

BUZZ POINTS



Kalvakuntla Kavitha Warns of Fresh Agitation if Telangana Martyrs' Promises Remain Unfulfilled

PAGE 03



PM Modi's 'Chaiwala' Remark in Rome Goes Viral During Italy Visit

PAGE 08



Gujarat Titans Crush Chennai Super Kings to End CSK IPL 2026 Campaign

PAGE 04

Telangana Announces Major Minimum Wage Hike for Workers

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

In a significant decision benefiting nearly 1.11 crore workers across the state, the government of Telangana has approved a substantial revision of minimum wages, marking one of the largest wage hikes in recent years.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy approved the recommendations of a cabinet sub-committee that studied wage structures across sectors after extensive consultations with stakeholders, labour representatives and industry groups. The revised wages will come into effect from June 1.

The government has introduced a structured classification system by dividing workers into four categories—unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled—along with a three-zone framework to rationalise wage calculation across regions.

Under the new system, the state has been divided into three zones based on levels of urbanisation and economic activity. Zone-1 covers municipal



corporations, Zone-2 includes municipalities, and Zone-3 comprises rural areas. Officials said this classification was introduced to ensure region-specific fairness in wage distribution.

As per the revised structure, unskilled workers will now receive between 12,750 and 16,000 depending on the zone and sector, compared to earlier lower benchmarks. Semi-skilled workers will see wages rise to around 17,000, while skilled workers will earn up to 18,500. Highly skilled workers will receive a maximum

monthly wage of 20,000 under the new notification.

Government officials said the revision aims to correct long-standing disparities in the wage system and ensure that inflation and cost-of-living factors are adequately reflected in workers' earnings. The decision is expected to benefit workers across construction, manufacturing, services, hospitality and informal sectors, among others.

The Chief Minister stated that previous administrations had failed to revise minimum wages in a timely manner, re-

sulting in financial hardship for large sections of the working population. He said the current government prioritised a scientific and structured approach to wage fixation after holding detailed discussions with all concerned groups.

Labour department officials have been instructed to ensure strict implementation of the revised wage structure from June 1. Inspections and compliance mechanisms will be strengthened to prevent violations, particularly in low-wage sectors.

Worker unions have welcomed the decision, calling it a long-pending demand that will improve living standards and provide financial relief amid rising expenses. Industry representatives, while acknowledging the revision, have urged the government to ensure a balanced implementation that does not burden small and medium enterprises.

The announcement is being seen as a major welfare measure by the state government, aimed at strengthening income security for millions of workers across both urban and rural Telangana.



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla Participates in Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu at Kaleshwaram

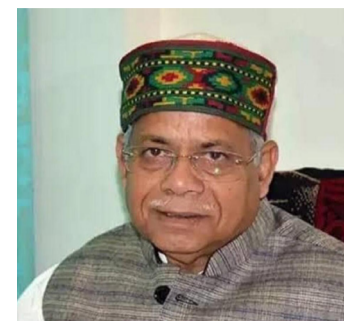
Kaleshwaram, May 21 | TPN Bureau

The Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu commenced on a spiritually vibrant note at the Sri Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy Temple in Kaleshwaram, drawing thousands of devotees from across the region. The sacred event, scheduled from May 21 to June 1, witnessed the presence of Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and his spouse Janaki Shukla, who took a holy dip at the revered Triveni Sangamam and offered prayers.

The Governor participated in the rituals with devotion, seeking divine blessings on the auspicious occasion. Telangana Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu was also present, joining the ceremonies and interacting with temple authorities and devotees.

The highlight of the day was the grand Harathi ceremony held at the Triveni Sangamam, which unfolded in a deeply spiritual and culturally rich atmosphere. Accompanied by Vedic chants, traditional rituals, and devotional fervour, the Harathi illuminated the sacred confluence, creating a mesmerizing spectacle for the devotees gathered in large numbers.

The ceremony reflected the



profound spiritual significance of the Saraswati Antya Pushkaralu, a rare religious event that holds immense importance in Hindu tradition. Devotees expressed a sense of divine bliss as the rituals were performed with grandeur and devotion.

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also witnessed the Harathi programme, appreciating the arrangements and the seamless conduct of the event. The presence of dignitaries added prominence to the occasion, which continues to attract pilgrims seeking spiritual solace and blessings during the Pushkaralu period.

Temple authorities stated that elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure smooth conduct of rituals and convenience for devotees throughout the 12-day festival.

Centre Clears 5,681 Crore UCF Projects for Telangana

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

In a major push for urban infrastructure, the Centre has approved projects worth 5,681.04 crore for Telangana under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF). The approvals cover three key proposals, including the Khammam-Warangal-Karimnagar corridor, Warangal sewage modernisation, and a comprehensive urban development plan for Karimnagar.

Out of the total allocation, 4,674 crore has been earmarked for Warangal, 840 crore for Karimnagar, and 166 crore for digital governance initiatives along the Khammam-Warangal-Karimnagar corridor. The Centre has already sanctioned 25% of its share, amounting to 1,420.26 crore. Both the Centre and the State will contribute 25% each, while the remaining 50% will be mobilised through a loan from HUDCO.

The approvals come as part of a larger national initiative, under which six states, including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, submitted 17 project proposals worth 14,867.88 crore. All proposals have now received clearance from the Centre. A formal communication in this regard has been sent to the State government by Union Ministry of Urban Development Secretary Hiralal Mishra.

Significantly, Karimnagar was not part of the initial list of UCF proposals submitted by the State government. The inclusion of the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation was secured following persistent efforts by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar. After the municipal elections, proposals focusing on Karimnagar's urban modernisation were quickly prepared and forwarded to the Centre through the State government.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, urging them to approve the proposals. He held multiple discussions with senior officials of the ministry, pressing for Karimnagar's inclusion in the scheme. Following his efforts, the UCF National Apex Committee, under the direction of the Union Urban Development Ministry, approved all three proposals from Telangana. With 840 crore allocated under the UCF scheme, Karimnagar is set to witness major infrastructure upgrades. Plans include the construction of model roads, skywalks, foot overbridges, and development of non-motorised transport systems. Drainage systems will be revamped, and flood mitigation measures will be implemented. Officials said that effective utilisation of these funds could significantly transform Karimnagar's urban landscape, positioning it as a modern city with advanced civic infrastructure, next only to Hyderabad in the State.

Bageerath Arrested, Not Surrendered, Says Revanth Reddy; Slams Political Controversy

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has clarified that POCSCO accused Bandi Sai Bageerath was arrested by police during a routine vehicle inspection and did not surrender voluntarily, dismissing political claims suggesting otherwise.

