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Revanth Reddy Calls for Global Standards in Future City Development

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday directed officials to ensure that infrastructure in the proposed Future City meets international standards and attracts leading global institutions.

The Chief Minister conducted a review meeting with officials of the Industries Department at the MCRHRD Institute, focusing on land allocation and industrial development in the upcoming Future City project.

"Global institutions must be brought to Future City. Infrastructure should match international benchmarks," the Chief Minister said. He also instructed officials to allocate around 500 acres of land for public representatives, civil



servants, and journalists as part of the broader development plan.

Revanth Reddy further directed officials to take steps to ensure that the proposed health cluster announced by the Centre is located in Future City. He said that, if necessary, the state government would approach the Prime Minister to secure the allocation.

He also directed officials to study industrial policies of states like Tamil Nadu and Gujarat to adopt best practices. Highlighting the importance of digital infrastructure, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to develop a "Data City" spread across 1,500 acres.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to promote Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in tier-II cities and directed the formulation of a dedicated policy for the same. Additionally, he set a three-month deadline to connect all government offices in the state to the T-Fiber network.

Officials said the directives are aimed at transforming Future City into a globally competitive destination for investment, innovation, and sustainable urban growth.



Centre Open to 50:50 Funding for Hyderabad Metro Phase II

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday said the Centre was, in principle, willing to support the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project with a 50:50 cost-sharing arrangement with the Telangana government.

According to Reddy, the Centre has responded positively to the state government's proposal for the ambitious 162-km Metro Phase II expansion. He said Manohar Lal conveyed that the proposal would be favourably considered, subject to the submission of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and other required technical documents by the state government.

"The Centre is ready in principle to partner in the project. A final decision will be taken after examining the DPR and technical details," Reddy said in a statement following the meeting. He added that the proposed expansion would significantly enhance urban mobility and address the growing transportation needs of Hyderabad.

The second phase of the Hyderabad Metro is expected to expand connectivity to several underserved areas, reduce traf-

fic congestion, and support the city's rapid urban growth. Officials believe the project will play a crucial role in strengthening public transport infrastructure and improving overall quality of life for commuters.

During the discussions, Manohar Lal also highlighted the Centre's ongoing cooperation with the Telangana government in improving urban infrastructure and civic amenities in Hyderabad. As part of these efforts, the Union government has sanctioned 39 sewage treatment plants (STPs) for cleaning the Musi River under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme.

The STP projects, with an estimated cost of 3,975 crore, aim to enhance sewage and wastewater management in the city. The AMRUT 2.0 initiative, launched in 2021, focuses on providing functional tap water connections to all households in statutory towns and improving sewerage and septage management in 500 cities covered under the mission.

Reddy said the combined push for Metro expansion and urban infrastructure development reflects the Centre's commitment to supporting Hyderabad's growth as a major metropolitan hub.

Bhatti Seeks FRBM Relaxation for Education Investments

New Delhi, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi and sought enhanced financial support for the state, including relaxation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) norms to boost investments in the education sector.

During the meeting, Bhatti urged the Centre to grant special financial assistance of 5,000 crore under the SASKI scheme and allow exemptions under FRBM limits for capital expenditure in education. He emphasised that Telangana is making significant investments in education and human resource development and requires additional fiscal space to sustain and expand these initiatives.

Referring to the Centre's allocation of 4,208 crore to the state for the 2025-26 financial year, Bhatti said further support was essential to maintain the momentum of ongoing development and welfare programmes. He highlighted that



although newly formed states like Telangana are progressing rapidly, the financial burden of loans raised through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) between 2014 and 2023 has placed

considerable pressure on the state's finances.

The Deputy Chief Minister drew the Union Minister's attention to the state government's continued investments

in key sectors such as education, healthcare, rural infrastructure, and human capital development. He underlined Telangana's commitment to providing world-class educa-

tion through its flagship 'Young India Integrated Residential Schools' initiative. Bhatti informed Sitharaman that the state has prepared an ambitious investment plan of 30,000 crore for the education sector. Of this, 21,000 crore is earmarked for the construction of 105 campuses under the Young India Integrated Residential Schools programme. The remaining 9,000 crore will be utilised for strengthening government junior colleges, degree colleges, technical institutions, and digital infrastructure.

He said the proposed investments aim to improve access to quality education, modernise infrastructure, and equip students with skills required for future challenges. Seeking the Centre's cooperation, Bhatti stressed that FRBM relaxation would enable Telangana to accelerate its development agenda without compromising fiscal discipline. Officials said the Centre is expected to examine the state's requests, particularly in the context of its focus on education-led growth and long-term human resource development.



Hyderabad Climber Reaches Everest Summit

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Tulasi Reddy Palpunoori, a climber from Bowrampet in Quthbullapur, has successfully summited Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, marking a significant milestone in his mountaineering journey. The achievement was confirmed in a statement released on Wednesday.

Tulasi's journey to the summit is one of determination and transformation. Once a self-confessed foodie, he initially took up fitness activities to improve his health. What began as a personal goal gradually evolved into a passion for endurance sports and high-altitude mountaineering. Over the years, he trained rigorously, participating in long-distance events and undertaking challenging expeditions across continents. Speaking after his successful ascent, Tulasi said that summiting Everest was the culmination of years of discipline, preparation, and sacrifice. He described the climb as physically and mentally demanding, with the mountain testing endurance at every stage. He dedicated his achievement to his family, friends, mentors, and the entire support system that stood by him throughout his journey. He also acknowledged the crucial role played by his expedition team, Sherpas, and guides Bharath Thammieni and Romil Barthwal of Boots and Crampions, who supported him during the climb. Their exper-

tise and guidance, he noted, were instrumental in helping him navigate the extreme conditions on Everest.

Tulasi is no stranger to high-altitude challenges. Prior to Everest, he had summited several prominent peaks around the world, including Mount Elbrus in Europe, Aconcagua in South America, and Kilimanjaro in Africa. His climbing experience also includes Kang Yatse I and II in Leh, Dzo Jongo in Ladakh, and Lobuche East in Nepal, showcasing a consistent progression in his mountaineering career.

In addition to his achievements in mountaineering, Tulasi has completed the demanding Ironman challenge, reflecting his commitment to pushing physical and mental boundaries. His journey stands as an example of how perseverance and focused effort can transform aspirations into reality.

Family members expressed pride and emotion at his accomplishment, stating that years of sacrifice, courage, and determination had finally led him to stand on top of the world. They said his journey demonstrates that ordinary beginnings can lead to extraordinary achievements.

According to available data, around 600 Indians have summited Mount Everest so far, including approximately 20 climbers from Telangana, placing Tulasi among a select group of achievers from the region.

Bandi Sanjay Dismisses 'Fake Campaign', Reaffirms Loyalty to BJP

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday dismissed reports about his alleged removal from the Union Cabinet and possible arrest, calling them "fake propaganda" spread by political opponents.

Addressing the media after visiting the BJP state office in Hyderabad, Sanjay made a strong emotional statement about his commitment to the party. "If you ask any committed BJP worker about their last wish, they would say they want the saffron flag draped over their body. That is my last wish too," he said. The minister's visit drew a large number of BJP workers, who gathered at the party office to express solidarity. Slogans praising the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Bandi Sanjay were raised, and many workers competed to take selfies with him. He spent nearly two hours interacting with party cadre before speaking to the media.

Rejecting speculation that he was planning to launch a new



political party, Sanjay termed such reports baseless. "People know who I am. There is no need to respond to such false campaign," he said.

Taking a swipe at BRS leaders K. Chandrashekar Rao and K. T. Rama Rao, he said they might be under the impression that the Union government depends on BRS MPs for its functioning. He alleged that the rumours about his removal were being spread out of frustration. On reports of a possible arrest, Sanjay accused certain television and digital media outlets of airing fabricated stories under political influence.

He claimed that a "fake media factory" was being run to malign him and weaken the BJP.

Responding to allegations related to a case involving his son, the minister said he had cooperated fully with the law. "When the police sought an inquiry, I myself handed over my son. There are very few instances where a father does that," he said.

He maintained that the BJP continues to enjoy strong public support and said people were not taking such fake news seriously. "The public is watching and laughing at these stories," he added.

CM Revanth Reddy Issues Heatwave Alert, Urges Precautionary Measures

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

In view of the India Meteorological Department issuing warnings of severe heatwave conditions and rising temperatures across the state, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday urged people to remain alert and take necessary precautions.

The Chief Minister noted that northern Telangana districts are likely to experience intense heat in the coming days and directed officials in these regions to stay vigilant and implement preventive measures effectively.

He instructed authorities to ensure the adequate availability of ORS packets and to pay special attention to uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity. Emphasising the importance of public health preparedness, he directed that medical staff at all levels from Primary Health Centres to district hospitals remain on high alert. He also ordered that immediate medical assistance be provided to anyone admitted with heatstroke symptoms.

Revanth Reddy further advised officials to set up cooling



centres in urban areas wherever required to provide relief to the public. He appealed to people to avoid travelling during peak afternoon hours as much as possible to prevent exposure to extreme heat conditions.

The Chief Minister also directed Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao to closely monitor the situation across districts and provide timely guidance to district collectors based on evolving conditions.

Officials said the state government is taking all necessary steps to minimise the impact of the heatwave and ensure public safety, particularly in vulnerable regions.

Centre Fully Committed to Hyderabad's Development: Key Review by Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Manohar Lal Khattar

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government is fully committed to the development and infrastructure growth of Hyderabad, stated Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar. He held a high-level meeting with Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, in New Delhi on Wednesday. During the meeting, both leaders extensively reviewed the progress of various crucial ongoing projects in Hyderabad under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Urban Development. Key issues regarding urban sanitation, public transport, and infrastructure improvement were thoroughly discussed.

As part of the meeting, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar disclosed vital details regarding the conservation and cleaning of the Musi River, which is considered the lifeline of Hyderabad. He announced that under the Central Government's prestigious AMRUT 2.0 scheme, a total of 39 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been sanctioned to treat the wastewater flowing



into the Musi River. The total cost of this massive project is estimated at 3,975 crore.

The Union Minister explained that these 39 STPs will have a combined capacity to treat 972 million liters of sewerage per day (MLD). This initiative will effectively prevent untreated urban waste from directly polluting the Musi River, thereby significantly contributing to the rejuvenation of the river and boosting the city's

overall sanitation standards. Following this, the execution of the Hyderabad Metro Phase-II expansion project was also specially discussed. Since the State Government has already taken over the responsibilities

of Phase-II from L&T, Shri Khattar stated that the Central Government will comprehensively examine the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and other technical aspects once they are received, before taking the next steps. He clarified that the Central Government has no objection in principle to the Hyderabad Metro Phase-II project. He announced that the Centre is ready to move forward on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. He further mentioned that the State Government has already submitted proposals for a 162-km expansion under Phase-II, on which the Central Government will look favorably and expedite further action. Shri Manohar Lal Khattar assured that the Central Government would continue to extend its full cooperation to ensure comprehensive development and provide better infrastructure and amenities to the citizens of Hyderabad. On behalf of the people of Hyderabad, Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy expressed his gratitude to Shri Khattar.



Southwest Airlines Opens Global Innovation Centre in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

US-based Southwest Airlines has established its first global innovation centre in India, marking a significant expansion of its international footprint. Telangana IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Wednesday inaugurated the facility at Saatva Knowledge City near HITEC City.

The centre, set up by Southwest Airlines India Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the airline, is its only such facility outside the United States. The move is expected to strengthen Hyderabad's position as a leading destination for global capability centres and innovation hubs. Speaking at the inauguration, the minister said Hyderabad had laid the foundation for India's modern aviation ecosystem more than 25 years ago with one of the country's earliest private airport initiatives under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. Since then, the city has steadily evolved into a major hub for aviation, aerospace, and space technology sectors.

He noted that the addition of Southwest Airlines' innovation centre further reinforces Hyderabad's growing prominence in aviation, travel, hospitality, and enterprise technology. With global players such as American Airlines and Marriott International already operating

capability centres in the city, Hyderabad is emerging as a strong ecosystem for innovation-driven industries.

Lauren Woods, Executive Vice-President and Chief Information Officer of Southwest Airlines, said the new centre would play a key role in advancing the company's strategic vision. She highlighted Hyderabad's strong talent pool in analytics, engineering, and innovation as a major factor in choosing the city. "Hyderabad offers one of the deepest talent pools in analytics, engineering and innovation, making it an ideal location for the next phase of our journey. The new office will expand our global talent network, supporting our business operations and long-term growth," she said. Designed as a globally integrated innovation and talent hub, the Hyderabad centre will support a wide range of capabilities, including engineering, analytics, automation, cyber security, and digital platforms. It will also focus on operational innovation and next-generation enterprise solutions, contributing to Southwest Airlines' ongoing technology-driven transformation. Officials said the facility is expected to create employment opportunities while strengthening Hyderabad's reputation as a preferred destination for multinational companies seeking to establish high-value technology and innovation centres.



Caste Census Essential for Social Justice, Says TPCC President MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict supporting the inclusion of caste enumeration in the national census process, describing it as a historic and progressive step towards achieving social justice and inclusive governance in the country.

In a press statement issued here, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the Congress party has consistently advocated for a comprehensive caste census, considering it an essential mechanism to address long-standing social and economic inequalities affecting backward and marginalised communities across India.

He recalled that the Leader of Opposition had strongly raised the demand for caste enumeration during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, taking the issue directly to the people and underlining the need for accurate caste-based data to ensure fair representation and equitable distribution of opportunities and welfare benefits.

According to Mahesh Kumar Goud, a scientific, transparent and nationwide caste census is indispensable for formulating policies that genuinely reflect the socio-economic realities of various sections of society. He stated that only through reliable caste data could governments ensure justice and equal



opportunities in proportion to population strength. The TPCC President further highlighted the caste survey undertaken in Telangana under the leadership of the Chief Minister, saying it had emerged as a successful and exemplary exercise for the rest of the nation. He praised the coordinated efforts of ministers, officials and public representatives in conducting the survey in a transparent, systematic and methodical manner. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Telangana government's initiative demonstrated how caste enumeration could be carried out effectively while maintaining administrative transparency and public trust. He asserted that the survey had provided valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions of various communities

and would help in framing targeted welfare policies. Emphasising the larger importance of caste enumeration, he stated that such an exercise would play a crucial role in ensuring social justice, equal opportunities and fair allocation of welfare resources among all sections of society, particularly backward and underprivileged communities.

Mahesh Kumar Goud urged the Union Government to adopt the Telangana model and initiate a nationwide comprehensive caste census at the earliest. He said the move would strengthen inclusive governance and help build a more equitable society by ensuring that welfare schemes and development policies reach deserving communities in a just and proportionate manner.

Supreme Court Verdict on Caste Census Historic Step Towards Social Justice: Minister Vakiti Srihari

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

State Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision giving the green signal for caste enumeration and described the verdict as a major boost to social justice and inclusive governance in the country.

Reacting to the apex court's dismissal of petitions filed against caste enumeration, Minister Vakiti Srihari said the judgment had strengthened the constitutional spirit of equality and justice for backward and weaker sections of society. He stated that the Supreme Court's observations supporting caste enumeration for effective implementation of welfare schemes were highly significant and timely.

The Minister said accurate caste-wise data was essential for governments to understand the actual population, socio-economic conditions and developmental needs of backward communities. He pointed out that only with reliable statistics could governments formulate appropriate welfare policies and ensure fair allocation of resources and opportunities.

Vakiti Srihari stated that there had been growing demand across the country for a comprehensive caste census to guarantee justice to weaker sections. In this context, he said, the Supreme Court verdict had created fresh hope among backward communities seeking equitable representation and benefits.

He further observed that the Supreme Court had clearly stated that caste enumeration was a policy decision of the

government and that there was limited scope for judicial interference in such administrative matters. According to the Minister, this clarification by the apex court had reinforced democratic governance and constitutional principles.

Describing the verdict as a historic milestone, Vakiti Srihari said caste enumeration would play a crucial role in achieving comprehensive development, equal opportunities and social justice. He emphasised that welfare measures would become more effective and targeted only when governments had access to precise demographic and socio-economic data.

The Minister asserted that the Telangana government had consistently remained committed to the welfare and upliftment of backward and weaker sections. He said the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, was implementing several welfare and development programmes aimed at ensuring justice and equal opportunities for every section of society.

Vakiti Srihari added that Telangana had emerged as a model State in implementing progressive welfare policies with transparency and accountability. He expressed confidence that the Supreme Court's verdict would pave the way for broader discussions on social equity and encourage governments to adopt data-driven welfare initiatives for inclusive growth.

