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Revanth Reddy Calls for Stronger Party Coordination and Focus on SIR

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made several important observations during a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, stressing the need for greater participation of party leaders and public representatives in organizational activities.

The Chief Minister announced that he would personally interact with party workers once every ten days and dedicate three days every month exclusively to engaging with grassroots cadres.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of some legislators, Revanth Reddy remarked that certain MLAs had started behaving like "feudal leaders" after coming to power.



MLAs should undergo proper training on the constructive use of social media platforms.

The Chief Minister also discussed the importance of the SIR (Socio-Economic Information Survey) and said it was encouraging that party leaders were beginning to understand the possible challenges associated with the exercise.

He pointed out that migration in several constituencies may lead to complications in voter verification and warned that eligible voters could lose

their names from electoral rolls if the process is not monitored carefully.

Recalling the Congress digital membership drive, he stated that the party had successfully enrolled nearly 45 lakh members within 90 days with the support of booth-level enrollers.

The Chief Minister instructed party leaders to appoint in-

charges for all 119 Assembly constituencies and 17 Lok Sabha constituencies to oversee the SIR process.

Revanth Reddy also advised party leaders to consult former PCC Presidents and work in coordination at every level.

Former Minister Gade Venkata Reddy Passes Away at 85

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh Minister Gade Venkata Reddy passed away on Friday at his residence in Hyderabad following age-related health complications.

Born on July 10, 1940, in Pavuluru village of Inkollu Mandal in Prakasam district, Gade Venkata Reddy pursued a degree in law before entering politics.

He first entered the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly after winning from the Parchur constituency in the 1967 Assembly elections.

gress party.

Venkata Reddy returned to electoral success by winning a by-election in 1991. He once again emerged victorious from the Parchur constituency in the 1994 Assembly elections.

Later, he represented the Bapatla Assembly constituency and won elections in both 2004 and 2009.

Over his long political career, Gade Venkata Reddy earned recognition as a senior Congress leader and experienced legislator who served the undivided Andhra Pradesh Assembly multiple times.



Mahalakshmi Smart Cards to Modernize Free Bus Travel

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is set to launch the Mahalakshmi Smart Cards on June 2 as part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations.

Initially, the smart card system will be introduced on a pilot basis in one mandal of every district.

The Mahalakshmi free travel



scheme was originally introduced on December 9, 2023, allowing women to travel without charge in RTC buses by producing their Aadhaar cards.

To overcome these issues, the government has now introduced smart cards equipped with advanced digital features.

digitally linked to the beneficiary's Aadhaar information.

With the new system, women passengers will only need to scan the card while boarding the bus, enabling quicker ticket issuance and smoother verification for conductors.

Women interested in obtaining the smart card can apply through MeeSeva centers or TGSRTC bus pass counters by paying a nominal fee of 50.

beneficiaries.

Until the statewide implementation is completed, women can continue availing free travel using Aadhaar cards or any valid government-issued identity proof.

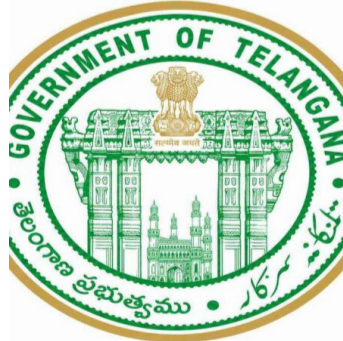
According to government officials, the introduction of Mahalakshmi Smart Cards will help curb misuse of the free travel scheme, reduce dependency on physical identity documents, and strengthen the digitization of TGSRTC services.

Government Clears One Lakh Affordable Flats Under CURE Initiative

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has accorded in-principle approval for the construction of one lakh affordable housing flats under the Low Income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) categories in CURE (Core Urban Region Economy) areas and municipal corporations across the state.

According to the government order, the housing initiative will include the construction of 70,000 flats for the LIG category and 30,000 flats for the MIG category.



housing units within identified CURE areas. Officials stated that the pilot phase would help streamline implementation and assess infrastructure and housing requirements in urban regions.

The government has directed officials to identify suitable government land for the project after ensuring clear ownership titles, compliance with land-use regulations, and feasibility of basic infrastructure such as roads, drainage, electricity, and water supply.

The Telangana Housing Board has also been authorized to conduct demand surveys, issue notifications, and frame operational guidelines for smooth implementation of the scheme.

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According to the government order, the housing initiative will include the construction of 70,000 flats for the LIG category and 30,000 flats for the MIG category.

As part of the initiative, the government has also granted permission to the Telangana

Housing Board to launch a pilot project involving 12,000 housing units within identified CURE areas.

Under the proposed scheme, beneficiaries belonging to the LIG category will receive a subsidy of 5 lakh for each housing unit.

The government has directed officials to identify suitable government land for the project after ensuring clear ownership titles, compliance with land-use regulations, and feasibility of basic infrastructure such as roads, drainage, electricity, and water supply.

Railway Unit to Manufacture 200 Intercity Trains

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy welcomed the Centre's decision to assign the Kazipet Railway Manufacturing Unit (RMU) the responsibility of producing 200 modern intercity trains over the next five years.

Expressing happiness over the development, Kishan Reddy thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for approving the project and extending support to Telangana.

Kishan Reddy explained that the proposed trains would feature 20 modern coaches

equipped with advanced passenger-friendly facilities. These include automatic door-closing systems, enhanced ventilation arrangements, and improved safety features designed to ensure comfortable and secure travel.

The Union Minister further stated that the new intercity trains are expected to run at speeds of up to 130 kilometers per hour, reducing travel time and improving transportation convenience for the public.

Revanth Reddy Calls for Strong Coordination on SIR Process

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy emphasized the need for Congress leaders and party workers to work in close coordination to address issues likely to arise from the SIR process. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, he said it was encouraging that party leaders were gradually understanding the seriousness of the matter and recognizing the possible impact it could have on ordinary citizens, especially weaker sections of society.

The Chief Minister expressed concern that the SIR could particularly affect Lambadis, Adivasis, migrant workers, women, Dalits, and minorities. He noted that in several constituencies, many people had migrated elsewhere for employment and there was a risk of their votes being deleted during the process. He stressed the importance of understanding these challenges thoroughly and preparing solutions in advance to ensure that eligible voters do not lose their voting rights.

Recalling the Congress party's successful digital membership campaign, Revanth Reddy said the party had enrolled nearly 45 lakh members within



90 days through the efforts of Booth Enrollers. He praised the workers who played a major role in the campaign and pointed out that some of them were personally honored by Rahul Gandhi for their outstanding performance. He suggested that the same experi-

enced enrollers should now be effectively utilized for the SIR-related activities as well.

The Chief Minister announced that special In-charges would be appointed for all 119 Assembly constituencies and 17 Lok Sabha constituencies to oversee the process. He

directed the Assembly In-charges to remain actively present in their respective constituencies and closely monitor developments. According to him, if the party machinery functions efficiently, it would be possible to ensure that not a single genuine vote is deleted.

Revanth Reddy further instructed In-charge Ministers to dedicate at least one full day every ten days exclusively for party activities and grassroots interaction. He also stated that he himself would regularly meet party functionaries and spend three days every month focusing solely on organizational matters. The Chief Minister said that all elected representatives, including Ministers, MLAs, MPs, MLCs, Corporation Chairpersons, and local leaders, must actively participate in party programmes. He emphasized that no leader, including himself, would be exempt from organizational responsibilities.

He also called for better coordination among leaders at all levels, stating that only when senior leaders remain connected to grassroots workers can the organization effectively reach booth-level voters. Special responsibilities in Hyderabad would be assigned to Rajya Sabha members and MLCs, while constituency-level and cluster-wise meetings would be organized across Hyderabad under the supervision of the Mahila Congress to spread awareness regarding the SIR process.

18,401 Students Selected for Gurukul Junior Colleges

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman on Friday announced the results of the TGSWRJC CET-2026 at the Secretariat, confirming the selection of 18,401 students in the first phase for admission into Intermediate first-year courses in Social Welfare Gurukul junior colleges across the state.

According to officials, Telangana currently has 229 Social Welfare Gurukul junior colleges offering a total of 19,740 seats in various academic streams, including MPC, BiPC, MEC, CEC, HEC, and vocational courses. This year, 45,357 students applied for admissions, while 39,052 candidates appeared for the entrance examination conducted on the 15th of this month. The minister stated that students who secured seats in the first phase must complete their admission process on or before June 7. He urged students and parents to follow the admission schedule carefully to avoid losing their allotted seats. Highlighting the growing reputation of Gurukul institutions in Telanga-

na, Adluri Laxman said parents and students have developed immense confidence in the quality of education being provided in these residential colleges. He noted that the government is committed to maintaining high academic standards, discipline, and student welfare in all institutions functioning under the Social Welfare Department.

The minister also addressed concerns regarding student safety and hostel management. Referring to earlier incidents of food poisoning reported in some educational institutions, he stated that the government has already initiated corrective measures to ensure such incidents are not repeated in the future. He added that strict action had been taken against those found responsible for negligence in previous cases.

Officials informed that the Gurukul institutions continue to attract a large number of students every year because of their quality education, residential facilities, and focus on helping students from economically weaker sections achieve academic success and secure better career opportunities.

Thummala Calls for Organic Farming, Highlights Telangana's Leadership in Oil Palm Cultivation

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao urged farmers to increasingly adopt organic farming practices, stating that sustainable agriculture is essential for protecting both public health and soil fertility. He made these remarks while participating in the "Organic Mela" organized by HMTV at the HMDA Grounds in Hyderabad. During the event, the Minister visited several stalls displaying organic products and interacted with farmers about cultivation methods, marketing opportunities, and the challenges faced in organic agriculture.

Thummala expressed concern over the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming, saying that

the growing dependence on chemicals was damaging soil health and contaminating food products consumed by the public. According to him, the indiscriminate use of chemicals in pursuit of higher crop yields is gradually reducing the fertility of agricultural land and creating health risks for future generations.

The Minister observed that food grown using chemical-intensive methods is contributing to an increase in various health problems, including serious illnesses. He said organic farming offers a healthier alternative and can help improve both environmental sustainability and human well-being. Stressing the need to promote organic products, he encouraged consumers to directly support farmers practicing

natural farming methods. He added that greater public demand for organic produce would motivate more farmers to shift towards eco-friendly cultivation practices.

Thummala also appealed to farmers not to burn crop residue after harvest. Instead, he advised them to convert agricultural waste into organic manure and compost. Burning crop residue, he said, increases pollution and destroys beneficial microorganisms present in the soil, ultimately affecting long-term productivity.

Meanwhile, the Minister also announced that Telangana has secured the top position in the country in the implementation of the National Mission on Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEOP). Speaking at the National Agriculture Conference-2026

in New Delhi, he said Telangana accounts for nearly 36 percent of the total oil palm cultivation area developed under the national mission between 2021 and 2026.

According to the Minister, oil palm cultivation has expanded across nearly 1.16 lakh hectares in Telangana, with more than 79,000 farmers actively cultivating the crop. He stated that oil palm has emerged as a profitable long-term crop capable of generating annual incomes of 2 lakh to 3 lakh per acre for farmers. The Minister said Telangana's success was made possible through the combined efforts of farmers and government support initiatives.

He explained that the government is providing farmers with quality saplings, drip ir-

rigation subsidies, maintenance support during the initial years, mechanization assistance, and subsidies for harvesting equipment. In addition, the government has strengthened processing infrastructure by establishing oil palm processing mills and constructing new facilities closer to cultivation areas.

Thummala Nageswara Rao said the government plans to further expand oil palm cultivation during the 2026-27 financial year as part of its crop diversification strategy. He emphasized that the initiative would not only increase farmers' incomes but also strengthen rural employment, reduce edible oil imports, and contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural economy.

Ministers Uttam and Jupally to Review Irrigation and Paddy Procurement

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Nalamada Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tourism & Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao will undertake a tour of the combined Mahabubnagar district on Saturday to participate in irrigation development programmes and review paddy procurement operations in the region.

As part of the visit, the ministers will lay the foundation stone for the Ajilapur Lift Irrigation Scheme in Ajilapur village of Devarakadra Mandal. The project, estimated to cost 32.05 crore, is expected to improve irrigation facilities for farmers in the area. The Bhoomi Puja ceremony is scheduled to take place at 3:00 PM.

Following the event, the ministers will travel to the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) at the Mahabubnagar district headquarters, where they will hold a high-level review meeting from 3:50 PM to 5:00 PM with district collectors and Civil Supplies Department officials.

The review meeting will focus on paddy procurement activities across the five districts of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar region, including Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Nagarkurnool, Gadwal, and Wanaparthy. Officials are expected to discuss procurement operations, transportation arrangements, milling procedures, storage capacity, and challenges being faced by farmers during the ongoing



procurement season. The ministers are also expected to issue directions to officials regarding measures needed to ensure smooth procurement and prevent inconvenience to farmers. Special attention will reportedly be given to issues related to warehousing and timely movement of grain to rice mills.

After the review meeting, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao will conduct field inspections of paddy procurement centers, government warehouses, and rice mills located in the district. During the inspection, they will interact directly with farmers, mill owners, and officials to assess the ground-level situation and gather feedback regarding procurement and storage operations.

The visit is aimed at strengthening irrigation infrastructure and ensuring efficient grain procurement management in the combined Mahabubnagar district.

Urban Indiramma Houses to Be Future-Ready: Ponguleti

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Housing, Revenue and Information & Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, said the Telangana government is committed to providing modern, safe, and future-oriented housing facilities for economically weaker sections living in urban areas. He stated that the proposed "Urban Indiramma" housing programme is being designed in accordance with the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to ensure dignified living conditions for poor families without disturbing their livelihoods.

The Minister reviewed prototype housing models during a meeting with officials on Friday following the State Cabinet's approval for construction of one lakh houses in the first phase under the "CURE" (Comprehensive Urban Redevelopment) initiative across 24 Assembly constituencies. During the review, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy examined various proposed designs and suggested several modifications aimed at improving long-term sustainability and convenience for residents.

He directed officials to adopt a future-focused approach while planning the housing projects, keeping in mind the requirements of the next four to five decades. According to the Minister, the initiative should not be limited to con-



struction of houses alone but should include proper infrastructure such as drainage systems, parking facilities, commercial spaces, and other civic amenities that would support the evolving lifestyle needs of urban families.

The Minister also instructed officials to consider constructing buildings up to ten floors wherever necessary, depending on local conditions and land availability. Stressing the importance of comfort and cultural preferences, he advised officials to incorporate Vastu considerations while designing rooms such as halls, kitchens, bedrooms, and bathrooms.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy further emphasized that each

constituency should be treated as a separate unit and that beneficiaries should be allotted houses within their own locality to avoid displacement from workplaces and existing social environments. He also suggested creating adequate space for small commercial establishments and parking facilities within the housing complexes.

The Minister directed officials to finalize the designs after discussions with the Chief Minister and prepare a detailed daily action plan to begin construction work on a large scale. He stated that the Telangana government aims to develop an urban housing model that could become an example for the entire country.

Telangana Government Releases 2,000 Crore Employee Arrears

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has initiated the release of long-pending employee arrears, fulfilling a major assurance given to government employees and pensioners. Acting on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the Finance Department on Friday released 2,000 crore as the first installment towards pending dues.

According to official sources, the government had earlier assured leaders of the Employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC) that arrears amounting to 6,000 crore would be cleared within 100 days. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka had reportedly given a clear commitment regarding the settlement of the dues.

Following the government's decision, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department Sandeep Kumar Sultania issued orders releasing the first phase of funds. With this allocation, the government has fully cleared important pending arrears relating to retired employees.

Officials stated that all General Provident Fund (GPF) arrears have now been completely settled. In addition, all pending commutation arrears up to May 2025 have also been



cleared in full. The government described the release of funds as part of a carefully planned effort to address long-standing financial issues affecting employees and pensioners.

The administration has also indicated that steps are being taken to release the remaining 4,000 crore within the promised timeframe. Officials said the process is being carried out in a phased manner to ensure smooth implementation without financial disruption.

Employee union representatives and retired staff members have welcomed the decision and appreciated the government for acting on its assurance. Several employee organizations expressed satisfaction over the swift release of funds and thanked the government for prioritizing employee welfare and resolving pending financial matters.

Ponnam Seeks Mining Engineering Course

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has written to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy requesting the introduction of a B.Tech course in Mining Engineering at the engineering college established under Satavahana University in Husnabad.

In his letter, the Minister highlighted that North Telangana has a strong presence of coal mining activities through Singareni Collieries Company Limited and that the region has significant relevance in the mining sector. He pointed out that there is increasing demand for qualified mining engineers not only within India but also internationally.

Ponnam Prabhakar stated that opportunities to pursue Mining Engineering in government institutions remain very limited. Due to the high fees charged by private colleges and universities, many talented students from economically weaker backgrounds are unable to study the course despite having interest and capability

The Minister explained that Husnabad and nearby regions are situated close to coal mining operations and related industries, making the proposed course highly relevant for local students. According to him, establishing a Mining Engineering programme in the newly formed engineering college would create better educational and employment opportunities for youth from the region.

