, conflict, and limited access to medical care continue to create conditions where infectious diseases can spread rapidly.

Although officials say there is currently no indication of a global health emergency, international agencies remain on high alert because Ebola outbreaks can escalate quickly if early containment efforts fail. Health authorities are urging communities to remain cautious, report symptoms immediately, and cooperate with medical teams working in affected areas.



# Sensex Falls 114 Points, Nifty Slips Below 23,650 Despite Strong IT Rally

Indian stock markets ended lower in a volatile trading session as weakness in banking and financial stocks outweighed gains in the information technology sector. The BSE Sensex closed down by 114 points, while the NSE Nifty slipped below the crucial 23,650 mark despite a strong rally in major IT shares.

The market opened on a cautious note amid mixed global cues and continued concerns over geopolitical tensions, crude oil prices, and the weakening rupee. Although investors initially showed optimism following a decline in global oil prices, selling pressure in heavyweight banking stocks dragged the indices into negative territory by the end of the session.

The information technology sector emerged as the biggest positive contributor during the day. Shares of major IT companies such as Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra witnessed strong buying interest. Analysts believe the sector benefited from the strengthening US dollar and expectations of stable global

technology demand. Since many Indian IT firms earn a significant portion of their revenue in foreign currencies, a weaker rupee generally improves their earnings outlook.

However, gains in IT stocks were offset by weakness in banking and financial shares. Several major private and public sector banks traded lower as investors remained cautious about foreign fund outflows, global interest rate trends, and currency volatility. Profit booking after recent gains also contributed to the decline in banking counters.

Market sentiment remained fragile due to uncertainty surrounding global geopolitical developments, particularly tensions involving Iran and concerns over crude oil supply disruptions. Although oil prices cooled slightly during the session, investors continued to remain cautious about the possibility of renewed volatility in energy markets.

The Indian rupee also remained under pressure against the US dollar, adding to concerns among investors. A weaker rupee often increases



import costs for India, especially for crude oil, which can impact inflation and corporate profitability.

Despite the weak closing, several sectors showed resilience. Apart from IT, selective buying was witnessed in telecom, pharmaceuticals, and metal stocks. Investors also reacted to quarterly earnings announcements and company-specific developments, leading to sharp movements in individual stocks throughout the session. Market experts believe volatility could continue in the near term as investors closely monitor

global economic data, geopolitical developments, foreign institutional investor activity, and movements in crude oil prices. Analysts also expect upcoming corporate earnings and policy signals from major global central banks to influence market direction. Overall, while the strong IT rally helped limit losses, weakness in financial stocks prevented the market from sustaining gains. The session reflected the cautious mood prevailing on Dalal Street as investors balanced optimism over easing oil prices against broader global uncertainties.

# Voltas, Blue Star Shares Gain As Extended Heatwave Boosts Cooling Demand

Shares of major air-conditioner manufacturers Voltas and Blue Star rose sharply after weather agency Skymet predicted that hot weather conditions are likely to continue across several parts of India until the first week of June. The forecast increased investor optimism about stronger summer demand for cooling products, pushing both stocks higher during trading.

Voltas and Blue Star shares climbed up to 4 percent as market participants anticipated higher sales of air conditioners, coolers, and refrigeration products amid prolonged heatwave conditions. Investors believe the extended summer season could significantly benefit companies operating in the consumer cooling and home appliance segment.

According to Skymet, many regions in India are expected to continue experiencing above-normal temperatures in the coming weeks. Several states have already witnessed intense heatwave conditions this summer, leading to increased electricity consumption and strong demand for cooling appliances in both urban and semi-urban markets.

The weather forecast immediately triggered positive sentiment around air-conditioning and cooling-related stocks. Analysts noted that sustained high temperatures during the peak summer period generally translate into higher product sales, improved revenue growth, and stronger quarterly earnings for companies in the sector.



Voltas, one of India's leading air-conditioner brands, has already witnessed robust demand during the ongoing summer season. Blue Star has also been expanding aggressively in the residential and commercial cooling market, benefiting from rising consumer preference for premium cooling products and energy-efficient appliances.

Market experts believe the heatwave could continue driving strong retail demand across electronics stores and e-commerce platforms. Many consumers are reportedly advancing purchase decisions due to unusually high temperatures, creating favourable conditions for appliance manufacturers.

Apart from air conditioners, demand for refrigerators, air coolers, fans, and commercial refrigeration systems is also expected to remain strong if temperatures stay elevated through early June. Analysts say the weather factor could provide a major seasonal boost to the consumer durables sector.

Investors also reacted positively because the summer season plays a critical role in annual sales performance for cooling appliance companies. A longer and harsher summer often results in improved earnings visibility and stronger profit expectations.

The rally in cooling-related stocks came even as broader market sentiment remained cautious due to concerns over global geopolitical tensions, crude oil prices, and currency volatility. Sector-specific optimism helped Voltas and Blue Star outperform several other consumer-focused stocks during the trading session.

Industry observers believe weather forecasts are increasingly becoming an important factor influencing stock market trends, especially for sectors linked to seasonal consumption patterns. With temperatures expected to remain high across large parts of the country, cooling appliance makers may continue to stay in focus among investors in the coming weeks.

# Vodafone Idea Shares Jump After CEO Signals Progress On 35,000 Crore Funding Plan

Shares of Vodafone Idea surged sharply after the company's CEO revealed that the telecom operator is actively engaged with an SBI-led consortium for a proposed funding package worth 35,000 crore. The update boosted investor confidence and triggered strong buying interest in the stock during trading.

Vodafone Idea shares climbed around 6 percent after management indicated that discussions with lenders were progressing positively. Investors viewed the development as a major step toward improving the company's financial stability and supporting its long-term expansion plans.