The Minister reiterated that caste enumeration was necessary for strengthening social justice and ensuring that benefits reached deserving communities in a fair and proportionate manner.

Supreme Court Verdict on Caste Enumeration Welcomed by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision giving the green signal for caste enumeration in the national census process and described the verdict as a major step towards strengthening social justice in the country.

In a statement issued here, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana government had already conducted a caste survey in the State and was moving forward with the principle of "Evarentho Varikanta," ensuring justice and representation to communities in proportion to their population. He stated that the Telangana model had become an example for the nation in implementing social justice measures effectively and



transparently. The Minister recalled that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had consistently demanded a nationwide caste census and urged the Union Government to conduct caste enumeration across the country on the lines of Telangana's survey. According to him, caste-based data

was essential for framing equitable welfare policies and ensuring fair opportunities for backward and weaker sections of society.

Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the Centre had earlier assured that caste enumeration would be included in the national census, but later failed

to incorporate the BC category under Column 13. He said that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Hyderabad, the Telangana government had appealed to the Centre to include BC enumeration along with SC and ST categories in the census process.

The Minister stated that the Supreme Court's dismissal of petitions filed against caste enumeration had reinforced the constitutional spirit of social justice. He said proper caste enumeration in the census would help governments understand the actual socio-economic conditions of various communities and formulate targeted welfare measures accordingly. Emphasising the importance of accurate demographic data, Ponnam Prabhakar said weaker sections could receive justice only when there was clarity on their population and representation. He noted

that under the Praja Palana government, Telangana had already conducted caste enumeration and enacted legislation providing 42 percent reservations for BCs.

The Minister pointed out that the Bill related to BC reservations was currently pending with the President of India and demanded that the Centre take necessary steps for its approval at the earliest. He asserted that the Telangana government remained committed to protecting the rights of backward classes and ensuring inclusive governance.

Ponnam Prabhakar urged the Union Government to adopt the Telangana model and undertake a comprehensive caste census nationwide to guarantee social equity, equal opportunities and fair distribution of welfare benefits among all deserving communities.

Supreme Court Verdict on Caste Enumeration Historic and Path-Breaking: VH at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leader and Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict supporting caste enumeration in the national census and described the judgment as a historic step towards ensuring social justice for backward and marginalised communities across the country. Addressing media persons at Gandhi Bhavan, VH praised the judiciary for upholding the constitutional principles of equality and representation. Raising slogans of "Judiciary Zindabad," he said the Supreme Court's decision had strengthened the aspirations of millions of backward class citizens who had been demanding a comprehensive caste census for several years. VH expressed gratitude to

the judiciary and particularly acknowledged Justice Surya Kant for what he termed as delivering justice to nearly 60 crore people belonging to backward and weaker sections of society. He stated that the judgment would go a long way in ensuring equitable opportunities and welfare benefits for communities that had remained socially and economically disadvantaged for decades. The senior Congress leader said the idea of conducting caste enumeration had been consistently championed by Rahul Gandhi, who strongly advocated for a nationwide caste census as part of the Congress party's commitment to social justice. According to VH, Rahul Gandhi had highlighted the importance of accurate caste-based data to frame welfare policies and reservations proportionate to population. He further pointed out that



the Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had already undertaken caste enumeration in the State and successfully implemented the exercise in a transparent manner. He said the Telangana model had demonstrated the State government's commitment towards ensuring justice and

representation for backward communities. Criticising the BJP-led Union Government, VH alleged that the Narendra Modi government was not interested in the progress and empowerment of Backward Classes (BCs). He remarked that the Centre had repeatedly avoided taking concrete steps towards conducting a

nationwide caste census despite growing public demand. VH asserted that Telangana and Congress leaders did not require advice from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on matters relating to social justice and welfare policies. "We know all these issues very well," he remarked while attacking the Centre's approach

towards backward communities. Referring to social reformer Jyotirao Phule, VH said that the ideology of social justice and equality had been taught to society as early as the 18th century. He noted that leaders like Jyotirao Phule had laid the foundation for the empowerment of backward and oppressed

communities long before modern political debates on caste census emerged. The Congress leader reiterated that caste enumeration was essential for achieving social justice, equitable representation and inclusive governance in the country.

CM Revanth Reddy Reviews Policing, Calls for Tech-Driven Reforms and Strong Coordination

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday held a high-level review meeting with senior police officials at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion, directing sweeping reforms in policing with a focus on technology, coordination, and accountability.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, State Security Advisor Shivdhar Reddy, Director General of Police C.V. Anand, CMO Principal Secretary Seshadri, along with Additional DGPs, Police Commissioners, and IG-level officers.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need to strengthen policing in tune with evolving crime patterns. He called for setting up dedicated de-addiction centres for drug victims and directed that officers from Sub-Inspector level to non-cadre IPS officers should mandatorily serve in different departments for two years after promotion. He asked the Chief Secretary and DGP to study the proposal and submit a report.

Highlighting the growing threat of cybercrime, Revanth Reddy ordered a comprehensive study and report on cybercrime control. He stressed the



need to expand forensic and data centres and suggested that selection for cybercrime roles should begin at the police training stage. He also proposed introducing specialised cybercrime courses for police personnel in the Skills University. The Chief Minister directed that coordination among departments and senior officials be improved significantly. He called for strengthening the Vigilance wing through increased use of technology and data analytics to tackle organised crime and prevent revenue leakages. He also asked officials to examine granting

more powers to the Vigilance department. On public safety, he instructed the Fire Department to take preventive measures to avoid fire accidents rather than responding after incidents occur. He asked for a comprehensive report on fire safety in coordination with municipal authorities and HY-DRA by June 15.

Revanth Reddy also stressed better coordination among departments for nala maintenance and manhole management. He questioned the lack of action against illegal flex banners in the city and directed strict enforcement by police

and GHMC officials. The Chief Minister called for intensified night patrolling, stronger village policing, and continuous monitoring of rowdy sheeters and history-sheeters. He urged strict action against ganja transportation and directed that policing must evolve with changing crime trends.

He also instructed the department to adopt modern technologies, increase CCTV coverage, expand drone policing, and effectively utilise the Command Control Centre. He stressed zero tolerance towards corruption and said postings should be based strictly on merit.

Revanth Reddy directed that all police stations should introduce QR code systems for lodging complaints and called for integrating road safety and traffic management into a single unit. He also emphasised the need for strict action against food adulteration and suggested bringing in a special law to curb the menace.

Stating that law and order cannot be compromised, the Chief Minister warned that negligence would not be tolerated and assured full support from the government to strengthen the police department.

Secunderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav asserted that the pink flag of the BRS has always stood firmly in support of employees and workers while fighting for their rights and welfare.

On Wednesday, representatives of the Metro Water Works BRS-affiliated union met Talasani Srinivas Yadav at his camp office in West Marredpally and sought his support for the upcoming Water Works Board recognized union elections scheduled to be held on June 6. During the interaction, the union leaders appealed to employees and workers to support the BRS Trade Union in the elections.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani Srinivas Yadav recalled that employees had already elected the BRS-affiliated trade union twice in the past, reflecting their trust in the organization's leadership and commitment. He stated that the union has consistently worked towards resolving the issues faced by employees and workers by bringing them to the attention of the government from time to time. The MLA particularly appreciated the efforts of union president Rambabu Yadav, saying that under his leadership several employee-related issues were effectively taken to the notice of the then Municipal



Administration Minister and necessary steps were initiated for their resolution. He said the union played a key role in safeguarding the interests of workers and ensuring their voices were heard at the government level.

Criticizing the present Congress government, Talasani alleged that employee and worker concerns were being neglected after the change in administration. He strongly criticized the decision to divide the GHMC into three corporations without proper understanding or planning. Questioning the practicality of the move, he asked how smooth administration would be possible without adequate staffing and infrastructure.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav emphasized that if employees

want a strong voice to fight for their rights and welfare, the BRS Trade Union must be strengthened further. He appealed to workers and staff members to cast their votes in favor of the "Arrow" symbol and ensure the victory of the BRS-affiliated union in the upcoming elections.

Union leaders also felicitated Talasani Srinivas Yadav for supporting them in previous elections and for standing by employees during difficult times.

The meeting was attended by union general secretary El-lamayya, Shivashankar, Nar-simha, Gnaneshwar, Papayya, R a m a c h a n d r a R e d d y, Bhoomayya, Builder Srinivas, Ashwin, Khalil and several other union representatives and workers.

Accused Deletes Phone Data in Sensational POCSO Case, Police Add Evidence Tampering Charge

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development in the sensational POCSO case that has drawn nationwide attention, Pet Basheerabad Police have found that the accused, Bandi Bhagirath, allegedly destroyed crucial digital evidence soon after the case was registered. Confirming the details, Pet Basheerabad Inspector K. Ramesh said the accused switched off his mobile phone immediately after a complaint was filed on May 8 and went into hiding.

According to the police, during his absconding period, Bhagirath systematically deleted key data from his high-end iPhone, including videos, chats, and other digital records that could have served as vital evidence. He also removed his social media accounts to erase any possible digital footprint.

"After arrest, we seized the phone, but it was found without a SIM card and completely wiped clean. This indicates a deliberate attempt to destroy evidence," Inspector K. Ramesh stated. Based on these findings, police have invoked Section 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with destruction of evidence (earlier IPC Section 201). Investigators suspect that the accused may have format-



ted the phone multiple times in a calculated effort to evade the law. However, officials remain confident of retrieving the deleted data using advanced forensic tools. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) M. Srinivas said that experts at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) are using sophisticated software such as Cellebrite to recover erased chats, photos, and videos. "Even if the device has been factory reset, we will attempt to access backup data from cloud serv-

ers like iCloud. If required, we will approach Apple through proper legal channels," he explained. In addition to digital forensics, police are also examining call data records and conducting cell tower mapping to trace the accused's movements before he switched off his phone. Efforts are underway to identify individuals who may have provided shelter or assistance while he was absconding. As part of a backup strategy, police are treating the victim's mobile phone as a key

piece of evidence. Data received by the victim, including messages, photos, and videos sent by the accused, is being collected and authenticated for submission in court.

Legal experts point out that attempt to destroy evidence in a POCSO case can significantly increase the severity of charges. Police officials asserted that with strong technical and legal backing, they are committed to ensuring a watertight case and securing justice for the victim.

Prakasam Pantulu a Symbol of Telugu Courage, Says Venkaiah Naidu

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said that Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu stands as a towering symbol of courage and self-respect of the Telugu people.

He was speaking after paying floral tributes at Prakasam Pantulu's statue at the Assembly junction in Hyderabad on the occasion of his 69th death anniversary. Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and government advisor V. Hanumantha Rao also participated in the programme along with Venkaiah Naidu.

Venkaiah Naidu said that remembering great personalities who dedicated their lives to society and the nation is everyone's responsibility. He stressed the need to introduce Prakasam Pantulu's life, struggles and achievements not only to the present generation but also to future generations.

He described Prakasam Pantulu as a leader of immense patriotism and unwavering courage. Recalling his role in the freedom movement, Venkaiah Naidu said that he was a fearless leader who stood



against British colonial forces during protests against the Simon Commission in the then Madras Presidency. Expressing concern over present-day social trends, the former Vice President said that youth are increasingly getting influenced by Western lifestyles and are falling prey to drug addiction and other negative habits. He urged young people to draw inspiration from national leaders who lived with discipline and commitment. Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar said that everyone should follow the ideals and principles of great leaders like Prakasam Pantulu and work towards social welfare. Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao described Prakasam Pantulu as

a true embodiment of courage, service and humanity. Several leaders and dignitaries also participated in the programme, including Telangana BC Commission Chairman Niranjan, former government whip Rudraraju Padmaraju, CWC member Gidugu Rudraraju, spiritual thinker Daivagna Sharma, Prakasam Development Study Institution Chairman Mohan Rao, Vice Chairman MC Narasimha Rao, General Secretary Tanguturi Sriram, Secretary Niranjan Desai, Treasurer Hanumantha Rao, Organising Secretary Radhakrishna, Joint Secretary T. Rajasekar, and executive members Ranganath, Ram Mohan Reddy, TV Rao and Kalakuri Chandrasekar.

CBIT Hyderabad MBA Programme Receives NBA Accreditation for Three Years

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau
Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, has achieved a significant academic milestone with its MBA Programme receiving accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for a period of three years.

The accreditation is considered a major recognition of the institute's commitment to academic excellence, quality education, industry-oriented curriculum, and continuous improvement in management education. The NBA accreditation process involves a comprehensive evaluation of several parameters, including teaching-learning methodologies, faculty quality, infrastructure, student performance, research activities, industry interaction, and placement opportunities.

Officials of the institute stated that the accreditation further strengthens the reputation of the School of Management Studies at

CBIT as a leading center for management education. Over the years, the department has focused on developing future business leaders through innovative teaching practices, practical learning exposure, internships, entrepreneurship initiatives, and collaborations with industry.

The institute's management, faculty, students, alumni, and staff expressed happiness over the achievement and congratulated all stakeholders involved in the accreditation process. They described the recognition as the result of collective efforts and dedication toward maintaining high academic standards and ensuring student development.

Speaking on the occasion, CBIT Principal C. V. Narasimulu said that the NBA accreditation reflects the institution's continuous pursuit of excellence and its commitment to providing students with strong academic foundations, leadership qualities, ethical values, and industry readiness.

He appreciated the efforts of

the School of Management Studies, faculty members, coordinators, supporting staff, and students for their dedication in achieving the prestigious accreditation. According to him, the recognition will further motivate the institution to strengthen its educational practices and maintain global standards in management education.

Head of the School of Management Studies S. Saraswathi stated that the accreditation stands as a testimony to the dedicated teamwork of the department's NBA Coordinator Sowmya, criteria in-charges, faculty members, supporting staff, students, and alumni under the guidance of the management and principal.

She noted that the department has consistently focused on maintaining academic quality while promoting holistic development among students. Dr. Saraswathi further stated that the School of Management Studies would continue emphasizing innovation, research, industry interaction, entrepreneurial excellence, and

skill development to prepare students for dynamic global business environments.

The institute reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing the quality of education, research, innovation, and professional development in the coming years. Officials stated that CBIT would continue strengthening academic and industry collaborations to ensure students receive exposure to evolving business practices and emerging technologies.

The accreditation is expected to enhance the credibility of the MBA Programme and provide students with greater opportunities in placements, higher education, research, and entrepreneurship. Educational experts noted that NBA accreditation serves as an important benchmark for institutions striving to maintain excellence and accountability in higher education. With this recognition, CBIT has further reinforced its position as one of Hyderabad's prominent institutions offering quality technical and management education.



Sports Events under PP-PP Programme Energize GHMC Circles

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau
As part of the Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika (PP-PP) programme, sports and fitness activities were organized across various circles of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday, promoting sportsmanship, physical fitness, and community participation.

The sports events witnessed enthusiastic participation from GHMC staff, local youth, residents, and sports enthusiasts, creating a vibrant atmosphere across different zones and circles. Officials stated that the initiative aims to encourage healthy lifestyles, team spirit, discipline, and recreational engagement among citizens through community-based programmes.

Several competitions and sports activities were conducted successfully in different GHMC circles as part of the PP-PP initiative. At the Lalapet Sports Complex in Mettuguda Circle, officials organized various games and competitions that attracted active participation from local residents and youth. The Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Sports Director attended the event and distributed prizes to the winners, congratulating them for their performances and encouraging continued involvement in sports and fitness activities.

Similarly, sports events conducted at the VPG Playground received an enthusiastic response from participants and spectators alike. The Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Sports Director distributed



prizes to winners and participants, appreciating their active involvement and sportsmanship. Officials interacted with players during the programme and motivated them to continue participating in physical and recreational activities for overall health and well-being.

The PP-PP sports activities were also organized successfully in the Charminar Zone. A concluding ceremony was held at Darulshifa, where various sports competitions took place with active support from local communities and organizers. During the event, the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Sports Director distributed prizes to the winners and appreciated the participants for their enthusiasm and discipline throughout the competitions.

Officials noted that the programme highlighted the importance of sports in building a healthy, active, and socially connected society. The events also served as a platform for

strengthening community engagement and encouraging positive interaction among residents from different localities.

Participants expressed happiness over the initiative and welcomed the efforts of GHMC in organizing recreational and fitness-oriented programmes at the community level. Many residents stated that such events help create awareness about the importance of physical fitness while also providing opportunities for youth to showcase their talents.