He further requested the Chief Minister to sanction the required faculty and supporting staff for the smooth functioning of the proposed course. Ponnam Prabhakar expressed hope that the initiative would help students from rural and financially weaker sections gain access to specialized technical education at an affordable cost.

The Minister emphasized that introducing the programme would not only benefit students from North Telangana but also contribute to producing skilled professionals for the mining sector in the future.



Ponguleti Challenges KTR Over Indiramma Housing Scheme

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy launched a sharp attack on BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) over the issue of housing construction in Telangana, asserting that the Indiramma housing programme itself would serve as a referendum on the Congress government's performance.

The Minister alleged that KTR was avoiding discussion on housing development in villages and was instead focusing only on Hyderabad. He claimed that when challenged specifically on the housing issue in Hyderabad, the BRS leader failed to respond directly and resorted to making baseless remarks.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the Congress government had already begun construction of 4.5 lakh houses in rural areas within just two-and-a-half years of coming to power. He further announced that another 2.5 lakh houses would be launched from June 1. In Hyderabad, he said, the government plans to construct one lakh Indiramma houses in the first phase itself.

The Minister accused KTR and the previous BRS government of making several promises without fulfilling them. Referring to assurances such

as appointing a Dalit Chief Minister and implementing the double-bedroom housing scheme, he questioned whether those promises had ever materialized during the BRS tenure.

He also alleged that the previous government was involved in corruption and irregularities related to Dharani, real estate dealings, and benami transactions. According to him, the people of Telangana were fully aware of how public resources were misused during the ten years of BRS rule.

Ponguleti further claimed that the Congress government had already built three times more houses in villages in two-and-a-half years than what the BRS government achieved over a decade. He challenged KTR to compare the number of houses constructed in Hyderabad under both governments.

Issuing a direct political challenge, the Minister declared that he would contest future elections only if the Congress government succeeded in constructing more houses than the BRS government did during its ten-year tenure. He questioned whether KTR would stay away from elections if the Congress government surpassed the previous administration's housing record.



BJYM Announces Statewide Agitations Over Youth Issues

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Telangana State unit organized a protest program at the Gun Park Martyrs' Memorial in Hyderabad on Friday under the leadership of State President Ganesh Kunde. During the event, party leaders and youth activists paid tribute to the martyrs of the Telangana movement and later staged a protest against the State Government's "Youth Declaration," alleging that it had failed to address the concerns of unemployed youth.

Addressing the gathering, Ganesh Kunde criticized the Congress government, accusing it of neglecting the aspirations of Telangana's youth despite their crucial role in the statehood movement. He alleged that the government had failed to fulfill promises related to employment opportunities, unemployment allowances, and transparent recruitment procedures.

The BJYM leader stated that unemployed youth across Telangana were becoming increasingly frustrated due to delays in job notifications and lack of clarity in recruitment processes. He asserted that the organization would continue its struggle until justice was

delivered to unemployed youth and warned that the Congress government would face strong opposition if it failed to respond to their demands.

Announcing the future course of action, Ganesh Kunde said BJYM would organize statewide round-table meetings with unemployed youth to discuss their issues and mobilize support. He also declared that protest programs would be conducted at Ambedkar statues in every mandal across the state.

As part of its agitation plan, the BJYM also announced protest sit-ins at MLA camp offices, demonstrations in front of district collectorates, and sieging of ministers' offices. The organization further declared that it would launch a "Chalo Telangana Secretariat" campaign to intensify pressure on the government over youth-related issues. Several BJYM leaders and office-bearers participated in the program, including State General Secretaries Gavinolla Harishwar Reddy and Malka Yashasvi, Vice Presidents Praveen Reddy, Sandeep Goud, Nitin, Anita Reddy, Sarath Chandra, and Sainath. District leaders, activists, and a large number of youth workers were also present during the protest.

Harish Rao Alleges Conspiracy to Cut Farmers' Power Supply

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister T. Harish Rao strongly criticized the Congress government over remarks reportedly made before the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) suggesting that farmers require only three hours of electricity supply instead of uninterrupted 24-hour power. He alleged that the comments exposed the true intentions of the Revanth Reddy government toward Telangana's farming community.

Reacting sharply to the statements made by Farmers' Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, Harish Rao claimed that the remarks were not merely personal opinions but reflected the actual mindset of the Congress leadership. He accused the government of using the proposed "Rythu DISCOM" as a cover to gradually reduce the existing 24-hour free power supply provided to farmers.

Harish Rao said only those unfamiliar with agriculture and the hardships faced by farmers could claim that three hours of power supply was sufficient. He pointed out that farmers depend heavily on borewells and uninterrupted electricity to protect crops and sustain agricultural activities. According to him, the previous BRS government had trans-



formed Telangana into a model state in agriculture by ensuring round-the-clock, high-quality free power supply to farmers.

The BRS leader alleged that the Congress government was systematically weakening support systems for farmers. He accused the government of failing to properly implement the farm loan waiver, weakening the Rythu Bandhu investment support scheme, neglecting fertilizer supply, and mishandling crop procurement operations. He further claimed that farmers were being pushed into distress due to delays and administrative failures.

Questioning the intention behind the proposed DISCOM changes, Harish Rao alleged that the government was planning power cuts under the pretext of reforms in the electricity sector. He stated that farmers across Telangana were carefully observing the government's actions and warned that the farming community would respond strongly against what he described as anti-farmer policies.

He asserted that the Congress government would eventually face public backlash if it attempted to interfere with the 24-hour power supply system introduced during the BRS administration.

Government Giving Top Priority to Farmers: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the State Government is giving utmost importance to the agriculture sector and is taking all necessary measures to ensure smooth procurement operations for farmers across Telangana. Addressing a media conference at the Secretariat along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Thummala Nageswara Rao, and Azharuddin, he criticized the opposition parties for attempting to politicize farmers' issues.

The Minister alleged that leaders of the BRS themselves were admitting that farmer protests would not attract public support unless party workers participated in large numbers. He claimed that the BRS leadership was encouraging its cadre to intensify protests and create unrest under the guise of supporting farmers.

Ponnam Prabhakar said that, unlike the opposition, the Congress government was directly working with farmers at procurement centers. He noted that Ministers, MLAs, and Market Committee Chairpersons were personally visiting procurement centers and supervising operations to ensure



farmers do not face inconvenience while selling their grain.

Taking a swipe at BJP leaders, the Minister remarked that instead of organizing a "Rythu Ghosha Yatra," they should launch a "Petrol Ghosha Yatra" in Delhi to protest rising fuel prices. He also pointed out that the supply of urea falls under the responsibility of the Central Government and urged BJP Union Ministers and MPs to ensure adequate fertilizer availability during the monsoon season.

He emphasized that fertilizers must be supplied according to farmers' actual requirements to prevent shortages

during the cultivation period. According to the Minister, the current "Praja Palana" government has prioritized agriculture more than any previous administration.

Ponnam Prabhakar further stated that grain procurement centers were functioning on a larger scale than ever before in the state. He explained that officials and staff were being deployed on roads and at procurement points to coordinate vehicle movement and ensure the uninterrupted transportation of grain from procurement centers to rice mills without delays or logistical problems.

BJP Will Emerge as Strong Alternative in Telangana: Ramchander Rao

Suryapet, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao addressed party workers during the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Abhiyan held in Suryapet and called upon BJP cadre to work with dedication, discipline, and a spirit of service. Appreciating the participation of workers despite the intense summer heat, he said the training programme was designed to strengthen ideological commitment, organizational values, and public service among party members.

Recalling the early struggles of the BJP, Ramchander Rao said party workers once travelled on bicycles from village to village to spread awareness about the BJP when the party had very little political presence. He stated that the BJP's current rise across the country was built on the sacrifices and hard work of committed karyakartas who worked selflessly over the years.

He highlighted the party's growth in Telangana, mentioning that the BJP now has eight MPs and eight MLAs in the state. According to him, the people of Telangana are increasingly looking toward the BJP after becoming disappointed with both the BRS and Congress governments. He expressed confidence that the BJP would form the next government in Telangana under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Launching an attack on the Congress government, Ramchander Rao alleged that it functions as a "commission-driven

party" and accused it of neglecting farmers, especially in paddy procurement. He claimed that farmers in Suryapet and nearby districts were facing serious difficulties and alleged that the state government responded only after the BJP launched its "Rythu Gosa-BJP Bharosa Yatra." He demanded that the government immediately procure every grain from farmers and ensure fair prices.

The BJP leader also accused both Congress and BRS of misleading people by claiming that the Centre had ignored Telangana. He listed several projects initiated by the Modi government, including national highways, free rice distribution, development of Warangal Airport, Ramagundam Fertilizer Factory revival, Warangal Textile Park, and industrial growth in Zaheerabad.

Referring to Congress politics, Ramchander Rao alleged that the party changed its narrative according to vote-bank considerations. He criticized Congress leaders for invoking the name of NTR ahead of GHMC elections and stated that the party had no moral authority to speak about the late leader, who, according to him, entered politics opposing Congress policies.

He further stated that while Congress talks about OBC empowerment, it had removed its only OBC Chief Minister in the past. Concluding his speech, Ramchander Rao urged BJP workers to take the message of development, nationalism, and good governance to every household in Telangana.



Kavitha Slams Proposed Rythu DISCOM, Calls It a Threat to Farmers

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

TRS leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha strongly opposed the proposed "Rythu DISCOM" during a public hearing conducted by the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC), alleging that the government was conspiring against Telangana's farmers under the guise of reforms in the power sector. She described the proposal as a dangerous move that could severely damage agriculture and warned the government against repeating mistakes that could trigger unrest similar to the 1999 firing incident.

Kavitha questioned why the proposal had been kept secret for months if it was genuinely intended for the welfare of farmers. She stated that the is-

sue surfaced only because of the ERC and not through voluntary disclosure by the government. According to her, the farming community was never consulted, nor was the matter discussed in the Legislative Assembly.

Highlighting Telangana's agricultural growth after state formation, Kavitha said nearly 29 lakh borewells were installed by farmers and that investments worth 1 lakh crore in the power sector during the previous BRS government had transformed agriculture. She noted that grain production in Telangana had risen from 20 lakh tonnes to 1.4 crore tonnes due to uninterrupted power supply and irrigation support.

She expressed concern that

transferring 42 percent of the electricity load to a new DISCOM would create operational and financial complications. Kavitha alleged that the existing DISCOMs were already burdened with huge losses and unpaid dues from the government itself. She warned that the new system could lead to delays in transformer repairs, manpower shortages, and eventually pave the way for privatization and installation of meters on agricultural pump sets.

Demanding an all-party meeting and district-level public hearings, Kavitha urged the ERC to reject the proposal, stating that it would endanger the future of Telangana's farmers and the agricultural sector.



Praja Palana Aims to Create One Crore Women Millionaires: MLA Sri Ganesh

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh stated that the Telangana government is working with the goal of transforming one crore women into financially empowered entrepreneurs under the Praja Palana initiative. He made these remarks while participating in the "99-Day Praja Palana Progress Plan" programme organized at Picket Cantonment Park.

During the event, the MLA distributed bank loan sanction cheques to women entrepreneurs who secured financial assistance with government support. He also handed over "Indiramma Saarees" to eligible beneficiaries as part of the welfare initiative introduced by the state government.

Addressing the gathering, Sri Ganesh said the present Congress government is focusing strongly on women's economic empowerment and self-reliance. He alleged that during the previous BRS administration, women received only small loans that were in-

sufficient for starting businesses or generating sustainable income. According to him, many women were forced to use those limited funds for household expenses instead of entrepreneurial activities.

The MLA stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Praja Palana government has taken special measures to ensure that women receive larger loans and better financial support to establish businesses and become economically independent.

Sri Ganesh emphasized that the government's vision is not limited to welfare schemes alone but extends to creating long-term opportunities for women to grow as entrepreneurs and achieve financial stability. He said the administration is committed to encouraging women in every sector and helping them improve their livelihoods through self-employment and business initiatives. Officials, beneficiaries, and local public representatives participated in the programme.



Transport Workers Warn of Massive Protest Over Fuel Price Hike

Mallapur, May 29 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Trade Union has threatened to intensify its agitation if the prices of petrol, diesel, CNG, and LPG are not brought down immediately. Speaking during a protest held at Mallapur crossroads in Hyderabad, union president Vemula Marayya warned that the workers would lay siege to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's residence if the government failed to respond to their demands. As part of the protest, transport workers and auto drivers staged a symbolic demonstration by pulling rickshaws and wearing black badges to highlight the hardships caused by the increasing fuel prices. The protesters expressed concern that the rising cost of fuel was severely affect-

ing the livelihoods of transport workers and daily wage earners. Addressing the gathering, Marayya criticized both the Central and State governments for ignoring the struggles of workers despite frequently speaking about the country's development and technological progress. He stated that the poor condition of transport workers reflected the failure of the authorities to address basic economic issues. Leaders of the Auto Workers' Union who participated in the demonstration demanded an immediate rollback of the fuel price hikes. They cautioned that if the governments remained indifferent, the unions would launch a large-scale agitation across the state. A large number of auto workers joined the protest in support of the demands.



Fire Mishap at Mechanic Shed Creates Panic

Quthbullapur, May 29 | TPN Bureau

A fire broke out at a car mechanic shed located on Pipeline Road opposite Thirumala Wines under the Jeedimetla Police Station limits on Friday, triggering panic among local residents. Thick smoke rising from the shed caused fear in nearby residential areas and commercial establishments. According to local sources, flames suddenly erupted inside the mechanic shed, prompting residents and shopkeepers to rush out of their homes and workplaces. The shed is situated close to apartment buildings and shops, which increased concerns of the fire spreading further. After receiving information about the incident, fire department personnel from Jeedimetla immediately reached the spot and

launched firefighting operations. Their swift response helped contain the blaze before it could spread to nearby structures. Preliminary reports indicate that the fire may have been caused due to a short circuit. In the incident, one car parked inside the mechanic shed was completely destroyed in the flames. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported. Locals appreciated the timely action taken by the fire department, stating that a major disaster was narrowly avoided because of their quick intervention. Jeedimetla police officials also visited the scene soon after the incident. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire and assess the extent of the damage.

Chamala Kiran Reddy Defends Rythu DISCOM at ERC Hearing

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated in the public hearing conducted by the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC) and defended the State Government's proposal to establish a "Rythu DISCOM." He stated that the initiative was aimed at improving the quality of power supply to farmers and strengthening the state's power distribution system.

Addressing the hearing, the MP accused opposition parties, particularly the BRS, of spreading misinformation and creating unnecessary fear among farmers regarding the proposed DISCOM. According to him, the government's objective is to improve the functioning of electricity distribution companies and ensure efficient services for the agricultural sector.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy pointed out that the financial and operational condition of the DISCOMs had deteriorated significantly during the previous BRS government. He said that at the time Telangana was formed in 2014, NPDCL ranked ninth nationally, but had now fallen to 54th position. Similarly, SPDCIL, which held the 16th rank in 2014, had slipped to 42nd position.



The MP also highlighted the sharp rise in electricity-related debt, stating that outstanding debt had increased from 1,595 crore in 2014 to nearly 31,698 crore at present. He questioned how such massive liabilities accumulated during the BRS administration and alleged that the power sector had weakened considerably over the past decade.

Defending the use of smart meters, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy clarified that they were intended to prevent misuse of electricity and improve accountability in the system. He asserted that farmers should not be branded as electricity thieves merely because billing reforms were being discussed.

He further stated that the concept of smart meters was not new and reminded that the previous BRS government had itself signed an agreement with the Union Ministry of Power regarding smart meters in 2017.

The Congress MP said that unlike the previous government, which allegedly took decisions without public consultation, the current administration was discussing the matter openly through ERC hearings involving all stakeholders. He accused BRS leaders, including Kalvakuntla Kavitha, of making misleading statements to create confusion among farmers and obstruct the government's efforts.

Aakash Institution Felicitates Tenth Topper Sahasra

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Gopagoni Sahasra, a student from Manikonda in Hyderabad, has earned appreciation for her outstanding performance in the Class 10 examinations. Proving that dedication and perseverance lead to success, Sahasra achieved remarkable results and brought pride to her family and school through her academic excellence. Sahasra, a student of Sri Gayatri E-Tech School, secured an impressive 575 marks out of 600 and achieved a perfect GPA of 10. She also stood second in her school, earning recognition for her exceptional performance despite facing limited resources and difficult circumstances. In recognition of her achievement, Aakash Educational Institution in Sun City, Hyderabad, organized a special felicitation ceremony to honor her success. The institution's management invited Sahasra and appreciated her hard work and determination. Director Dr. Surya Kala Reddy personally presented her with a cer-



tificate of appreciation and a medal, congratulating her on her remarkable accomplishment and encouraging her to continue striving for greater success in the future. Speaking on the occasion, Sahasra expressed heartfelt gratitude to her parents and teachers for their continuous support and encouragement throughout her academic journey. She stated that the recognition would

motivate her to work even harder and achieve bigger goals in the coming years. Her parents expressed immense happiness over her achievement and said they were proud to see their daughter excel through dedication and discipline. The felicitation program inspired students and highlighted the importance of hard work and determination in achieving academic success.