The telecom operator has been under significant financial pressure in recent years due to mounting debt, intense competition, and large adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liabilities. The proposed funding package is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the company's balance sheet and helping it compete more effectively with rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

According to company officials, the planned funding would primarily be used for network expansion, technology upgrades, and strengthening 4G and 5G infrastructure across India. Vodafone Idea has been trying to improve service quality and customer retention as competition in the telecom sector continues to intensify.



The management reportedly stated that discussions with banks remain active and constructive, with lenders evaluating the overall business roadmap and future growth potential of the company. The involvement of a State Bank of India-led consortium has been seen as a positive sign by investors and market analysts.

The stock's rally also reflected hopes that fresh funding could improve Vodafone Idea's operational performance and help the company stabilise its subscriber base. In recent quarters, the telecom operator has faced subscriber losses as users shifted toward competitors offering wider network coverage and faster services.

Analysts believe successful fundraising would provide Vodafone Idea with much-needed financial flexibility to invest in network quality and participate more aggressively in India's rapidly expanding 5G market. Without significant capital infusion, the company has faced concerns regarding its long-term competitiveness. The telecom sector has become increasingly capital-intensive with companies investing heavily in spectrum acquisition, infrastructure expansion, and advanced technologies. Industry experts say Vodafone Idea requires substantial funding to maintain relevance in a market dominated by financially stronger rivals. Despite the

positive momentum, analysts cautioned that the funding process may still take time and depends on regulatory approvals, lender confidence, and execution of the company's business strategy. Investors are expected to closely monitor further announcements regarding timelines and final approval of the package.

The sharp rise in Vodafone Idea shares highlights how sensitive market sentiment remains to developments surrounding the company's fundraising efforts. For many investors, the proposed 35,000 crore package represents a potential turning point that could determine the telecom operator's future growth and survival in India's highly competitive telecom industry.

# Rupee Falls To Fresh Record Low Beyond 96.50 Against US Dollar

The Indian rupee plunged to a fresh all-time low, breaching the 96.50 mark against the US dollar amid rising global uncertainty, strong demand for the American currency, and continued pressure from geopolitical tensions. The sharp decline in the rupee has increased concerns among investors and market participants about inflation, import costs, and economic stability.

The domestic currency weakened significantly during trading as the dollar strengthened globally. Analysts said heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, especially involving Iran, pushed investors toward safe-haven assets such as the US dollar, leading to pressure on emerging market currencies including the rupee.

A major factor behind the rupee's fall has been the recent surge in crude oil prices. Since India imports a large portion of its oil requirements, higher global crude prices increase the country's import bill and widen the trade deficit. This often results in increased demand for dollars from oil-importing companies, putting

further pressure on the rupee. Although crude prices cooled slightly during the session after reports of easing geopolitical tensions, the rupee remained weak due to persistent global uncertainty and foreign fund outflows from Indian markets.

Market experts believe foreign institutional investor selling has also contributed to the rupee's decline. In recent sessions, overseas investors have reduced exposure to Indian equities and bonds amid rising global volatility and concerns about international economic conditions.

The weakening rupee has raised concerns about imported inflation, particularly in sectors dependent on overseas goods and raw materials. A weaker currency can make imports more expensive, increasing costs for industries such as oil, electronics, chemicals, and consumer goods.

At the same time, some export-oriented sectors may benefit from the rupee's depreciation. Information technology and pharmaceutical companies, which earn substantial revenue in foreign currencies,

could see improved earnings when converted into rupees. This partially explains the recent buying interest in IT stocks despite broader market weakness.

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to closely monitor currency movements to prevent excessive volatility. Market participants believe the central bank may intervene if the rupee continues to weaken sharply over the coming sessions.

Financial analysts noted that global factors currently remain the primary driver of currency markets. Developments related to US interest rates, geopolitical tensions, crude oil prices, and foreign investment flows are likely to determine the rupee's direction in the near term.

The record fall in the rupee reflects growing caution in global financial markets as investors react to uncertainty surrounding energy prices, geopolitical risks, and international economic conditions. Market observers expect continued volatility until clearer signals emerge from global developments.

# Cupid Shares Slide After Massive Rally, Investors Weigh Buy, Sell Or Hold Decision

Shares of Cupid Ltd witnessed sharp selling pressure after the company announced its latest quarterly results, falling around 5.5 percent over two trading sessions. The decline comes after the stock delivered an extraordinary rally of nearly 500 percent over the past one year, making it one of the market's standout multibagger performers.

The correction in Cupid shares has triggered fresh debate among investors over whether to buy more, book profits, or continue holding the stock after its massive rise.

Market experts believe the recent decline is largely linked to profit booking by investors following the stock's remarkable rally. After such a strong upward movement in a short period, many traders appear to have locked in gains despite the company posting healthy business growth.

Cupid Ltd, known for

manufacturing condoms and other reproductive healthcare products, has attracted strong investor attention over the past year due to robust earnings growth, improved margins, export expansion, and rising demand in international markets. The company's improving financial performance had fueled optimism among retail investors and market participants.

However, analysts noted that high valuations after the sharp rally may have increased market sensitivity to quarterly earnings and future growth expectations. Even though the company's latest results remained broadly positive, some investors may have expected even stronger numbers considering the scale of the stock's previous gains.

The recent decline also reflects broader market caution, with investors becoming selective after sharp rallies in small-cap and mid-

cap stocks. Volatility has increased across the market due to concerns over global economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and fluctuating investor sentiment.

Despite the correction, several analysts remain optimistic about the company's long-term growth prospects. They point to expanding export opportunities, rising healthcare awareness, and growing demand for reproductive health products as positive factors supporting future business growth.