The Praja Palana-Pragati Pranalika programme continues to focus on community participation and public engagement through various developmental, cultural, and recreational activities across GHMC circles. Officials stated that similar programmes would continue to be organized in different areas to promote public involvement, fitness awareness, and social harmony across the city.

Delivery Boys Turn Bike Thieves, Gang Busted by Bachupally

Quthbullapur, May 20 | TPN Bureau
In a major breakthrough, the Bachupally Police arrested a gang involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts across several parts of the city outskirts. Police apprehended two prime accused along with two juvenile offenders and recovered 10 stolen two-wheelers worth nearly 10 lakh from their possession.

Revealing details of the case during a media conference at the Bachupally Police Station, Bala Gangireddy said the accused had been targeting vehicles parked in designated parking areas within the limits of Bachupally, Petbasheerabad, Dundigal, Jeedimetla, Alwal, Kukatpally, and Neredmet police stations.

According to police, the accused were identified as Dasari Suresh and Dasari Mahesh, brothers residing in the Alwal area. Both were reportedly working as delivery boys for Zepto. However, investigators



to support alcohol addiction and other bad habits.

Police officials stated that after a rise in two-wheeler theft cases in multiple areas, Bachupally police intensified surveillance and began analyzing CCTV footage collected from several locations. With the help of technical evidence and surveillance footage, investigators were able to trace the move-

cused reportedly confessed to their involvement in multiple vehicle thefts committed across various parts of the city. Police recovered 10 stolen two-wheelers from their possession, including popular models such as Yamaha MT-15, Honda Activa, Honda Dio, and Pulsar-125 motorcycles.

Officials stated that the accused specifically targeted un-

attended vehicles parked in residential colonies, commercial areas, and parking spaces. After stealing the vehicles, they allegedly attempted to dispose of them or use them for personal purposes.

ACP Bala Gangireddy appreciated the efforts of the Bachupally police team for successfully cracking the case within a short period. He stated that the operation was carried out under the leadership of Bachupally Circle Inspector Satish Kumar along with DI Suresh, SI VenkatRathod, and members of the crime squad.

Police officials urged citizens to remain vigilant and ensure proper security measures while parking vehicles. They also advised residents to install anti-theft devices and immediately report suspicious movements or theft incidents to nearby police stations.

The arrested accused and the juvenile offenders were produced before the court, while further investigation into the case is underway.

POCSO Case Registered at Dundigal Police Station

Quthbullapur, May 20 | TPN Bureau
An incident involving an assault on a minor girl within the limits of the Dundigal Police Station has come to light after a delay. According to police details, allegations have surfaced

that in September of last year, Dara Shivakumar (20) a resident of the same locality attempted to forcibly rape a minor girl living in the Dundigal Double Bedroom Colony. It is reported that he threatened the girl, warning her that he would kill her if she revealed the incident to anyone.

Subsequently, two months later, Shivakumar along with his friend Ramu (30) from Nizampet allegedly subjected the girl to a forcible assault once again. As the accused had been harassing her for some time, the victim finally disclosed the matter to her family members.

Consequently, the girl's parents lodged a complaint at the Dundigal Police Station two days ago. Based on the complaint, the police registered a case under the POCSO Act and arrested both accused individuals. The police are continuing their investigation into the incident.

BJP Urges Governor to Abolish HMDA Zones, Protect Farmers' Land Rights

Quthbullapur, May 20 | TPN Bureau
A delegation led by S. Mallareddy met Shiv Pratap Shukla and submitted a memorandum demanding the abolition of various zoning categories being implemented within the limits of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

The BJP leaders urged the Governor to abolish Conservation, Semi-Urban, and Peri-Urban zones and reclassify them into "Multiple Zones" to safeguard farmers' land rights and ease restrictions on land usage.

Speaking after submitting the memorandum, Dr. Mallareddy alleged that the present HMDA zoning policy was creating severe hardships for small and marginal farmers. He stated that farmers owning lands categorized under "Conservation (Agriculture)" and other restricted zones were unable to obtain permissions even for constructing houses on their own lands.



The BJP leaders claimed that while ordinary farmers face strict restrictions and delays, influential individuals are allegedly receiving permissions for large-scale development activities without difficulty. They described the situation as discriminatory and unjust toward the farming community.

According to the delegation, the issue is affecting nearly 1,355 revenue villages spread across 104 mandals in 11 districts surrounding Hyderabad. They stated that villages locat-

ed around the Outer Ring Road have been brought under municipal jurisdictions and GHMC limits, resulting in increased restrictions and regulatory burdens on farmers.

The BJP leaders further criticized the implementation of the "HILT" policy, alleging that while farmers struggle to convert agricultural lands for residential use, industrial lands are allegedly being converted easily into commercial and residential zones.

Dr. Mallareddy demanded that the government

formulate a farmer-friendly Master Plan that simplifies zone conversion procedures and ensures speedy approval of pending building permissions. He stated that farmers should have the basic right to construct homes and utilize their lands without unnecessary obstacles.

The delegation also appealed to the Governor to intervene and ensure protection of farmers' rights, arguing that restrictive zoning policies are negatively impacting rural livelihoods and property rights in the outskirts of Hyderabad.

Among those who participated in the programme were Medchal Rural District President Buddhi Srinivas, Sangareddy District BJP President Godavari Anji Reddy, former State Kisan Morcha President Kallem Bal Reddy, former Medchal District President M. Kantharao, State Executive Committee member Bakka Shankar Reddy, Dundigal Municipality BJP President Pisari Krishna Reddy, and other party leaders.

Medical Shop Owners Protest Against Online Medicine Sales in Habsiguda

Habsiguda, May 20 | TPN Bureau
Members of the Habsiguda-Nacharam Medical Shop Owners Association staged a peaceful protest at the Habsiguda crossroads in Uppal constituency on Tuesday, demanding strict action against online medicine sales and urging the public not to purchase medicines through mobile applications and online platforms without proper medical prescriptions.

The protest programme witnessed participation from medical shop owners and pharmacists from both Habsiguda and Nacharam areas of Medchal district. The demonstrators expressed concern over the increasing trend of online medicine sales, alleging that several digital platforms are selling medicines indiscriminately while offering heavy discounts to attract customers.

Speaking during the protest, association members stated that the uncontrolled sale of medicines without valid prescriptions poses a serious threat to public health and safety. They alleged

that some online vendors are delivering medicines directly to consumers without verifying prescriptions issued by qualified doctors.

The protesters warned that self-medication and the misuse of medicines purchased online could lead to severe health complications, incorrect treatment, and dangerous side effects. According to the association, medicines should only be consumed under proper medical supervision and guidance from registered healthcare professionals.

The members further alleged that online businesses are misleading people under the guise of offering massive discounts and promotional schemes. They claimed that such practices are negatively affecting traditional medical stores, which strictly follow government regulations and prescription guidelines while dispensing medicines.

Association representatives urged the government and health authorities to take immediate steps to regulate online medicine sales and prevent unauthorized distribution of pharmaceutical

products. They demanded stricter monitoring mechanisms to ensure that medicines are sold only with valid prescriptions and through licensed channels.

The protesters also appealed to the public to prioritize safety over discounts and purchase medicines only from authorized physical medical shops. They stated that local pharmacies not only provide genuine medicines but also guide customers regarding dosage, usage, and precautions.

Participants emphasized that community pharmacies play a vital role in public healthcare and should be protected from unfair competition and unregulated online practices. They said indiscriminate online sales could eventually undermine the healthcare system and create risks for patients, especially elderly individuals and those suffering from chronic illnesses.

The peaceful protest concluded with the association reiterating its demand for stronger government intervention to safeguard public health and regulate the growing online pharmaceutical market.

Massive Community Contact Drive in Gundala; 71 Vehicles, Illegal Timber Seized

Adilabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown aimed at ensuring public safety and curbing anti-social activities, the Adilabad police conducted a large-scale Community Contact Program in Gundala village of Ichoda Mandal on Tuesday morning. The operation, led under the supervision of District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan, witnessed the participation of nearly 100 police personnel.

The special drive was carried out between 5:00 AM and 8:00 AM as part of the district police's ongoing efforts to strengthen law and order and improve community policing. During the operation, police seized 65 two-wheelers, five auto-rickshaws, and one Bolero vehicle for not possessing valid or proper documentation.

In another significant action during the drive, police registered cases against two individuals allegedly involved in the illegal sale of timber. Authorities seized timber valued at approximately 15,000 along with a wood-cutting machine



from their possession.

Addressing the villagers during the awareness program, SP Akhil Mahajan emphasized the importance of leading law-abiding and peace-

ful lives. He urged residents, especially youth, to stay away from ganja and other narcotic substances and warned against involvement in thefts, robberies, and other anti-social

activities. The SP cautioned that strict legal action would be initiated against individuals disturbing public peace and harmony. He also stated that "suspect

sheets" would be opened against persons with criminal backgrounds, and repeated offenders could eventually face action under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act if they failed to reform.

Calling for public cooperation, the SP appealed to villagers to provide information about individuals engaged in criminal activities. He also stressed the role of parents in guiding children towards education and ensuring they do not fall into harmful or unlawful activities from an early age.

Highlighting road safety concerns, the SP warned motorists against drunk driving and advised all vehicle users to strictly follow traffic rules and regulations to avoid accidents and ensure safer roads.

The Community Contact Program saw the participation of Utnoor ASP Ruthwik Sai Kotte, Special Branch DSP Potharam Srinivas, Circle Inspectors Ch. Ramesh, Naresh, Naidu, and Padma, Reserve Inspector Venkati, Sub-Inspectors, Special Party personnel, and other police officials



Congress Government under Fire in Adilabad over 'Unfulfilled Promises' and Alleged Neglect of Farmers

Adilabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Political tensions intensified in Adilabad district after BRS District Social Media Leader Mazhar launched a strong attack on the Congress government, accusing it of failing to fulfill major promises made before coming to power.

Addressing media representatives and party workers, Mazhar alleged that the ruling administration had betrayed public trust by selectively implementing welfare schemes while neglecting farmers, backward districts, and economically weaker sections. He criticized the government over delays in LPG gas subsidy payments, pending Rythu Bandhu assistance, inadequate crop procurement policies, and lack of developmental funding for Adilabad district.

The BRS leader questioned the Congress government's concept of "Praja Palana" or people-centric governance, alleging that benefits were reaching only a section of eligible beneficiaries. Referring to the promised 500 domestic gas cylinder scheme, Mazhar claimed that consumers were still paying nearly 1,050 per cylinder and that subsidy amounts were being credited only to a limited number of families.

"People were assured that the remaining subsidy amount would be deposited into their bank accounts immediately after the Congress came to power. However, many eligible families are yet to receive any benefit," he alleged.

Mazhar also accused the government of delaying Rythu Bandhu payments and releasing funds in installments rather

than clearing dues completely. According to him, farmers are facing severe financial stress during crucial agricultural seasons due to delayed investment support.

He further criticized the government's procurement policy for sorghum (jowar), alleging that while the Congress had earlier demanded procurement of 25 quintals per acre when in opposition, it was now procuring only 10 quintals per acre after assuming power.

The BRS leader also raised concerns over poor arrangements at procurement centers, claiming that shortages of gunny bags and recent rains were causing hardship to farmers trying to protect harvested produce from damage.

Turning his criticism toward district development, Mazhar questioned the government's commitment to Adilabad, often described as the Chief Minister's "adopted district." He alleged that despite multiple Assembly budget sessions, no significant funds had been allocated for the district's development.

He demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announce concrete projects and special financial packages during his proposed visit to Adilabad on June 2. Among the demands raised were reopening the CCI unit, establishing an engineering college, developing an airport, and sanctioning large-scale infrastructure funds for the backward district.

Mazhar stated that people now expect implementation and visible development rather than election promises and political assurances.

Telangana HC Flags Valet Parking Woes, Motorists Bear the Brunt

Hyderabad, 20 May 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana High Court has raised serious concerns over illegal roadside parking and footpath encroachments, bringing renewed attention to a growing problem across the city — misuse of valet parking services. Areas such as Jubilee Hills, Madhapur, Himayatnagar, Kukatpally and Bowenpally frequently witness vehicles lined up along roads outside restaurants, function halls, and commercial establishments that lack proper parking facilities.

Motorists Penalised for Valet Actions

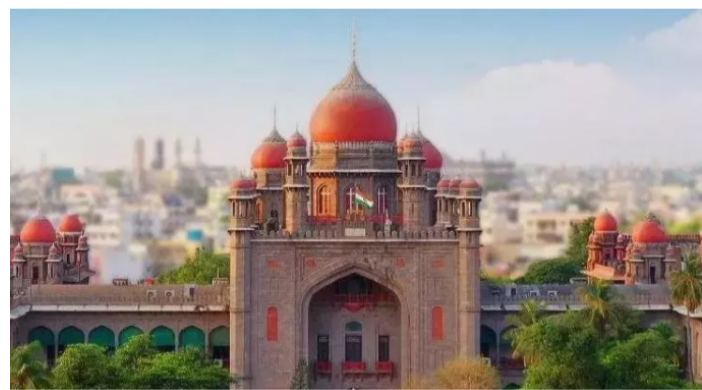
A key grievance among citizens is that traffic challans are issued to vehicle owners even when valet drivers park in no-parking zones. Since fines are linked to vehicle registration, authorities say there is no mechanism to identify whether the violation was committed by the owner or a valet operator. Many motorists say they are often compelled to hand over their vehicles because establishments insist on valet services, leaving them with little choice. When violations occur, the responsibility falls entirely on the owner.

Growing Urban Congestion

Residents in areas like Amberpet and Sainikpuri report severe congestion, especially on weekends, due to vehicles spilling onto narrow lanes. In many colonies, increasing car ownership and limited parking space have worsened the issue. Urban experts point out that Hyderabad's infrastructure has not kept pace with rapid vehicle growth. Commercial hubs continue to attract large crowds without adequate parking provisions, pushing vehicles onto roads and nearby residential areas.

A Larger Urban Planning Challenge

Residents argue that the issue goes beyond challans and towing — it reflects a deeper gap in urban planning. With rising vehicle numbers and shrinking road space due to metro infrastructure and dense development, the city faces an urgent need for structured parking solutions and stricter enforcement on establishments offering valet services without adequate facilities. The High Court's intervention is expected to push authorities toward stricter regulation, but for now, motorists remain caught between limited parking options and unavoidable penalties.



SP Akhil Mahajan Directs Strict Action against Anti-Social Activities in Bazar Hathnur

Adilabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

Akhil Mahajan, Superintendent of Police of Adilabad district, directed police officials to take strong and coordinated measures to completely eradicate anti-social activities in Bazar Hathnur Mandal and strengthen law enforcement at the village level.

During an inspection of the Bazar Hathnur Police Station on Tuesday, the SP reviewed the functioning of the police station and interacted with officers and staff regarding administrative and law-and-order issues. He examined the condition of vehicles stationed at the police station and emphasized the need for proper maintenance and regular updating of official records.

The SP instructed police personnel to treat complainants visiting the station with respect and ensure that grievances of victims are resolved promptly and efficiently. Stressing the importance of community policing, he directed officials to fully implement

the Village Police Officer (VPO) system by visiting villages regularly and strengthening intelligence gathering mechanisms. Akhil Mahajan said strict surveillance should be maintained over anti-social activities occurring at the village level and called upon officers to improve coordination with local communities. He also instructed staff to encourage the installation of CCTV cameras in villages to strengthen security monitoring and aid crime prevention efforts.

The SP issued specific directions to intensify action against illegal activities such as ganja trafficking, manufacture and sale of illicit liquor (Gudumba), diversion of government-subsidized rice, and illegal cattle transportation. He stated that strict enforcement measures are necessary to achieve the goal of making Adilabad a "Ganja-free district." He warned that unlawful activities would not be tolerated and directed police personnel to take immediate and stringent action against offenders involved in organized

illegal activities. According to officials, the SP stressed that preventive policing and regular monitoring are essential to maintaining peace and public safety in rural areas. Road safety was another major focus during the inspection. The SP instructed officers to conduct regular drunk-driving checks and increase awareness regarding traffic regulations in order to reduce road accidents and ensure safer transportation within the mandal.

He also reviewed the status of pending investigations and instructed officials to expedite the disposal of pending cases and ensure timely filing of charge sheets. The inspection programme was attended by L. Jeevan Reddy, Boath Circle Inspector D. Guruswamy, Bazar Hathnur SI G. Ramesh, police personnel, and other officials.

Police officials stated that such inspections and review meetings would continue across the district to strengthen policing standards, improve public confidence, and effectively curb criminal activities.