Zonal Commissioner Reviews Drainage and Sanitation Problems

Quthbullapur, May 29 | TPN Bureau

As part of the "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika" 99-day special drive launched by the Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner, Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar, IAS, conducted a field inspection in the Landmark-2 area of Bowrampet on Thursday to assess drainage-related problems and sanitation conditions. During the visit, he instructed officials to speed up the pending works required to permanently address the drainage issues troubling residents in the locality. The Commissioner also directed civic staff to maintain cleanliness across the area by ensuring regular sanitation activities. He stressed the need for immediate removal of weeds growing along roadsides and ordered officials to clear Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste dumped on streets without delay. Emphasizing the importance of a clean environment, he instructed municipal teams to take all necessary steps to keep the surroundings hygienic and litter-free.

As part of the ongoing "Swachh Survekshan" campaign, officials were asked to create awareness among residents regarding segregation of



wet and dry waste. Door-to-door awareness programs were suggested to encourage households to properly dispose of garbage through the "Swachh Autos" visiting residential areas for waste collection.

Pinkesh Kumar also issued a strict warning to commercial establishments, hotels, and shops regarding sanitation norms. He stated that installing dustbins on their premises is mandatory and warned that businesses violating the rules would face penalties. He further cautioned that the "No Bin - No License" policy would be strictly implemented against non-compliant establishments. Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Manikaran, Deputy Engineers Anvesh Reddy and Papamma, Assistant Engineers Surender Naik and Ashok, Environment Engineer P. Satvik, SFA representatives, and municipal staff participated in the inspection program.



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla Receives Warm Welcome

Asifabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla arrived at the Asifabad Integrated District Office Complex (IDOC) helipad by helicopter on Friday.

Upon his arrival, the Governor was warmly welcomed by District Collector K. Haritha, Superintendent of Police Nitya Pant, Asifabad MLA Kova Laxmi, and Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu. Senior district officials and police personnel were also present during the reception.

Following the welcome ceremony, the Governor proceeded to the Integrated District Office Complex, where he was accorded a ceremonial Police Guard of Honor by the district police administration. The event was conducted with official protocol and security arrangements in place. The Governor's visit drew the attention of local officials and public representatives, who gathered at the venue to receive him and participate in the formal proceedings.



Information Commission Officials Meet Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

The Chief Commissioner and Commissioners of the Telangana State Information Commission paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence in Hyderabad.

During the meeting, the officials briefed the Chief Minister on the functioning and activities of the State Information Commission related to the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The interaction took place on the occasion of the commissioners

completing one year in their respective positions within the Commission.

Those who met the Chief Minister included State Chief Information Commissioner G. Chandrasekhar Reddy and Information Commissioners P.V. Srinivas, Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy, and Deshala Bhupal.

The delegation reportedly discussed the progress of RTI-related activities, administrative functioning of the Commission, and measures being undertaken to strengthen transparency and public access to information in the state.

Congress to Strengthen Booth-Level Monitoring for SIR Process

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the Congress party has decided to strengthen booth-level monitoring across Telangana in response to concerns surrounding the ongoing SIR process. Speaking at a media conference held at Gandhi Bhavan following a PAC meeting, he announced that the party had already appointed 34,000 Polling Station Committees to oversee activities at the grassroots level.

The Minister alleged that the BJP was pursuing the SIR process with political motives and claimed that the Election Commission was functioning in a manner favorable to the BJP. He said the Congress party was closely monitoring developments and taking necessary steps to protect the voting rights of citizens.

Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the party had decided to treat every polling booth as a separate unit during the scrutiny process to ensure that no genuine voter faces difficulties. According to him, people across the state were express-



ing concerns and apprehensions regarding the SIR exercise, making it essential for the party to remain alert and organized at the booth level.

He announced that Booth Level Agents (BLAs) across all 119 Assembly constituencies would be provided training within the next ten days. The training programme, he said, is intended to equip party representatives with the knowledge required to assist voters and address issues arising during the scrutiny process. The Minister emphasized

that the Congress party considers the initiative part of its constitutional responsibility to safeguard democratic rights. He said the party was committed to ensuring that every eligible citizen retains the right to vote without facing unnecessary obstacles.

Ponnam Prabhakar added that the Congress leadership was actively working to create awareness among the public and party workers regarding the importance of voter protection and constitutional rights during the SIR process.

Collector Reviews Arrangements for Telangana Formation Day Celebrations

Medak, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Medak District Collector Prathima Singh directed officials to make elaborate arrangements for the Telangana Formation Day celebrations scheduled to be held on June 2 at the Collectorate premises. She stated that the celebrations should be conducted in a grand manner with proper coordination among all government departments.

On Friday, accompanied by Additional District Collector Nagesh, the Collector inspected the preparations being made near the Telangana Thali statue located within the Collectorate campus. During the inspection, she reviewed various arrangements related to the official celebrations and instructed departments to work collectively to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.

Prathima Singh emphasized that special attention should be given to sanitation and cleanliness around the Collectorate premises ahead of the National Flag hoisting ceremony to be

held on Telangana Formation Day. She directed officials to ensure that the surroundings remain clean and properly maintained throughout the celebrations.

The Collector also instructed officials to distribute invitations to public representatives, dignitaries, prominent citizens, and invited guests in advance. She further directed the concerned departments to arrange seating galleries for dignitaries, media personnel, and attendees in accordance with official protocol guidelines.

Officials were asked to ensure that all logistical arrangements, including stage setup, public seating, security measures, and other facilities, are completed well before the event date to avoid any inconvenience during the celebrations.

Collectorate Administrative Officer Yunus, District Public Relations Officer Ramachandra Raju, and other officials participated in the inspection and reviewed the preparations along with the District Collector.

Farmers Allege Negligence at Procurement Centre

Siddipet, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Farmers at the Thirumala Cotton Mill premises in Daulatabad Mandal of Siddipet district have expressed deep frustration over the alleged negligence of officials and delays in paddy procurement operations. The affected farmers claim they have been waiting at the procurement point for the past four days without proper facilities, while their paddy sacks remain unloaded and unweighed.

According to the farmers, the absence of basic amenities such as drinking water has added to their hardships. Several farmers alleged that they were forced to remain at the site for days, in some cases even without proper meals, while awaiting the procurement process to begin. They accused the authorities of failing to monitor the situation effectively despite repeated complaints.

The farmers further alleged irregularities in the weighing process being carried out at the

rice mill operating within the cotton mill premises. They claimed that instead of recording the standard weight, the mill management was allegedly manipulating measurements and registering 43 to 44 kilograms per quintal, causing financial losses to the farmers.

When questioned about these discrepancies, the farmers alleged that the mill operators responded aggressively rather than addressing their concerns. They stated that the ongoing delays and alleged malpractice have left them distressed and uncertain about receiving fair compensation for their produce.

The farmers criticized the district administration for not responding despite their prolonged wait at the procurement centre. They appealed to the concerned officials and the government to intervene immediately, ensure proper weighing procedures, and expedite the unloading and procurement of their paddy stocks without further delay.

Assistant Agriculture Officer Dies by Suicide

Nalgonda, May 29 | TPN Bureau

An assistant agriculture officer allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Urumadla village of Chityal mandal in Nalgonda district, police said on Friday. The deceased was identified as Guntoju Balaraju, aged 38, who was serving in Kethappally mandal.

According to preliminary information provided by the police, Balaraju was reportedly facing severe financial difficulties and was allegedly under pressure from private money lenders and chit fund agents over repayment of loans. Family members informed the police that he had been mentally distressed for some time due to repeated demands for repayment.

Police stated that Balaraju was unable to cope with the mounting pressure, which is suspected to have driven him to take the extreme step. Following the incident, authorities registered a case and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death. Officials said they are examining allegations made by the family regarding harassment by private lenders and chit fund agents. Police are also collecting statements from relatives and others connected to the case as part of the investigation.

The incident has created shock and grief among local residents and colleagues in the agriculture department. Further investigation is underway.

Nara Lokesh Offers Prayers at Sholingur Yoga Narasimha Swamy Temple

Sholingur, May 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh visited the Amrutavalli Thayar Yoga Narasimha Swamy temple in Sholingur, Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu, and offered prayers seeking the blessings of Yoga Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy.

On his arrival in Sholingur this morning, Nara Lokesh was accorded a grand welcome by local officials and public representatives. He later reached the hilltop temple via ropeway and performed special prayers to Yoga Narasimha Swamy. Vedic

scholars conducted Vedashirvanam and blessed the Minister, who was also presented with a traditional shawl and teertha prasadam. Nara Lokesh also visited the Sri Yoga Anjaneya Swamy temple located on a nearby hill. He climbed 420 steps on foot to offer prayers and seek blessings at the shrine. Temple authorities presented him with teertha prasadam after the rituals. During the visit, Nara Lokesh interacted with devotees and greeted them warmly along the route. The temple visit was conducted amid devotional activities and traditional ceremonies performed by priests.

CEO Reviews SIR-2026 Electoral Roll Revision Through Video Conference

Kothagudem, May 29 | TPN Bureau

State Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy conducted a video conference from Hyderabad on Friday with election officials from all districts regarding the SIR-2026 Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls programme.

District Collector Ankit participated in the meeting from the IDOC Camp Office, while Additional Collector Venugolu attended from the IDOC Office. Officials reviewed the progress of the ongoing electoral roll revision process and discussed measures for ensuring accuracy in voter

registration.

Addressing the officials, the Chief Electoral Officer stated that transparent and error-free electoral rolls form the backbone of a strong democratic system. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that every eligible citizen is included in the voter list while removing the names of ineligible entries through a systematic verification process.

He informed that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are currently conducting door-to-door visits to distribute and collect enumeration forms from voters. In addition to field-level verification, the Election Commission has also introduced an

online facility through its integrated network, enabling voters to submit and update their details digitally. C. Sudarshan Reddy directed district officials to closely monitor the implementation of the Special Summary Revision programme and ensure that the process is carried out effectively at the grassroots level. He instructed the officials to take all necessary steps to avoid omissions of eligible voters and maintain accurate electoral records. Officials participating in the programme included Kothagudem RDO Madhu, Election Superintendent Ranga Prasad, and other election department personnel.



Collector Urges Farmers Not to Burn Paddy Stubble

Nalgonda, May 29 | TPN Bureau

District Collector B. Chandrashekar has appealed to farmers not to burn paddy stubble after harvesting crops, stating that the practice causes serious environmental and agricultural damage. On Friday, after receiving information that stubble was being burned in fields at Giraka Bavi Gudem near the Nalgonda district headquarters, the Collector visited the area and interacted directly with farmers.

During the visit, the Collector explained that burning paddy residue reduces soil fertility and affects the quality of farmland. He said that once the stubble is burned, the soil loses its natural texture and does not loosen properly even after plowing, which ultimately impacts crop productivity and yields. He also pointed out that the smoke generated from burning stubble contributes significantly to air pollution and creates visibility problems for motorists traveling on nearby roads.

Chandrashekar further warned that fires from burning crop residue could easily spread to nearby trees, agricultural equipment, and sur-

rounding properties, potentially causing major losses. Referring to recent incidents in the district, he said some accidents linked to stubble burning had even resulted in loss of life. Keeping these dangers in mind, he urged farmers to completely avoid the practice.

The Collector noted that the Agriculture Department is actively conducting awareness campaigns to educate farmers about the harmful effects of stubble burning and to encourage alternative methods of disposal and field management.

District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Power also addressed the farmers during the visit. He emphasized that burning paddy stubble damages the ecological balance and weakens soil fertility over time. The SP cautioned that strict action would be taken against individuals responsible for accidents caused by such activities and warned that police cases would be registered if negligence resulted in harm or property damage.

District Agriculture Officer Shraavan and other officials accompanied the District Collector and SP during the inspection visit.

Jagadish Reddy Alleges Conspiracy Against Students and Farmers

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former minister Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy strongly criticized the Congress government during an induction programme held at Telangana Bhavan, where student leader Kommanaboina Saidulu from the Nakrekal constituency joined the BRS party. Jagadish Reddy welcomed him into the party by draping the pink BRS scarf over his shoulders.

Addressing party workers and supporters, Jagadish Reddy said students had historically played a crucial role in major Telangana movements, including the 1969 agitation and the later phase of the statehood struggle. He alleged that the Congress government had betrayed students after making several promises to them during elections.

The former minister also accused the government of suppressing student protests in Ashok Nagar by imposing Section 144 and alleged that the Congress leadership feared student movements. He further criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over issues relating to Gurukulam students and the education sector.

Jagadish Reddy claimed that



the government was attempting to weaken welfare schemes introduced during the BRS regime, especially free electricity for farmers and free drinking water initiatives. He alleged that the proposed new DISCOM structure was part of a larger plan to introduce power meters for agricultural pump sets and eventually burden farmers with electricity charges.

He further alleged that the government intended to separate revenue-generating power distribution systems and move towards privatization in the electricity sector. Raising concerns about manpower shortages, he questioned how a limited workforce could manage maintenance for millions of consumers and transformers under the proposed system.

The BRS leader also accused the Congress government of attempting to impose additional charges through smart meters and abandoning welfare measures such as fee reimbursement. Calling upon party workers to continue their struggle, Jagadish Reddy urged supporters to work towards bringing BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao back to power in Telangana.

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OU Student Leader Demands Removal of NTR Statue

Hyderabad, May 29 | TPN Bureau

OU Student JAC leader T.K. Shivaprasad demanded the immediate removal of the NTR statue installed in Ameerpet, alleging that it hurts the sentiments and self-respect of Telangana supporters. Addressing a gathering near the OU Arts College, Shivaprasad stated that Telangana state was achieved through the sacrifices of countless people who fought for the separate state movement. He said that even after more than a decade since the formation of Telangana,

forces opposed to the spirit of the movement still continue to exist within the state.

He questioned the decision to install the statue of N. T. Rama Rao while overlooking prominent Telangana ideologues and leaders such as Konda Laxman Babuji and K. Jayashankar, who played key roles in the Telangana movement. According to him, several personalities who dedicated their lives to the Telangana cause deserved greater recognition. Shivaprasad alleged that the installation of the statue was carried out with political motives and claimed it was

an insult to Telangana activists and the aspirations of the movement. He demanded that the government clarify the reasons behind erecting the statue in Ameerpet. The student leader warned that if the statue is not removed immediately, students and youth organizations would intensify their agitation. He stated that protest programmes similar to the historic "Million March" could be launched in the coming days. Several student leaders and activists reportedly participated in the meeting held near Osmania University Arts College.

Officials Must Ensure Swift Resolution of Public Grievances: Joint Collector Megha Swaroop

East Godavari, May 29, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop on Friday instructed officials to handle public grievances with utmost responsibility and ensure their speedy resolution through thorough field-level inquiries and effective inter-departmental coordination.

Addressing the second week of the special Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme held at the Kovvur Revenue Divisional Officer's office in East Godavari district, the Joint Collector emphasized that no issue is without a solution.

She urged officials to approach every petition with sincerity, accountability, and a commitment to resolving problems at the grassroots level.

Megha Swaroop stated that the main aim of conducting constituency-level special PGRS camps is to resolve issues locally, preventing citizens from running from one office to another. She directed that if any grievance cannot be resolved immediately, the reasons for the delay must be communicated to the petitioner in writing to maintain transparency.

Kovvur MLA Muppidi Venkateswara Rao, who participated in

the programme, noted that many people are forced to visit multiple offices including Tahsildar, MPDO, RDO, and even the Collectorate for grievance redressal. He said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has given top priority to the effective resolution of public issues and called upon officials to avoid mechanical endorsements without properly understanding citizens' problems.

The MLA stressed the need for direct field inspections to resolve issues related to drainage, revenue disputes, and other local matters efficiently. He revealed that around 70 petitions were received in the first

week, with notices issued in several cases, while 34 fresh petitions were submitted during the second week. He directed officials to achieve 100 percent resolution by the third week of the special programme. RDO K. Ananda Rao assured that officials from various departments are working in coordination to provide solutions at the local level itself and emphasized the importance of detailed field verification.

District Development Officer K. Ratna Kumari, APD (DWMA) Rama Prasad, Tahsildars, MPDOs, and other senior officials attended the programme.

Seasonal Respiratory Care Vital for Lung Protection Across the Year

Respiratory diseases remain one of the leading health concerns globally, and seasonal changes significantly influence lung health. Variations in temperature, humidity, pollution levels, and viral circulation during summer, monsoon, and winter can worsen respiratory illnesses and increase the risk of hospitalisation.