At the same time, experts warn that stocks delivering multibagger returns often experience periods of sharp volatility and profit booking. Investors are generally advised to focus on business fundamentals, earnings consistency, and valuation levels rather than short-term price movements.

Some market observers believe long-term investors may continue holding the

stock if they remain confident about the company's growth trajectory. Others suggest partial profit booking could be a sensible strategy after such a steep rise, especially for investors with shorter investment horizons.

Technical analysts noted that the stock's near-term movement could depend on overall market sentiment and whether buying interest returns at lower levels. Any fresh positive business updates or strong future earnings could potentially revive momentum in the counter.

The sharp correction in Cupid shares highlights the challenges investors face after a stock experiences explosive growth. While the company continues to show strong business potential, market participants are now carefully evaluating whether the extraordinary rally can sustain further momentum in the coming months.



# Applicant Rejected Over Non-Existent Degree Requirement Sparks Online Debate

A bizarre hiring incident has gone viral after a job applicant claimed they were rejected for not having a master's degree in a subject that does not even exist. The unusual case has reignited concerns about automated hiring systems, unrealistic job requirements, and the growing role of artificial intelligence in recruitment.

The applicant had applied for the role of a makerspace coordinator, a position responsible for managing collaborative workspaces equipped with tools such as 3D printers, fabrication machines, and creative technology resources. Confident in their experience, the candidate believed they were a strong fit for the role because

they had previously helped establish a makerspace in their state. However, the application was rejected due to the absence of a "Master's degree in Makerspace Management."

The problem, according to the applicant, is that no such academic degree actually exists. After receiving the rejection, the candidate reportedly searched online, contacted colleges, and investigated educational programs related to makerspaces, only to discover that universities do not offer a master's degree in that field. The closest match they could find was a certificate course related to crafting and creative technologies.

The story first appeared in a Reddit post and quickly at-

tracted widespread attention. Many social media users blamed Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) and AI-driven recruitment software for the rejection. They argued that automated filters are increasingly being used by companies to screen resumes based on keywords and rigid qualification criteria, often without proper human review.

Several commenters criticised recruiters for depending too heavily on automation instead of understanding the actual skills required for a role. One user remarked that companies often create job filters without verifying whether the listed qualifications are real. Others joked that even if such a degree existed, it would be

too narrowly specialised for most people to pursue.

Some users also suggested practical solutions for job seekers dealing with automated systems. They advised candidates to include important keywords from job descriptions in their resumes so that AI systems are more likely to recognise relevant experience. Others recommended contacting hiring managers directly to bypass automated screening tools.

The incident has once again highlighted the flaws of modern hiring practices, where technology designed to simplify recruitment may sometimes eliminate qualified candidates before a human recruiter even reviews their application.



# British Couple Busts Biggest India Travel Myth, Says Street Food Is 'Soul Of The Country'



A British couple travelling across India has gone viral on social media after sharing their experiences and challenging common stereotypes about the country. Through a series of videos and posts, the travellers praised India's culture, hospitality, and especially its street food, which they described as the "soul of the country."

The couple, who have been documenting their journey online, said many people outside India often assume that eating street food in the country is unsafe or unhygienic. However, after travelling through several cities and tasting local dishes, they claimed the reality was very different from the popular myths often spread on social media and travel forums.

In one of their videos, the travellers explained that Indian street food offers some of the most authentic and flavour-

warmth and friendliness shown by people made their travel experience even more memorable. According to them, Indian hospitality often exceeds expectations, with strangers willing to help tourists navigate unfamiliar places and recommend local delicacies.

The couple admitted they were initially cautious because of warnings they had heard before visiting India. However, they said following basic precautions such as eating freshly prepared food and choosing busy stalls helped them enjoy the experience without problems. They encouraged travellers not to let stereotypes prevent them from exploring India's food culture.

Their comments received widespread appreciation online, with many social media users thanking them for presenting a more balanced and positive image of India. Several Indian users expressed pride in seeing foreigners appreciate the country's traditions and cuisine, while others shared their own favourite street food recommendations.

The viral video has once again highlighted how travel experiences can challenge misconceptions and build cultural understanding. For the British couple, India's street food turned out to be much more than just a culinary adventure — it became a symbol of the country's vibrant spirit, diversity, and human connection.

During their journey, the pair visited busy markets and roadside stalls where they interacted with local vendors and residents. They said the

ful culinary experiences in the world. They said local food stalls are not just places to eat but also spaces where people gather, interact, and celebrate everyday life. According to them, trying street food is one of the best ways to truly understand India's culture and traditions.

The couple also spoke about the diversity of Indian cuisine, noting how every region offers unique flavours, ingredients, and cooking styles. From spicy chaats and crispy dosas to rich curries and sweet desserts, they said each dish reflected the history and identity of the local community. They especially appreciated how affordable and accessible the food was for travellers.

During their journey, the pair visited busy markets and roadside stalls where they interacted with local vendors and residents. They said the

# Pakistani-Origin Entrepreneur Rents Theatre In US To Screen '3 Idiots' For Inspiration

A Pakistani-origin entrepreneur based in San Francisco has captured social media attention after renting an entire theatre to screen the Bollywood classic 3 Idiots for the public. The initiative, inspired by the film's emotional and motivational message, quickly went viral online and sparked nostalgia among movie lovers across the world.

The entrepreneur, Farza Majeed, announced on social media that he had booked a 250-seat theatre in San Francisco to host a screening of the 2009 blockbuster starring Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan, and Sharman Joshi. According to him, the event was meant for people who feel stuck in life, need motivation, or simply want to enjoy a heartfelt film with others.