Final Phase of Saraswati Pushkarams Begins Tomorrow in Telangana

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

The final phase of the Saraswati Pushkarams will commence tomorrow in Telangana, marking the culmination of the once-in-12-years sacred river festival being held at Kaleshwaram in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district.

The event, organised by the Telangana Endowments Department, has already witnessed large-scale participation of devotees since its commencement on May 15. With the concluding phase set to begin, authorities are expecting an increased rush of pilgrims at the Triveni Sangamam, where the Saraswati River is believed to merge with the Godavari and Pranahita rivers.

Officials said elaborate arrangements have been put in place to manage the final phase of rituals, including enhanced security, sanitation, transport, and crowd control measures. Special officers have been deployed to monitor ghats, while police personnel and disaster response teams remain on standby to ensure safety of devotees.

District Collector Rahul Sharma, who is overseeing the arrangements at Kaleshwaram, said all departments have been instructed to work in coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the concluding rituals. He added that medical

camp, drinking water facilities, and temporary shelters have been strengthened in view of the expected surge in visitors.

Endowments Department officials stated that the final phase will include special pujas, river harathi ceremonies, and traditional rituals performed by Vedic scholars. Devotees from Telangana and neighbouring states are expected to participate in large numbers before the festival concludes.

The government has also intensified surveillance through CCTV cameras and drone monitoring systems installed across the pilgrimage site. Additional parking spaces and queue management systems have been arranged to avoid congestion at key bathing ghats. Authorities reiterated that the Saraswati Pushkarams, being held for the first time in Telangana on such a scale, hold significant spiritual importance and are expected to conclude with high devotional fervour. Officials expressed confidence that the final phase will proceed smoothly without disruptions, citing the coordinated efforts of multiple departments.

With the festival nearing its conclusion, the focus has now shifted to ensuring safe dispersal of pilgrims and maintaining essential services until the last day of the event.

Medical Shops Shut Across Telangana in Protest Against E-Pharmacy Operations

Hyderabad, May 20 | TPN Bureau

The one-day nationwide bandh called by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) against alleged illegal e-pharmacy operations and predatory pricing by large corporate players led to a near-total shutdown of medical shops across Telangana on Wednesday.

According to Telangana Chemists and Druggists Association General Secretary T. Raju, nearly 45,000 medical shops across the state remained closed, with only a small percentage of outlets in



the Hyderabad region continuing operations. He added that even those shops that initially opened were expected to down shutters during the course of

the day in solidarity with the protest.

The bandh was organised to oppose what chemists' bodies describe as unfair competition

from online pharmacies and large retail chains, which they allege are impacting the survival of traditional brick-and-mortar medical stores.

Meanwhile, the Drugs Control Administration (DCA) of Telangana issued a public advisory stating that it had held discussions with representatives of the AIOCD Telangana Chapter ahead of the shutdown. As part of precautionary measures, it was decided that pharmacy stores attached to hospitals would remain open to ensure the supply of essential medicines.

The advisory further stated that district-level AIOCD rep-

resentatives would coordinate with Drug Inspectors to facilitate the availability of medicines from local stores in case of emergencies. Corporate pharmacy chains, including Apollo and MedPlus, were also advised to keep their outlets operational to avoid disruption in essential drug supply.

Officials said the DCA was closely monitoring the situation across the state to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving medicines. In case of shortages or difficulties, the public has been advised to contact local Drug Inspectors or DCA officials for immediate assistance.



Freedom of the Press or Freedom Under Control?

A Legal Examination of India's Media Law Framework
Freedom of the press occupies a central position within India's constitutional democracy, functioning as both a facilitator of public discourse and a mechanism of governmental accountability.

This article undertakes a comprehensive examination of media law and freedom of expression in India by analysing the constitutional framework under Article 19(1)(a), the permissible restrictions under Article 19(2), and the evolving statutory landscape governing print, broadcast, and digital media. Particular attention is paid to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, digital media regulation under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Intermediary Guidelines Rules, 2021, and broadcasting controls under the Cable Television

Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Through a study of landmark judicial pronouncements, the article evaluates how courts have shaped the balance between press autonomy and regulatory control. It further explores recent developments, emerging challenges, and the need for principled regulation consistent with democratic values and international free speech standards. Introduction: Freedom of expression is foundational to every democratic polity. It enables citizens to articulate their views, scrutinise governmental conduct, and participate meaningfully in public life.

The media, encompassing the print press, broadcast channels, and digital platforms, serves as the principal vehicle for this expression, facilitating informed public

debate and holding power to account. These functions are, however, not without constraint. Constitutional provisions, criminal statutes, and sector-specific regulations collectively define the boundaries within which the press operates. These boundaries find expression in the text of the Constitution, in legislative enactments, and in the body of judicial precedent that has shaped their application over decades.

This article examines media law and freedom of expression in India through a comparative lens, drawing upon the regulatory approach of the United Kingdom and applicable international human rights standards where relevant. It proceeds section by section through the relevant legal framework, analysing both the law's normative content and its practical

application.

It further considers how judicial decisions have influenced the real-world operation of media freedom in India, and it identifies the tensions that continue to define this field. The discussion proceeds from the constitutional framework to criminal regulation, digital governance, broadcasting law, landmark case law, and recent regulatory developments, and then offers recommendations for a principled path forward.

Constitutional Framework Governing Media Freedom in India

A. Article 19(1)(a): Constitutional Scope of Media Freedom (From Legal Forum)

Meanwhile, Article 19(1)(a) guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression.[1] While the Constitution does not ex-

pressly refer to the press, the Supreme Court has consistently held that freedom of the press is an integral component of this guarantee. The rationale is that the effective exercise of individual speech rights depends upon the ability to disseminate ideas and information through media channels.

The two freedoms are therefore constitutionally inseparable. Courts have interpreted Article 19(1)(a) to encompass: (i) the right to publish and circulate information; (ii) the right to criticise governmental actions; (iii) the right of the public to receive information; and (iv) the use of electronic and digital platforms for expression.

The significance of a free press within a constitutional democracy thus extends beyond the individual journalist; it inheres in the public's

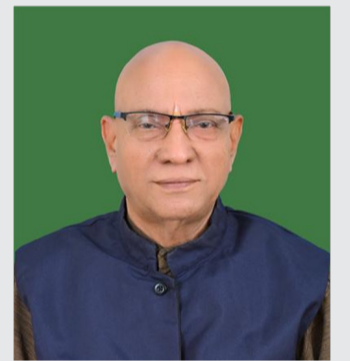
entitlement to know what its government does. Article 19(2): Constitutional Limits on Media Speech The right under Article 19(1)(a) is not absolute.

Article 19(2) permits the State to impose reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to an offence.

Courts have established that any restriction must satisfy three conditions: it must be grounded in a valid law, it must pursue a legitimate aim falling within Article 19(2), and there must be proportionality between the restriction and its objective.

The State bears the burden of justifying any restraint imposed on the press or media.

Prior restraints on publication have been viewed with particular suspicion; any censorship mechanism must demonstrate a direct and proximate nexus with a protected ground.



Pokkuluri Subba Rao

Veteran Journalist

A Cup That Connects the World

Celebrating International Tea Day on May 21

There is no shortage of tea lovers around the world. For many, a day does not pass without sipping a cup of tea. The aroma of tea spreads through villages even before dawn. Tea is a common beverage offered in hospitality, and for many, the day does not begin without a hot cup. Whether rich or poor, tea is cherished by all.

When tea is boiled in water to make a decoction and sugar is added, its rich flavours spread through the body. It stimulates the brain and refreshes the senses. Some people drink tea many times a day. It is consumed to improve concentration, reduce sleepiness, boost energy, and sometimes even to relax.

Tea has become an integral part of our lifestyle, with very few people not accustomed to it. To raise awareness about its importance, International Tea Day has been observed annually on May 21 since 2020. The theme for International Tea Day 2026 is "Fostering Growth and Inclusion." Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has highlighted the theme "Sustaining Tea, Supporting Communities."

World Tea History

The history of tea dates back over 5,000 years. More than 13 million people worldwide depend on tea for their livelihood.



Robert Fortune is credited with introducing tea cultivation to India. Tea, now a vital part of Indian life, is also widely loved. In Chinese Mandarin, tea is called "cha," which is believed to be the origin of the word "chai." It is known as "sha" in Arabic, "chaye" in Russian, and "chai" in Swahili.

Tea is made from the dried leaves of the plant *Camellia sinensis*. First recorded in China around 59 BC, tea spread rapidly across the world. Chinese physician Hua Tuo mentioned tea in his writings. It became popular among the

Portuguese in the 16th century and the British in the 17th century, eventually reaching India during British colonial rule.

Types of Tea

Tea contains about 3% caffeine, along with polyphenols, theobromine, and theophylline. These compounds help increase alertness. There are several types of tea, including black, green, oolong, white, dark, and yellow. Other popular varieties include matcha, masala, jaggery tea, Earl Grey, herbal, puer, and flavoured teas. Tea culture is often associated with principles such as harmony, respect, purity, and

tranquillity.

Tea Capital of the World – Assam

Dibrugarh is known as the "Tea City of the World," while Assam is called the "Tea Capital of the World." Tea offers a unique taste—initially bitter, then sweet, leaving a lasting flavour. The first Assam Tea Company was established in 1839. In India, Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka are major tea-producing states.

Tea has become an essential part of daily life, but it should be consumed in moderation. The term "chaiwala" is fa-

mously associated with Narendra Modi. Beyond its taste, tea plays a social role—bringing people together for conversations, friendships, and shared moments.



Prof. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

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Key Highlights (Quick Facts)

- Tea is the second most-consumed beverage in the world after water
- Over 13 million people depend on tea for their livelihood
- India is among the largest tea producers and consumers globally
- Tea contains natural antioxidants that support health
- Assam produces nearly 50% of India's tea

Tea at a Glance

Aspect	Details
Scientific Name	<i>Camellia sinensis</i>
Origin	China (over 5,000 years ago)
Major Types	Black, Green, Oolong, White
Key Ingredient	Caffeine (~3%)
Global Rank	2nd most consumed drink
Top Producers	India, China, Sri Lanka, Kenya
Tea Capital (India)	Assam

Global Tea Culture

- China: Birthplace of tea culture
- India: Popular for "Chai" and street tea culture
- United Kingdom: Famous for "Afternoon Tea" tradition
- Japan: Known for ceremonial "Matcha Tea" rituals
- Turkey: One of the highest tea-consuming nations

India And South Korea Strengthen Defence Partnership During Rajnath Singh's Seoul Visit

India and South Korea have taken significant steps toward strengthening their defence and strategic partnership during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Seoul. The high-level meetings focused on expanding military cooperation, defence manufacturing, regional security, and technological collaboration between the two countries.



During the visit, Rajnath Singh held extensive discussions with South Korean defence officials and political leaders on ways to deepen bilateral ties in the defence sector. Both sides emphasized the importance of closer cooperation amid growing geopolitical challenges and shifting security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

A major focus of the discussions was defence production and technology sharing. India and South Korea explored opportunities to increase collaboration in military hardware manufacturing, research, and advanced defence technologies. Officials also discussed enhancing cooperation between defence industries from both nations under India's push for self-reliance in de-

fence production.

The two countries have been steadily strengthening strategic ties over the past few years, especially in areas such as maritime security, military exercises, and defence trade. South Korea has emerged as an important defence partner for India, particularly in the field of artillery systems, naval technologies, and advanced equipment manufacturing.

Rajnath Singh highlighted India's commitment to expanding defence partnerships with trusted global allies and stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. South Korean officials also reaffirmed

their interest in deeper strategic engagement with India.

The visit comes at a time when countries across the Indo-Pacific are increasing defence cooperation due to rising regional tensions and evolving security concerns. Analysts believe India and South Korea are both seeking stronger partnerships to ensure stability in the region while reducing excessive dependence on any single global power.

Defence experts noted that South Korea's advanced manufacturing capabilities and India's growing defence market make the partnership strategically beneficial for both nations. India has increasingly been looking toward interna-

tional collaborations to modernize its armed forces and strengthen domestic defence production capabilities.

Apart from defence cooperation, the discussions also touched upon economic ties, technological innovation, semiconductor collaboration, cybersecurity, and supply chain resilience. Both countries expressed interest in broadening cooperation beyond traditional military engagement into emerging strategic sectors.

India and South Korea already share a "Special Strategic Partnership," and the latest meetings are expected to further accelerate collaboration across multiple sectors. Officials from both countries indicated that future cooperation could include expanded joint exercises, defence exports, and deeper industry partnerships.

Rajnath Singh's visit to Seoul is being viewed as another important step in India's broader strategy of strengthening defence and diplomatic relations with key partners in Asia while enhancing its role in regional security architecture.

TVK Rejects AIADMK Alliance Buzz Amid Growing Tamil Nadu Political Speculation



Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), the political party launched by actor Vijay, has dismissed speculation about joining an AIADMK-led alliance or seeking cabinet positions, amid increasing political discussions ahead of the Tamil Nadu elections.

The clarification came after reports and political rumours suggested that TVK could align with the AIADMK in a possible opposition front. The buzz intensified following comments and reactions from various political leaders, including concerns reportedly raised by Left parties over alliance dynamics in the state.

TVK strongly rejected the speculation and stated that the party was not engaged in talks related to cabinet posts or political bargaining. Party representatives emphasized that TVK's focus remains on building its independent political identity and strengthening its grassroots presence across Tamil Nadu.

The party also clarified that invitations and political out-

reach efforts should not be interpreted as signs of alliance negotiations. According to TVK leaders, the party is currently concentrating on expanding organizational activities and connecting directly with the public rather than discussing power-sharing arrangements.

The development comes as Tamil Nadu's political landscape continues to witness rapid changes following Vijay's formal entry into politics. Ever since the actor announced his political party, there has been intense speculation about possible alliances, especially considering the state's tradition of coalition-based electoral politics.

Political analysts believe both the ruling DMK alliance and opposition parties are closely monitoring TVK's growth, as Vijay commands a massive fan following and strong popularity among youth audiences. His political entry has added a new dimension to Tamil Nadu politics, particularly ahead of upcoming

elections.

The reports also surfaced amid conversations involving alliance calculations among regional parties and national parties seeking stronger influence in the state. However, TVK's latest response appears aimed at distancing the party from premature political assumptions and maintaining an independent public image.

Meanwhile, the CPM reportedly cautioned against speculation surrounding political arrangements and alliance discussions, which further fueled media attention around the issue. The Left parties remain important players in Tamil Nadu's broader alliance politics and are expected to influence future coalition equations.

TVK's leadership has repeatedly stated that the party intends to focus on governance, anti-corruption measures, social welfare, and youth-centric politics. Vijay's supporters believe his popularity and public image could significantly influence voter sentiment if the party successfully converts fan support into political momentum.

The party's rejection of alliance rumours is now being viewed as an attempt to project confidence and autonomy at an early stage of its political journey. As Tamil Nadu moves closer to another high-stakes electoral battle, political observers expect speculation around TVK's future alliances and strategy to continue growing.

Kerala Government Cancels SilverLine Project, Orders Removal Of Survey Markers

The Kerala government has officially cancelled the controversial SilverLine semi high-speed rail project and directed authorities to remove survey markers placed across various parts of the state. The decision marks a major political and administrative shift after years of protests, environmental concerns, and public opposition surrounding the ambitious infrastructure proposal.

The SilverLine project, proposed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail), aimed to establish a semi high-speed rail corridor connecting the northern and southern parts of Kerala. The project was envisioned as a major transportation upgrade designed to reduce travel time and improve connectivity across the state.

However, the proposal faced strong resistance from local residents, environmental activists, opposition parties, and several civil society groups. Critics argued that the project would lead to large-scale displacement of families, environmental damage, ecological disruption, and significant financial burden on the state.

Following the government's latest decision, officials have now been instructed to remove the survey stones and markers that had earlier been placed in several districts during preliminary land identification activities. The markers had become symbols of controversy and protest in many affected regions.

The cancellation is being



viewed as a significant victory for protest groups and residents who had organized large demonstrations against the project over the past few years. Many protesters claimed that the rail corridor threatened homes, agricultural land, and environmentally sensitive areas.

Political reactions to the move have been strong across Kerala. Opposition leaders and protest groups welcomed the decision, saying public resistance and grassroots activism ultimately forced the government to reconsider the project. Several organizations described the cancellation as an important example of democratic protest influencing policy decisions.