The Chief Minister said police apprehended Bageerath near Appa Junction during checking operations, stressing that the action was part of regular law enforcement procedures. He added that his statement was based on information provided by police officials and expressed confidence in their version of events.

Revanth Reddy strongly rejected allegations that the accused was either surrendered or handed over voluntarily by any individual or political figure. He questioned the logic behind such claims, saying that surrender would involve formally presenting the accused before police, not being caught during roadside checks. He also pointed out that Appa Junction is a public road and



not private property, countering attempts to give the incident a different narrative.

The Chief Minister also appealed against politicising the sensitive case involving a mi-



nor. He said the government acted immediately after receiving the complaint and ensured due legal procedure was followed without delay. He stressed that the matter is un-

der investigation and must be handled strictly within the framework of law.

Revanth Reddy criticised opposition leaders for making what he called irresponsible

comments on an ongoing investigation. He alleged that attempts were being made to derive political advantage from a sensitive issue instead of allowing police to complete their inquiry.

He also cautioned that revealing details related to the minor victim could cause serious harm to the family and urged restraint from all political parties. The Chief Minister reiterated that protecting the identity and dignity of the victim is a legal and moral responsibility.

Reaffirming the government's position, he said the investigation is being carried out independently by the police without interference and that the administration stands by the law enforcement agencies. He assured that the case would be pursued strictly as per legal provisions and that justice would be ensured.

The clarification comes amid conflicting political narratives over the circumstances of the arrest, with rival parties continuing to exchange allegations even as the investigation progresses.

Cockroach Janta Party Surges Amid Political Debate Over Rapid Rise in Followers

ARN MAHESH

The rapid rise of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a satirical political movement that has gained massive traction on social media, has sparked political discussion and scrutiny over its sudden surge in followers and growing online influence.

The movement, which emerged just days ago as a digital response to controversial remarks linked to unemployed youth, has quickly transformed into one of the most viral political phenomena on social media platforms. Within a short span, it has attracted millions of followers, surpassing several established political parties in online engagement.

Reports suggest that the CJP's Instagram presence alone has witnessed unprecedented growth, with follower numbers crossing several million within days of its launch. The platform positions itself as a youth-driven voice high-



lighting issues such as unemployment, economic stress, and political accountability through satire and meme-based content. Political observers note that the movement's rapid expansion reflects growing youth engagement in digital political expression, particularly among Gen Z users. The campaign uses humour and irony as its primary tools, which has helped it resonate strongly with younger audiences across India.

However, the sudden spike in followers has also triggered questions within political circles. Concerns have been

raised over whether the growth is entirely organic or influenced by coordinated online activity. The party's digital footprint has now become a subject of public debate, with critics and supporters offering contrasting interpretations of its impact. Supporters of the movement argue that the surge represents genuine frustration among young people over issues such as job scarcity, inflation, and lack of representation in mainstream politics. They claim the platform has given voice to a section of youth that often feels excluded from traditional political dis-

course. At the same time, some political commentators caution against overestimating the movement's real-world influence, pointing out that strong social media presence does not automatically translate into electoral strength or organisational structure on the ground.

The founder of the movement has maintained that the initiative is a satirical but purpose-driven platform aimed at highlighting serious socio-economic concerns through unconventional communication methods. The group continues to expand its digital presence, with new content and engagement campaigns being rolled out regularly. As the debate continues, the Cockroach Janta Party has become a talking point in both political and media circles, reflecting the growing intersection of social media, youth expression, and contemporary political discourse in India.

Hyderabad, May 22 | TPN Bureau

The Telugu states are reeling under an extreme summer heatwave, with soaring temperatures turning Andhra Pradesh and Telangana into a virtual furnace. Several regions reported dangerously high daytime temperatures, with mercury levels crossing 45°C in multiple districts.

In Andhra Pradesh, Piduguralla recorded the highest temperature of the season at 48.1°C, marking one of the hottest readings in recent years. The intense heat has raised serious concerns over public health, water availability and outdoor working conditions.

Other parts of the state also experienced severe heat stress. Vetapalem in Bapatla district and Nandivada in Krishna district recorded 47.6°C. In addition, Thorragupadu in NTR district and Addanki in Prakasam district registered



74.4°C, reflecting widespread extreme conditions across coastal and inland areas.

In the Godavari and Rayalaseema regions, temperatures also remained sharply high. Allipalle in Eluru district recorded 47.3°C, while Nandanamarellu reported 46.6°C. Areas such as Konavaram, Kavali and Tenali also recorded temperatures ranging between 46°C and 46.5°C.

Meteorological officials said that at least 18 districts in Andhra Pradesh recorded tem-

peratures above 45°C, while nearly 200 mandals across 20 districts crossed 44°C, indicating a widespread and sustained heatwave pattern. Authorities warned that the severe conditions are likely to continue for the next few days, with only limited chances of relief.

In Telangana, extreme temperatures were also reported from several districts. Mutharam recorded 46.5°C, while Munagala also registered 46.5°C. Other hotspots included Chunchupalli at 46.4°C, Kuravi at 46.3°C, Jainath at 46.2°C, and Akkannapet at 46.1°C.

Officials said that around 20 districts in Telangana have crossed the 46°C mark, reflecting the severity of the heatwave across the state. Weather authorities have urged residents to avoid outdoor exposure during peak afternoon hours and take necessary precautions as the heatwave continues.

Rajiv Gandhi Remembered as Architect of India's Information Revolution: Minister Vakiti Srihari Pays Rich Tributes

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Paying rich tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary, Minister Vakiti Srihari described him as the "Father of India's Information Revolution" and hailed his visionary leadership in shaping modern India.

The minister said Rajiv Gandhi's contribution to the country's technological and administrative transformation remains unforgettable. He noted that Rajiv Gandhi laid a strong foundation for the information technology sector in India and opened new avenues of opportunity for the youth through progressive reforms and futuristic policies.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vakiti Srihari said Rajiv Gandhi played a historic role in ushering India into the modern era through revolutionary initiatives in computerization, telecommunications, and decentralization of governance. He stated that the late Prime Minister would always be remembered as a leader who recognized the importance of technology and



innovation at a time when India was still taking its first steps toward modernization.

The minister highlighted that Rajiv Gandhi's efforts in promoting the computer revolution and expanding the tele-

communications sector transformed the nation's development trajectory. He also recalled Rajiv Gandhi's role in strengthening the Panchayati Raj system, which empowered local self-governance and

brought administration closer to the people.

Emphasizing Rajiv Gandhi's faith in the younger generation, Vakiti Srihari said the former Prime Minister firmly believed that the future of the

country rested in the hands of the youth. He pointed out that Rajiv Gandhi granted voting rights to 18-year-olds, thereby increasing youth participation in the democratic process and giving young citizens a stronger voice in nation-building.