In his post, Majeed described 3 Idiots as one of the greatest films ever made and praised its story about friendship, self-discovery, and the pressure young people face while deciding their future. He said the movie had personally helped him during difficult phases of life, and he wanted others to experience the same inspiration and positivity.

The screening is scheduled to take place at the Marina Theatre in San Francisco on May 24. The film will be shown with English subtitles so that even people unfamiliar with Hindi cinema can



enjoy it. Tickets were reportedly priced at a minimal amount and limited to one per person to ensure fair access for everyone interested in attending.

The announcement received an overwhelming response online. Social media users praised the entrepreneur's initiative, calling it thoughtful and refreshing. Many people shared memories of watching 3 Idiots with friends and family when it first released in 2009. Others described the film as timeless

because of its emotional storytelling and strong message about following one's passion instead of blindly chasing societal expectations.

Several users also highlighted how the movie continues to remain relevant, especially among students and young professionals dealing with academic stress, career confusion, and societal pressure. One commenter said the movie still makes them laugh and cry even after multiple viewings, while another called the public screening

an "epic initiative."

Directed by Rajkumar Hirani, 3 Idiots became one of Indian cinema's most celebrated films after its release. The movie follows the lives of three engineering students navigating India's competitive education system while learning important lessons about friendship, happiness, and personal dreams. Over the years, the film has gained a massive international fan base and continues to inspire audiences globally.

# Customer Shocked After Receiving 165 Pool Noodles In 165 Separate Boxes



A customer in the United States was left stunned after receiving an online order of 165 pool noodles delivered in 165 separate boxes. The bizarre delivery quickly became a viral sensation on social media after a video showing the massive pile of packages gained widespread attention online.

The unusual incident reportedly began when the customer placed an order for pool noodles through an online retailer. While the buyer expected a bulk shipment packed efficiently together, each individual noodle arrived separately in its own cardboard box. The result was an enormous stack of identical packages filling the

customer's home and creating what many online users described as a "packaging nightmare."

A video capturing the delivery chaos was shared online and soon attracted millions of views. In the clip, dozens upon dozens of long cardboard boxes can be seen stacked across the property, leaving viewers both amused and confused. Many social media users joked that the delivery looked more like a warehouse shipment than a regular household order.

The customer reportedly expressed disbelief over the excessive packaging and questioned how such a delivery method could have been approved. Apart from the in-

convenience of handling hundreds of boxes, many people online also raised concerns about the environmental impact of unnecessary packaging waste.

The viral video triggered a flood of humorous reactions across social media platforms. Some users joked that the shipping company must have misunderstood the concept of "bulk order," while others imagined the confusion of the delivery workers tasked with transporting the packages. One commenter sarcastically wrote that each pool noodle must have been treated like a "fragile luxury item."

Others criticised large retailers and logistics compa-

nies for inefficient packaging practices, saying the incident highlighted how automation and warehouse systems can sometimes create absurd outcomes. Several people pointed out the amount of cardboard, tape, fuel, and labour wasted in sending each lightweight noodle separately instead of combining them into a few larger packages.

Environmental concerns also became a major topic in the discussion. Many viewers argued that such packaging practices contribute unnecessarily to waste and pollution, especially at a time when companies are promoting sustainability initiatives. Some users urged businesses to improve packaging systems and adopt more eco-friendly shipping methods.

Despite the criticism, the bizarre delivery also entertained thousands online, with many users admitting they could not stop laughing at the sight of hundreds of nearly identical boxes. Memes and jokes related to the incident quickly spread across social media, turning the unusual shipment into one of the internet's latest viral moments. The incident serves as another reminder of how modern e-commerce systems, while designed for speed and efficiency, can sometimes produce surprisingly ridiculous results that capture the internet's attention.

# Instagram Star Ashton Hall's Visit To Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's UP Residence Goes Viral



American fitness influencer and Instagram star Ashton Hall recently grabbed attention during his visit to Uttar Pradesh, where he met former Wrestling Federation of India chief and ex-MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. The visit, which took place at Nandini Nagar College in Gonda district, quickly became a major talking point on social media after videos and pictures from the event went viral.

Hall, who has millions of followers on Instagram and is known for his fitness content, is currently touring India. During his visit to Uttar Pradesh, he was welcomed by Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and participated in several sports-related and cultural activities at the college campus.

The influencer interacted with local wrestlers and sports students, distributed sports kits, and observed wrestling training sessions at the Wrestling Federation's local training centre. Videos from the event showed Hall taking pho-

tographs with young athletes and encouraging them to stay disciplined and focused on fitness and sports.

Apart from wrestling activities, Hall also joined local children for a friendly game of cricket on the college grounds. Social media clips captured the fitness star batting, laughing with children, and recording moments for his online audience. Many users online praised his friendly and energetic interaction with students and local residents.

One of the most talked-about parts of the visit was Hall's tour of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's private residence. According to reports, the influencer explored the large estate, visited the stables, saw expensive horses, and even checked out a private helicopter kept on the property. Hall also reportedly spent time working out in the residence gym, where he was seen lifting a traditional Indian gada, or mace, commonly associated with Indian

wrestlers.

The videos quickly spread across social media platforms, with many users reacting to the scale of the estate and the unusual crossover between a global fitness influencer and an Indian political figure. Supporters described the event as a positive interaction that highlighted Indian wrestling culture and hospitality.

However, the visit also sparked discussions online because Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has remained a controversial figure in Indian sports and politics. The former Wrestling Federation chief has faced allegations and legal controversies in recent years, making the meeting a subject of debate among social media users.

Despite the mixed reactions, Hall's visit generated massive online engagement and introduced many of his international followers to India's wrestling traditions, local sports culture, and rural hospitality.