Supporters of the project, however, expressed disappointment, arguing that Kerala may lose an opportunity to modernize its transportation infrastructure and address future mobility challenges. They maintained that improved rail connectivity could have boosted economic growth, tourism, and regional development in the long term.

The SilverLine proposal had also sparked intense debates regarding environmental clearances, financial feasibility, land acquisition, and urban planning. Experts were divided over whether the project's long-term benefits justified its social and environmental costs.

The state govern-

ment's decision reflects the growing importance of public consultation and environmental concerns in large-scale infrastructure planning. In recent years, projects involving land acquisition and ecological impact have increasingly faced strong public scrutiny across India.

With the SilverLine project now officially shelved, attention is expected to shift toward alternative transportation solutions and infrastructure strategies for Kerala's future development needs.

The government may now explore less controversial modernization plans focused on existing railway networks, public transport systems, and sustainable mobility initiatives.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Visits Zubeen Garg Memorial Site, Fulfils Poll Promise

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma visited the memorial site of legendary singer and cultural icon Zubeen Garg, fulfilling a promise he had made during the election campaign. The visit attracted significant public attention, especially among fans and supporters of the celebrated Assamese artist.

During his visit, the Chief Minister paid tribute to Zubeen Garg and acknowledged his immense contribution to Assamese music, culture, and society. Sarma described the singer as a symbol of Assamese identity whose influence extended far beyond the entertainment industry.

The memorial site has become an emotional and symbolic place for many people in Assam, particularly for admirers of Zubeen Garg, who remains one of the state's most beloved musical figures. Fans gathered at the location welcomed the Chief Minister's gesture and appreciated the recognition given to the late artist's legacy.

Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier promised during political outreach activities that he would visit the memorial site and support efforts to preserve Zubeen Garg's contribution to Assamese culture. His visit is now being seen as an attempt to connect emotion-

ally with people who hold deep admiration for the singer.

The Chief Minister also interacted with local residents and supporters during the visit, discussing cultural preservation and the importance of honoring influential figures who shaped Assam's artistic identity. He reportedly emphasized that cultural icons play a major role in inspiring younger generations and strengthening regional pride.

Zubeen Garg enjoyed a massive fan following across Assam and other parts of Northeast India for decades. Known for his powerful voice and socially conscious music, he built a remarkable career spanning multiple languages and genres. His songs often reflected themes of love, identity, social change, and Assamese pride.

The singer was not only admired for his music but also respected for his outspoken personality and emotional connection with ordinary people. His influence extended into social and cultural movements, making him one of the most recognizable public figures from Assam.

Political observers noted that the visit also carried symbolic significance ahead of future political developments in the state, as cultural figures often hold strong emotional value among voters. However,



supporters of the Chief Minister described the gesture as a sincere tribute rather than a political move.

The event generated widespread reactions on social media, with many users sharing photos and memories related to Zubeen Garg's life and career. Fans expressed hope that more initiatives would be taken to preserve and celebrate the singer's artistic legacy for future generations.

The visit ultimately highlighted the deep emotional connection between Assam's political leadership, cultural identity, and public sentiment surrounding one of the state's most iconic musical personalities.

Centre Opposes New Hydroelectric Projects In Upper Ganga Basin

In a major development concerning environmental protection in Uttarakhand, the Centre has informed the Supreme Court that it does not support allowing any new hydroelectric projects in the upper reaches of the Ganga river basin beyond seven projects that are already operational or in advanced stages of construction. The decision is being viewed as a significant step toward protecting the fragile Himalayan ecosystem and maintaining the ecological balance of the region.

The Centre submitted its position before the Supreme Court in an ongoing case examining the environmental impact of hydroelectric projects in the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins. The matter has remained under judicial scrutiny since the devastating 2013 Kedarnath floods, which raised serious concerns about the ecological consequences of large-scale hydropower de-

velopment in Uttarakhand.

According to the government's affidavit, only seven hydroelectric projects may proceed, as they are either already commissioned or have achieved substantial physical and financial progress. These include Tehri Stage-II, Tapovan Vishnugad, Vishnugad Pipalkoti, Signoli Bhatwari, Phata Byung, Madmaheshwar, and Kaliganga-II. The Centre clarified that no additional projects should be permitted in the upper Ganga basin.

The government emphasized that the Ganga river system requires special treatment because of its unique ecological, geological, and cultural significance. It argued that maintaining the integrity of the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basins is essential since these rivers form the headstreams of the Ganga and play a critical role in sustaining biodiversity and river ecosystems.

Environmental concerns surrounding hydropower projects in Uttarakhand have intensified over the years due to repeated natural disasters, including floods, landslides, glacial lake outburst floods, and land subsidence incidents. Experts and activists have long argued that excessive dam construction and infrastructure activity in the fragile Himalayan terrain increase ecological vulnerability.

The Supreme Court has been examining the issue for more than a decade. Following the 2013 disaster, the court had imposed restrictions on new hydroelectric projects and directed expert committees to study their environmental impact. Multiple committees over the years offered differing recommendations regarding which projects should be allowed or halted.

While some expert panels supported limited hydropower expansion citing energy and devel-

opment needs, others warned that further construction in ecologically sensitive areas could trigger long-term environmental damage and worsen disaster risks.

The Centre's latest stand is now being viewed as a major policy shift favoring ecological protection over aggressive hydropower expansion in the upper Ganga region. Environmental groups and conservationists have welcomed the move, describing it as an important step toward preserving one of India's most environmentally sensitive and spiritually significant river systems.

The decision also reflects growing national concern about balancing infrastructure development with environmental sustainability, especially in ecologically fragile Himalayan regions increasingly affected by climate-related disasters and geological instability.



Putin And Xi Showcase Strong Russia-China Ties During High-Profile Beijing Meeting



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping held crucial talks in Beijing during a closely watched summit that highlighted the growing strategic partnership between Russia and China amid shifting global geopolitical tensions. The meeting attracted worldwide attention as it came shortly after major international diplomatic developments involving the United States and its allies.

Putin received a grand ceremonial welcome in Beijing as the two leaders emphasized their "strong" and "unyielding" relationship. During the talks, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across trade, energy, defense, and global diplomacy. The summit also marked the 25th anniversary of the Russia-China Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation, a key agreement that has shaped relations between the two countries for decades.

Xi Jinping described the relationship between Beijing and Moscow as an important stabilizing force in global af-

fairs, while warning against unilateralism and rising international instability. Putin echoed similar views, stating that Russia and China continue to coordinate closely on major global and regional issues through organizations such as BRICS, the United Nations, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The meeting carried additional significance because it took place only days after major diplomatic engagements between China and the United States. Analysts believe both Xi and Putin aimed to demonstrate that their partnership remains strong despite changing global diplomatic dynamics and Western pressure on both nations.

Economic cooperation remained one of the major topics during the summit. China has become Russia's largest trading partner and one of the biggest buyers of Russian oil, especially after Western sanctions placed heavy restrictions on Moscow following the Ukraine conflict. Experts believe the growing economic relationship has become critical for Russia's financial stability

and long-term strategic planning.

The leaders also discussed several international issues, including tensions in the Middle East, global trade challenges, energy security, and the future of multilateral organizations. Both countries continue to push for a more multipolar global order and greater influence for non-Western alliances on the international stage.

Military and strategic coordination between the two nations was also a key focus. Over the past few years, Russia and China have increased joint military exercises, diplomatic coordination, and economic partnerships, strengthening what many analysts describe as one of the most influential geopolitical alignments in the world today.

Meanwhile, reports suggest that both Putin and Xi are likely to visit India later this year for the BRICS Summit scheduled to take place in New Delhi. Such a visit would attract significant international attention given the current global geopolitical climate and evolving diplomatic relationships among major world powers.

The Beijing summit ultimately reinforced the message that Russia and China intend to maintain close strategic coordination despite increasing global uncertainty and evolving power equations in world politics. The meeting also highlighted how both nations are positioning themselves as major players shaping the future global balance of power.

PM Modi's 'Melody' Gift To Giorgia Meloni Sparks Viral 'Melodi' Moment Online



Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a light-hearted diplomatic moment during his Italy visit by gifting a packet of India's popular "Melody" toffees to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The cheerful exchange quickly went viral on social media, with users celebrating what many called the ultimate "Melodi" moment—a playful blend of the surnames Modi and Meloni.

The now-viral video was shared by Giorgia Meloni on social media, where she was seen happily showing the gift while describing it as a "very, very good toffee." PM Modi then revealed the name "Melody," prompting laughter between the two leaders. The warm and humorous interaction instantly caught the internet's attention and became one of the most talked-about moments from Modi's Italy visit.

The playful gesture gained extra attention because the term "Melodi" has already become a popular internet meme over the past few years, symbolizing the friendly rapport between the Indian and Italian leaders. Their selfies and informal interactions at global events had previously gone viral, and the Melody toffee gift seemed to cleverly acknowledge the meme in real life.

Social media platforms were flooded with memes, jokes, and reactions soon after the video surfaced. Many users described the ex-

change as "peak internet diplomacy," while others praised the leaders for embracing humor and relatability in international politics. Some even joked that the Melody brand had received the "best promotion ever" without launching an advertisement campaign.

The viral moment also triggered unexpected reactions in financial markets. Shares of an unrelated company named Parle Industries reportedly surged after some investors mistakenly linked it to the maker of Melody toffees. The unusual development added another layer of internet frenzy surrounding the incident.

PM Modi's visit to Italy was part of the final leg of his multi-nation tour, during which he held discussions aimed at strengthening India-Italy ties. Giorgia Meloni hosted him for dinner and accompanied him on a visit to Rome's iconic Colosseum before formal bilateral talks.

The friendship and visible comfort between the two leaders have frequently attracted attention online. Their casual interactions, smiles, and friendly exchanges at international summits have often become viral moments, helping create a relatable image of diplomacy for younger audiences on social media.

What began as a simple candy gift soon evolved into a global online conversation, proving once again how social media and diplomacy increasingly intersect in modern politics. The "Melodi" moment not only entertained millions online but also highlighted the growing public fascination with informal and relatable interactions between world leaders.

The incident also demonstrated how small gestures can unexpectedly become major viral sensations in the digital era, where even a packet of toffees can turn into an international talking point within minutes.

US Report Claims 42 Military Aircraft Lost During Iran Conflict

A new report has claimed that the United States lost or saw damage to at least 42 military aircraft during its conflict with Iran, highlighting the massive scale and cost of the military campaign. The aircraft reportedly included advanced fighter jets, refueling aircraft, surveillance planes, transport helicopters, and MQ-9 Reaper drones.

According to the report, the losses were compiled by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which provides policy and legal analysis to the US Congress. The assessment was reportedly based on Pentagon statements, US Central Command updates, and media reports, as the US Department

of Defense has not yet released a complete official accounting of combat losses from the operation.

Among the aircraft reportedly affected were F-15 fighter jets, F-35 stealth aircraft, KC-135 refueling planes, helicopters, and multiple MQ-9 Reaper drones. Drone losses alone are believed to account for a massive portion of the financial damage because of the extremely high cost of advanced unmanned combat systems.

The military campaign, referred to in reports as "Operation Epic Fury," was launched earlier this year amid escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran. The conflict reportedly caused extensive destruction on both sides and raised fears of a wider region-

al war involving Gulf nations and global powers.

The report estimated that the total financial cost linked to aircraft losses and damage could exceed \$29 billion, making it one of the most expensive modern military confrontations involving advanced aerial warfare systems.

Defense analysts noted that the losses reflect the growing vulnerability of even highly sophisticated military aircraft in modern missile- and drone-heavy warfare environments.

One of the most significant claims from Iranian officials was that Iranian forces successfully shot down an American F-35 stealth fighter jet—something that, if fully confirmed, would represent a major symbolic and strategic

development because the F-35 is considered among the world's most advanced combat aircraft.

Military experts believe the reported losses underline how modern warfare is rapidly evolving. Drones, long-range precision missiles, advanced radar systems, electronic warfare, and integrated air-defense networks are increasingly challenging traditional concepts of air superiority.

Despite the reported losses, US military officials have maintained that Iran's military capabilities suffered severe damage during the operation. American commanders reportedly claimed that large portions of Iran's missile systems, naval assets, and defense infrastructure were heavily

targeted during the campaign.

The report has now sparked intense debate among defense experts, lawmakers, and geopolitical analysts about the real cost of modern warfare and the effectiveness of expensive next-generation military technologies in active combat zones.

The conflict has also intensified concerns about long-term instability in the Middle East, with global powers closely monitoring the situation due to its potential impact on oil markets, international security, and regional alliances. Analysts warn that continued escalation could have far-reaching economic and geopolitical consequences beyond the region itself.



Israel Detains Journalists Aboard Gaza-Bound 'Global Sumud Flotilla'

Israeli authorities have detained several journalists and activists who were traveling aboard the "Global Sumud Flotilla," a humanitarian vessel attempting to reach Gaza. The incident has triggered international concern from press freedom groups and human rights organizations, with many questioning the treatment of journalists covering the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the region.

The flotilla was reportedly carrying humanitarian supplies and activists seeking to draw global attention to conditions in Gaza. According to organizers, the mission aimed to challenge restrictions around the territory and highlight the worsening humanitarian situation faced by civilians.

Israeli forces intercepted the vessel before it could reach Gaza and detained those on board, including multiple journalists covering the mission. Reports indicate that some journalists were later questioned and temporarily held by authorities, sparking criticism from international media watchdogs and advocacy groups.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) condemned the detentions and called on Israeli authorities to respect press freedom and ensure jour-

nalists are allowed to carry out their work safely without intimidation or interference. Several rights organizations also demanded transparency regarding the condition and legal status of those detained.

The incident quickly drew global attention because journalists aboard the flotilla were documenting humanitarian concerns and conditions surrounding the conflict. Media freedom advocates argued that detaining reporters attempting to cover a humanitarian mission raises serious concerns about restrictions on independent journalism in conflict zones.

Israeli officials defended the interception, stating that the flotilla violated security restrictions related to Gaza's maritime blockade. Authorities argued that such operations are necessary for national security and to prevent unauthorized entry into restricted areas.

Meanwhile, flotilla organizers accused Israel of suppressing humanitarian efforts and silencing international attention on Gaza. Activists involved in the mission claimed the operation was peaceful and intended solely to deliver aid and raise awareness about civilian suffering.

The event has intensified in-



ternational debate over access to Gaza, humanitarian operations, and the role of journalists in documenting conflict situations. Press freedom organizations say reporters working in war zones are increasingly facing risks including detention, censorship, restricted movement, and threats to personal safety.

The Gaza conflict has already become one of the most heavily scrutinized humanitarian crises in recent years, with journalists playing a cen-

tral role in reporting civilian casualties, aid shortages, displacement, and military operations. However, media organizations continue to warn about the dangers faced by reporters attempting to cover developments on the ground.

The detention of journalists aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla is now expected to add further pressure on international discussions surrounding press freedom, humanitarian access, and accountability in conflict regions.

Pakistan Court Awards Death Sentence In TikTok Star Sana Yousaf Murder Case

A Pakistani court has sentenced Umar Hayat to death in the high-profile murder case of teenage TikTok star Sana Yousaf, a verdict that has reignited discussions around women's safety, online harassment, and violence against female influencers in Pakistan. The case had shocked the country and drawn widespread attention across social media and international media platforms.

Sana Yousaf, a 17-year-old social media influencer from Chitral, had gained massive popularity on TikTok and Instagram through videos highlighting Chitrali culture, lifestyle content, and youth-focused entertainment. She had built a large following online and was especially admired by younger audiences for her cheerful personality and culturally rooted content.

According to investigators, Sana was shot dead at her home in Islamabad after repeatedly rejecting the advances of the accused. Police described the killing as a targeted attack linked to obsession and harassment. Authorities reportedly used CCTV footage, mobile phone records, and digital evidence to track and arrest the suspect within hours of the crime.

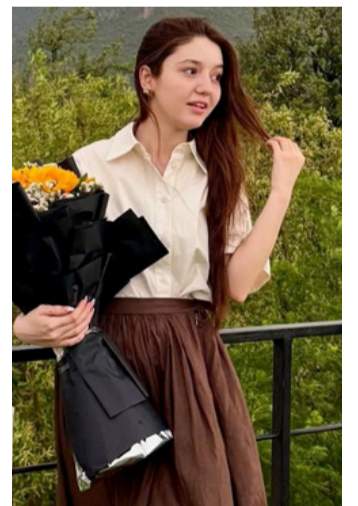
The Islamabad court handed down the death sentence after months of hearings and witness testimonies. In addition to

the death penalty, the court also imposed financial compensation and additional prison terms under other legal provisions. Prosecutors argued that evidence including mobile chats, forensic reports, and witness accounts clearly established the accused's involvement in the murder.