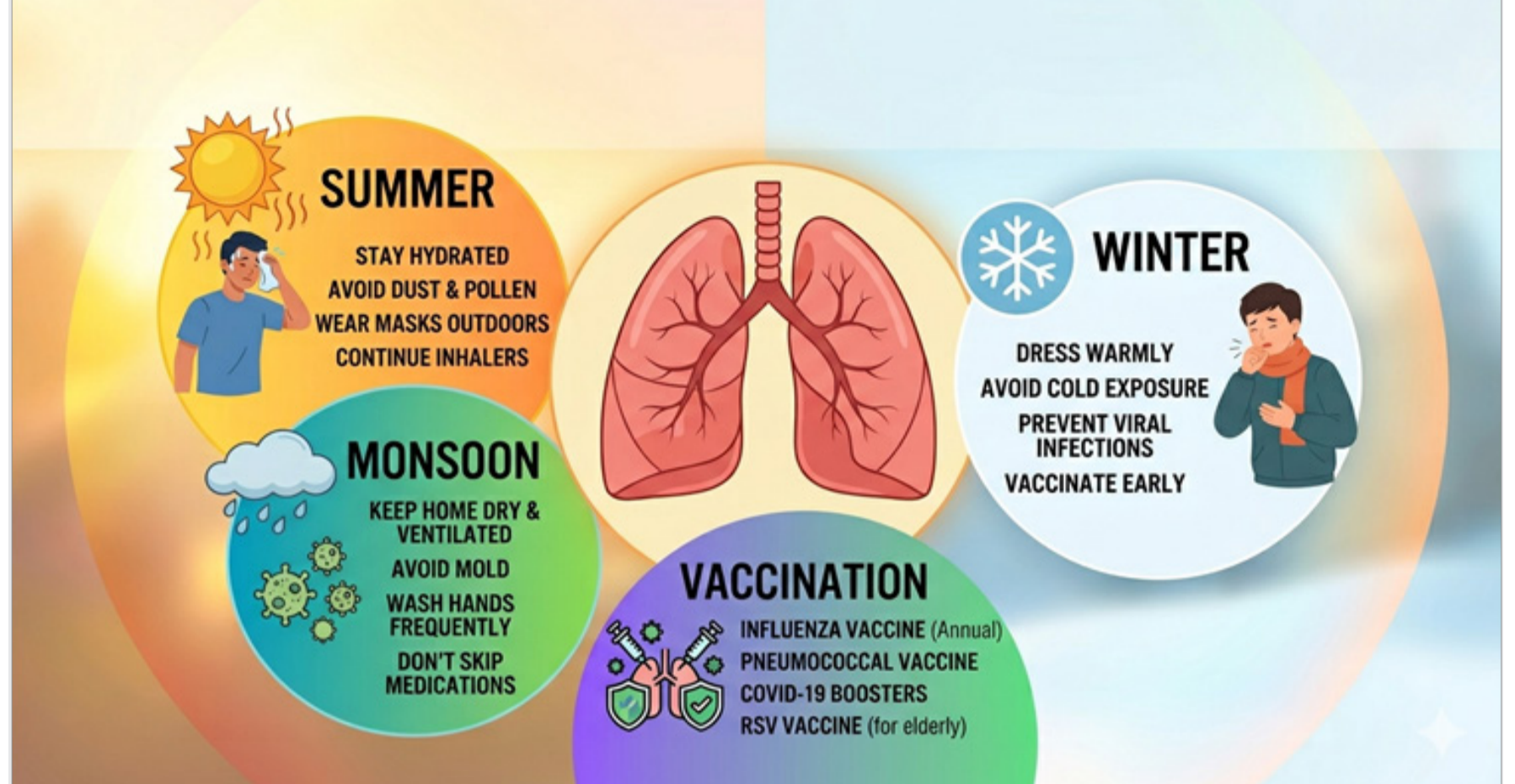
Patients suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), bronchiectasis, post-tuberculosis lung disease, interstitial lung disease, allergic airway disorders, and elderly individuals with reduced immunity are particularly vulnerable during seasonal transitions. Timely preventive care, lifestyle modification, and vaccination remain essential tools to protect respiratory health and avoid complications.

During the summer season, rising temperatures combined with dust exposure, air pollution, pollen circulation, and dehydration can adversely affect the respiratory system. Common risks include increased exposure to dust and pollutants, allergic asthma flare-ups due to pollen, heat-induced breathing difficulty, dehydration leading to thickened airway secretions, and worsening breathlessness in elderly patients. High-risk groups include asthma and COPD patients, smokers, outdoor workers, elderly individuals, and those on oxygen therapy. Preventive measures such as maintaining hydration, avoiding outdoor exposure during peak heat hours, wearing masks in dusty areas, regular use of prescribed inhalers, avoiding smoke exposure, staying in cool ventilated environments, and seeking early medical attention for worsening symptoms are essential. Asthma patients often experience increased wheezing during summer, and strict inhaler adherence is critical to prevent severe exacerbations.

The rainy season presents additional challenges due to high humidity, which promotes the growth of mould, fungi, and respiratory viruses. This increases the risk of viral respiratory infections, mould and fungal allergies, asthma attacks, secondary bacterial pneumonia, sinusitis, and allergic rhinitis. Children, elderly individuals, diabetic patients, chronic lung disease patients, and immunocompromised persons are at higher risk. Preventive strategies include keeping homes dry and well ventilated, avoiding damp indoor environments, cleaning mould-prone areas, maintaining hand hygiene, avoiding crowded enclosed spaces during outbreaks, and ensuring adequate nutrition and sleep. Preventive respiratory medications should not be discontinued even in symptom-free periods.

Winter remains the most critical season for respiratory disease patients. Cold weather leads to airway narrowing, increased mucus production, and enhanced transmission of viral infections such as influenza and RSV. Common conditions include influenza, pneumonia, viral bronchitis, severe asthma attacks, COPD exacerbations, and pollution-related respiratory illness. High-risk groups include COPD patients, severe asthma patients, elderly individuals above 60 years, diabetic and heart disease patients, smokers, and those with weakened immunity. Preventive measures include avoiding sudden cold exposure, using protective clothing such as scarves or masks, continuing

prescribed medications without interruption, avoiding indoor smoke exposure, maintaining indoor physical activity, and seeking immediate care for worsening symptoms. Timely vaccination before winter is strongly recommended. Vaccination is one of the most effective preventive strategies to reduce severe respiratory infections and hospitalisations. The influenza vaccine is recommended for adults above 50 years, asthma and COPD patients, diabetic patients, heart disease patients, pregnant women, healthcare workers,



and immunocompromised individuals, as it reduces severe infection and prevents hospitalisation. The pneumococcal vaccine is advised for adults above 65 years, chronic lung disease patients, smokers, diabetic patients, and those with chronic heart or kidney disease to prevent pneumonia and bloodstream infections. The COVID-19 vaccine continues to protect elderly individuals, chronic disease patients, healthcare workers, and immunocompromised groups from severe lung complications and ICU admissions. The RSV vaccine is also recommended for

adults above 60 years, chronic lung disease patients, and immunocompromised individuals to prevent severe respiratory viral infections. General respiratory health recommendations include complete avoidance of smoking and tobacco exposure, regular exercise based on health condition, maintaining ideal body weight, adequate sleep and nutrition, correct inhaler technique, periodic lung health evaluation when indicated, use of masks in polluted environments, and early consultation for persistent respiratory symptoms.

In conclusion, seasonal changes have a profound impact on respiratory health, particularly among vulnerable populations such as chronic lung disease patients and the elderly. Awareness of seasonal risks, adherence to prescribed therapy, preventive lifestyle measures, and timely vaccination can significantly reduce complications and improve quality of life. As respiratory diseases continue to rise alongside increasing pollution levels, preventive respiratory care must be prioritised as an essential public health measure.

Dr. Karthik Tipparapu
Consultant Interventional Pulmonologist



Dr. Karthik Tipparapu
Consultant Interventional Pulmonologist



200 Years of Hindi Journalism Legacy

'Hindi Journalism Day' is being celebrated today

Two centuries ago, most newspapers in India were published in English, Bengali, or Persian. Hindi-speaking people had little access to journalism in their native language. Recognising this gap, Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla from Kanpur took the initiative in 1826 to establish the first Hindi newspaper. He launched a weekly publication from Kolkata titled "Udant Martand" (The Rising Sun) on 30 May 1826. This historic milestone is commemorated annually as "Hindi Journalism Day." The day honours the contribution of Hindi journalists, reporters, editors, photographers, and field correspondents who work tirelessly to bring news to the masses. The theme reflects the journey of Hindi journalism from traditional print knowledge systems to the age of artificial intelligence, highlighting the impact of the digital revolution on media.

Though Udant Martand had to be discontinued after 79 issues due to financial constraints and limited readership, it laid the foundation for Hindi journalism in India.

This pioneering effort by Shukla marked the beginning of a powerful media movement. Over the decades, Hindi newspapers expanded significantly in reach and influence, bringing news into households across the Hindi-speaking regions and beyond. Language in journalism is not only a medium of communication but also a bridge that connects people emotionally and culturally. Hindi journalism has played a vital role in creating awareness on civic rights, healthcare, elections, education, current affairs, politics, and social issues among both rural and urban populations.

From a single publication in 1826, Hindi print media has grown into a vast network. Newspapers such as Dainik Jagran, Amar Ujala, Hindustan, and Rajasthan Patrika now reach millions of readers daily across metros, towns, and rural areas. With the expansion of electronic media in the 1990s, Hindi television news channels such as Aaj Tak, ABP News, Zee News, and News18 India gained widespread popularity due to their accessibility and reach. In recent years, Hindi digital platforms, news por-

tals, YouTube channels, and mobile applications have further expanded the audience base, catering to readers and viewers who prefer consuming news in Hindi.

Hindi Journalism Day is observed through lectures, debates, award ceremonies, and panel discussions organised by media institutions, press clubs, and universities. Students, journalists, and educators participate in discussions on the evolution of Hindi media and its future in the digital era. The celebration also highlights the growing importance of regional language journalism in India's democratic and information ecosystem.



Prof. Madhusudan Reddy Burra

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Freedom of the Press or Freedom Under Control? Part-4 Freedom of the Press in India Navigating Law, Regulation, and Editorial Independence

A Legal Examination of India's Media Law Framework (From Legal Forum):
Commercial Influence and Editorial Bias

Economic and political pressures can subtly distort media coverage. News organisations dependent on advertising revenue or corporate financing may prioritise commercially attractive or editorially partial narratives over balanced public-interest reporting. This represents a structural threat to genuine press freedom, one that operates through incentive rather than legal coercion. In S.P. Gupta v. President of India, the Court emphasised that editorial independence is meaningful only where the press is free from the influence of both government and powerful private interests.

Recommendations for Press Freedom

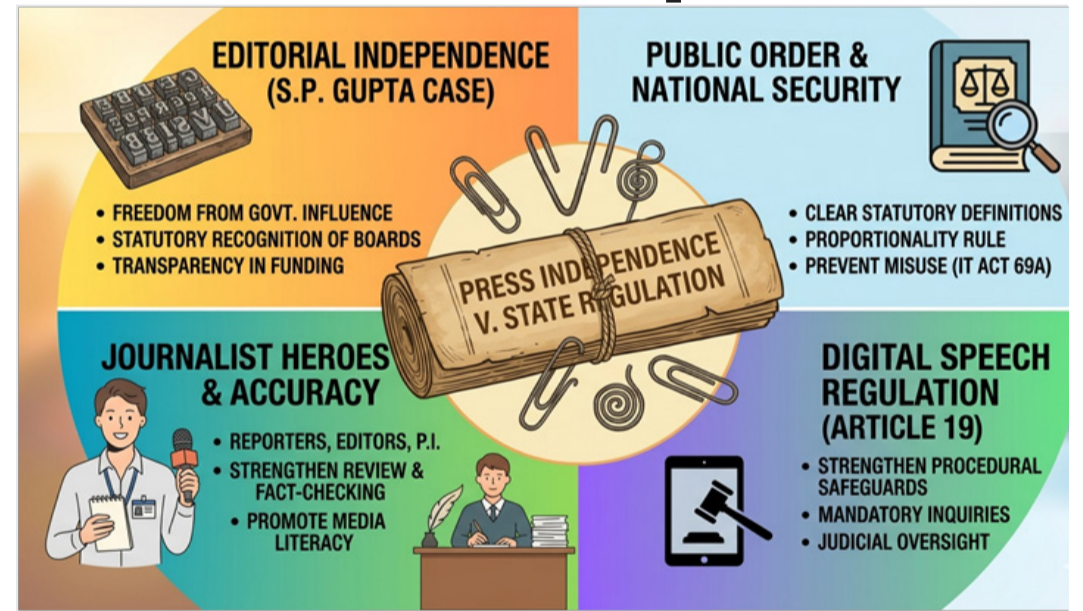
Strengthen Procedural Safeguards in Digital Speech Regulation

Arbitrary arrests or content blocks undermine constitutional guarantees under Article 19(1)(a). Implementing mandatory preliminary inquiries ensures Article 19(2) compliance, balancing State interest and individual rights. Digital laws such as IT Act Section 69A require codified notice-and-hearing mechanisms. This would reduce the chilling effects on journalists and intermediaries, and judicial oversight would prevent misuse of enforcement powers.

Enhance Accuracy Standards

Misinformation threatens public trust and harms individuals. Strengthening editorial review and independent fact-checking aligns with Section 79 safe harbour obligations. Courts in Rajeve Kumar v. Union of India emphasise proportionality in addressing false reporting. Accurate reporting safeguards democracy while protecting reputations.

Clarify Scope of Public Order and National Security Limitations



Broad provisions in the IT Act Section 69A risk overreach. Clear statutory definitions of "public order" and "national security" are needed. Judicial review ensures proportionality; clarification prevents misuse and arbitrary suppression of critical reporting. Balanced laws protect State interests without undermining press freedom.

Protect Editorial Independence and Reduce Commercial Bias

Economic or political pressures can distort reporting. Statutory recognition of autonomous editorial boards and transparency in funding would mitigate bias. Courts in S.P. Gupta v. President of India stress editorial freedom as essential to meaningful press liberty. Legal safeguards must complement ethical codes, preserving media credibility and public trust.

Institutionalize Transparency in Takedown Mechanisms

Opaque administrative take-downs threaten lawful expression. Public disclosure of reasons and timelines enhances accountability. Independent appellate mechanisms should allow challenges to orders under IT Act Section 69A. Trans-

parency reduces misuse while maintaining the executive's capacity to address genuinely harmful content.

Promote Media Literacy and Ethical Journalism

Law alone cannot prevent the abuse of press freedom. Media literacy programmes cultivate critical news consumption. Statutory or professional ethical codes guide responsible reporting on sensitive issues. Collaboration between regulators, civil society, and academia enhances compliance. Educated citizens and ethical journalists reinforce the democratic purpose of press freedom.

Closing Reflections

The development of press freedom jurisprudence in India reflects a consistent judicial effort to protect free expression while recognizing that some degree of regulation is inevitable in a diverse and complex society. Article 19(1)(a) has been interpreted generously to safeguard editorial independence, curb indirect forms of censorship, and affirm the role of the press as a public watchdog. Simultaneously, legislative measures in criminal law, broadcasting regulation, and digital media governance reflect the State's con-

cern with issues such as misinformation, public order, and protection of reputation. Yet recent regulatory approaches, particularly in the digital media space, have raised serious questions about executive dominance and the resulting chilling effect on journalistic work. Courts have therefore stressed that any restriction on press freedom must be precise, proportionate, and open to judicial review. For the future, a balanced and rights-oriented framework, rooted in transparency and informed by international free speech standards, is essential to preserve a free, responsible, and democratic media ecosystem.



Pokkuluri Subba Rao

Veteran Journalist

After Leadership Truce, Karnataka Cabinet Reshuffle Emerges as Congress' Next Big Challenge



The Congress party in Karnataka appears to have temporarily overcome its leadership tensions between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, but a cabinet reshuffle is now emerging as the next major challenge for the ruling party.

For months, speculation over a possible power-sharing arrangement and leadership change created uncertainty within the Karnataka Congress. Supporters of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar frequently engaged in public displays of loyalty, fuelling ru-

mours about internal rivalry. However, recent developments and statements from party leaders suggest that the Congress high command has managed to stabilise the situation for now.

With the leadership issue temporarily under control, attention has shifted toward an anticipated cabinet reorganisation. Several Congress MLAs and senior leaders are reportedly unhappy over not receiving ministerial positions, while some existing ministers are facing criticism over their performance and administrative handling.

Party insiders suggest the

Congress leadership is under pressure to strike a careful balance between regional representation, caste equations, and factional interests while planning any cabinet expansion or reshuffle. The process is considered politically sensitive because even minor changes could trigger dissatisfaction among leaders who feel sidelined.

The Congress government in Karnataka has been attempting to project unity after its strong victory in the Assembly elections. However, managing ambitions within the party remains a difficult task, especially given the presence of multiple influential leaders with strong support bases.

Sources indicate that the party high command is closely monitoring the political situation and may take decisions only after extensive consultations with Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, and other senior state leaders. The leadership reportedly wants to avoid any

move that could create fresh instability or internal rebellion.

The cabinet reshuffle discussion has also gained importance because the Congress is preparing for future electoral battles, including local body elections and upcoming national political campaigns. Strengthening governance and improving coordination within the government are being viewed as essential priorities.

Political analysts believe the Congress leadership faces a delicate challenge — maintaining unity while also accommodating aspirants seeking greater representation in the government. Any perceived imbalance in cabinet appointments could potentially revive factional tensions within the state unit.