# MS Dhoni Played Key Role In Urvil Patel's Record-Breaking Fifty Against LSG

Young Chennai Super Kings batter Urvil Patel delivered one of the most explosive innings of IPL 2026 during CSK's clash against Lucknow Super Giants, and the youngster later revealed that MS Dhoni played a major role behind his fearless performance. Urvil smashed a sensational half-century at record pace, helping CSK stay alive in the playoff race with a crucial victory. The young batter attacked the LSG bowlers from the very beginning, displaying remarkable confidence and clean hitting under pressure. His aggressive approach completely

shifted the momentum in CSK's favour and left fans and experts stunned. Urvil's blistering knock quickly became one of the standout batting performances of the season. After the match, Dhoni spoke about the influence MS Dhoni had on his mindset before and during the innings. According to the youngster, Dhoni advised him to stay calm, trust his natural game, and avoid overthinking the situation. Urvil said the CSK captain's confidence in him gave him the freedom to play attacking cricket without fear of failure. The batter explained that

Dhoni's guidance helped him focus on reading the ball rather than worrying about the pressure of the occasion. He added that sharing the dressing room with a legend like Dhoni has already taught him valuable lessons about handling high-pressure situations. Fans on social media praised Dhoni's mentorship skills once again, with many pointing out how several young players have flourished under his leadership over the years. Supporters highlighted that Dhoni's calm presence and tactical understanding continue to inspire emerg-

ing cricketers even in the later stages of his career. Urvil's fearless innings also drew praise from cricket experts, who admired his ability to dominate experienced bowlers on such a big stage. Many described the knock as a breakthrough moment in the youngster's career and predicted a bright future for him in Indian cricket. The victory proved extremely important for Chennai Super Kings, as it kept their playoff hopes alive in a tightly contested IPL season. The team's batting unit looked more confident and aggressive, with Urvil's innings providing

the perfect boost at a crucial stage of the tournament. Meanwhile, Dhoni's impact beyond statistics once again became a major talking point among fans. Even though much attention often focuses on his finishing abilities and captaincy records, many believe his greatest contribution to CSK lies in nurturing young talent and building players mentally for pressure situations. For Urvil Patel, the memorable innings was not just about personal success but also about earning the trust of one of cricket's greatest leaders.



## Major Selection Headaches For BCCI Ahead Of Afghanistan Series

The BCCI selection committee is reportedly facing several crucial decisions ahead of India's upcoming Test and ODI series against Afghanistan. With concerns over fitness, workload management, and leadership roles, selectors are expected to make some high-profile calls while finalising the squads. One of the biggest talking points is Rohit Sharma's fitness and availability. Reports suggest the selectors are carefully evaluating his physical condition after a demanding IPL season. Although Rohit remains one of India's most experienced players, there is uncertainty over whether he will be fully fit for the upcoming assignments.



Hardik Pandya's place in the ODI setup has also become a subject of discussion. The all-rounder has reportedly been dealing with fitness concerns related to lower back stiffness, and selectors are said to be cautious about rushing him back into action. Given India's packed international calendar, the management wants key players to remain fully fit for major tournaments ahead. Another major development surrounds Rishabh Pant's role as vice-captain in the Test format. According to reports, the team management is considering relieving Pant of leadership responsibilities so he can focus entirely on his wicket-keeping and batting. Pant remains one of India's most impactful match-winners, but the selectors are reportedly evaluating whether reducing leadership pressure could help

maximise his performance. Workload management of fast bowlers is also expected to dominate discussions. Jasprit Bumrah could reportedly be rested for parts of the Afghanistan series to keep him fresh for important future tours. Mohammed Siraj's workload and recent form are also under review before the final squad announcement. At the same time, Virat Kohli's place in the ODI side appears secure. Despite ongoing discussions around transition and squad rebuilding, Kohli's recent form and experience continue to make him one of the pillars of India's batting lineup. The selection meeting is also likely to include debates over India's spin department. The selectors reportedly face a difficult choice between experienced all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, who

has impressed consistently in recent outings. Washington Sundar and young all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy are also believed to be strongly in contention due to their recent performances. The Afghanistan series is being viewed as an important phase for India as preparations begin for future ICC events and long-term squad planning. The selectors are expected to balance experience with the need to gradually build the next generation of players. With multiple fitness concerns, leadership questions, and competition for places, the squad announcement has generated huge anticipation among cricket fans. The final decisions taken by the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee could shape India's plans for the coming international season.

# Suresh Raina's Question To MS Dhoni About IPL 2027 Leaves CSK Fans Emotional

Chennai Super Kings fans were left emotional after former cricketer Suresh Raina revealed his recent conversation with MS Dhoni regarding the possibility of playing in IPL 2027. The interaction has gone viral on social media, sparking fresh speculation about Dhoni's cricketing future and a possible retirement from the IPL.



The conversation reportedly took place after Chennai Super Kings' home match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. During the post-match lap of honour, Dhoni met former teammate and close friend Suresh Raina, leading to an emotional exchange that quickly became a major talking point among cricket fans.

According to Raina, he directly asked Dhoni whether he would return to play in IPL 2027. In response, Dhoni reportedly said that his "body is a little weak," a statement that immediately triggered emotional reactions from CSK supporters. Many fans interpreted the comment as a possible indication that the legendary wicketkeeper-batter may be nearing the end of his IPL journey.