The minister further stated that Rajiv Gandhi envisioned taking technology and development to rural India to accelerate national progress. He said the Congress government continues to carry forward Rajiv Gandhi's ideals and commitment toward inclusive development and technological advancement.

Minister Vakiti Srihari added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Telangana government is also working with dedication toward youth empowerment, digital progress, sports development, and employment generation.

Calling upon people to work collectively toward realizing the ideals and vision of Rajiv Gandhi, the minister urged citizens to contribute to the nation's progress by embracing innovation, education, and inclusive growth



Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Pays Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi at Veer Bhumi

New Delhi, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka paid rich tributes to Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of his death anniversary at Veer Bhumi in New Delhi.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited Rajiv Gandhi's memorial and offered floral tributes, remembering the late leader's immense contribution to the nation. He paid homage at the samadhi and reflected on Rajiv Gandhi's role in shaping modern India through visionary leadership and progressive reforms.

Speaking on the occasion, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka recalled Rajiv Gandhi's remarkable services toward the country's development, technological advancement, and youth empowerment. He said Rajiv Gandhi introduced transformative policies that accelerated India's growth in the fields of information technology, telecommunications, and education.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that Rajiv Gandhi always believed in the strength and potential of the younger generation and worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for youth participation in nation-building. He noted that the former Prime Minister's efforts toward modernization and digital progress laid the foundation for India's emergence as a global technology hub.

Bhatti Vikramarka further said Rajiv Gandhi's vision for an empowered and progressive India continues to inspire generations of leaders and citizens alike. He added that the values and ideals upheld by Rajiv Gandhi remain relevant even today in the country's journey toward inclusive growth and innovation.

Several leaders, party representatives, and supporters also paid homage to the former Prime Minister at Veer Bhumi as the nation remembered his contributions and legacy on his death anniversary.

Digital Push for Telangana Tourism: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Calls for Socially Responsible Influencers

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said tourism is not limited to leisure travel alone but serves as a powerful driver for economic growth, employment generation, and strengthening Telangana's brand image. He called upon digital creators and influencers to showcase Telangana's natural beauty, historical heritage, and cultural richness to the world through digital platforms.

The minister made these remarks while addressing the "Telangana Tourism Creators Meet" held at Tourism Plaza, Begumpet, as part of the state's Tourism Week celebrations. He stated that the state government, which has accelerated its 99-day action plan under the "Praja Palana - Pragathi Pranaliika" initiative, is implementing special measures to provide a fresh boost to the tourism sector.

During the interaction, influencers from various districts across the state shared suggestions and ideas for strengthening tourism promotion. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao assured that the government would consider their recommendations to further im-



prove the sector. At the same time, he urged content creators to move beyond tourism promotion and contribute toward creating social awareness, especially among the youth.

Highlighting the economic potential of tourism, the minister said promoting tourist destinations would create large-scale employment and self-employment opportunities for local youth. He explained that revenue generated through tourism would be utilized for strengthening healthcare, education, and infrastructure development in tourist destinations.

"Life is incomplete if we do

not explore our own regions," the minister remarked, encouraging families to visit tourist destinations within Telangana. He emphasized that financial limitations should not become a barrier to travel and suggested that spending quality time with family at tourist spots brings mental peace and happiness.

The minister further stated that the government is focusing on cleanliness, basic amenities, and modern tent accommodation facilities at tourist locations. He also revealed plans to convert unused Haritha hotels and tourism lands into revenue-generating

assets.

Expressing concern over the growing influence of drugs, betting, online gaming, and other addictive activities among youth, Jupally Krishna Rao appealed to social media influencers to use their platforms responsibly. He said many young people are ruining their futures due to addiction and mental stress caused by such habits. The minister urged influencers to create content that promotes social awareness and positive change.

Announcing a new initiative titled "Prabhata Bheri," the minister said the government would soon launch a large-

scale social awareness campaign using short films, street plays, stage performances, and various art forms to educate the public.

He also called upon creators to actively participate in promoting Telangana's culture, hospitality, handicrafts, handlooms, and heritage globally. The minister announced that the government would introduce awards and special incentives for outstanding tourism creators contributing to the sector's development.

On the occasion, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao also launched the Tourism Department's new Meta account and official Instagram handle. A special video titled "Timeless Telangana," showcasing the state's historical monuments, cultural heritage, handicrafts, handlooms, and Kalamkari art, was screened during the event.

Tourism, Language and Culture Department Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad, Tourism Director Lakshman Ranjith Naik, Managing Director Gauthami, State Art Gallery Director Lakshmi, Language and Culture Department Director Narasimha Reddy, NITHM Director Venkata Ramana, Sahitya Akademi Secretary Balachari, and several others at-



'We Will Correct Dharani Issues, Ensure Land Rights for the Poor': Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Sathupalli, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the state government is committed to resolving the hardships faced by poor families and farmers due to flaws in the Dharani portal and the "irresponsible decisions" taken by the previous government. He asserted that land records, once trapped under the control of feudal systems, would now be restored to the rightful ownership of poor farmers.

The minister made these remarks while addressing the "Praja Palana Pragathi Pranaliika - Praja Darbar" programme held at MR Gardens in Sathupalli under the leadership of local MLA Matta Raghayya Dayanand. The event covered Penuballi, Vemsoor, and Sathupalli mandals, where hundreds of people submitted grievances directly to the minister. Launching a sharp attack on the previous administration, Ponguleti alleged that Telangana, once a financially strong state, had been pushed into debts of nearly Rs. 8.18 lakh crore. Despite the financial burden, he said the present government would not step back from welfare measures and was determined to provide security and support to poor families. The minister stated that unlike the previous government, which allegedly limited Indiramma housing promises to "paper announcements" during elections, the current administration sanctioned 4.5 lakh houses in its very first year with an allocation of Rs. 22,500 crore. He announced that 1.25 lakh houses have already been completed, while

another one lakh houses would be ready by June.

Ponguleti further said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would formally launch the second phase of Indiramma housing distribution across the state on June 2. He emphasized that funds are being transferred directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday without any corruption or middlemen. The government is also supplying free quality sand from the Mulakalapalli quarry for poor beneficiaries constructing houses.

Highlighting employment generation, the minister said the government filled 72,000 jobs within two years and would soon announce more recruitment notifications.