The murder had triggered nationwide outrage in Pakistan, with activists, celebrities, and women's rights organizations demanding justice for Sana. Social media campaigns calling for stronger protection of women and stricter action against online harassment gained momentum after the incident. Protesters and rights groups described the case as another example of the dangers faced by women who maintain a public presence online.

The case also reopened debate around victim blaming and misogyny on social media. While many mourned Sana's death and demanded justice, some online reactions drew criticism for targeting the teenager instead of condemning the violence. This led to broader discussions about digital safety, cyberstalking, and societal attitudes toward women influencers in South Asia.

Sana Yousaf's murder became one of Pakistan's most widely discussed criminal cases involving a social media personality. Her final social media



posts and birthday celebration videos, shared shortly before her death, deeply moved followers and added to the emotional response surrounding the tragedy.

Women's rights activists say the incident reflects the urgent need for stronger legal protection, faster action against stalking and harassment, and greater awareness about online safety. The case has also intensified conversations around how female content creators often face disproportionate scrutiny, threats, and abuse on digital platforms.

The court's verdict is being seen by many as a significant moment in Pakistan's ongoing struggle against gender-based violence and crimes linked to online harassment.

Stock Market Recovers After Weak Opening Amid Iran War Concerns

Indian stock markets witnessed a highly volatile session as investors reacted to rising geopolitical tensions linked to the ongoing Iran conflict, surging crude oil prices, and weakness in global markets. Despite a sharp fall during morning trade, benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty staged a strong recovery later in the day to close marginally higher.

Markets opened under pressure after weak global cues and concerns over escalating tensions in the Middle East affected investor sentiment. Rising crude oil prices, inflation worries, and cautious foreign investor activity weighed heavily on equities during the initial trading session.

During early trade, the Sensex dropped more than 550 points while the Nifty slipped close to the 23,450 mark. Analysts attributed the decline to uncertainty in global markets, rising bond yields, and concerns that prolonged geopolitical tensions could impact global economic stability. Investors also remained cautious due to fluctuations in the Indian rupee and fears of higher import costs if crude oil prices continue to rise.

However, markets recovered strongly during the second half of the session as buying emerged in heavyweight stocks, particularly in the energy, auto, and capital goods sectors. Strong investor interest in select blue-chip companies helped benchmark indices bounce back from day's lows.

By the end of trading, the Sensex managed to close with moderate gains, while the Nifty also ended slightly higher after recovering from sharp intraday losses. Analysts noted that the recovery reflected underlying confidence in India's domestic economic growth despite short-term global uncertainty.

Oil and gas stocks remained among the top performers as investors tracked movements in crude oil prices. Energy companies attracted buying interest amid expectations that higher oil prices could positively impact certain segments of the sector. At the same time, banking and IT stocks experienced mixed trading due to profit booking and global market pressure.

Another major concern for investors was the weakening Indian rupee, which touched record low levels against the US dollar during the session. Market experts warned that continued pressure on the currency could increase import costs and add to inflation-related challenges for the economy. Broader markets also remained volatile, with several mid-cap and small-cap stocks witnessing sharp price movements driven by stock-specific news and quarterly earnings updates.

Traders remained selective, focusing on sectors expected to benefit from domestic demand and infrastructure spending.

Market participants are now closely monitoring global geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor activity, and upcoming economic data for further direction. Analysts believe short-term volatility may continue, but India's strong domestic fundamentals are helping markets remain relatively resilient compared to several global peers.

Overall, the trading session reflected cautious optimism, with investors balancing geopolitical risks against confidence in long-term economic growth.

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Lenskart Solutions Q4 Profit Slips 7% Despite Strong Revenue Growth

Eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions reported a 7% decline in net profit for the fourth quarter, even as the company posted strong growth in revenue driven by expanding demand and aggressive business expansion. The company's latest earnings reflect rising operational costs despite continued momentum in sales across online and offline channels.

For the January-March quarter, Lenskart posted a consolidated net profit of 204 crore, compared to 219 crore during the same period last year. However, the company's revenue from operations surged 45% year-on-year, highlighting strong consumer demand and rapid growth across markets.

The impressive rise in revenue was mainly supported by higher sales volumes, expansion of retail stores, and increasing adoption of premium eyewear products. Lenskart has been aggressively strengthening its omnichannel presence by expanding both its digital platform and physical retail network across India and international markets.

Industry analysts noted that while revenue growth remained robust, profitability came under pressure due to increased spending on marketing, technology investments, employee costs, and expansion-related expenses. The company has been investing heavily in brand building and infrastructure to maintain its leadership position in the competitive eyewear market.

Lenskart's store expansion strategy continued to play a key role in driving growth. The company has rapidly increased its presence in major cities as well as smaller towns, aiming to tap into rising demand for affordable and premium eyewear products. Growing awareness about eye care and fashion-driven eyewear trends has also contributed to stronger sales.

The company's direct-to-consumer model, which combines online ordering with in-store services such as eye testing and frame trials, has helped it build a strong customer base. Analysts believe this hybrid business approach has given Lenskart an advantage over many traditional eyewear retailers.

Lenskart has also continued to focus on international growth opportunities while strengthening its manufacturing capabilities. The company has been investing in advanced lens technology, automation, and supply chain improvements to enhance operational efficiency and customer experience.

Market observers believe the temporary decline in quarterly profit may not significantly impact long-term investor confidence, as strong revenue growth indicates continued expansion potential. Many analysts see Lenskart as one of India's fastest-growing consumer retail brands with strong scalability in both domestic and global markets.

The company's performance comes at a time when India's retail and consumer sectors are witnessing rapid transformation due to increasing digital adoption, rising disposable incomes, and growing preference for branded products.

Despite short-term pressure on margins, Lenskart's strong revenue momentum and expanding market presence suggest that the company remains focused on long-term growth and market leadership in the eyewear industry.



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Rising US Bond Yields And Fed Rate Hike Fears Put Fresh Pressure On Rupee

The Indian rupee is facing renewed pressure as rising U.S. Treasury yields and growing expectations of a possible U.S. Federal Reserve rate hike continue to strengthen the dollar and weaken emerging market currencies. The rupee is now hovering near record low levels against the U.S. dollar, reflecting mounting concerns over global inflation, oil prices, and capital outflows.

Currency traders expect the rupee to remain under stress after the U.S. bond market witnessed a sharp selloff in recent days. The yield on the benchmark 10-year U.S. Treasury bond has surged significantly, while the 30-year yield has climbed to its highest level in many years. Rising bond yields generally make U.S. assets more attractive to global investors, leading to increased demand for the dollar and reduced capital flows toward emerging economies like India.

One of the biggest reasons behind the rising yields is the growing belief that the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates higher for longer — or even raise rates again — due to persistent inflation concerns. Analysts say ongoing geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices are increasing fears that inflation could remain stubbornly high across global markets.

Brent crude oil prices have remained above the \$100-per-barrel mark, adding further pressure on India's economy because the country imports a large portion of its energy requirements. Higher crude prices increase India's import bill and create additional demand for U.S. dollars, which weakens the rupee further.

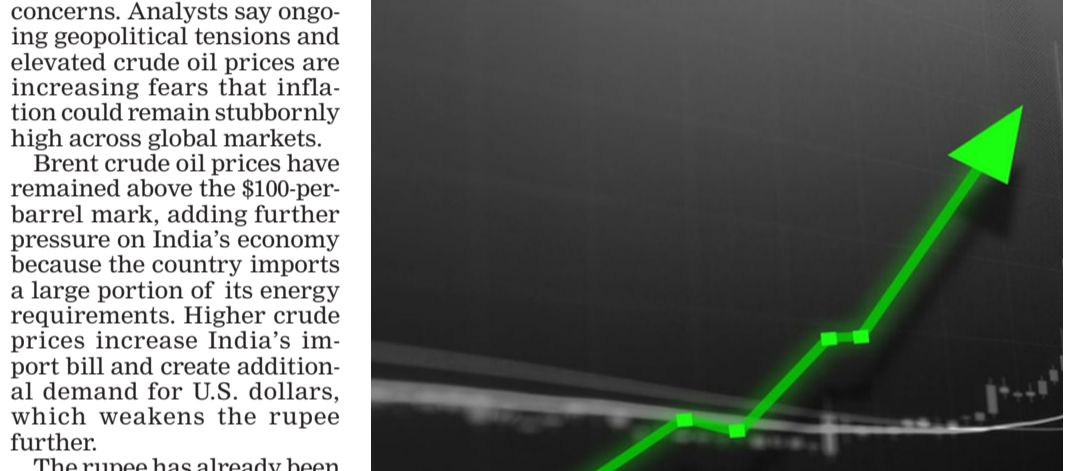
The rupee has already been on a prolonged losing streak and is nearing psychologically important levels against the dollar. Market experts believe the currency is now being impacted not only by high oil prices but also by the sharp shift in global interest rate expectations. Investors are increasingly moving money toward safer U.S. assets due to uncertainty in international markets.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India is reportedly intervening in currency markets by selling dollars through state-run banks in an effort to slow the rupee's decline. However, analysts believe such measures may only provide temporary relief if global economic pressures continue to intensify.

Financial experts warn that a weaker rupee could make imports more expensive, increase inflationary pressure within India, and affect sectors heavily dependent on foreign raw materials and components. Rising import costs could eventually impact fuel prices, manufacturing expenses, and consumer goods.

At the same time, some export-oriented industries, particularly the IT and pharmaceutical sectors, may benefit from a stronger dollar because their overseas earnings become more valuable when converted into rupees.

Investors are now closely watching upcoming U.S. economic data, Federal Reserve commentary, crude oil prices, and geopolitical developments for further direction in global currency and financial markets. Despite the current pressure, analysts believe India's long-term economic fundamentals remain relatively strong compared to several other emerging economies.



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IT Employees Feel Salary Pressure As Companies Redesign Pay Structures Under New Labour Codes

India's IT sector employees are increasingly feeling the financial impact of companies restructuring salary packages ahead of the implementation of new labour codes. Many professionals are discovering that while their overall cost-to-company (CTC) may remain unchanged, the revised salary structures are reducing take-home pay and increasing deductions toward long-term benefits.

The shift is primarily linked to the proposed labour law reforms that aim to standardize wage definitions across industries. Under the new framework, companies are expected to increase the basic salary component to at least 50% of total compensation. While this change could lead to higher provident fund (PF) contributions and improved retirement savings, it is also resulting in lower monthly in-hand salaries for many employees.

Several IT firms have already begun adjusting compensation structures in preparation for the transition. Traditionally, many companies kept the basic salary component relatively low while offering higher allowances and variable pay to maximize employees' take-home earnings. However, the new wage rules limit the extent to which allowances can dominate salary structures.

As a result, employees are witnessing higher deductions toward PF and gratuity contributions. While these changes may strengthen long-term financial security, many professionals are concerned about immediate cash flow, especially at a time when living expenses, EMIs, rent, and inflation remain high.

Industry experts say the impact is particularly noticeable among mid-level and senior IT professionals with large salary packages. Since PF contributions are directly linked to basic pay, an increase in the basic component automatically raises both employee and employer contributions toward retirement benefits.

Many employees have expressed concerns that the revised structures are reducing monthly disposable income without offering immediate visible advantages. Some professionals believe the timing is especially challenging as the IT sector is already dealing with slower hiring, variable pay cuts, delayed appraisals, and uncertainty caused by global economic conditions.

At the same time, HR experts argue that the new structure could ultimately benefit employees through larger retirement savings, higher gratuity payouts, and improved social security benefits. A stronger basic salary can also positively impact components such as leave encashment, bonuses linked to basic pay, and future pension calculations.

Companies are now attempting to balance compliance requirements with employee expectations. Some firms are redesigning compensation packages carefully to minimize the reduction in take-home salaries, while others are focusing on educating employees about the long-term financial advantages of the changes.

The ongoing restructuring reflects a broader transformation in India's employment ecosystem as businesses prepare for major labour reforms. For many IT professionals, however, the immediate concern remains simple — adapting household budgets to reduced monthly cash flow despite unchanged annual salary packages.

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Tata Communications Shares Jump After Appointment Of New MD & CEO

Shares of Tata Communications witnessed a sharp rally after the company announced the appointment of Ganapathi S. Lakshminarayanan as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The stock surged nearly 8% during intraday trading, touching its highest level in more than four months as investors reacted positively to the leadership transition.

The company confirmed that Ganapathi S. Lakshminarayanan has been appointed for a five-year term beginning May 20, 2026, subject to shareholder approval. He has also been appointed as an Additional Director on the company's board.

Following the announcement, Tata Communications shares gained strong momentum in the stock market, reflecting investor optimism regarding the company's future growth strategy under the new leadership. Analysts believe the appointment signals continuity and stability at a time when the company is aggressively focusing on digital infrastructure, cloud services, cybersecurity, and enterprise technology solutions.

Ganapathi S. Lakshminarayanan, widely known as "Ganesh," brings extensive experience in the technology and telecom sectors. Before joining Tata Communications, he held senior leadership positions at major technology and telecom companies, where he gained expertise in enterprise technology, digital transformation, and large-scale business operations.

Market experts noted that investors often respond positively to leadership appointments involving experienced industry professionals, especially in technology-driven businesses undergoing rapid transformation. Tata Communications has been actively expanding its digital portfolio and strengthening its position in areas such as cloud connectivity, Internet of Things (IoT), cybersecurity, and AI-enabled enterprise solutions.

The company has also been focusing on improving operational efficiency, increasing digital revenue streams, and expanding its global enterprise customer base. Analysts believe the leadership transition could help accelerate Tata Communications' long-term strategy of evolving from a traditional telecom infrastructure company into a broader digital solutions provider.

Investor sentiment around the stock was further supported by expectations that the new CEO's experience in managing large-scale digital businesses may help drive innovation and strengthen execution across the company's expanding technology portfolio.

Tata Communications remains an important player in global digital connectivity, operating one of the world's largest subsea cable networks and providing enterprise communication services across multiple countries. In recent years, the company has increasingly positioned itself to benefit from rising global demand for cloud computing, digital transformation, data services, and AI-driven connectivity solutions.

The strong rally in Tata Communications shares highlights how leadership changes can significantly influence investor confidence and market sentiment, particularly when companies appoint experienced executives during a phase of rapid technological growth and business transformation.

Analysts believe investors will now closely monitor the company's future strategy, growth plans, and financial performance under the new leadership as Tata Communications continues expanding its presence in the global digital services market.



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“Luxury” Flats or Vertical Prisons? Viral Videos Expose the Dark Side of High-Rise Living

The dream of owning a luxury apartment in a towering high-rise is rapidly losing its charm for many urban homebuyers. Across Noida and Ghaziabad, residents are using social media to expose what they describe as the harsh reality behind expensive flats worth crores of rupees. Complaints about poor construction quality, malfunctioning lifts, hygiene problems, and weak infrastructure are raising serious questions about whether modern high-rise living is truly worth the massive investment.

One viral video from Noida showed a resident comparing luxury apartment towers to overcrowded chawls. According to him, a single tower in his residential society houses nearly 175 flats but has only

two lifts, with one often remaining out of service for long periods. As a result, residents are forced to wait in lengthy queues every day just to reach their homes. The man sarcastically described the experience as “vertical chawl life with premium maintenance,” claiming that luxury housing has become more stressful than comfortable.

In another widely discussed video, a homeowner who reportedly spent nearly 1 crore on a 22nd-floor apartment expressed regret over his purchase. He pointed to crumbling plaster, wall discoloration, and poor maintenance across the building. The resident also highlighted hygiene concerns caused by pigeon droppings and insect infestations in nearby vacant flats. He questioned

how builders could charge premium prices while delivering poor construction quality and inadequate upkeep.

Similar concerns have surfaced in Ghaziabad, where residents of high-end housing societies complained about broken roads, poor air quality, and faulty fire safety systems despite paying between 2 crore and 4 crore for apartments. One frustrated resident even described the experience as “living like a prisoner,” reflecting the growing dissatisfaction among urban homeowners.

The issue has now sparked a broader debate about whether luxury flats truly offer value for money. Many homebuyers are increasingly worried about rising maintenance charges, overcrowding, lack of privacy,

and declining construction standards. Critics argue that flashy amenities such as swimming pools, clubhouses, and landscaped gardens often fail to compensate for basic problems related to safety, cleanliness, and convenience.