Despite the emotional response, Dhoni did not officially confirm retirement, leaving fans hopeful that he could still return for another season. Raina himself hinted that the

door may not be completely closed yet, suggesting that Dhoni could still surprise everyone by making another comeback in the tournament. The emotional moment gained even more attention because IPL 2026 has already been filled with discussions surrounding Dhoni's future. Although he has remained one of the most iconic faces of Chennai Super Kings, recurring fitness concerns and workload management have become major topics in recent seasons. Fans at Chepauk gave Dhoni a thunderous reception during

CSK's final home appearance of the season. Videos of the crowd chanting his name and celebrating his presence flooded social media platforms, highlighting the deep emotional connection between Dhoni and CSK supporters. The bond between Dhoni and Raina has always been special in Indian cricket. Both players were central figures in Chennai Super Kings' golden era and played crucial roles in multiple IPL title victories. Their friendship has remained strong even after retirement from international cricket, making their latest interaction

even more emotional for fans. For millions of CSK supporters, Dhoni is more than just a cricketer — he represents the identity and spirit of the franchise. As retirement rumours continue to grow, every appearance and every statement from the former CSK captain now carries enormous emotional value. While there is still no official confirmation regarding IPL 2027, Dhoni's latest comment has certainly left fans anxious about whether they may soon witness the final chapter of one of the greatest careers in IPL history.

## KKR Overtake CSK And RCB To Become IPL's Most Valuable Franchise

Kolkata Knight Riders have emerged as the most valuable franchise in the Indian Premier League, surpassing traditional giants Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the latest Hurun Sports report. The development marks a significant shift in the IPL business landscape, highlighting KKR's growing commercial strength, brand appeal, and global fan following. According to the report, KKR's brand valuation witnessed a major rise following the franchise's recent on-field success and expanding marketing influence. The team's strong performances, combined with aggressive branding, sponsorship deals, and digital popularity, reportedly played a major role in pushing the franchise to the top of the valuation charts.



Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, long considered among the league's most dominant commercial brands, were pushed behind KKR in the latest rankings. While CSK continues to enjoy immense popularity due to MS Dhoni's legacy and consistent success, KKR's recent momentum appears to have given the franchise an edge in overall market value. The report also highlighted the enormous popularity of Virat Kohli, who was ranked as the most valuable player brand in the IPL. Despite RCB not winning the IPL title in recent years,

Kohli's global fan base, endorsement power, and social media influence continue to make him the league's biggest individual commercial asset. Kohli's consistent performances, fitness image, and strong connection with fans have helped him remain one of the most marketable athletes in world cricket. Industry experts believe his influence extends far beyond cricket, making him a favourite among advertisers and global brands. KKR's rise has been credited not only to cricketing performances but also to the franchise's strong entertainment-driven identity. Owned by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment group, the franchise has successfully blended sports, entertainment, and digital engagement to build a powerful global brand. The team's passionate fan base across India and overseas markets has also contributed significantly to its commercial growth.

KKR's presence on social media platforms and its ability to connect with younger audiences have reportedly strengthened its market position. Meanwhile, franchises like Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Rajasthan Royals also recorded strong valuations, reflecting the IPL's growing status as one of the world's most commercially successful sports leagues. The report once again underlined how the IPL has evolved beyond cricket into a massive business and entertainment ecosystem. Franchise values are now influenced not only by trophies and performances but also by digital reach, celebrity associations, merchandising, sponsorships, and global brand visibility. For KKR fans, the latest achievement is another proud moment in the franchise's history. Rising to the top of the IPL valuation charts has reinforced the team's position as one of the most influential and commercially successful brands in modern cricket.

# Chennai To Host Big Bash League Season Opener In Historic First

Cricket fans in India are set for a unique experience as Chennai has reportedly been chosen to host the opening match of the upcoming Big Bash League season in December. The move marks a historic moment, as it will be one of the first major overseas events officially linked to Australia's premier T20 tournament.



The decision is being viewed as a significant step toward expanding the global reach of the Big Bash League. Cricket Australia is reportedly exploring new international markets to strengthen the league's popularity, and India has emerged as a key destination because of its massive cricket audience and strong T20 fan base. According to reports, the opening match is expected to feature top BBL franchises and several internationally recognised players. Organisers believe hosting the opener in Chennai could generate enormous attention, especially considering the city's passionate cricket culture and its reputation as one of India's strongest cricket centres.

The MA Chidambaram Stadium, popularly known as Chepauk, is likely to host the event. The venue is famous for its energetic crowds and rich cricketing history. Fans in Chennai are known for their deep understanding of the game and enthusiastic support

for both Indian and international players. The proposed move has already sparked excitement among cricket followers on social media. Many fans welcomed the idea of witnessing Big Bash action in India, while others described it as a major moment for the globalisation of franchise cricket. Some users even compared the development to football leagues hosting exhibition matches across different countries to expand their international fan base. Industry experts believe the decision could benefit both Australian and Indian cricket markets. For the Big Bash League, staging a match in In-

dia could increase sponsorship opportunities, broadcasting reach, and digital engagement. For Indian fans, it would offer a rare opportunity to watch overseas T20 franchises and Australian cricket stars live on Indian soil. The move also highlights how franchise cricket is evolving into a global entertainment business. T20 leagues are increasingly exploring international collaborations, overseas fan engagement, and cross-border commercial opportunities. Hosting a BBL match in Chennai could open the door for more international league events in India in the future. Several current and former

Australian cricketers reportedly welcomed the idea, believing Indian conditions and crowds would create an electrifying atmosphere for the tournament opener. Chennai's spin-friendly conditions and cricket-loving audience are expected to add a unique flavour to the event. Although official confirmation and scheduling details are still awaited, the reports have already created significant buzz among cricket fans. If finalised, the Chennai opener could become one of the most talked-about moments in the history of the Big Bash League and another major example of cricket's growing global appeal.