For now, the party appears focused on presenting a united front, but the handling of the cabinet reshuffle may ultimately determine how effectively the Karnataka Congress manages its internal power dynamics in the months ahead.

BJP to Launch Massive Gujarat Campaign Marking PM Modi's 12 Years in Office



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is preparing to launch a large-scale public outreach campaign in Gujarat to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 12 years in office. The campaign is expected to highlight the Centre's achievements, welfare schemes, infrastructure growth, and economic reforms implemented during Modi's tenure.

According to party sources, the campaign will involve extensive public meetings, rallies, exhibitions, and social outreach programmes across Gujarat. BJP leaders and workers are expected to directly connect with people at the grassroots level to showcase the government's development initiatives and achievements over the past decade.

The programme is being planned on a massive scale because Gujarat holds special political significance for Prime Minister Modi, who served as the state's Chief Minister before becoming Prime Minister in 2014. BJP leaders reportedly view the campaign as an opportunity to strengthen public engagement and reinforce the party's political base in the state.

The outreach drive is likely to focus on major central government schemes related to housing, healthcare, digital infrastructure, rural development, women empowerment, and economic growth. Party leaders are also expected to highlight India's rising global profile, infrastructure expansion, and

progress in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, and renewable energy under Modi's leadership.

Senior BJP leaders, Union ministers, MPs, MLAs, and party workers are expected to participate in the campaign activities across districts and constituencies. Special programmes may also be organised to interact with beneficiaries of government welfare schemes and highlight success stories linked to central initiatives.

Sources indicate that the BJP plans to use both physical events and digital campaigns to maximise outreach. Social media, video presentations, public exhibitions, and door-to-door campaigns are expected to form part of the strategy to connect with voters across urban and rural regions.

The campaign comes at a politically important time as parties across the country prepare for upcoming state elections and future national political battles. Analysts believe the BJP is aiming to consolidate

support by projecting continuity, governance stability, and development-focused leadership under Prime Minister Modi.

Party leaders have repeatedly described Modi's tenure as a period marked by major reforms, welfare expansion, infrastructure growth, and stronger international positioning for India. The campaign is expected to prominently feature these themes while countering criticism from opposition parties on issues such as inflation, unemployment, and social tensions.

Political observers believe Gujarat will once again serve as a key symbolic and strategic centre for the BJP's messaging because of its long association with Prime Minister Modi's political journey.

With large-scale preparations reportedly underway, the BJP's Gujarat campaign is expected to become one of the party's biggest public outreach exercises this year, combining political mobilisation with promotion of the government's achievements over the last 12 years.

Growing Dissent in Trinamool Raises Questions Over Mamata Banerjee's Leadership Style

Signs of internal dissatisfaction within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) are becoming increasingly visible, with growing criticism and unrest among party leaders raising fresh questions about the leadership approach of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Recent political developments suggest that sections within the party are unhappy over organisational decisions, candidate selection, and the concentration of power within a small leadership circle. Reports indicate that several leaders and workers have privately expressed frustration over what they see as limited internal consultation and lack of

space for dissent within the party structure.

Despite the emerging signs of revolt, political observers believe there has been little visible introspection from the top leadership. Critics argue that instead of addressing internal concerns directly, the party leadership appears more focused on maintaining strict control and projecting unity in public.

The unrest within the TMC comes at a politically sensitive time as the party prepares for future electoral challenges in West Bengal and at the national level. Opposition parties have attempted to capitalise on these tensions, claiming the growing dissatisfaction reflects deeper

structural issues within the ruling party.

Some analysts believe the concentration of decision-making authority around Mamata Banerjee and a select group of close aides has contributed to the frustration among leaders who feel politically sidelined. At the same time, supporters of the Chief Minister argue that strong central leadership has been one of the key reasons behind the party's electoral success over the years.

Political experts note that internal dissent is not unusual in large regional parties, especially after long periods in power. However, they believe the way the TMC leadership handles the current discontent could in-



fluence the party's organisational strength and public image in the coming months.

For now, Mamata Banerjee continues to remain the undisputed face of the Trinamool Congress, but the growing signs of unrest suggest that managing internal unity may become one of the party's biggest political challenges ahead.

Supreme Court Demands Accountability in NEET Paper Leak Case, Calls It 'Traumatic' for Students



The Supreme Court has strongly criticised the handling of the NEET-UG paper leak controversy, saying the incident has caused severe emotional distress to lakhs of students and their families. Hearing a batch of petitions related to the case, the apex court stressed that accountability must be fixed and those responsible should face strict action.

A bench of Justices P S Nar-

asimha and Alok Aradhe observed that repeated paper leak incidents damage the credibility of India's examination system and deeply affect young aspirants who spend years preparing for highly competitive exams like NEET. The court described the situation as "very traumatic" for students and said authorities cannot allow such failures to continue.

The Supreme Court also expressed disappointment with the National Testing Agency (NTA), remarking that it was unfortunate the agency had not learned lessons from previous controversies involving examination leaks and irregularities. The court sought details from the Centre and the NTA on the steps being taken to make the examination process secure and fool-proof in

the future.

During the hearing, the Centre and the NTA informed the court that several reforms and enhanced security measures are being introduced for the NEET re-examination. These reportedly include stronger digital security systems, stricter monitoring, better handling of question papers, and greater coordination with law enforcement agencies.

Petitions filed before the court have also demanded major reforms in the examination system, including restructuring the NTA, shifting towards computer-based testing, and establishing stronger oversight mechanisms. Several student groups and medical associations have argued that repeated leaks reflect a deeper systemic failure in the conduct of national-level examinations.

The controversy has triggered nationwide anger because NEET is one of India's most important entrance examinations for medical admissions, with lakhs of students competing every year for limited seats. Many aspirants and parents fear that repeated leaks and irregularities undermine merit and fairness in the education system.

The Supreme Court is expected to continue monitoring the matter closely as investigations and reform discussions progress.

Vande Mataram' Row Becomes First Major Controversy for Kerala's New Congress Government



The newly formed Congress-

led government in Kerala has landed in its first major political controversy after a debate erupted over the rendition of the full version of "Vande Mataram" during an official function. The issue has triggered sharp reactions from political parties, raising fresh questions over nationalism, secularism, and political symbolism in the state.

The controversy began during the swearing-in ceremony of the new UDF government led by Chief Minister V D Satheesan, where the complete version of "Vande Mataram" was reportedly played. The CPI(M) criticised the move, arguing that singing the full version of the national song is not appropriate in a pluralistic

and secular society.

Left leaders pointed out that historically, only selected portions of "Vande Mataram" were officially accepted for public functions because some verses are seen as carrying religious overtones. The CPI(M) claimed that even the Congress Working Committee had earlier supported limiting the song to approved portions in order to maintain inclusiveness in a diverse society.

The BJP strongly attacked the Left parties over the criticism, accusing them of insulting the national song for political reasons and minority appeasement. BJP leaders defended the full rendition and argued that "Vande Mataram" remains a symbol of India's freedom struggle and national

pride.

Meanwhile, the Congress government attempted to distance itself from the controversy. Chief Minister V D Satheesan reportedly said the government was unaware that the entire version of the song would be played during the ceremony and that the arrangements were handled separately.

Political observers believe the controversy reflects Kerala's sensitive political environment, where debates around secularism, nationalism, and cultural identity frequently become major political flashpoints. The row has now become the first significant challenge for the new Congress government as it begins its tenure in the state.

India's Insolvency Framework Gets Stronger With New IBC Reforms

India's insolvency resolution system has seen major improvements since the introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. The law created a structured, creditor-driven, and time-bound framework for resolving financially stressed companies, replacing the earlier fragmented system that often caused long delays and uncertainty.

Before the IBC, insolvency matters were handled through multiple overlapping laws and

institutions, leading to prolonged litigation, falling asset values, and poor recovery for lenders. To address these challenges, the government introduced the IBC as a comprehensive reform covering companies, partnership firms, and individuals under a single framework.

One of the biggest changes brought by the IBC was the shift from a debtor-controlled system to a creditor-driven resolution process. The law focuses on recovering value, reviv-

ing viable businesses, and balancing the interests of all stakeholders.

At the centre of the framework is the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), where a Committee of Creditors evaluates and approves resolution plans for distressed companies. The process is designed to be completed within 180 days, extendable up to 330 days in exceptional cases.

The IBC has significantly improved recovery outcomes in the banking and corporate sec-

tors. As of March 2026, creditors reportedly recovered nearly Rs 4.32 lakh crore through approved resolution plans.

To further improve efficiency, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2026 introduced reforms aimed at reducing delays, strengthening creditor oversight, and improving operational clarity. Experts believe these changes will further boost investor confidence and strengthen India's business environment.

Supreme Court Says Voluntary Sex Workers Cannot Be Treated as Criminals

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that adult women who voluntarily engage in sex work should not be treated as criminals. The court stated that police cannot harass, detain, or file cases against consenting adult sex workers solely because of their profession. At the same time, the apex court directed authorities to take strict action against human trafficking networks that force women and children into prostitution.

The judgment is being seen as a major step toward protecting the dignity and constitutional rights of sex workers, many of whom have long faced discrimination, social stigma, and police harassment. The Supreme Court emphasized that Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees every person the right to

live with dignity, and this protection equally applies to sex workers.

The court clarified that adults who voluntarily choose sex work should not be treated in the same way as trafficking victims who are forced into prostitution through coercion or deception. It observed that during police raids, authorities often fail to distinguish between the two, leading to unnecessary harassment of voluntary sex workers.

The bench also issued strict directions regarding privacy and dignity. It ordered that photographs or videos of rescued individuals must not be shared with the media and warned media organizations against revealing the identities of victims. According to the court, such exposure can cause lifelong social

stigma and psychological trauma.

Another important aspect of the ruling relates to children of sex workers. The court stated that a child cannot be separated from the mother merely because she is a sex worker, provided the child is being properly cared for.

The Supreme Court also directed governments and authorities to issue Aadhaar cards and identity documents to sex workers even if they lack proof of residence, enabling them to access welfare schemes, healthcare, banking, and social security benefits.

Legal experts believe the verdict sends a clear message — voluntary sex workers deserve dignity and equal rights, while human traffickers must face strict punishment under the law.

Donald Trump's Face on a \$250 Bill? Viral Proposal Sparks Debate in US

A proposal to place former US President Donald Trump's image on a new \$250 currency note has triggered intense debate across the United States, drawing strong reactions from political supporters, critics, and constitutional experts.

The discussion gained momentum after Republican Congressman Joe Wilson announced plans to introduce legislation supporting the creation of a \$250 bill featuring Trump's portrait. Wilson argued that the former president's economic policies and political influence justify the move, describing Trump as one of the most impactful leaders in modern American history.

The proposal quickly went viral on social media, with supporters celebrating the idea while opponents criticised it as politically motivated and unrealistic. Many users mocked the concept online, while others questioned whether such a cur-

rency note could legally be introduced under existing US laws.

Under current American law, living individuals cannot appear on US currency. Federal regulations traditionally allow only deceased historical figures to be featured on banknotes and coins. This means any attempt to place Donald Trump on official US currency would likely require significant legal and legislative changes.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was also drawn into the discussion as reports highlighted that the Treasury Department would play a key role if any such proposal moved forward. However, financial experts believe the chances of the plan becoming reality remain extremely low.

The idea nevertheless generated massive political discussion because it reflects Trump's continuing influence within the Republican Party and among his

supporters. Since leaving office, Trump has remained one of the most dominant figures in American politics and continues to shape national political conversations ahead of the upcoming presidential election cycle.

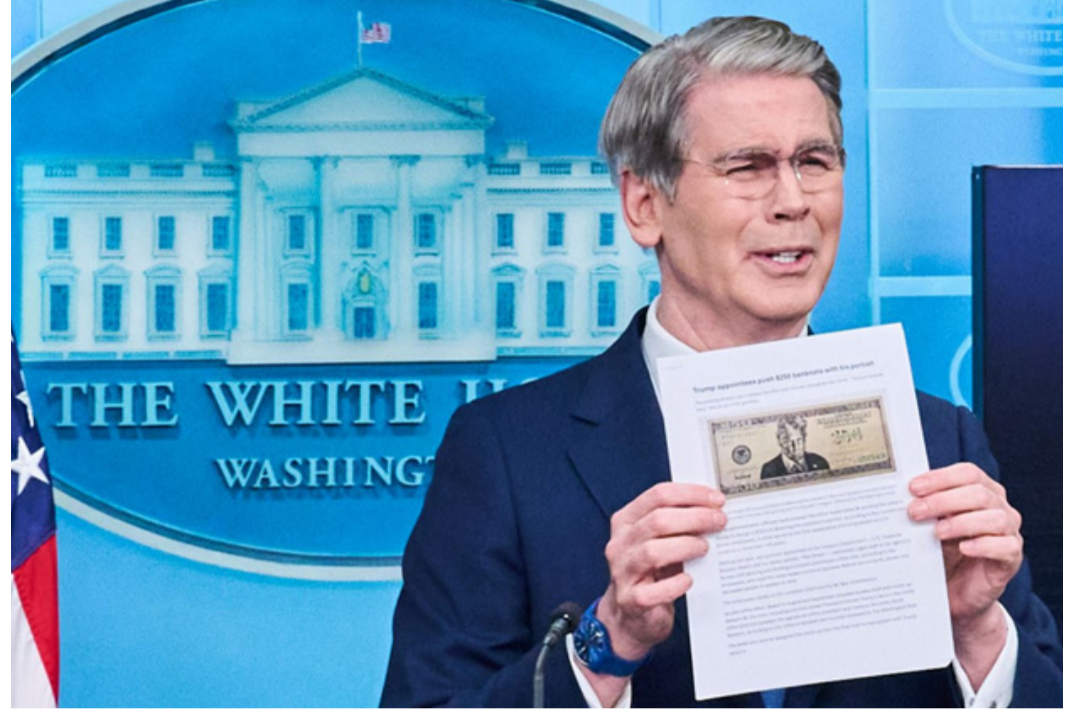
Social media reactions to the proposed \$250 note were sharply divided. Trump supporters argued that several US presidents have been honoured on currency and that Trump deserves similar recognition for his impact on the country's economy and politics. Critics, however, accused Republicans of turning politics into personality worship.

Several online users also joked about inflation and rising living costs in the United States, sarcastically claiming that Americans might soon need a \$250 note due to increasing prices. Memes and edited images of the proposed currency spread rapidly across platforms including X and Instagram.

Economists and historians pointed out that introducing a new high-value currency denomination would itself be a major decision for the US government. The highest denomination currently circulated in the US is the \$100 bill, although larger denominations existed historically before being discontinued decades ago.

Political analysts believe the proposal is unlikely to advance beyond symbolic political messaging. Still, the controversy demonstrates how deeply polarising Donald Trump remains in American public life, even years after his presidency.

Whether viewed as a serious legislative idea or simply a political statement aimed at energising supporters, the suggestion of placing Trump on a \$250 bill has once again placed the former president at the centre of national debate and internet attention.



UN Adds Israel to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Blacklist for First Time, Russia Also Included



The United Nations has added Israel to its blacklist of parties accused of conflict-related sexual violence for the first time, placing it alongside Russia, Hamas, and several armed groups already named in the annual report. The decision has triggered strong diplomatic reactions and intensified global debate over allegations of abuse during ongoing conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine.

The blacklist forms part of the UN Secretary-General's annual report on conflict-related sexual violence, which identifies governments, military forces, and armed organisations suspected of involvement in rape or other forms of sexual abuse during armed conflicts. The latest report reportedly documents a sharp rise in verified cases across multiple war zones during 2025.

According to the report, Israeli armed and security forces were included due to allegations involving Palestinian detainees held in prisons, detention facilities, and military centres. The UN said it documented patterns of abuse including rape, forced nudity, invasive searches, threats of sexual violence, and physical assaults against detainees from Gaza and the West Bank. Russia was also added to the

blacklist for the first time over allegations involving prisoners of war and civilians detained during the war in Ukraine. The report reportedly verified hundreds of cases of sexual violence linked to Russian-controlled areas, with many victims said to be male detainees and prisoners.

Israel reacted angrily to the decision, with Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon calling the move "political" and disconnected from reality. Israeli officials argued that the government had responded to allegations and provided information to the UN, accusing the organisation of bias against Israel. Reports also stated that Israel's Foreign Ministry announced the suspension of ties with UN Secretary-General António Guterres following the development.

Russia also rejected the accusations and criticised the UN report. Russian officials claimed the allegations were politically motivated and accused the organisation of unfairly targeting Moscow amid the Ukraine conflict.

Hamas remains on the blacklist following allegations linked to the October 7 attacks on Israel in 2023. Previous UN investigations had reported evidence suggesting conflict-

related sexual violence during the attacks, though some details remain disputed and difficult to independently verify.

The inclusion of Israel is being viewed as a highly significant diplomatic development because it marks the first time Israeli entities have appeared on the UN's conflict-related sexual violence blacklist since the reporting mechanism was established more than 15 years ago. Analysts believe the move could increase international pressure on Israel and deepen tensions between the Israeli government and the United Nations.