The viral videos have triggered intense discussions online, with many users questioning the future of high-rise living in Indian cities. Some believe independent houses or plotted developments may provide a better quality of life and long-term value compared to expensive apartments packed into crowded towers.

As India’s urban skyline continues to rise, these stories are forcing potential buyers to look beyond glossy advertisements and carefully examine what they are truly paying for.

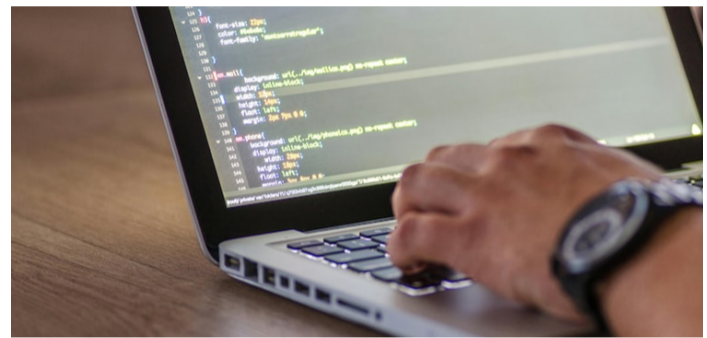


29-Year-Old Techie Quits 25 Lakh Job, Says “I Don’t Want To Work Anymore”

A 29-year-old software engineer has sparked a major conversation online after revealing that he quit his 25 lakh per annum corporate job because he no longer wanted to continue the exhausting cycle of work and ambition. His emotional post about burnout, mental exhaustion, and the search for peace quickly went viral, resonating with thousands of young professionals facing similar struggles.

The techie, who has around six years of experience in the software industry, shared that he had spent most of his life chasing success, money, and career growth. From his college days, he constantly pushed himself to achieve more. Alongside his studies and full-time work, he took on multiple side hustles, including teaching students, freelancing, and building websites for clients. According to him, he was once highly ambitious and always looking for the next big opportunity.

However, after years of non-stop work, the pressure eventually became overwhelming. In his post, the engineer admitted that he had reached a point where he felt mentally drained and emotionally disconnected from the life he had built. He



said the endless cycle of hustling and working had left him exhausted, making him question what he truly wanted from life.

The software engineer revealed that he currently has savings of around 15 lakh and is seriously considering moving to Manali to live a slower and more peaceful life. He explained that he has no immediate plans for marriage, children, or a highly structured future. Instead, he wants time to think clearly, recover mentally, and understand what kind of life would genuinely make him happy.

The techie also stated that he is not actively searching for another job and does not feel motivated to return to corporate life anytime soon. While he admitted that he might eventually freelance again or build pro-

jects on his own terms, he said his current priority is peace of mind rather than career growth.

His post triggered massive discussions on social media, with many users relating to his experience. Several professionals shared their own stories of burnout, toxic work culture, and emotional fatigue despite earning high salaries. Others praised him for prioritizing mental health over societal expectations and financial success.

The viral story reflects a growing trend among young professionals who are increasingly questioning traditional definitions of success. For many, financial stability alone no longer guarantees happiness, and mental well-being is becoming just as important as career achievement.

NASA Shares Stunning Video Of Mysterious Fireball Streaking Across Earth’s Atmosphere

NASA has shared breathtaking footage of a bright object blazing through Earth’s upper atmosphere, leaving viewers across social media amazed and curious. The dramatic visuals, captured from the International Space Station (ISS), show a glowing fireball tearing across the planet’s atmosphere before breaking apart into several smaller fragments.

The video was recorded by NASA astronaut Chris Williams on April 27 while he was inside the ISS Cupola, a dome-shaped observation module known for offering panoramic views of Earth and space. Williams said he was scanning the skies in hopes of spotting the approaching Progress MS-34 cargo spacecraft carrying fresh supplies to the space station when he noticed something unusual below.

As the ISS passed over West Africa, the astronaut saw a brilliant object streaking through the upper atmosphere. According to Williams, the object’s bright trail continued to grow before suddenly splitting into multiple glowing pieces, creating what he described as a spectacular “light show” from orbit.

NASA later shared the visu-



als online, where the video quickly went viral. Social media users flooded the comments section with reactions, with many comparing the scene to a science-fiction movie. One user joked that it looked like “Optimus Prime arriving on Earth,” while others simply called the footage “epic” and “unreal.”

Although the exact identity of the object remains uncertain, NASA believes it was most likely space debris burning up during re-entry into Earth’s atmosphere. Experts suggested it could have been

part of an old rocket body, a defunct satellite, or another piece of human-made orbital debris. The space agency also clarified that the phenomenon was not connected to the Progress cargo spacecraft, which docked safely at the ISS as planned.

Scientists noted that without knowing the exact direction in which the handheld camera was pointed, identifying the object with complete certainty is difficult. NASA also mentioned that there is a small possibility the fireball may have been caused by meteoric material entering the

atmosphere. Astronauts aboard the ISS frequently witness objects re-entering Earth’s atmosphere, but such events remain among the most visually striking experiences in space. According to NASA, a large amount of orbital debris circles Earth at extremely high speeds, much of it originating from fragmented satellites and launch vehicles.

The viral footage has once again highlighted both the beauty of space and the growing issue of space debris orbiting our planet.

Passenger Praises Indian Railways After Cleaning Staff Responds Within 2 Minutes

A passenger has gone viral on social media after praising Indian Railways for its remarkably quick response to a cleanliness complaint during a train journey. The incident has drawn widespread attention online, with many users appreciating the railway staff’s efficiency and improved passenger service.

The passenger shared a video showing how railway cleaning staff arrived almost immediately after a complaint was filed through the Rail Madad app, the official grievance redressal platform of Indian Railways. According to the passenger, the response came within just two minutes, leaving fellow travellers surprised and impressed.

In the video, cleaning personnel can be seen entering the train coach with cleaning equipment and quickly addressing the issue reported by the passenger. The user praised the professionalism and speed of the staff, stating that the experience completely changed his perception of railway services.

The clip soon gained traction across social media platforms, with many people calling it a positive example of how technology and quick action can improve public services. Several users said they had also experienced faster responses from Indian Railways in recent years, especially regarding cleanliness, catering, and passenger assistance.

Rail Madad, launched by Indian Railways to stream-



line passenger complaints, allows travellers to report issues related to hygiene, security, electrical faults, and other onboard problems in real time. Complaints are digitally forwarded to the concerned railway teams, enabling quicker action compared to traditional complaint systems.

The viral post has also sparked discussions about the transformation of railway services in India. Over the past few years, Indian Railways has introduced several initiatives focused on improving passenger comfort,

station cleanliness, digital ticketing, and customer support. Real-time complaint tracking and faster grievance resolution have become key priorities as the railway network modernises its services.

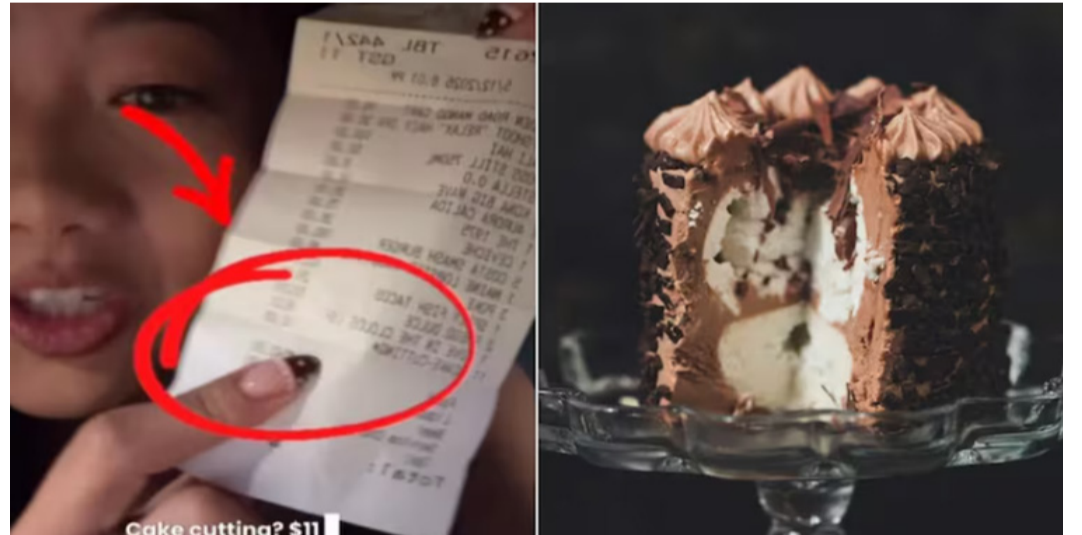
Many social media users praised frontline railway workers for their dedication, noting that such efforts often go unnoticed despite handling challenging working conditions and massive passenger volumes every day. Others said that prompt responses like these help rebuild public trust in govern-

ment-run services.

While some users shared positive experiences, others pointed out that service quality can still vary across routes and regions. Nevertheless, the incident has been widely viewed as a good example of how quick accountability and digital systems can make a visible difference in public transportation.

The video continues to circulate online, with many passengers now encouraging others to actively use official complaint platforms whenever they face issues during train journeys.

US Restaurant Responds After Charging 10,650 “Cake-Cutting Fee” Sparks Online Outrage



A luxury rooftop restaurant in Beverly Hills has found itself at the center of a social media storm after a customer shared a restaurant bill showing a massive “cake-cutting fee” of \$110 (around 10,650). The unusual charge quickly went viral online, sparking intense debate over hidden restaurant fees and fine-dining practices.

The controversy began after a food influencer posted a copy of the bill from an upscale rooftop restaurant where she had attended a group dinner with friends. While the total bill exceeded \$1,100, it was one specific item on the receipt that shocked the internet — a separate \$110 charge listed simply as “cake cutting.”

According to the bill, the restaurant charged \$10 per person for cutting and serving the birthday cake brought by the guests. Since the dinner involved 11 people, the total cake-cutting fee added up to \$110. As screenshots of the receipt spread online, social media users reacted with disbe-

lief and frustration. Many people criticised the restaurant for imposing what they considered an excessive and unreasonable fee. Some users argued that charging customers merely to slice and serve a cake was “ridiculous,” especially considering the already expensive dining bill.

However, others defended the restaurant, saying that such charges are not uncommon in luxury dining establishments. Supporters argued that outside cakes involve additional service, including plating, serving utensils, table setup, staff time, and cleanup. They claimed that restaurants often charge corkage or service fees for externally brought items to compensate for lost dessert sales and added labour.

Amid the growing backlash, the restaurant publicly responded to the controversy. Management clarified that the charge was not hidden and was part of the restaurant’s standard policy for outside desserts. They explained that

guests are informed in advance about such fees and insisted that the pricing reflects the additional service provided during large group celebrations. The incident has reignited broader discussions about restaurant pricing transparency and the increasing number of additional charges customers face while dining out. Over recent years, diners have encountered various extra fees worldwide, including mandatory gratuities, wellness charges, kitchen appreciation fees, and packaging surcharges.

The viral receipt has divided the internet, with some seeing the fee as a normal luxury dining practice and others calling it an example of restaurants overcharging customers under the guise of premium service. Despite the criticism, the story has once again highlighted how a single restaurant bill can trigger massive online conversations about fairness, dining culture, and customer expectations in the age of viral social media.

IPL 2026 Playoff Race Intensifies After RCB Beat MI To Go Top

The IPL 2026 playoff battle has become more intense after Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Mumbai Indians in a thrilling last-ball encounter to climb to the top of the points table. The dramatic victory not only boosted RCB's qualification chances but also officially knocked Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants out of the tournament.

With only a handful of league matches remaining, eight teams are still mathematically alive in the race for the four playoff spots. Net Run Rate (NRR) is expected to play a major role as the competition enters its final stage.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) RCB are currently leading the standings with 14 points from 11 matches and possess one of the strongest net run rates in the league. Another win from their remaining fixtures would almost guarantee qualification. The defending champions are also aiming for a top-two finish to secure an extra opportunity in the playoffs. Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) SRH are also strongly placed with 14 points. They need two wins from their remaining matches to comfortably book a playoff berth. Their upcoming clash against RCB is expected to have a major impact on the top-two race. Gujarat Titans (GT) GT remain firmly in contention with 14 points but have a lower NRR compared to RCB and SRH. The team likely needs two more wins to stay safe in the qualification race. Their upcoming matches are considered crucial for playoff positioning. Punjab Kings (PBKS) Punjab Kings are in a strong position with 13 points from only 10 matches. Since they have an extra game in hand compared to several rivals, two wins from their remaining fixtures should take them close to qualification. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) CSK kept their hopes alive after defeating Lucknow Super Giants. With 12 points, they still remain in the playoff hunt but cannot afford many mistakes. Winning at least two more matches could significantly improve their chances.

Rajasthan Royals (RR) RR are also alive in the race but face a difficult road ahead. Their inconsistent performances and lower NRR mean they may need to win most of their remaining matches to qualify comfortably. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) KKR still have a mathematical chance but are under massive pressure. They likely need victories in all their remaining matches to stay alive in the playoff race. Even a single defeat could end their campaign.

Delhi Capitals (DC) Delhi Capitals remain mathematically alive but are struggling because of their poor net run rate and inconsistent form. They need to win every remaining match and depend on other results going their way. Mumbai Indians (MI) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) Both MI and LSG have officially been eliminated from IPL 2026 playoff contention following defeats on Sunday. Their disappointing campaigns came to an end with multiple losses and poor consistency throughout the season.



Virat Kohli Opens Up On Why He Quit Test Captaincy: "I Was Completely Spent"



Former India captain Virat Kohli has finally opened up about the real reason behind his decision to step down as India's Test captain in 2022, admitting that the immense pressure of leadership had left him mentally and emotionally exhausted. The batting superstar revealed that carrying the dual responsibility of leading the team while also being the focal point of India's batting lineup eventually became overwhelming. Speaking candidly during a recent interaction, Kohli said he did not initially realize how demanding the role would become in his daily life. According to him, his intense desire to keep Indian cricket at the top pushed him to constantly carry enormous responsibility, both as captain and as the team's most dependable batter. Kohli explained that over time, the pressure completely consumed him. He described the phase as "gruesome" and admitted that managing expectations became increasingly difficult. The former captain revealed that by the time he stepped away from leadership, he was mentally drained and "completely spent." The cricket icon also reflected on how leadership changed his mindset as a player. He said that when he was playing for a larger purpose and carrying responsibility for the team, he often managed to push beyond his own perceived limits. However, the constant mental load eventually took a heavy toll on him. Kohli stepped down as India's T20I captain after the 2021 T20 World Cup before later relinquishing Test captaincy following India's Test series defeat in South Africa. Around the same period, he was also removed as ODI captain, making it one of the most emotionally challenging phases of his cricket career. Despite the difficult period, Kohli credited the Indian team management and support staff for helping him rediscover the joy of playing cricket. He acknowledged that the support he received during the demanding post-captaincy phase helped him mentally and emotionally recover from burnout. During his seven-year tenure as India's Test captain, Kohli led the team to 40 victories in 68 matches, making him India's most successful Test skipper. Under his leadership, India achieved historic overseas wins and established itself as one of the strongest Test sides in world cricket. Kohli's aggressive style of leadership, emphasis on fitness, and fearless approach transformed India into a highly competitive Test team capable of winning consistently in challenging overseas conditions. His era as captain is widely regarded as one of the most influential phases in Indian cricket history. His honest comments have now sparked widespread discussion among cricket fans, with many appreciating his openness about the mental challenges of leadership and the emotional burden that comes with representing India at the highest level. The revelations have also reignited conversations around player workload, mental health, and the immense pressure faced by modern-day international cricketers.