# 'Peddi' Trailer Creates Nationwide Buzz, Fuels Massive Pan-India Expectations

The trailer of Ram Charan's highly anticipated film Peddi has taken the internet by storm, creating massive excitement among movie lovers across India. Within hours of its release, the trailer began trending on social media platforms, with fans praising the film's intense visuals, emotional storytelling, and powerful performances. The overwhelming response has positioned Peddi as one of the most awaited Indian films in recent times.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is a sports action drama featuring Ram Charan in a rugged and emotionally charged role. The actor appears in a completely transformed avatar, portraying a fearless village hero with strong emotional depth and raw intensity. Fans and film enthusiasts have especially appreciated Charan's screen presence, body language, and high-energy performance shown in the trailer.

The trailer launch event, held on a grand scale in Mumbai, further amplified the excitement surrounding the film. The event attracted huge attention from both media and fans, highlighting the makers' ambition to position Peddi as a major pan-Indian entertainer. Janhvi Kapoor, who stars opposite Ram Charan, also drew attention with her appearance and role in the trailer.

One of the biggest highlights of the trailer is its blend of sports drama, village backdrop, emotional conflict, and action-packed sequences. The visuals, cinematography, and background score have been widely praised online. Many viewers noted that the film carries a rooted Indian flavour while still delivering the scale and cinematic appeal expected from a pan-India blockbuster. The film also features a strong supporting cast including Kannada star Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and actor Divyendu, whose intense character introduction recently generated additional curiosity among fans. Social media discussions around the film have continued to grow, with hashtags related to Peddi dominating entertainment trends.

Several celebrities and industry personalities have also reacted positively to the trailer. Kannada actor Rishab Shetty called the trailer "spectacular" and praised Ram Charan's performance, further boosting anticipation among audiences beyond Telugu cinema. The film's music, composed by legendary musician A.R. Rahman, has added another layer of excitement. Fans believe the combination of Ram Charan, Buchi Babu Sana, and Rahman could deliver a memorable cinematic experience. With its powerful trailer, emotional storytelling, large-scale production, and strong performances, Peddi has now emerged as one of the most talked-about upcoming Indian films. The extraordinary response suggests that the movie could become a major box-office event across multiple languages and regions.

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## Star Hero To Play Father And Son In Upcoming Big-Budget Entertainer

A leading South Indian star is reportedly set to take on a challenging dual role by playing both father and son in his upcoming big-budget film. The news has generated huge excitement among fans and movie enthusiasts, as dual-role performances often create strong anticipation in commercial cinema.



According to industry reports, the actor will portray two completely different characters belonging to separate generations. The father's role is expected to carry emotional depth and authority, while the son's character will reportedly showcase youthful energy, action, and mass appeal. The makers are said to be designing the film as a large-scale entertainer with a strong emotional core.

Sources suggest that the project will feature a storyline revolving around family relationships, legacy, revenge, and generational conflict. The narrative is expected to move across different timelines, allowing the actor to present two distinct appearances and performance styles within the same film. Fans are particularly excited to see how the star will differentiate the two roles through body language, dialogue delivery, and screen presence.

Dual-role films have traditionally been popular in Indian cinema, especially when major stars take up contrasting characters. Such roles often give actors an opportunity to showcase versatility while also appealing to audiences with

emotional drama and commercial entertainment. The upcoming film is reportedly being planned on a grand scale to attract audiences across multiple languages and regions.

The production team is said to be investing heavily in visual presentation, action sequences, and high-quality technical work. Reports indicate that the film will feature elaborate set designs, large-scale action episodes, and emotionally charged moments aimed at delivering a complete theatrical experience. The makers are also expected to rope in top technicians and music composers for the project.

Fans on social media have already begun discussing possible storylines and character arcs after the news surfaced online. Many users expressed excitement over seeing their favourite star in two generations of roles, while others predicted that the emotional bond

between the father and son characters could become the highlight of the film.

Industry observers believe the dual-role concept could significantly increase the movie's pan-Indian appeal, especially if supported by strong storytelling and commercial elements. Recent success stories in Indian cinema have shown that audiences continue to enjoy emotionally driven action dramas with larger-than-life characters and family emotions.

Although the makers have not officially revealed complete details about the storyline, the announcement itself has created strong buzz in film circles. With a major star taking on a demanding double role and the film being mounted on a lavish scale, expectations are already rising for what could become one of the most talked-about projects in the coming years.

## Kamal Haasan's Decision For Kalki 2 Wins Hearts Online

Veteran actor Kamal Haasan has once again earned admiration from fans and film lovers after reports emerged about his inspiring decision regarding Kalki 2. The actor's gesture has gone viral on social media, with many praising his professionalism, dedication to cinema, and support for the film's vision.

According to reports, Kamal Haasan has decided to allocate additional dates and give complete priority to the shooting schedule of Kalki 2 to ensure the project progresses smoothly. The actor, who played a powerful and mysterious role in Kalki 2898 AD, reportedly wants the sequel to be completed without delays so that the makers can deliver an even grander cinematic experience to audiences.

Fans have appreciated the actor's commitment despite his packed schedule involving multiple projects, political responsibilities, and other film commitments. Social media users described the move as a reflection of Kamal Haasan's passion for cinema and his respect for filmmakers who aim to create large-scale, ambitious films.

Kalki 2898 AD, directed by Nag Ashwin, became one of the biggest Indian films in recent years after receiving massive success across multiple languages. The movie featured a star-studded cast including Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan. While Kamal appeared only briefly in the first part, his character created



huge curiosity and is expected to play a much bigger role in the sequel. The actor's performance in the film was widely appreciated for its intensity, screen presence, and unique appearance. Many viewers felt that his character introduction was one of the strongest moments in the movie, leaving audiences eager to see more in the upcoming sequel.

Following the reports about his decision, fans flooded social media with praise, calling Kamal Haasan a "true legend" and a "complete actor" who always prioritises quality cine-

ma. Several users also highlighted how senior actors like him continue to inspire younger generations through their discipline and dedication.