Addressing land disputes, Ponguleti directed revenue officials to complete surveys and measurements of nearly 6,500 acres in and around Sathupalli, including Survey No. 399 and surrounding villages. He instructed authorities to issue pattadar passbooks and update pahan records for eligible farmers occupying the lands. The minister also issued strict instructions regarding forest-revenue land disputes in villages including Rudrakshapalli, Kokapadu, Talapenta, Ramachandrapuram, and Venkatagiri. He assured that forest boundaries would be finalized before the monsoon season and pattas would be provided to poor farmers cultivating lands for generations. He warned forest officials not to obstruct farmers who received rights under the Forest Rights Act from digging borewells for cultivation and directed district authorities to closely monitor the issue.

Minister Tummala Meets Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Seeks Major Support for Telangana Farmers

New Delhi, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Wednesday met Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and submitted comprehensive representations highlighting several key issues concerning Telangana farmers, crop procurement, horticulture funding, and agricultural policies.

During the meeting, Minister Tummala discussed the present challenges faced by the agriculture sector in Telangana, including falling crop prices, procurement difficulties, horticulture expansion needs, and policy support required from the Centre. He informed the Union Minister that the Telangana government is giving top priority to farmer welfare, crop diversification, and horticulture development.

The minister particularly raised the issue of maize and

jowar farmers, stating that cultivation during the Yasangi 2025-26 season covered nearly 20.29 lakh acres with an estimated production of 47.23 lakh metric tonnes. Due to bumper yields and heavy arrivals in market yards, prices have sharply declined. While the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for maize is Rs. 2,400 per quintal, farmers are currently receiving only around Rs. 1,800 in the market, causing severe financial distress.

Tummala informed that the state government has already established 336 procurement centres and procured around 11.45 lakh metric tonnes of maize. However, he requested the Centre to include maize and jowar under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and permit procurement of 14.90 lakh metric tonnes of maize and 2.01 lakh metric tonnes of jowar through central nodal agencies.

The minister also sought an increase in sunflower procurement limits from the current 3,690 metric tonnes to 15,262



metric tonnes, stating that many farmers have shifted towards sunflower cultivation as part of crop diversification efforts. He explained that untimely rains and changing weather conditions were damaging stored produce and affecting farmers badly.

On horticulture development, Tummala requested higher allocations under PMRKVY-PDMC and MIDH schemes, pointing out that existing central allocations are insufficient despite growing demand from farmers for drip irrigation, fruit orchards, veg-

etable cultivation, and oil palm farming.

The minister further urged the Centre to protect oil palm farmers by increasing the import duty on crude palm oil back to 44 percent. He stated that reduced import duties were impacting domestic prices and discouraging farmers who made huge investments in oil palm cultivation.

Tummala also appealed for a clear national policy on Herbicide Tolerant (HT) Cotton, stressing the need for scientific guidelines, environmental safeguards, and farmer protection.

Responding positively, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan assured that the Centre would examine Telangana's proposals comprehensively and take necessary action after discussions with the concerned departments. He assured full cooperation in ensuring remunerative prices, better procurement mechanisms, and sustainable agricultural development for farmers.

Kalvakuntla Kavitha Warns of Fresh Agitation if Telangana Martyrs' Promises Remain Unfulfilled

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday warned the Congress government that a fresh agitation would be inevitable if promises made to Telangana martyrs' families and statehood activists are not fulfilled before June 2, the Telangana Formation Day.

Addressing party workers after unveiling the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) party flag at Quthbullapur as part of the "TRS Flag Festival" programme, Kavitha strongly criticized the state government over delays in implementing assurances given to Telangana movement activists and families of martyrs.

She alleged that the government was attempting to delay the implementation of promises by constituting committees instead of taking concrete action. Kavitha demanded that the government announce the implementation of all pending assurances during the Telangana Formation Day celebrations on June 2. "If the promises are not fulfilled, another movement against the government will become una-

voidable," she warned.

The Telangana Rakshana Sena chief also demanded immediate legislation to regulate fee exploitation by private educational institutions. She accused the government of ignoring repeated appeals on the issue and said a dedicated fee regulation law must be introduced in June to protect parents and students from financial burden.

During the programme, minority leader Ahmed and a large number of his followers joined the Telangana Rakshana Sena in the presence of Kavitha. Welcoming them into the party, she expressed confidence that the party's political journey would begin successfully from Quthbullapur. She stated that the party would contest all divisions in the upcoming GHMC elections and predicted victory in the Quthbullapur Assembly constituency in the next Assembly polls.

Kavitha further criticized the government over the delay in inaugurating the Telangana martyrs' memorial built nearly 20 years ago in Quthbullapur. She issued an ultimatum demanding that the

memorial be inaugurated before June 2, failing which the Telangana Rakshana Sena itself would unveil the structure.

Targeting the Congress government on farmer-related issues, Kavitha alleged that farmers were being cheated in paddy procurement. She accused the government of denying bonus payments for fine variety paddy by labeling produce as "Grade B." She demanded immediate establishment of procurement centres and payment of bonus to farmers, warning that the party would launch agitations in support of farmers if the issue remains unresolved.

Explaining the significance of the Telangana Rakshana Sena flag, Kavitha said the yellow colour symbolized prosperity and backward communities, blue represented workers, SCs, STs, and women, while green stood for the environment and minorities. She said the flag was designed to represent all sections of society.

Kavitha also promised that if Telangana Rakshana Sena comes to power, it would implement its "Panchajanyam"



promises, including free quality education and healthcare, support for farmers, and financial assistance ranging from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 20 crore for youth entrepreneurship.



KTR Backs Protection of KBR Park, Opposes Tree Felling for Road Expansion

Hyderabad, May 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday voiced strong support for the protection of KBR Park, opposing any attempts to fell trees in the name of road expansion around the green zone. His remarks came after representatives of the KBR Park Road Expansion Affected Owners Forum met him and presented their concerns.

The forum members urged KTR to intervene and prevent large-scale tree felling around KBR Park, citing the Supreme Court's directions and the need to preserve the park, often described as the "lungs of Hyderabad." They expressed apprehension that the proposed road expansion would severely impact the ecological balance of the area.

Responding to their concerns, K. T. Rama Rao emphasized that KBR Park is one of the most valuable green spaces in Hyderabad and plays a crucial role in maintaining environmental balance in the rapidly expanding metropolis. He stated that any move that harms such vital green cover must be opposed through democratic and legal means.

KTR recalled that during the previous BRS government, alternative proposals were prepared to ensure that the park and its trees remained unaffected. He noted that underground solutions had been explored as part of these plans, and that these proposals are still available with the municipal administration. He stressed that development should not come at the cost of environmental destruction and that with proper planning and the use of modern technology, both development and conservation can go hand in hand.

Highlighting growing public concern, KTR said the government must take into account the opposition from citizens against tree felling around KBR Park. He underlined that protecting the environment is a collective responsibility and assured that the BRS would stand firmly with the people on this issue.