Human rights groups say the report reflects growing international concern over allegations of abuse in conflict zones worldwide. At the same time, critics argue that such blacklists often become politically contentious because governments frequently reject accusations and question the credibility of investigations.

The controversy has once again highlighted how allegations of sexual violence are becoming a major focus in international conflict monitoring, with the UN increasingly attempting to hold both state and non-state actors accountable through public reporting and diplomatic pressure.

Iran Unveils New Air Defence System After Claiming to Down US MQ-9 Reaper Drone



Iran has claimed that it successfully shot down a US MQ-9 Reaper drone using a newly developed air defence system called Arash-e Kamangir, drawing global attention to Tehran's evolving military capabilities amid rising tensions in the Middle East.

According to Iranian media reports, the drone interception took place near Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important maritime routes. Iranian authorities described the operation as the first combat use of the newly introduced system and called it a warning to hostile aircraft operating close to Iranian airspace and maritime borders.

The incident comes at a time of heightened military tensions in the region, with reports of fresh strikes and retaliatory attacks involving Iran, the United States, and allied forces. The reported downing of the MQ-9 Reaper has intensified discussions among

defence analysts regarding the effectiveness of Iran's domestic air defence technology.

Iranian officials claim the Arash-e Kamangir system possesses "stealth-detection capabilities" and is specifically designed to intercept drones and hostile aerial targets. However, Tehran has not officially disclosed detailed technical specifications about the system, leading to widespread speculation among military experts.

The name Arash-e Kamangir comes from Persian mythology and refers to "Arash the Archer," a legendary figure believed to have defended Iran's borders by firing a symbolic arrow that marked territorial boundaries. Analysts believe the naming carries strong nationalistic and symbolic messaging linked to Iran's military posture.

Experts suggest the system reflects Iran's growing focus on mobile, low-cost, and rapidly deployable air defence

platforms rather than relying solely on large fixed missile batteries. Unlike traditional systems, these newer interceptor platforms are reportedly easier to conceal, relocate, and replace, making them more resilient during conflict situations.

Military analysts also believe such systems may be designed to counter slow-moving drones like the MQ-9 Reaper, which are highly effective for surveillance and targeted strikes but can become vulnerable to short-range interception systems if detected.

The MQ-9 Reaper is among the most advanced unmanned aerial vehicles used by the United States military for intelligence gathering, surveillance, and combat missions. The drone has been widely deployed in conflict zones across the Middle East and other regions due to its long endurance and strike capabilities.

While Iran's claim has generated major international at-

tention, there has been no independent verification from US authorities regarding the reported drone interception. Defence experts caution that the exact details surrounding the incident remain unclear.

Nevertheless, the development highlights the growing importance of drone warfare and counter-drone systems in modern military strategy. Across the world, countries are increasingly investing in mobile air defence technologies, anti-drone weapons, and electronic warfare systems as unmanned aerial threats continue to evolve.

The reported use of Arash-e Kamangir also signals Iran's determination to demonstrate that its military capabilities remain operational despite years of sanctions, regional conflict, and external pressure. As tensions continue in the Gulf region, the incident is expected to fuel further debate over the future of aerial warfare and defence technology.

Israeli Strikes in Gaza Continue Ahead of Eid Amid Rising Death Toll



The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to worsen as fresh Israeli airstrikes reportedly killed and injured several Palestinians ahead of Eid celebrations, deepening fears among civilians already struggling through months of conflict and displacement.

According to reports, Israeli attacks targeted multiple areas across the Gaza Strip, including residential neighborhoods and crowded civilian zones. Medical officials and local authorities stated that many of the victims included women and children, while several others suffered serious injuries during the latest wave of bombardment.

The strikes come at a time when thousands of Palestinian families were preparing for Eid under extremely difficult conditions. Many residents in Gaza have been displaced multiple

times since the conflict escalated, forcing families to live in temporary shelters, damaged buildings, or overcrowded camps with limited access to food, water, electricity, and healthcare.

Witnesses described scenes of panic and destruction as explosions were heard across different parts of Gaza overnight. Rescue workers and medical teams reportedly faced major challenges in reaching affected areas due to damaged infrastructure and shortages of emergency resources.

Israeli authorities have continued military operations in Gaza, stating that the campaign is aimed at targeting Hamas militants and dismantling militant infrastructure. However, international organisations and humanitarian agencies have repeatedly expressed concern over the growing civilian death toll

and worsening humanitarian conditions in the region.

The ongoing conflict has triggered mounting global criticism and diplomatic pressure, with several countries and international bodies calling for an immediate ceasefire and increased humanitarian aid access. Human rights groups have warned that the situation in Gaza is reaching catastrophic levels as hospitals struggle to function and essential supplies remain critically low.

The approaching Eid festival has further highlighted the emotional and humanitarian impact of the war. For many Palestinian families, what is traditionally a time of prayer, celebration, and family gatherings has instead become a period marked by fear, grief, and uncertainty.

Children in Gaza have been among the worst affected by the

conflict, with aid organisations warning about severe psychological trauma, hunger, and lack of medical care. Several humanitarian groups say the long-term impact on civilians, especially young children, could remain devastating even after the violence ends.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement continue, though no major breakthrough has yet been achieved. Regional mediators and international leaders remain engaged in negotiations aimed at reducing tensions and preventing further escalation.

As the conflict enters another critical phase, civilians in Gaza continue to bear the heaviest burden of the ongoing violence, with hopes for peace and stability remaining uncertain amid relentless fighting and growing humanitarian distress.

Sensex Tanks 1,092 Points, Nifty Slips Below 23,550 Amid Massive Market Sell-Off

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Friday as benchmark indices ended deep in the red amid heavy selling pressure in auto, metal, and oil & gas stocks. The BSE Sensex plunged 1,092 points to close below the psychologically important 77,000 mark, while the NSE Nifty slipped beneath 23,550, reflecting weak investor sentiment across sectors.

The market decline was largely driven by concerns over global economic uncertainty, rising crude oil prices, and continued foreign institutional investor (FII) selling. Weakness in Asian and European markets also added pressure on domestic equities, triggering broad-based profit booking after recent gains.

Among the worst-hit sectors were automobiles, metals, and energy stocks. Shares of major companies in these segments witnessed significant declines as

investors turned cautious over slowing global demand, rising input costs, and uncertain macroeconomic conditions. Banking and financial stocks also traded under pressure, contributing further to the market's downward movement.

Analysts said concerns surrounding interest rates and inflation continue to influence investor behaviour globally. Market participants are closely tracking signals from the US Federal Reserve and other major central banks regarding future monetary policy decisions. Rising crude oil prices have additionally raised fears about inflationary pressures and their possible impact on India's economy.

The broader market also remained weak, with mid-cap and small-cap stocks facing considerable selling pressure. Market breadth on the NSE stayed nega-

tive for most of the session, indicating widespread weakness across sectors rather than isolated declines in heavyweight stocks.

Experts noted that investors are currently adopting a cautious approach due to volatility in global markets and uncertainty surrounding economic growth. Profit booking in high-performing sectors and concerns over stretched valuations have also contributed to the recent correction in equities.

Despite the sharp fall, some market analysts believe the correction may offer selective buying opportunities for long-term investors. They argue that India's economic fundamentals remain relatively strong compared to several global economies, although near-term volatility could continue due to international market trends and geopolitical developments.

Traders also pointed out that the decline was intensified by technical factors after the Nifty slipped below key support levels during intraday trading. Once crucial support zones were breached, additional selling pressure emerged in several heavyweight stocks.

The Indian rupee and bond markets were also closely monitored during the session as investors assessed the broader impact of global financial conditions on emerging markets.

Market participants are now expected to focus on upcoming economic data, global market cues, crude oil movements, and corporate developments for further direction. Analysts caution that volatility may remain high in the coming sessions as investors react to both domestic and international economic signals.



Natco Pharma Shares Sink 11% After Q4 Profit Drops 34% to Rs 268 Crore

Shares of Natco Pharma witnessed a sharp decline in Friday's trading session after the pharmaceutical company reported a significant fall in its fourth-quarter earnings. The stock dropped nearly 11% as investors reacted negatively to weaker profitability and concerns over future growth momentum.

Natco Pharma reported a 34% year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit for the March quarter, with profit falling to Rs 268 crore compared to Rs 407 crore recorded during the same period last year. The disappointing earnings performance triggered heavy selling pressure on the stock, making it one of the major losers in the pharma sector during the session.

The company's revenue from operations also declined during the quarter. Natco Pharma posted revenue of around Rs 1,045 crore in Q4, compared to Rs 1,217 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Analysts believe the weaker performance was mainly due to lower export sales, pricing pressure in key markets, and a decline in contribution from certain high-margin products.

Market participants were particularly disappointed be-

cause Natco Pharma has traditionally been viewed as a strong player in the specialty pharmaceutical segment. Investors had expected better numbers from the company given its presence in oncology, complex generics, and export-focused businesses.

The sharp fall in the stock price reflected concerns over earnings visibility and growth sustainability. Traders noted that the decline intensified after the company's results missed market expectations. Selling pressure remained strong throughout the session as investors booked profits following the stock's earlier rally.

Despite the weak quarterly numbers, company management reportedly remains optimistic about future growth opportunities, especially in the export business and upcoming product launches. Analysts believe Natco Pharma's long-term performance will depend heavily on its ability to introduce new products, expand global market presence, and maintain healthy profit margins amid increasing competition.

The broader pharmaceutical sector also witnessed mixed sentiment during the session. While defensive healthcare stocks are often considered safe

er during volatile market conditions, investors continue to monitor pricing pressure in international markets, regulatory developments, and global demand trends.

Several brokerage firms stated that although the quarterly performance was weaker than expected, Natco Pharma still retains strong long-term potential due to its specialised product portfolio and research-driven business model. However, experts cautioned that short-term volatility in the stock may continue until earnings growth improves.

The company's latest results have also sparked discussions among retail investors on social media, with many debating whether the correction presents a buying opportunity or signals deeper operational challenges. Some investors believe the stock may recover if future product launches perform well, while others prefer to wait for stronger quarterly results before turning positive again.

For now, market attention remains focused on Natco Pharma's upcoming product pipeline, export performance, and management commentary regarding future business outlook and profitability recovery.

FACT Shares Slide Nearly 5% After Q4 Profit Crashes 95.5%

Shares of Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) witnessed sharp selling pressure on Thursday after the company reported a massive decline in its fourth-quarter profit. The stock fell nearly 5% during trading as investors reacted negatively to the weak earnings performance despite strong revenue growth.

FACT shares were trading around Rs 878 on the National Stock Exchange, down close to 5% in afternoon trade. The decline came after the company announced a steep 95.5% year-on-year drop in net profit for the March quarter.

According to the company's financial results, net profit for Q4 stood at just Rs 3.16 crore compared to Rs 70.9 crore reported during the same period last year. The sharp fall in profitability was mainly attributed to rising expenses and lower other income during the quarter.

Despite the weak bottom-line performance, FACT reported strong revenue growth. Revenue from operations increased 40.9% year-on-year to Rs 1,484 crore, compared to Rs 1,053 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. However, revenue declined



sequentially by about 5.4% compared to the previous quarter.

For the full financial year, the company also reported disappointing numbers. FACT posted a net loss of Rs 39.6 crore for FY26 compared to a net profit of Rs 41.2 crore in the previous financial year. However, annual revenue from operations jumped more than 41% to Rs 5,724 crore, reflecting higher business activity despite profitability concerns.

Market experts believe investors were disappointed by the company's shrinking margins and weakening profitabil-

ity, especially after the strong rally the stock had witnessed over the past few years. Analysts noted that higher operational costs and pressure on margins have become key concerns for fertiliser companies amid fluctuating raw material prices and uncertain market conditions.

The broader fertiliser sector has also been facing challenges linked to monsoon expectations, subsidy-related concerns, and global commodity price volatility. Reports suggesting below-normal rainfall forecasts in several parts of India further added to investor

caution surrounding fertiliser stocks.

FACT has remained a closely watched stock among retail investors due to its strong past performance and sharp price movements. However, the latest quarterly results triggered fresh concerns about earnings sustainability and operational efficiency.

Market participants are now expected to closely monitor the company's future guidance, subsidy developments, and sector trends to assess whether the stock can recover from the current weakness in the coming quarters.

Netweb Soars 13%, AI Stocks Rally After Anthropic's Massive Funding Boost

Shares of AI-related companies witnessed strong buying interest on Friday after artificial intelligence startup Anthropic reportedly secured a massive funding round that significantly boosted global investor sentiment toward the AI sector. Indian AI-linked stocks such as Netweb Technologies, Black Box, and E2E Networks rallied sharply during the trading session amid renewed optimism surrounding artificial intelligence infrastructure and technology businesses.

Netweb Technologies emerged as one of the top gainers, surging nearly 13% during intraday trade. Black Box and E2E Networks also registered gains of up to 2%, while several other technology and AI-focused stocks witnessed increased investor interest. Market experts attributed the rally to growing confidence in the global AI ecosystem following Anthropic's latest fundraising announcement.

According to reports, Anthropic raised around \$65 billion in a new funding round, pushing the company's valuation close to \$965 billion and allowing it to surpass OpenAI in valuation for the first time. The development reinforced expectations that global investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure, data centers, cloud computing, and AI software will continue to expand rapidly over the coming years.

Investor sentiment also received additional support after Nvidia reported exceptionally



strong financial results for the first quarter of fiscal 2027. The AI chip giant posted record revenue growth and projected strong future demand for AI infrastructure, further boosting confidence in companies connected to the artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Indian investors have increasingly been tracking AI-linked stocks as the sector gains momentum globally. Companies such as Netweb Technologies and E2E Networks are viewed as key beneficiaries of rising demand for AI computing infrastructure, high-performance cloud systems, and data center expansion in India. Netweb, in particular, has attracted attention

for its "Make in India" AI supercomputing systems powered by Nvidia technologies. Analysts believe India's AI and data infrastructure segment could witness substantial growth over the next few years as both domestic and global companies increase investments in artificial intelligence capabilities. Government initiatives, rising enterprise adoption of AI tools, and rapid digital transformation are also expected to support long-term growth prospects for the sector.

However, market experts cautioned that AI-related stocks remain highly volatile because of elevated valuations and rapid speculative trading activity. Many of these stocks have wit-

nessed sharp rallies in recent months due to growing enthusiasm surrounding artificial intelligence and data center businesses. Investors are therefore being advised to remain cautious and focus on companies with strong fundamentals and sustainable growth models. The latest rally once again highlighted how developments in the global AI industry are increasingly influencing Indian technology and infrastructure stocks. With artificial intelligence continuing to dominate investor discussions worldwide, AI-linked companies are expected to remain closely watched by traders and market participants in the coming months.

Fertiliser, Seed and Tractor Stocks Fall Up to 3% After Weak Monsoon Forecast

Shares of fertiliser, seed, and tractor companies came under pressure on Friday after concerns over a weak monsoon forecast triggered selling across agriculture-linked stocks. Investors turned cautious following weather predictions indicating below-normal rainfall in several regions, raising fears about the possible impact on rural demand and agricultural activity.

Stocks such as FACT, Kaveri Seed Company, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), and several tractor manufacturers witnessed declines of up to 3% during the trading session. The weakness reflected growing market concerns that an uneven or delayed monsoon could affect crop sowing, fertiliser consumption, and overall rural spending in the coming months.

The Indian agriculture sector remains heavily dependent on monsoon rainfall, especially in regions where irrigation infrastructure is limited. A weaker monsoon often impacts farm output, reduces farmer income, and affects demand for agricultural products and machinery. As a result, investors typically react cautiously to weather-related developments affecting the rural economy.

Among the major losers, FACT and NFL witnessed notable declines as fertiliser stocks faced pressure due to fears of lower demand if rainfall remains below expectations. Seed companies such as Kaveri Seed also traded weakly as investors worried about reduced sowing activity during the upcoming crop season.



Tractor manufacturers were similarly impacted because rural demand plays a critical role in vehicle sales in the agricultural segment. Analysts noted that concerns over weaker farm income and delayed crop cycles may influence tractor purchases and financing activity in rural markets.

Market experts said the sell-off was largely sentiment-driven, as investors tend to closely monitor monsoon forecasts because of their direct influence on India's agricultural economy. Even slight changes in rainfall predictions can affect stock performance across sectors linked to farming and rural consumption.

The India Meteorological Department's forecasts and private weather agency predictions are being watched carefully by investors and policymakers alike. A normal monsoon is considered crucial for maintaining stable food production, controlling infla-

tion, and supporting rural economic growth.

Despite the near-term concerns, some analysts believe the correction in agriculture-linked stocks may remain temporary if rainfall improves in the coming weeks. They pointed out that monsoon patterns can change rapidly and that government support measures could help reduce pressure on the farm sector.

Investors are also keeping an eye on global commodity prices, fertiliser subsidy policies, and rural spending trends, all of which could influence the performance of agriculture-related companies over the next few quarters.