Industry observers believe Kamal Haasan's involvement will significantly increase anticipation for Kalki 2, especially because the sequel is expected to expand the futuristic world established in the first film. The makers are reportedly planning larger action sequences, deeper character arcs, and a more emotionally powerful storyline.

Director Nag Ashwin has al-

ready hinted that the sequel will explore the conflict between major characters in greater detail. With Kamal Haasan expected to have a much larger screen presence this time, excitement surrounding the film has continued to grow rapidly among audiences across India.

As discussions around Kalki 2 intensify online, Kamal Haasan's latest decision has further strengthened fans' expectations for what could become one of Indian cinema's biggest upcoming blockbusters.



Jayashree Sinha

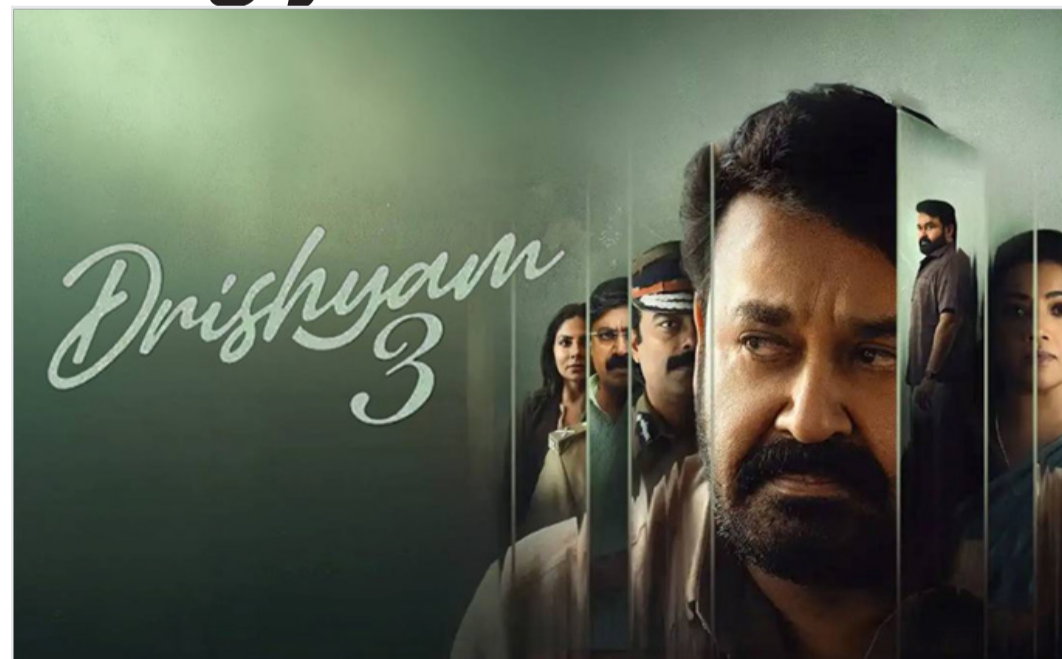
RISING STAR

## Why Mohanlal's Drishyam 3 Is Generating Surprisingly Low Pre-Release Buzz

Mohanlal's Drishyam franchise is regarded as one of the finest thriller series in Indian cinema. Both earlier films received massive appreciation for their gripping storytelling, emotional depth, and intelligent screenplay. Naturally, expectations for Drishyam 3 are extremely high. However, despite the popularity of the franchise and Mohanlal's star power, the upcoming sequel is currently witnessing surprisingly weak pre-release buzz compared to other major Indian films.

One of the biggest reasons behind the muted excitement is the unusually long gap between the previous installment and the third film. While Drishyam 2 created strong impact during its release, the momentum surrounding the franchise has gradually cooled over time. Many fans believe the makers delayed the sequel announcement for too long, reducing the immediate hype that usually surrounds successful franchises.

Another factor is the lack of aggressive promotional activity so far. Apart from reports and occasional updates, the makers have not yet released major promotional material such as a teaser, trailer, or first-



look campaign capable of dominating social media trends. In today's film industry, consistent digital promotion often plays a major role in building anticipation months before release.

The rise of pan-Indian commercial cinema has also changed audience expectations. Recent blockbuster films have relied heavily on large-scale visuals, action spectacles,

and grand theatrical moments. In comparison, Drishyam is primarily a content-driven thriller built on suspense and emotional storytelling rather than visual extravaganza. While this approach remains the franchise's biggest strength, it may not generate instant viral excitement among younger audiences accustomed to high-energy promotional campaigns.

Some industry observers also feel that the mystery surrounding the third part is being maintained too carefully. While secrecy is essential for thriller films, the lack of concrete information about the storyline, cast additions, or shooting progress has limited online discussion among fans. As a result, conversations about the film have remained relatively restricted compared

to other upcoming star-driven projects.

Despite the current low-key buzz, many fans believe Drishyam 3 could still become a major event film once official promotions begin. The franchise already enjoys a loyal fan base across India, and Mohanlal's performance as Georgekutty remains iconic among thriller lovers. The emotional connection audiences share with the character continues to be one of the film's strongest advantages.

There is also curiosity regarding how the makers will continue Georgekutty's story after the dramatic events of the second film. Fans are eager to see whether the third installment will provide a final conclusion or leave room for further expansion of the franchise.

Ultimately, while the pre-release buzz may currently appear subdued, Drishyam 3 still possesses the potential to explode in popularity closer to release. With Mohanlal returning to one of his most celebrated roles and the franchise carrying a strong reputation for intelligent storytelling, the film could once again surprise audiences and emerge as a major cinematic success.