He further stated that preserving ecological assets like KBR Park is essential to ensure a sustainable and healthy future for coming generations. Reiterating his commitment, KTR said the party would continue to support efforts aimed at safeguarding Hyderabad's green heritage.

VH Urges Replacement of Age-Old Power Lines Amid Rising Fire Incidents in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Amid a spate of fire accidents reported across Hyderabad, Telangana Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao has urged Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka to take immediate steps to replace outdated electricity wiring in several parts of the city. In a letter addressed to the Deputy Chief Minister, Hanumantha Rao highlighted that many areas in Hyderabad continue to rely on electrical wires dating back to the Nizam era. He expressed concern that these ageing and deteriorating lines are posing a serious threat to public safety, leading

to frequent electrocution incidents and fire hazards.

He pointed out that the condition of old wiring has already resulted in multiple accidents, causing damage to both life and property. "In several localities, outdated wires are still in use, increasing the risk of short circuits and fire mishaps," he noted.

Hanumantha Rao also stressed that individuals without insurance coverage are particularly vulnerable, as such incidents often lead to significant financial losses. He said traders and local residents have been consistently demanding the installation of new wiring systems to prevent further damage. "Replacing old

power lines with modern infrastructure will significantly reduce the chances of accidents and help safeguard both lives and property," he stated in his appeal. The senior leader further underlined that faulty and worn-out electrical lines are a major contributing factor to the recurring incidents of electrocution and fires in the city. He called on the government to prioritise the issue and initiate immediate action to upgrade the power infrastructure in vulnerable areas. The appeal comes at a time when Hyderabad has witnessed a series of fire mishaps, prompting concerns over urban safety and infrastructure maintenance.



EC Invites Objections to 'Telangana Rakshana Sena' Registration by June 1

New Delhi, May 21 | TPN Bureau

The Election Commission of India has invited objections, if any, to the registration of a newly proposed political party, Telangana Rakshana Sena, founded by Kalvakuntla Kavitha. As per official guidelines, objections can be submitted to the Commission until June 1.

According to sources, the party's formation was formally announced through public notices published in newspapers, in compliance with Election Commission norms. The announcement appeared in The Echo of India (English) on May 1 and in Aaj (Hindi) on May 3, detailing the party's structure and leadership.

Kalvakuntla Kavitha has been named as the President of the party, while Roop Singh Lakhawat has been designated as Vice President. Devanapalli Ramayagari Anil Kumar will

serve as General Secretary, with Arun Kumar as Treasurer and Ponugoti Pawan Kumar as Joint Treasurer.

The party has listed its official address as House No. 8-2-316/H, Survey No. 129/54, Road No. 14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

As per Election Commission procedures, any individual or organisation wishing to raise objections to the party's registration must submit them, along with valid reasons, to the Secretary (Political Parties), Election Commission of India, within 30 days of the publication of the notice. Based on this timeline, June 1 has been set as the deadline for receiving objections.

The Commission will review all submissions before taking a final decision on granting registration to the proposed political outfit.



Residents Welcome High Court Order on Footpath Encroachments in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, May 22 | TPN Bureau

Residents and pedestrians across Hyderabad have welcomed Telangana High Court directions for strict enforcement against illegal parking and footpath encroachments, saying the move could restore basic walking space in major commercial corridors. From Charminar and Moazzamjahi Market to Ameerpet, Dilusukhnagar, Kukatpally and Secunderabad Railway Station, footpaths are routinely occupied by parked vehicles, temporary stalls and commercial spillover, forcing pedestrians onto busy carriageways.

Local traders said pedestrian movement near Charminar has become chaotic due to overlapping commercial activity and unchecked parking. "In



the Charminar area, people walk on the road more than on the footpath. Half the space is occupied by vendors and the remaining by parked bikes and cars left unattended," said Mohammed Salman, a fabric store owner. He added that even lanes stretching from the High Court side towards the market

remain heavily congested throughout the day due to roadside vending and vehicle clutter. Commuters near Moazzamjahi Market and Koti said roadside parking and informal vending worsen congestion during peak evening hours and weekends. "Vehicles are parked on both sides near the

market, and people randomly stop in the middle to shop or eat. Even crossing the road has become difficult, and footpaths are almost invisible," said Kavaya Ranjani, a shopper. Residents alleged that despite traffic police presence, enforcement against violations remains inconsistent.

Commuters near Secunderabad Railway Station, LB Nagar and Miyapur corridors said bus stops and metro stretches are frequently blocked by private buses, autos and roadside stalls. "Large private buses occupy entire stretches near Dilusukhnagar at night. By evening, multiple buses stop together and there is barely space left for other vehicles or pedestrians," said Ramesh Yadav, a shop owner in Dilusukhnagar. Residents said traffic quickly turns chaotic

during peak hours, affecting both commuters and pedestrians.

In residential and mixed-use areas such as Kukatpally and stretches near Lulu Mall, residents said commercial spillover regularly extends onto roads and footpaths, particularly on weekends. "Bikes are parked on pavements, food stalls come onto the road, and customers leave vehicles wherever they find space," said Sai Teja, a resident. In several colonies, residents have begun placing flower pots and temporary barriers outside gates to deter illegal parking, reflecting growing frustration over shrinking road space. Residents now hope the High Court's intervention will lead to sustained enforcement and reclaim pedestrian rights across the city.



Help Desks Set Up Across Telangana for Special Intensive Revision Drive

Hyderabad, May 22 | TPN Bureau

Help desks have been established across all districts in Telangana to assist citizens during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, aimed at ensuring accurate voter mapping and eliminating errors in the voter database.

According to officials, the initiative is part of the Election Commission of India's ongoing exercise to update and verify electoral records across the state. The help desks will support voters in completing documentation, correcting entries, and linking family voter records, including older data sets used for verification purposes.

In Hyderabad, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has set up multiple facilitation centres across Assembly constituencies to assist residents with pre-SIR voter mapping. Officials said the centres are helping citizens verify details and ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the revised rolls.

Election authorities noted that the help desks are functioning in coordination with Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who will conduct house-to-house visits as part of the revision exercise. Citizens have been encouraged to approach the centres to update details

well before the field verification begins, so that corrections can be completed smoothly during the rollout phase.

District election officials said the primary objective of the SIR exercise is to ensure a "clean and accurate" electoral roll by removing duplicate entries, correcting demographic errors, and updating voter information. The process is also expected to improve transparency and reduce discrepancies in voter identification ahead of upcoming electoral cycles.

Officials added that awareness campaigns are being conducted alongside the help desk initiative to ensure wider participation from urban and rural voters. Special arrangements are being made in government offices, municipal centres, and community spaces to improve accessibility.