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Cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has come under heavy criticism on social media after his comments targeting a young Lucknow Super Giants player during IPL discussions triggered strong reactions from fans and cricket followers. The controversy began after Gavaskar questioned the player's approach and referred to an earlier incident involving a "chit," a remark that quickly became a talking point online. Soon after the comments surfaced, several fans accused the former India captain of being unnecessarily harsh on a young cricketer who is still learning and developing in a high-pressure tournament like the IPL. Social media platforms were flooded with reactions, with many users asking, "Where's the chit now?" while criticizing Gavaskar's remarks. Some fans felt the legendary batter was being too critical and argued that young players need encouragement and guidance rather than public scrutiny. The incident has once again highlighted the intense pressure faced by emerging cricketers in the IPL, where every performance is closely analyzed by experts, former players, and fans. Young players often become instant heroes after one good innings and face severe criticism after a poor outing, making the tournament emotionally demanding. Supporters of the LSG youngster pointed out that inconsistency is common among

Sunil Gavaskar Faces Backlash Over Remarks On LSG Youngster



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developing players and said mistakes should be viewed as part of the learning process. Several fans also defended the player's intent and passion, stating that aggressive cricket and experimentation are natural in a fast-paced tournament environment. At the same time, some viewers backed Gavaskar's right to express strong opinions, arguing that former cricketers are expected to provide honest analysis rather than sugar-coated commentary. According to them, constructive criticism from experienced legends can help players improve and become mentally stronger. The debate quickly became one of the most discussed topics among IPL fans online, with divided opinions emerging over whether commentators should moderate criticism when discussing younger players. Sunil Gavaskar, one of India's greatest batting legends, has often been known for his straightforward opinions and sharp cricket analysis. Over the years, his comments during broadcasts have occasionally sparked controversy, especially when directed toward star players or young talents. Meanwhile, the Lucknow Super Giants camp has remained focused on the tournament as the team continues its push for a strong finish in the IPL season. Fans are now hoping the youngster uses the criticism as motivation and bounces back with improved performances in upcoming matches. The episode reflects how closely every IPL moment is scrutinized and how commentary discussions can rapidly turn into major social media debates in modern cricket.

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Shubman Gill Leads From The Front As Gujarat Titans Continue Remarkable IPL Consistency

Shubman Gill once again showcased his class and leadership qualities as Gujarat Titans continued their impressive run of consistency in the IPL with another commanding performance. The stylish opener led from the front with a composed and impactful innings, helping Gujarat strengthen their position in the tournament and reaffirm their reputation as one of the league's most dependable teams. Gill's batting displayed a perfect balance of elegance, timing, and control. Right from the beginning, he looked confident at the crease, rotating the strike smartly while punishing loose deliveries with ease. His ability to anchor the innings while maintaining a healthy scoring rate has become one of Gujarat Titans' biggest strengths this season. Under Gill's leadership, Gujarat Titans have once again emerged as one of the most disciplined and balanced sides in the tournament. Despite changes in personnel and injury concerns at different stages, the team has consistently found ways to perform under pressure. Their calm approach in crunch situations has earned praise from cricket experts and fans alike.



One of the standout features of Gujarat's campaign has been their collective team effort. While Gill has often played the role of the lead performer, contributions from bowlers, middle-order batters, and all-rounders have ensured the team remains competitive in every game. The bowling unit, in particular, has repeatedly delivered crucial breakthroughs during key moments. Gill's growth as a captain has also become a major talking point this season. Initially seen primarily as a technically gifted batter, he is now increasingly being appreciated for his maturity, tactical understanding, and composed leadership style. Many cricket observers believe the experience of leading an IPL franchise at a young age is helping him evolve into a future leader for Indian cricket as well. The Gujarat Titans management deserves credit for building a stable and balanced squad capable of adapting to different match situations. Their consistency over multiple seasons has made them one of the most reliable teams in the IPL despite being a relatively new franchise. Fans and analysts have especially praised the team's ability to remain calm under pressure. Unlike teams that rely heavily on individual brilliance, Gujarat Titans often succeed through disciplined execution, clear planning, and strong teamwork. Gill's latest performance further strengthened his reputation as one of the finest young batters in world cricket. His elegant strokeplay, calm temperament, and growing leadership qualities continue to make him one of the most valuable players in the IPL. As the tournament moves toward its crucial stages, Gujarat Titans appear well-positioned to challenge strongly for another successful campaign, with Shubman Gill leading the side confidently from the front.

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Bangladesh Create History With Stunning 2-0 Test Series Sweep Over Pakistan

Bangladesh scripted one of the greatest moments in their cricket history by defeating Pakistan by 78 runs in the second Test to complete a sensational 2-0 clean sweep in the series. The historic triumph marked Bangladesh's first-ever Test series whitewash over Pakistan and sparked massive celebrations among players and fans alike. The series also showcased Bangladesh's improved consistency in Test cricket. Their batters delivered important contributions at key stages, while the bowling unit displayed patience, control, and aggression throughout the contest. The team's fielding and overall discipline also received praise from cricket experts. For Pakistan, the defeat raised serious questions regarding team balance, batting inconsistency, and overall performance under pressure. The batting lineup failed to deliver consistently across the two-match series, while the bowling attack struggled to dominate Bangladesh's determined middle order. Cricket analysts described the result as one of the biggest overseas disappointments for Pakistan in recent years. Fans and former cricketers expressed frustration over the team's inability to recover from difficult situations despite having experienced play-



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Meanwhile, Bangladesh's success has been celebrated widely across the cricketing world. Many experts believe the series win reflects the steady progress Bangladesh has made in Test cricket over the last decade. The team's growing confidence against major cricketing nations is now becoming increasingly evident. The historic clean sweep is expected to boost Bangladesh's standing in international cricket and provide huge confidence for future overseas assignments. Young players in the squad also gained valuable experience and proved they can compete successfully against strong opposition. For Bangladesh supporters, the victory represents more than just a series win—it symbolizes the team's evolution into a more competitive and fearless Test side capable of challenging established cricket powers on the international stage.

PawanKalyan To Attend Chiranjeevi–Bobby Kolli Film’s Grand Pooja Ceremony

Megastar Chiranjeevi’s upcoming film with director Bobby Kolli, tentatively titled “Mega158,” is already generating massive excitement among fans even before production officially begins. The latest buzz surrounding the project is that Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor PawanKalyan is expected to attend the grand pooja ceremony of the film, making the launch event even more special for Mega fans.

According to reports, the formal launch ceremony for the film will take place in Hyderabad in the presence of the movie’s cast, crew, and several prominent guests from the Telugu film industry. Fans are particularly thrilled about the possibility of seeing Chiranjeevi and PawanKalyan together at the event, as appearances



by the two stars on the same stage always create huge excitement among audiences.

“Mega158” marks Chiranjeevi’s collaboration with director Bobby Kolli, who is known for delivering commercially successful entertainers packed with mass appeal, action, and

emotional storytelling. Industry insiders suggest that the film is being designed as a full-fledged commercial entertainer tailored to suit Chiranjeevi’s larger-than-life screen image.

Although the makers have not yet revealed complete plot details, reports indicate that

the movie will feature high-energy action sequences, emotional family moments, and powerful dialogues — elements that fans strongly associate with vintage Chiranjeevi films. Expectations are already high, especially after Bobby Kolli’s recent success in delivering mass-oriented cinema.

The film is expected to be produced on a lavish scale with top technicians and a strong supporting cast. Music lovers are also eagerly waiting to know who will compose the soundtrack, considering Chiranjeevi’s films traditionally feature chartbuster songs and energetic dance numbers.

The presence of PawanKalyan at the launch ceremony is likely to become one of the major highlights of the event. Despite his busy political schedule, the actor-politician has

always maintained a close bond with Chiranjeevi and the Mega family. Fans often celebrate such public appearances as emotional moments that showcase the strong connection within the family.

Social media has already begun buzzing with anticipation, with fans discussing possible storylines, casting choices, and title announcements for the film. Many are hoping the launch event will also reveal Chiranjeevi’s first look or provide updates regarding the shooting schedule.

With two major names like Chiranjeevi and Bobby Kolli coming together — and the added excitement surrounding PawanKalyan’s attendance — “Mega158” has quickly become one of the most awaited Telugu film projects currently in development.



Mega158 Locks ThamanAs Music Director Ahead Of Grand Launch Event

The much-awaited Chiranjeevi–Bobby Kolli project, tentatively titled “Mega158,” is continuing to build massive buzz even before its official launch. The latest update creating excitement among fans is that popular composer S. Thaman has reportedly been finalized as the music director for the prestigious project.

The announcement has significantly raised expectations surrounding the film, as Thaman is currently one of the most sought-after music composers in Telugu cinema. Known for delivering energetic background scores and chartbuster songs, the composer has played a major role in the success of several big-budget commercial entertainers in recent years.

This marks another exciting collaboration between Chiranjeevi and Thaman after their previous successful association. Fans are already expecting powerful mass songs, emotional melodies, and high-energy background music that perfectly suits Chiranjeevi’s larger-than-life screen presence.

Directed by Bobby Kolli, “Mega158” is being planned as a full-fledged commercial entertainer packed with action, emotion, and fan-pleasing moments. Bobby Kolli, who is known for delivering mass-oriented films with strong emotional drama, is said to be designing the movie specifically to showcase Chiranjeevi in a vintage yet stylish avatar.

The film’s official pooja ceremony is expected to take place

soon in Hyderabad, with several big names from the Telugu film industry likely to attend the event. Reports also suggest that Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor PawanKalyan may grace the launch ceremony, making it a grand celebration for Mega fans.

The combination of Chiranjeevi, Bobby Kolli, and Thaman has already sparked huge excitement on social media. Fans have started discussing possible storylines, dance numbers, and mass elevation scenes, while many are eagerly waiting for the makers to reveal the film’s title, cast details, and first-look poster.

Thaman’s inclusion is seen as a major boost for the project because of his recent track record with commercial entertainers. His background scores have become a key attraction in many star-driven films, often enhancing action sequences and emotional moments with high-energy music.

Industry insiders believe that the makers are aiming to deliver a complete festival entertainer with “Mega158,” combining stylish visuals, memorable music, powerful dialogues, and vintage Chiranjeevi-style mass moments that fans have been eagerly waiting to see on the big screen again.

With the launch event approaching and Thaman officially joining the team, anticipation surrounding “Mega158” has reached a new level, making it one of the most talked-about upcoming projects in Telugu cinema.

Naga Vamsi Drops Exciting “God Of War” Update For Jr NTR Fans

Producer Naga Vamsi has finally given Jr NTR fans a major reason to celebrate by sharing an exciting update about the much-awaited project tentatively titled “God Of War.” The announcement came on the occasion of Jr NTR’s birthday and instantly created huge buzz across social media.

As fans were already celebrating the release of the powerful glimpse from Jr NTR’s upcoming film “Dragon,” Naga Vamsi added to the excitement with a cryptic but thrilling message hinting that “God Of War” is gearing up to begin production soon. Sharing the “Dragon” glimpse online, the producer wrote, “See you on the sets very soon anna,” referring to Jr NTR. The message quickly went viral among fans, who saw it as confirmation that the ambitious project is finally



moving forward.

The film is expected to be directed by Trivikram Srinivas and produced under the Haarikaa&Hassine Creations banner. Ever since the project was first rumored, expectations have remained sky-high because it marks the reunion of Jr NTR and Trivikram after the successful “AravindaSamethaVeeraRaghava.”

What has made the project even more intriguing is its reported mythological backdrop. Earlier hints shared by Naga Vamsi and the production team strongly suggested that the movie could revolve around the concept of a “God of War,” with several symbolic references connected to Lord Karthikeya, also known as Murugan

or Skanda in Hindu mythology. Fans believe the film may present Jr NTR in a never-before-seen mythological action avatar. The latest update has further fueled speculation that the film will be mounted on a massive scale with grand visuals, high-end action sequences, and powerful storytelling. Social media platforms have been flooded with fan theories, posters, and discussions about the possible storyline and Jr NTR’s role.

Meanwhile, Jr NTR’s lineup itself has become a major talking point in the industry. Along with “Dragon,” which is being directed by Prashanth Neel, the actor is also involved in several large-scale pan-Indian projects. Industry observers believe the actor is carefully choosing diverse and larger-than-life roles that can appeal to audiences across the country.

Fans are now eagerly waiting for an official announcement regarding the title, first-look poster, cast details, and shooting schedule of “God Of War.” Many are hoping the makers will soon unveil a formal teaser or concept video to officially launch the project.

With Trivikram’s storytelling style and Jr NTR’s powerful screen presence coming together once again, “God Of War” is already shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu films currently in development.

Meenakshi Chaudhary Reveals “Vrushakarma” Will Feature Many Mythological Characters

Actress Meenakshi Chaudhary has shared an exciting update about her upcoming film “Vrushakarma,” raising curiosity among movie lovers and fans of mythological fantasy dramas. The actress revealed that the film will feature several mythological characters, hinting at a grand cinematic experience filled with fantasy, folklore, and larger-than-life storytelling.

Speaking about the project, Meenakshi described “Vrushakarma” as a unique and ambitious film that blends mythology with strong emotional elements. She explained that the story includes many characters inspired by mythological themes, making the narrative visually rich and dramatically intense. While she avoided revealing major plot details, her comments have already increased anticipation surrounding the film.

The actress also expressed excitement about being part of a project that explores a genre not frequently attempted in Telugu cinema on such a scale. According to her, the film’s world-building and character designs are being handled with great atten-

tion to detail to create an immersive cinematic experience for audiences.

“Vrushakarma” stars Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas in the lead role and is being mounted as a high-budget fantasy entertainer. The film is expected to feature extensive visual effects, elaborate sets, and action sequences inspired by mythological lore. Ever since the project was announced, fans have been eager to know more about its storyline and the kind of characters that will appear in the movie.

Meenakshi Chaudhary, who has been steadily building her presence in Telugu cinema, said the film offers her a refreshing and challenging role. She hinted that audiences will get to see her in a different avatar compared to her previous films. The actress added that working on a fantasy-driven project with mythological elements has been both exciting and creatively satisfying.

The combination of mythology and fantasy has recently gained strong popularity among Indian audiences, especially after the success of visually grand films rooted in ancient legends and folklore. Industry observers believe “Vrushakarma” could appeal to audiences across multiple languages if executed on a large scale with compelling visuals and storytelling.

Social media users have already begun speculating about which mythological characters may appear in the film and whether the story



could be inspired by lesser-known legends from Indian mythology. Fans are also curious about the visual presentation of the movie and the role Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas will portray.

As production progresses, expectations continue to grow for “Vrushakarma,” with many seeing it as one of the more ambitious fantasy projects currently in development in Telugu cinema.

Srinidhi Shetty To Romance Ram Pothineni In His Directorial Debut?

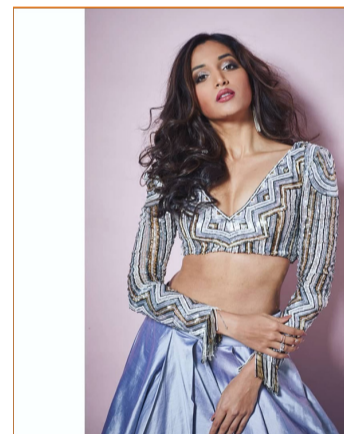
Actress Srinidhi Shetty is reportedly set to play the female lead in Ram Pothineni’s much-talked-about directorial debut, creating fresh excitement among Telugu cinema fans. The project has already generated strong curiosity because it marks Ram stepping behind the camera for the first time while also reportedly playing the lead role.

According to industry buzz, discussions with Srinidhi Shetty have progressed positively, and the actress is expected to come onboard officially soon. Though the makers are yet to make a formal announcement, the news has quickly become a major talking point on social media.

Srinidhi Shetty gained nationwide popularity with the blockbuster “KGF” franchise, where she starred opposite Yash. Her screen presence, glamorous appeal, and strong performances earned her recognition across multiple film industries. Since then, fans have been eager to see her take on more high-profile projects in Telugu cinema.

Meanwhile, Ram Pothineni’s move toward direction has surprised many in the industry. Known primarily for his energetic acting, stylish dance performances, and mass entertainers, Ram is now reportedly preparing to explore filmmaking from behind the camera as well. The project is said to be a youthful entertainer with a fresh narrative and emotionally engaging storytelling.

Sources suggest that Ram has been working on the script for quite some time and is deeply involved in shaping the film’s creative aspects. Fans are excited to see how the actor translates his cinematic sensibilities into direction. Many believe his experience as a performer could help him craft a



commercially appealing entertainer with strong emotional and visual elements.

The pairing of Ram Pothineni and Srinidhi Shetty is also being seen as a fresh on-screen combination. Fans have already started sharing fan-made posters and discussing the chemistry the duo could bring to the film.

Although further details regarding the title, supporting cast, music director, and shooting schedule are still under wraps, expectations surrounding the project are steadily growing. Industry insiders believe the film could begin production later this year after the remaining pre-production work is completed.

The buzz around the movie has become even stronger because actor-directors often attract extra curiosity from audiences eager to see a star present his own creative vision on screen. If finalized, Srinidhi Shetty’s inclusion is expected to add glamour, pan-Indian appeal, and strong market value to the project.

With Ram Pothineni preparing for a new chapter in his career and Srinidhi Shetty likely joining the cast, the untitled film has already become one of the most anticipated upcoming Telugu projects.



Subhati Das

RISING STAR