For now, market sentiment around fertiliser, seed, and tractor stocks is expected to remain sensitive to weather updates and monsoon progress, with traders likely to react quickly to any changes in rainfall forecasts across key agricultural regions.

Bengaluru Residents Face Backlash After Cutting 20-Year-Old Trees to Protect Cars

A group of residents in Bengaluru has come under intense criticism on social media after allegedly cutting down several 20-year-old trees in their apartment complex to prevent leaves and bird droppings from falling on parked cars. The incident, reported from a residential area in the city, has reignited debates over environmental responsibility and urban development in India's rapidly growing metros.



According to reports, the trees had stood in the apartment premises for nearly two decades and provided shade, cleaner air, and shelter for birds. However, some residents reportedly viewed them as a nuisance because dry droppings clogged drains and bird droppings dirtied vehicles parked underneath. In response, the trees were cut down, triggering outrage among environmentalists and internet users alike.

Photographs of the felled trees quickly spread online, with many people condemning the decision as short-sighted and environmentally harmful. Critics argued that sacrificing mature trees for the convenience of car owners reflected a worrying lack of ecological awareness in urban communities. Several users pointed out that Bengaluru, once celebrated as India's "Garden City," has already lost significant green cover due to unchecked urbanisation, construction projects, and road expansion.

Environmental activists stressed that mature trees are invaluable in combating rising temperatures and worsening air pollution in cities. They also highlighted the role of trees in supporting biodiversity, reducing noise pollution, and maintaining ecological balance. Many online commentators questioned why alternative solutions, such as installing protective car covers or reorganising parking arrangements, were not considered before resorting to cutting

down the trees. The controversy also sparked broader conversations about the growing conflict between urban lifestyles and environmental conservation. Experts warn that cities like Bengaluru are becoming increasingly vulnerable to heatwaves, water shortages, and flooding because of shrinking green spaces. Trees, they say, are essential urban assets rather than obstacles to modern living.

Some residents reportedly defended the move, claiming the trees posed maintenance problems and created inconvenience. However, the backlash online remained strong, with many urging authorities to impose stricter rules against unnecessary tree cutting in residential areas.

The incident has once again highlighted the delicate balance between development and sustainability. As Bengaluru continues to expand rapidly, environmentalists believe protecting existing green cover must become a priority if the city hopes to preserve its livability and ecological health for future generations.

Social Media User Criticised for Calling Lift Operator Job "The Dumbest in the World"



A social media user has sparked widespread outrage online after describing the job of a lift operator as "the dumbest job in the world" in a post on X. The remark quickly drew criticism from thousands of users, many of whom defended the dignity of labour and highlighted the importance of such roles in society. The controversy began when the user questioned the relevance of lift operators in modern times, arguing that elevators today function automatically and therefore do not require human assistance. The post soon went viral, attracting strong reactions from people across different professions and backgrounds.

Several users condemned the statement as insensitive and disrespectful toward workers who perform service jobs. Many pointed out that lift operators are often employed in older buildings, hospitals, hotels, and busy commercial spaces where they assist visitors, manage crowd movement, and ensure safety during emergencies. Others stressed that no honest profession should be mocked, regardless of how simple the work may appear. A large number of people also used the incident to discuss class bias and the tendency to undervalue blue-collar and service-sector jobs. Commenters argued that individuals working in such positions help keep public spaces organised and accessible, especially for elderly people, children, and those unfamiliar with building layouts. Some users noted that these workers often earn modest salaries while working long hours, making the online ridicule even more unfair.

The debate expanded beyond the specific role of lift operators and became a broader conversation about respect for labour. Many users shared personal stories about workers they had encountered in apartments, railway stations, hospitals, and government buildings who had been helpful and courteous despite difficult working conditions. Others highlighted that automation does not automatically make human roles meaningless. In many places, lift operators still provide assistance, monitor equipment, and offer guidance to visitors. Supporters of the profession argued that every job has value if it contributes positively to society and helps people earn a livelihood with dignity.

As criticism mounted, the original post continued to circulate widely, with many users calling for greater empathy and social awareness online. The incident once again demonstrated how quickly social media debates can evolve into larger discussions about privilege, employment, and the dignity of work.

The backlash also served as a reminder that while technology may change workplaces, respect for workers and their contributions remains essential in any society.

New Financial Rules From June 1 Likely To Affect Your Monthly Expenses



Several important financial changes are set to come into effect from June 1, and these updates could directly impact household budgets, digital payments, banking services, and personal finances across India. The revised rules involve LPG cylinder prices, credit card regulations, fixed deposit interest rates, and Aadhaar-related services, making it important for consumers to stay informed and prepared.

One of the most closely watched changes is the revision of LPG cylinder prices. Oil marketing companies generally review cooking gas prices at the beginning of every month, and any increase could add pressure on household expenses. Commercial LPG cylinder rates are also expected to be revised, which may indirectly affect restaurant and food delivery costs.

Terms and conditions issued by their respective banks to avoid unexpected charges or reduced benefits. Several banks are also expected to revise fixed deposit interest rates in response to changing market conditions and Reserve Bank of India policies. Financial experts suggest that people planning to invest in fixed deposits should compare the latest rates carefully before locking in long-term investments. Changes in savings account interest rates may also affect returns for regular depositors.

Another important update relates to Aadhaar services. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has extended the deadline for free online Aadhaar document updates only until a specified period, after which users may have to pay a fee for corrections or modifications. Citizens are encouraged to update address proof and identity documents within the free service window to avoid future inconvenience.

In addition, new rules linked to FASTag and digital payment systems may also influence daily commuters and online users. Authorities continue to encourage digital transactions while tightening compliance measures to improve transparency and security. Users are advised to ensure that their KYC details remain updated to avoid service interruptions. Financial planners say such monthly regulatory changes, though seemingly minor, can collectively affect personal budgeting and spending patterns. Rising service charges, revised banking benefits, and changes in utility costs may lead to higher monthly expenses for many families.

Experts recommend reviewing bank notifications, checking official announcements, and planning expenses carefully at the start of each month. Staying informed about these updates can help consumers manage finances more efficiently and avoid sudden financial surprises.

As India's banking and financial systems continue evolving rapidly, awareness of changing rules has become increasingly important for both salaried individuals and business owners alike. The candidate had earlier accepted an offer from Vanshiv Technologies but later chose not to join the company after receiving a significantly higher-paying remote opportunity from a United States-based employer. According to reports, the salary difference between the two offers was nearly Rs 8 lakh annually, making the decision financially important for the candidate. What drew attention online was not the rejection itself, but the email the candidate sent months later expressing regret over breaking his commitment. In the message addressed to entrepreneur Gaurav Khetarpal, the candidate admitted he still felt guilty about not keeping his promise to join the start-

Job Candidate Rejected After Submitting Only Email Address, Internet Left Shocked

A bizarre job application incident has gone viral on social media after a candidate claimed they were rejected for a position despite submitting almost no information apart from their email address. The unusual case sparked widespread discussion online, with many users questioning how automated hiring systems and recruitment processes operate today.

According to reports, the candidate had started filling out a job application form but abandoned it midway, entering only their email address before deciding not to continue. Surprisingly, the applicant later received a formal rejection email from the company, thanking them for their interest and informing them that they had not been selected for the role. The strange rejection message quickly gained attention online after the candidate shared the experience on social media. Many users found the situation humorous, while others criticised the increasing dependence on automated recruitment software and applicant tracking systems (ATS) used by companies worldwide.



Several commenters joked that the company had "rejected" a person who technically never even applied. Others pointed out that many hiring platforms automatically generate rejection emails whenever a user begins an application process, regardless of whether the form was fully completed or submitted. The incident reignited conversations about the growing use of artificial intelligence and automation in hiring. Many professionals argued that modern recruitment systems have become overly mechanical, often lacking meaningful human involvement. Users complained that applicants frequently receive automated responses without proper evaluation, leaving candidates frustrated and disconnected from employers.

Some social media users shared similar experiences, saying they had received rejection emails for jobs they barely applied for or had forgotten about entirely. Others highlighted how companies increasingly rely on software to filter applications based on keywords, incomplete forms, or algorithmic screening processes rather than genuine human assessment. The story also sparked debate about the emotional impact of automated rejections on job seekers. In an already competitive employment market, many applicants spend hours tailoring resumes and completing lengthy application forms, only to receive generic rejection emails with little explanation. Critics argued that excessive automation can make the hiring process feel impersonal and discouraging.

At the same time, some users defended automated systems, noting that companies handling thousands of applications often require technology to manage recruitment efficiently. They argued that automatic emails help maintain communication with applicants, even if the process occasionally produces awkward or humorous situations. The viral incident once again highlighted the strange realities of modern online recruitment, where technology sometimes creates outcomes that appear more absurd than logical. For many internet users, the episode served as both a funny moment and a reminder of how increasingly automated the job market has become in recent years.

Candidate's Honest Apology After Rejecting Job Offer Wins Praise From Startup Founder

up. He clarified that the decision was driven entirely by financial necessity rather than dissatisfaction with the company. Sharing the email on X, Khetarpal praised the candidate's honesty and maturity. He wrote that founders appreciate candidates who communicate openly, even when they decide not to join a company. The entrepreneur said the candidate's transparency earned even more respect because he openly acknowledged the real reason behind his decision instead of disappearing or avoiding communication. The post quickly attracted widespread reactions online. Many users appreciated the candidate for showing accountability and empathy toward the employer. Others highlighted how rare such communication has become in modern hiring processes, where both companies and job seekers often complain about ghosting and lack of professionalism. Several people also shared similar experiences from the corporate world, de-

scribing how honest conversations during recruitment can help maintain long-term professional relationships. Some users argued that while candidates naturally seek better opportunities and higher salaries, informing employers respectfully reflects professionalism and emotional intelligence. The incident also triggered broader discussions about the challenges startups face in hiring talent. Smaller companies often struggle to compete with large firms and international employers offering substantially higher compensation packages. At the same time, many users noted that candidates should not be criticised for prioritising financial stability and career growth. Mr Khetarpal concluded by saying the Indian tech industry needs more people who communicate with honesty and respect. The story has since become an example of how transparency and mature communication can leave a positive impression, even in situations involving rejected job offers and difficult career decisions.

The candidate had earlier accepted an offer from Vanshiv Technologies but later chose not to join the company after receiving a significantly higher-paying remote opportunity from a United States-based employer. According to reports, the salary difference between the two offers was nearly Rs 8 lakh annually, making the decision financially important for the candidate. What drew attention online was not the rejection itself, but the email the candidate sent months later expressing regret over breaking his commitment. In the message addressed to entrepreneur Gaurav Khetarpal, the candidate admitted he still felt guilty about not keeping his promise to join the start-

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Gill's Stunning Century Powers Gujarat Titans Into IPL 2026 Final

Gujarat Titans stormed into the IPL 2026 final after defeating Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in a high-scoring Qualifier 2 clash on Friday. Led by a sensational century from captain Shubman Gill, Gujarat chased down a daunting target of 215 with remarkable ease, sealing victory with eight balls to spare.

The Titans will now face Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the grand finale on May 31, while Rajasthan's impressive campaign came to a heartbreaking end.

Chasing 215, Gujarat produced one of the finest batting displays of the season. Openers Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan dominated

from the very beginning, dismantling the Rajasthan bowling attack with fearless stroke play and intelligent shot selection. The pair stitched together a match-winning 167-run opening partnership that completely shifted the momentum in Gujarat's favour.

Gill led from the front with a captain's knock, smashing 104 runs off just 53 deliveries. His innings included 15 boundaries and three towering sixes, as he punished every loose delivery and kept the required rate comfortably under control. Sai Sudharsan provided excellent support at the other end, hammering 58 runs from only 32 balls with aggressive intent.

Even after the departure of both set batters, Gujarat never looked under pressure. Rahul Tewatia remained unbeaten on 17 and calmly finished the chase in his trademark style.

Earlier, Rajasthan Royals endured a disastrous start after opting to bat first. The team lost two wickets for just nine runs and appeared headed for a modest total before young batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi produced a breathtaking counterattack.

The talented youngster played one of the innings of the tournament, scoring a brilliant 96 off only 47 balls. His explosive knock featured eight fours and seven sixes, falling agonisingly short of a

deserved century. Ravindra Jadeja contributed a valuable unbeaten 45, while Donovan Ferreira's late assault added crucial momentum to the innings. Ferreira smashed 38 runs off just 11 deliveries to propel Rajasthan to a commanding 214 for six in 20 overs.

For Gujarat, Jason Holder and Kagiso Rabada picked up two wickets each and helped restrict Rajasthan despite the late flourish.

With momentum firmly on their side, Gujarat Titans now head into the IPL 2026 final full of confidence, while Rajasthan Royals are left to reflect on a campaign that ended one step short of the title clash.



CSK Urged to Target Hardik Pandya in Blockbuster Trade Deal With Mumbai Indians

Indians skipper Hardik Pandya ahead of the next IPL season. The suggestion has triggered major discussions among cricket fans and experts, with many debating whether the all-rounder could fit into CSK's setup and leadership plans in the future.

According to reports, former cricketers and analysts believe Chennai Super Kings should seriously explore the possibility of bringing Hardik Pandya into their squad if Mumbai Indians decide to part ways with him. The proposed trade idea has gained attention amid growing speculation surrounding Hardik's future with the Mumbai franchise.

Reports suggest CSK could consider offering players like Shivam Dube and Ravindra Jadeja as part of a potential exchange deal. While no official talks have taken place, the suggestion itself has created significant buzz across social media and cricket circles.

Hardik Pandya's captaincy stint with Mumbai Indians has remained under constant scrutiny ever since he replaced Rohit Sharma as skipper. The move had sparked backlash from fans, and the team reportedly struggled with consistency and dressing-room pressure during the season. As speculation over Hardik's future continues, discussions around possible trade options have intensified.

Cricket experts believe Chennai Super Kings could benefit greatly from a player like Hardik due to his experience, leadership qualities, and ability to contribute in multiple departments. His aggressive batting, medium-pace bowling, and calmness under pressure make him one of the most valuable T20 players in world cricket.

Some analysts also feel CSK



may eventually need a long-term leadership option as the franchise prepares for the post-MS Dhoni era. Hardik, who previously led Gujarat Titans to an IPL title, is viewed by many as a captain capable of handling high-pressure situations and leading a franchise with strong fan expectations.

However, the idea of trading players like Ravindra Jadeja has sparked mixed reactions among fans. Jadeja has been one of Chennai Super Kings' most important players for several years and remains deeply connected with the franchise. Many supporters believe trading him would be emotionally difficult and strategically risky.

Similarly, Shivam Dube has emerged as a key middle-order batter for CSK in recent seasons, making any potential exchange complicated from a team-balance perspective. Some fans argued that Chennai should instead focus

on building a younger squad rather than pursuing another high-profile captaincy experiment.

Meanwhile, supporters of the proposed trade believe Hardik's all-round abilities and leadership experience could make him a perfect fit for CSK's system, especially if the franchise is planning a transition phase over the next few years.

At present, neither Chennai Super Kings nor Mumbai Indians have made any official statement regarding a possible trade involving Hardik Pandya. Still, the speculation has already become one of the biggest talking points among IPL followers ahead of the next season.

With player transfers, captaincy uncertainty, and franchise rebuilding discussions dominating headlines, the possibility of Hardik Pandya in a Chennai Super Kings jersey has added fresh excitement to the IPL off-season.

Hardik Pandya May Leave Mumbai Indians, Rohit Sharma's Role Crucial in Captaincy Decision

Mumbai Indians could be heading toward another major leadership transition as reports suggest Hardik Pandya may part ways with the franchise ahead of the next IPL season. The development has sparked intense discussions among cricket fans and experts, especially regarding who could become the team's next captain if Hardik exits the five-time IPL champions.

According to sources, Rohit Sharma's opinion and support are expected to play a crucial role in deciding Mumbai Indians' future leadership structure. The veteran opener remains one of the most influential figures in the franchise despite stepping down from captaincy earlier. His experience, legacy, and strong connection with the team management reportedly make his backing extremely important in selecting the next skipper.

Hardik Pandya's appointment as Mumbai Indians captain before IPL 2025 had created massive controversy, particularly because Rohit Sharma was removed from the role after leading the franchise to multiple IPL titles. The decision triggered strong backlash from fans, and the pressure surrounding Hardik's leadership remained a major talking point throughout the season.

Reports now indicate that the all-rounder could consider leaving the franchise due to multiple factors, including leadership pressure, team envi-



ronment, and future career planning. Although no official confirmation has been made by either Hardik Pandya or Mumbai Indians management, speculation around his future has intensified significantly.

The possible leadership change has naturally shifted attention toward potential captaincy candidates within the squad. Several names are being discussed, including Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, and Tilak Varma. However, insiders believe Rohit Sharma's influence could be decisive in determining which player ultimately receives the responsibility.

Suryakumar Yadav is viewed by many as a strong contender because of his expe-

rience as India's T20 captain and his long association with Mumbai Indians. Jasprit Bumrah, meanwhile, is respected for his calm personality and leadership qualities, though concerns over workload management could influence the decision. Youngster Tilak Varma is also being seen as a long-term leadership option for the franchise.