Residents across Hyderabad and other districts have welcomed the initiative, saying it would reduce confusion during elections and simplify the process of updating voter records. Many have also expressed hope that the exercise will lead to more reliable and transparent electoral rolls in the state.

The help desk system is expected to remain operational throughout the SIR schedule, with authorities monitoring feedback and extending support wherever required.

Youth Turning towards Telangana Rakshana Sena, Says Rathod Bapurao

Neradigonda, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Claiming that the youth of Telangana are looking for a new political direction, leaders of the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) stated that the party, under the leadership of Kalvakuntla Kavitha, is emerging as a strong alternative committted to addressing unemployment and public issues in the state.

A party flag-hoisting programme was organized on Thursday at Neradigonda Mandal to mark the growing support for the Telangana Rakshana Sena among young people and local residents. The event was attended by party leaders, activists, intellectuals, and youth support-

ers from various villages in the region.

State TRS Supervisory Leader and former Boath MLA Rathod Bapurao attended the programme as the chief guest and hoisted the party flag amid slogans raised by party workers and supporters. Speaking on the occasion, he said Telangana was achieved through years of struggle and sacrifice, but many aspirations of the youth remain unfulfilled even after statehood.

Bapurao alleged that neither the previous BRS government nor the present Congress administration had provided meaningful opportunities or lasting benefits to unemployed youth and ordi-

nary citizens. He stated that young people across Telangana are facing serious challenges due to lack of employment opportunities, economic insecurity, and growing frustration over unfulfilled promises.

He asserted that the Telangana Rakshana Sena, founded under the leadership of Kalvakuntla Kavitha, aims to become the voice of the youth and marginalized sections. According to him, the increasing participation of young people in the party reflects the public's desire for political change and a leadership that understands their struggles.

Expressing confidence in the party's future, Rathod

Bapurao predicted that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would soon emerge as a major political force in the state and eventually form the government with an overwhelming majority under Kavitha's leadership. He called upon party workers and supporters to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level and work towards expanding its influence across Telangana. The former MLA emphasized that the party flag should fly not only throughout the state but particularly across the Boath constituency, where he said public support for the TRS is steadily growing. He appealed to intellectuals, youth, and democratic-minded citizens to



carefully assess the current political situation and extend their support to the Telangana Rakshana Sena. He assured the gathering that the party would always stand by

democratic values and strive to work in line with the aspirations of the people. The programme concluded with slogans supporting the party leadership and calls for or-

ganizational expansion in rural areas. Mandal leader Vasantharao, constituency-level leaders, party activists, and several local youth participated in the event.

Congress Leaders Pay Rich Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi in Sangareddy

Sangareddy, May 21 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders and party workers in Sangareddy town paid heartfelt tributes to former Prime Minister late Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of his death anniversary on Thursday, remembering his contributions to nation-building, youth empowerment, and the modernization of India. The commemorative programme was held at Rajiv Park in Sangareddy, where TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy garlanded the statue of Rajiv Gandhi and paid floral tributes in his memory. A large number of Congress leaders, women representatives, youth wing members, and party activists participated in the event and recalled the former Prime Minister's vision and leadership. Addressing the gathering, Nirmala Jaggareddy described Rajiv Gandhi as the architect of modern India and praised his efforts in transforming the country through technological advancement and progressive governance. She said that Rajiv Gandhi played a historic role in introducing modern re-

forms and strengthening the nation's future by focusing on education, technology, and youth development. She noted that his contribution to the growth of the Information Technology sector and technical education created new opportunities for young people across the country. According to her, the reforms and initiatives introduced during his tenure laid a strong foundation for India's emergence as a global technology hub. Nirmala Jaggareddy further stated that Rajiv Gandhi's vision extended beyond technological progress and included social equality, national unity, and democratic empowerment. She said his services to the nation would continue to inspire future generations and remain deeply remembered in Indian political history. The leaders present at the programme observed that Rajiv Gandhi's leadership brought modernization to governance and administration, while encouraging innovation and development at every level. Party workers also raised slogans in memory of the late leader and reaffirmed their commitment to carrying for-

ward his ideals. Following the tribute programme, Nirmala Jaggareddy visited the Sangareddy Government Maternity and Child Hospital, where she distributed fruits to patients undergoing treatment. She interacted with patients and attendants, inquired about their health conditions, and offered words of encouragement and support. The gesture was appreciated by hospital staff and patients, who welcomed the visit and the concern shown towards public welfare. Congress leaders stated that the programme was organized not only to remember Rajiv Gandhi's contributions but also to continue his spirit of service to society. Among those who participated in the programme were TPCC General Secretary Topaji Anantha Kishan, Sangareddy Municipal Chairperson Koonna Vanitha Santhosh, CDC Chairman Gadila Ram Reddy, Sangareddy Town President Kiran Goud, Koonna Santhosh, Prabhu Goud, Councillor Topaji Veena Harish, senior Congress leaders, women leaders, youth representatives, and several party workers.

Saraswati Anthya Pushkaralu Begin Grandly at Kaleshwaram amid Vedic Rituals

Kaleshwaram, May 21 | TPN Bureau

The 12-day Saraswati Anthya Pushkaralu commenced with great spiritual fervor and grandeur at the Kaleshwaram Pushkar Ghat on Thursday, drawing thousands of devotees from across Telangana and neighboring states. The sacred festival began amid Vedic chanting, traditional rituals, and elaborate religious ceremonies at the renowned Kaleshwaram Mukteshwara Swamy Temple. The Pushkar celebrations were formally inaugurated by Sri Shankara Vijayendra Saraswati, who took the first holy dip at the auspicious time of 5:43 a.m., marking the ceremonial beginning of the Saraswati Anthya Pushkaralu. Priests and Vedic scholars performed special pujas and rituals on the banks of the river as devotees offered prayers seeking spiritual blessings and prosperity. Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, accompanied by his spouse, participated in the inaugural rituals



along with Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Endowments Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, and Principal Secretary of the Endowments Department Sailaja Ramaiyer, District Collector Rahul Sharma, Religious Advisor Govinda Hari, and several other dignitaries. The leaders took the holy dip and offered special prayers at the temple.

Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao and Ibrahimpatnam MLA Mal Reddy Rangareddy also participated in the Pushkar rituals and re-

ceived blessings from Vedic scholars.

A large influx of pilgrims was witnessed at Kaleshwaram from the early hours of the morning. Devotees thronged the ghats to perform the sacred Pushkar bath, which is believed to hold immense spiritual significance during the auspicious period.

To ensure the convenience and safety of devotees, the district administration made extensive arrangements including security deployment, sanitation measures, drinking

water facilities, medical camps, ambulance services, transportation assistance, and temporary shelters. District Collector Rahul Sharma stated that all government departments are working in close coordination to provide a smooth and safe experience for pilgrims throughout the 12-day event. The Kaleshwaram Mukteshwara Swamy Temple is regarded as one of the spiritually unique temples in the country, as it houses both Lord Yama, worshipped as Kaleshwara, and Lord Shiva, worshipped as Mukteshwara, on a single pedestal. Devotees traditionally offer prayers first to Kaleshwara before worshipping Mukteshwara.

Another major attraction for pilgrims is the sacred "Yama Konam," a narrow passage within the temple premises believed to free devotees from sins and fear of death. Religious organizations are also conducting Annadanam programmes and providing free meals to devotees during the Pushkaralu period.



Five Shops Gutted in Midnight Blaze in Nagarkurnool, Short Circuit Suspected

Nagarkurnool, May 21 | TPN Bureau

A major fire accident broke out in Maddimadugu village of Peddar Mandal in Nagarkurnool district late Wednesday night, reducing five shops to ashes and leaving several families devastated. The incident occurred in front of the Pabati Anjaneya Swamy temple, triggering panic among local residents.

According to villagers, the fire is suspected to have originated due to a short circuit in a shop owned by Md. Ghouse. Within minutes, the flames spread rapidly to adjacent shops belonging to Nenavath Bodi, Srinu, Venkatesh, and Mallesh Goud, engulfing the entire row before any effective containment measures could be taken.

Despite desperate attempts by villagers to douse the flames, the fire intensified quickly, destroying goods and property worth several lakhs. Locals said that by the time the fire was brought under control, all five shops had been completely gutted.

The impact of the fire has been severe, particularly for one of the affected traders,

Srinu, whose family has reportedly been rendered homeless, losing all their belongings in the blaze. Residents expressed anguish over the extent of the damage and the sudden loss of livelihood faced by the victims.

Villagers have also alleged negligence on the part of the fire department. They claimed that although the fire personnel were informed immediately, there was a delay in response. According to locals, officials cited the absence of an operator and assured that help was on the way, but the fire engine reached the spot only after significant damage had already occurred.

Preliminary estimates suggest that each shop owner suffered losses ranging between 8 lakh and 10 lakh. Victims have urged the government to provide immediate financial assistance and support to help them recover from the losses.

While officials are yet to confirm the exact cause of the fire, locals maintain that an electrical short circuit triggered the incident. Authorities are expected to conduct a detailed inquiry into the incident and assess the damages

Blood Donation Camp Marks Rajiv Gandhi's 35th Death Anniversary at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

A blood donation camp and photo exhibition were organised at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday to mark the 35th death anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee Rajiv Gandhi. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Khairatabad District Congress Committee (DCC) President Motha Rohith Mudiraj.

The event witnessed the participation of several senior Congress leaders and public representatives. AICC Telangana In-charge Secretary Sachin Sawant, Telangana Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao, MLA Danam Nagesh, and Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharud-



din attended the programme and paid tributes to the late leader.

Speaking on the occasion,

the leaders recalled Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to the nation and highlighted his vision for a modern and progressive

India. They reiterated their commitment to work towards fulfilling his ideals and aspirations for the country.

As part of the commemorative programme, a photo exhibition showcasing key moments from Rajiv Gandhi's life and political journey was set up at the venue, drawing attention from party workers and visitors. The blood donation camp also received an encouraging response, with around 65 volunteers donating blood.

Khairatabad DCC President Motha Rohith Mudiraj said such initiatives not only honour the legacy of Rajiv Gandhi but also serve society by promoting humanitarian values like voluntary blood donation.

The programme concluded with leaders and party workers pledging to carry forward Rajiv Gandhi's vision and continue working for the welfare and development of the nation.

Bhagheerath Arrest Row Sparks Political War of Words; RS Praveen Kumar Questions Contradictory Claims

Hyderabad, May 21 | TPN Bureau

The arrest of Bandi Bhagheerath, son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar and an accused in a POCSO case, has triggered a major political controversy in Telangana, with conflicting statements from key leaders drawing sharp reactions.

BRS leader and former IPS officer R.S. Praveen Kumar on Wednesday questioned the contradictory versions presented by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar regarding the circumstances of the arrest. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, he sought clarity on whether



Bhagheerath was formally arrested by the police or surren-

dered in the presence of lawyers.

"Is it a police arrest or a surrender? Which version is true?" Praveen Kumar asked, raising doubts over the differing claims. He further questioned whether the public should believe the State's Chief Minister or the Union Minister. "Is Revanth Reddy lying, or is Bandi Sanjay Kumar not telling the truth?" he asked.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated that the police had apprehended Bhagheerath during a naka bandi operation conducted on the road. He maintained that there was no political angle to the arrest and urged people to trust the police version.

However, contradicting this claim, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar had on Tuesday

asserted that he had personally ensured his son's surrender before the police through legal channels. "As a responsible Union Minister and political leader, I myself handed over my son to the police through my lawyers," he had stated.

The starkly different accounts have intensified the political debate, with opposition leaders demanding transparency in the case. The issue has further escalated tensions between the ruling Congress and the BJP in the State.

With both sides sticking to their versions, the controversy has raised questions over the sequence of events leading to Bhagheerath's custody, prompting calls for clarity from the authorities.

School Dropouts - A Challenge Requiring Immediate Action

School dropouts remain one of the most serious social and developmental challenges in India, particularly among children belonging to economically weaker sections, tribal communities, migrant families, urban slums, and disaster or conflict-prone regions. Addressing the issue of school dropouts requires a comprehensive strategy involving prevention, rehabilitation, mainstreaming, livelihood support, and social protection.

Article 21-A of the Constitution of India and Section 3(1) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 guarantee free and compulsory education to children. It is therefore the collective responsibility of society and the government to ensure that every school dropout child is brought back into the education system.

Several factors contribute to children discontinuing their education. Poverty and economic pressure force many children into labour or family occupations. Early marriage, particularly among girls, continues to interrupt education in many rural areas. Migration of families, lack of nearby secondary schools, poor learning outcomes, digital divide, and inadequate educational infrastructure further aggravate the problem. In rural and tribal areas, transportation difficulties and a shortage of teachers also discourage children from continuing their studies.

Infrastructure deficiencies play a significant role in increasing dropout rates. Many schools are located far from habitations, making access difficult for children, especially girls. Lack of proper sanitation facilities, particularly separate toilets for girls, poor transportation facilities, and inadequate teaching staff remain major concerns



in several regions.