The situation has created massive buzz on social media, with fans expressing mixed reactions. Some supporters believe Mumbai Indians should rebuild the team around younger players, while others want Rohit Sharma to continue playing a guiding role both on and off the field. Many fans also feel the franchise management mis-

handled the earlier captaincy transition involving Hardik and Rohit.

Mumbai Indians endured a difficult IPL season despite having one of the strongest squads on paper. Questions surrounding leadership, team balance, and dressing-room dynamics remained under constant scrutiny. As a result, the franchise could now be preparing for another major reset ahead of the next season.

For now, neither Hardik Pandya nor Mumbai Indians have issued an official statement regarding the reports. However, the growing speculation has already made the franchise's future captaincy plans one of the biggest discussion points in Indian cricket.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Compared to Shahid Afridi, Internet Calls It 'Biggest Insult'

Teenage cricket sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has once again become the centre of attention after former Pakistan batter Mohammad Yousuf compared him to legendary all-rounder Shahid Afridi. While the comparison was intended as praise, it unexpectedly sparked a massive debate online, with many fans calling it an "insult" to the young Indian star.

Vaibhav, who has taken IPL 2026 by storm with his fearless batting and explosive stroke play, recently delivered another sensational performance in the tournament. The 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals batter smashed 97 runs off just 29 balls in the IPL Eliminator, narrowly missing out on one of the fastest centuries in league history. His remarkable innings has already led several cricket experts to compare him with legends such as Sachin Tendulkar and Don Bradman.

Amid the growing hype surrounding the youngster, Mohammad Yousuf took to social media and wrote that Vaibhav reminded him of a young Shahid Afridi because of his fearless and aggressive style of batting. The former Pakistan cricketer praised the teenager's confidence, energy, and attacking mindset, calling him one of cricket's brightest future stars.



However, the comparison quickly divided social media users. While some fans agreed that both players shared a naturally explosive batting style, many Indian cricket supporters strongly rejected the comparison. Several users argued that Vaibhav possesses a more technically complete game and should not be compared with Afridi, who was often criticised for inconsistency during his career.

One social media user even described the comparison as "the biggest insult" to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, a reaction that soon went viral online. Others claimed the youngster's temperament, shot selection, and maturity at such a young age already place him in a different category altogether.

Despite the online debate, many cricket experts acknowledged that the comparison was

likely based purely on Vaibhav's fearless approach and ability to dominate bowlers from the very beginning of his innings. Shahid Afridi himself became famous for his attacking batting style after smashing a 37-ball century in ODI cricket during the early stages of his career.

Meanwhile, Vaibhav continues to attract attention across the cricketing world with his extraordinary performances at such a young age. The teenager has emerged as one of the biggest breakout stars of IPL 2026 and remains a crucial player for Rajasthan Royals heading into the knockout stage.

As discussions around comparisons and future greatness continue, many fans and experts believe Indian cricket may have discovered a once-in-a-generation batting talent in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

Sleep Emerges as Cricket's New Performance Weapon Amid Packed Global Schedule

Sleep is rapidly becoming one of the most important focus areas in modern cricket as players and teams struggle to cope with increasingly demanding schedules, constant travel, and year-round tournaments. What was once considered a basic recovery need is now being treated as a major performance tool by coaches, trainers, and sports scientists across the cricketing world.

With international cricket, franchise leagues, bilateral series, and ICC tournaments taking place almost continuously, players are facing intense physical and mental fatigue. Cricketers today often travel across multiple time zones within days, leaving very little time for proper rest and recovery. Experts believe sleep management has now become just as important as fitness training, nutrition, and match preparation.

Teams are increasingly hiring sleep specialists and performance experts to help players maintain energy levels and mental sharpness during long tours. Sports scientists say poor sleep can directly affect reaction time, concentration, decision-making, injury recovery, and overall athletic performance.

In a sport like cricket, where focus and reflexes are critical, even minor fatigue can influence results significantly.

Many players have openly spoken about the challenges of maintaining healthy sleep patterns during packed cricket calendars. Frequent flights, hotel changes, late-night matches, media commitments, and high-pressure situations often disrupt natural recovery cycles. T20 leagues, in particular, have intensified the issue because of continuous travel and back-to-back matches.

According to performance experts, modern cricket has entered an era where recovery science plays a major role in extending careers and improving consistency. Teams are now monitoring players' sleep quality using wearable technology and data analysis tools. Some franchises even customise training schedules based on sleep reports and fatigue levels.

Sleep coaches reportedly advise players on maintaining consistent sleeping routines, reducing screen exposure before bedtime, and adjusting body clocks while travelling internationally. Recovery rooms, controlled lighting, relaxation tech-



niques, and specialised mattresses have also become common features in elite cricket environments.

The growing emphasis on sleep reflects how professional sport is evolving beyond traditional training methods. Mental freshness is now considered equally important as physical fitness, especially in high-pressure formats like T20 cricket where players must make split-second decisions under stress.

Experts also warn that relentless schedules could eventually lead to burnout if player workload is not managed properly. Several international cricketers have already spoken about mental exhaustion and the difficulty

of balancing continuous competition with personal life and recovery.

Cricket boards and franchises are therefore paying closer attention to workload management, rotation policies, and recovery planning. Some analysts believe future scheduling decisions may increasingly take player wellness and recovery science into account.

As cricket continues to become faster, more competitive, and commercially demanding, sleep is no longer viewed as simply rest. It is now emerging as one of the sport's most valuable performance assets — a crucial factor that could influence fitness, form, and longevity in the modern game.



Jaya Pateriya



Vijayawada to Roar with 'Peddi' Fever as Grand Pre-Release Event Set for June 1

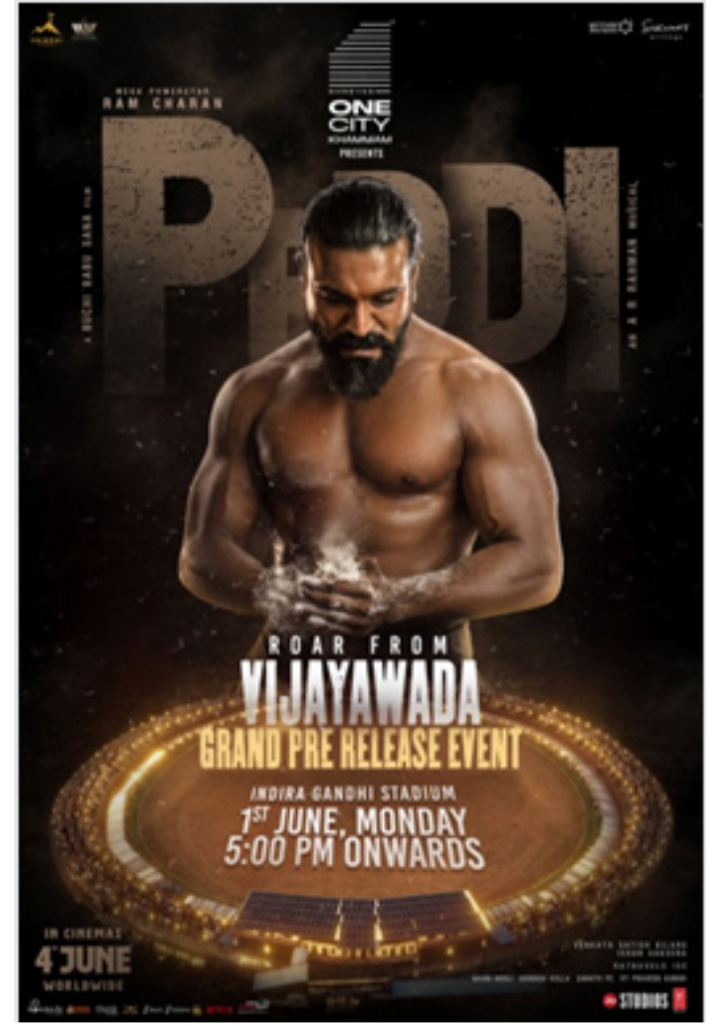
Vijayawada is all set to witness a massive cinematic celebration as the makers of the upcoming rural sports action drama Peddi prepare for a grand pre-release event on June 1. The event will be held from 5 pm onwards at the iconic Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, promising a star-studded evening that is expected to draw huge crowds and film enthusiasts from across the region.

The film, headlined by global star Ram Charan, is directed by Buchi Babu Sana and is jointly produced by Vriddhi Cinemas, Mythri Movie Makers, and Sukumar Writings. The makers officially announced the event through social media, confirming the presence of the lead cast, technicians, and several special guests for the celebration.

Peddi features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, while Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar and veteran actor Jagapathi Babu play pivotal roles. The film's music is composed by legendary musician A. R. Rahman, further elevating expectations around the project.

Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on June 4, Peddi is being promoted aggressively as one of the biggest rural sports action enter-

tainers of the year. The promotional campaign has already gained strong momentum, with the team hosting events in Mumbai and New Delhi, including a high-profile trailer launch and press interactions that received wide attention. North American advance bookings have reportedly opened to a strong response, indicating significant overseas interest in the film. Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government's recent approval for increased ticket prices has further boosted industry optimism ahead of the release. The Vijayawada pre-release event is expected to be a highlight of the film's promotional journey, with fans eagerly anticipating appearances from the lead cast and exclusive glimpses into the making of the film. Organizers are making elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth conduct, given the anticipated large turnout. With its combination of rural sports backdrop, high-octane action, and strong emotional narrative, Peddi is positioning itself as a major box-office contender. As Vijayawada gears up for the grand celebration, expectations are soaring for what could be one of the most talked-about releases of the year.



'Kaala Hiran' Brings Salman Khan-Lawrence Bishnoi Feud to the Big Screen

The much-anticipated film Kaala Hiran, inspired by the controversial blackbuck poaching case involving Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, has officially unveiled its poster, sparking widespread curiosity across the film industry and audiences alike.

Blending elements of courtroom drama and crime thriller, Kaala Hiran attempts a cinematic retelling of one of the most talked-about controversies in recent Bollywood history. The film also delves into the ongoing and highly publicised rivalry between Salman Khan and gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, presenting it through a dramatic narrative lens.

Produced by Amti Jani, the

film revisits the 1998 blackbuck hunting incident in Kakani village near Jodhpur, which led to legal proceedings against Salman Khan and several co-actors. According to the producer, the film captures the sequence of events surrounding the alleged hunting, the subsequent arrest, courtroom battles, and the larger socio-cultural tensions tied to the case. "The story covers everything—from the hunting incident to the courtroom drama, crime elements, and the rivalry that followed. It has been shot across multiple locations including Sambhal and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh," Amti Jani said while speaking about the project.

The film also references the presence of several Bollywood personalities during the time of the incident, including Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Sonali Bendre, and Satish Shah, all of whom were part of the film shoot in Rajasthan when the alleged poaching took place.

Adding another layer to its narrative, Kaala Hiran explores the motivations of Lawrence Bishnoi, whose community considers the blackbuck a sacred animal. The gangster has repeatedly issued threats against Salman Khan over the years, intensifying the real-life conflict that the film seeks to portray. The backdrop of this rivalry gained further attention following the killing of

politician Baba Siddique in Mumbai in October 2024, an incident for which the Bishnoi gang reportedly claimed responsibility. The film is expected to touch upon such developments to contextualise the ongoing tensions.

The makers have announced that the first look teaser of Kaala Hiran will be released on June 20, building momentum for what promises to be a bold and controversial cinematic venture.

With its real-life inspiration, gripping narrative, and sensitive subject matter, Kaala Hiran is poised to ignite discussions on the intersection of cinema, crime, and celebrity culture in India.



'Sigma' Release Date Locked as Vijay's Son Jason Sanjay Makes Directorial Debut

The makers of the much-anticipated film Sigma have officially announced its release date, adding to the growing buzz around the project. Backed by leading production house Lyca Productions, the film is set to hit theatres worldwide on July 31.

Produced by Subaskaran under the Lyca Productions banner, Sigma marks the directorial debut of Jason Sanjay, son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and actor Vijay. The project has been in the spotlight ever since its announcement, primarily due to Jason Sanjay stepping into filmmaking and the strong team backing the venture.

Tollywood young hero Sundeep Kishen plays the lead role in the film, paired opposite actress Faria Abdullah. The film also features a notable supporting cast including Raju Sundaram, Sampath Raj, Shiva Panditt, Anbu Thasan, and Yog Japee in key roles.

The promotional content released so far has generated significant interest among audiences. The teaser, in particular, has garnered over 20 million views, reflecting the high expectations surrounding the film.

Announcing the release date, Lyca Productions head G.K.M. Tamil Kumar expressed confidence in the film's outcome. He stated that Sigma has shaped up well and will offer a fresh cinematic experience to audiences. He also praised debutant director Jason Sanjay for



his clarity, dedication, and strong vision, adding that the entire cast and crew worked tirelessly to bring that vision to life.

Sharing his thoughts, Jason Sanjay described Sigma as a special journey in his life. He thanked producer Subaskaran and the Lyca Productions team for believing in his vision and supporting him throughout the filmmaking process. He also acknowledged the efforts of the actors and technicians, noting their commitment and hard work.

Music for the film is composed by S. Thaman, further enhancing the film's appeal among fans. With a promising cast, strong technical team, and the curiosity surrounding Jason Sanjay's debut, Sigma is shaping up to be one of the notable releases this season.

The makers have also hinted that more updates regarding the film will be unveiled soon as they gear up for the theatrical release on July 31.

Here is your English movie news article: Sandeep Reddy Vanga Turns Producer with Youthful Entertainer 'Romanchakam'

Hyderabad: Acclaimed filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga, known for redefining intensity in modern Indian cinema, is expanding his creative footprint by stepping into film production with a new project titled Romanchakam. The director, who made a powerful mark in Tollywood with Arjun Reddy and later achieved massive success in Bollywood with blockbusters like Kabir Singh and Animal, is now backing this upcoming youthful entertainer under his banner.

Currently busy directing Spirit starring Prabhas, Sandeep Reddy Vanga is simultaneously venturing into production through Bhadrakali Pictures. The film is being presented by Vanga himself, while Pranay Reddy Vanga is handling production responsibilities. Romanchakam features Sumanth Prabhas and Ananthika Sanilkumar in the lead roles, marking a fresh on-screen pairing aimed at connecting with younger audiences. The film is being directed by Venugopal Reddy, who is expected to bring a new narrative style to this genre-blending project.

The makers unveiled the film's title poster on Friday, drawing attention for its intriguing theme and vibrant presentation. Carrying the tagline "Love, Comedy, and Suspense," the film promises an engaging mix of romance, humor, and thrilling elements. The title itself hints at an emotional yet entertaining journey designed to appeal to a wide



spectrum of viewers. Industry observers see this move as a strategic expansion for Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who is known for his bold storytelling and strong character-driven narratives. By backing Romanchakam, he appears to be encouraging fresh talent while diversifying his involvement in filmmaking beyond direction.

The film is being positioned as a youthful entertainer, with a focus on relatable emotions, contemporary relationships, and engaging storytelling. With a blend of genres and a promising cast, expectations are gradually building around the project. While details regarding the film's release date and additional cast are yet to be revealed, the makers have indicated that more updates will be announced in the coming days. Given Sandeep Reddy Vanga's track record and the curiosity surrounding his production debut, Romanchakam is already generating buzz among cinema enthusiasts.

Delhi High Court Bars Unauthorized Use of Naga Chaitanya's Name and Likeness

In a significant development concerning celebrity privacy and personality rights, the Delhi High Court has issued interim directions in favour of Tollywood actor Naga Chaitanya, restraining the unauthorized use of his name, photographs, voice, and other personal attributes for commercial purposes without his consent.

The actor had approached the court alleging that several entities were misusing his identity, including his name and images, without obtaining prior permission. In his petition, Naga Chaitanya sought legal protection against such exploitation, stating that it violated his personality rights and infringed upon his privacy.

Hearing the plea, the Delhi High Court responded positively to the actor's concerns and acknowledged the need to safeguard his individual rights. The court passed interim orders prohibiting any commercial use of Naga Chaitanya's name, likeness, or voice without explicit authorization from him.

The court's direction is seen as a crucial step in reinforcing the rights of public figures against unauthorized endorsements, misleading advertisements, and digital misuse. With the rapid expansion of social media and digital platforms, instances of celebrities' identities being exploited without consent have been on the rise, making such legal protections increasingly relevant.

Legal experts note that per-



sonality rights, though not codified under a single statute in India, are recognized under the broader framework of the right to privacy and intellectual property laws. The court's order aligns with previous rulings where several film personalities have secured similar protections against misuse of their identity.

Naga Chaitanya, known for maintaining a relatively low profile off-screen, emphasized the importance of preserving his personal and professional integrity. His legal move highlights growing awareness among actors about protecting

their brand value and image in an era of digital proliferation. The interim relief granted by the Delhi High Court is expected to deter unauthorized commercial exploitation and set a precedent for similar cases in the future. The matter is likely to undergo further hearings as the court examines the extent of misuse and potential remedies in detail.

The ruling has been welcomed by industry observers, who believe it sends a strong message about respecting celebrity rights and maintaining ethical standards in media and advertising practices.