The Government of India has introduced several programmes and welfare schemes to reduce dropout rates, including Samagra Shiksha, the PM POSHAN Scheme (formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme), the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, scholarships for SC/ST/OBC and minority students, Kas-

turba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya schools, and the targets under National Education Policy 2020 to achieve universal school education by 2030. Despite these efforts, school dropout rates continue to remain a matter of concern.

Similarly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has launched several flagship initiatives, such as the Nadu-Nedu Programme for improv-

ing school infrastructure, the Amma Vodi Scheme providing financial assistance to mothers, Vidya Kanuka, the introduction of English-medium education in government schools, and student tracking systems through village and ward secretariats. Yet, school dropouts in the state are still estimated to be around one lakh.

There is an urgent need to

identify and mainstream these children before the commencement of the academic year 2026-27. This can be achieved through village-level surveys, maintenance of school-wise dropout registers, involvement of community volunteers and local NGOs, and establishment of digital tracking systems linked with Aadhaar and school databases.

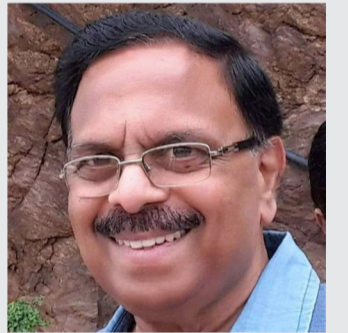
Section 4 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides that a child who has either not been admitted to school or could not complete elementary education has the right to special training or bridge courses appropriate to his or her age before being admitted to the corresponding class. Therefore, the government should establish more

residential bridge course centres across the state to help children who have dropped out of mainstream schools effectively.

School dropouts are not merely an educational concern; they represent a broader socio-economic challenge affecting employment, public health, social stability, and national development. Though India possesses strong legal frameworks and welfare schemes, gaps continue to exist in implementation, adolescent support, vocational mainstreaming, infrastructure development, and community participation.

A coordinated effort involving governments, educational institutions, communities, NGOs, and families is essential to ensure that every child is brought back into education, equipped with skills, and provided an opportunity for a dignified future. The government must also strictly monitor the effective implementation of all educational and welfare schemes intended for school dropout children and their families.

Only through sustained commitment and collective responsibility can India achieve the goal of inclusive and universal education for every child.



B.V.S. KUMAR

Former Chairman
Child Welfare
Committee
Krishna district

Beyond Brilliance Breaking the Chains of Sacrificial Femininity

From Corporate Excellence to Domestic Expectations The Unseen Collapse

India is witnessing an unprecedented demographic irony. While young women execute a meritorious, breathtaking takeover of academic and corporate echelons, a regressive undercurrent quietly sabotages their flight. We are producing a generation of intellectually formidable women who are systematically socialised to accept emotional and professional subjugation. As a voice of this generation, I refuse to romanticise this heartbreaking contradiction. The problem is no longer capability; it is a quiet, aching crisis of self-worth engineered by societal design. It is time to dismantle the cultural machinery that encourages a girl to conquer the world, only to demand she shrink herself to fit into the cramped corners of domestic insecurity.

The Up-Ranking Deception: Education as a Matrimonial Commodity

Even within self-proclaimed "progressive" households, a deeply insulting subtext governs a daughter's growth. Parents push daughters to reach their professional potential, not to forge independent destinies, but to use their achievements as leverage to up-rank in the transactional matrimonial bazaar.

In this hyper-transactional calculus, a woman's corporate title, late-night grinds, and salary package are treated merely as premium assets to decorate her matrimonial biodata. This sends a damaging psychological signal across genders. For

young women, it reinforces a painful truth: their success is treated as ephemeral—a temporary, pre-marital accolade meant to buy family status rather than build an enduring legacy. For young boys, it teaches them to view an accomplished woman not as an equal partner, but as a prestigious acquisition who will eventually surrender her identity to the pressures of conformity.

The Anatomy of the Retreat: The Illusion of Choice

This parental encouragement is strictly conditional; it expires the moment a woman's success challenges traditional patriarchal dominance. Upon marriage, the modern Indian woman faces the crushing, exhausting myth of the "superwoman"—expected to bring home a corporate paycheck while assuming 100% of the domestic and emotional labour.

Under the subtle, suffocating extortion of "Log kya kahenge?" (What will people say?), ambition is pathologised as "ego," and silent martyrdom is elevated as the ultimate feminine virtue. Faced with systemic burnout, emotional isolation, and zero domestic accountability from partners, women step off the leadership track just to survive. Consequently, the average high-achieving woman retreats into a quiet, culturally mandated obsolescence at the exact juncture she should be accelerating into the C-suite.

The Blueprint for a Societal and Economic Renaissance

To transition from temporary female participation to sustained female leadership,



India requires an uncompromising overhaul of its social fabric. True transformation demands three distinct cultural pivots:

1. Erase the Script for Daughters: Parents must decouple a daughter's worth from her marital eligibility. Girls must be given the psychological safety to fight ruthlessly for their careers and identities—irrespective of familial expectations or emotional guilt.

Their dreams cannot end at the altar.

2. Decondition and Educate Sons: Absolute equality must be fiercely taught to young boys. Sons must be socialised to share the domestic load, undertake emotional labour, and co-exist with powerful women, breaking the generational cycle that expects women to shrink so men can feel secure.

3. Normalise Non-Negotiable Standards: Young women

must collectively reject the romance of martyrdom. There is nothing noble about erasing oneself for love. A relationship must be a matrix of mutual amplification, not an emotional ecosystem where a woman must systematically wither away so another can feel powerful.

The Dividends of Defiance: India's Metamorphosis

Unlocking this trapped potential will fundamentally al-

ter the trajectory of the nation. Economically, closing the gender gap in workforce participation is a macroeconomic imperative. Keeping women in sustained leadership positions injects immense, unutilized talent into the workforce, directly accelerating India's momentum toward its \$7-trillion economic target and unlocking its true potential as a global superpower.

Societally, the benefits are

deeply human. When women retain institutional power, it breaks the intergenerational cycle of subjugation. Educated, autonomous mothers raise happier, freer children—both sons and daughters—untouched by gendered emotional guilt. This shifts the foundational fabric of Indian society from a hierarchy of dominance to an ecosystem of merit, deep empathy, and mutual respect.

Love should never cost a woman her future. Your brilliance is an asset to be leveraged, not an anomaly to be apologised for.

The ultimate tragedy of modern India is not that society attempts to suppress powerful women. The tragedy is that highly capable women are being psychologically manoeuvred into suppressing themselves. The era of the brilliant but compliant daughter is over. We do not need women who merely flash brilliantly in their youth before dissolving into domestic obscurity. We need women who claim power, sustain it, and refuse to negotiate their worth. This is how we ensure women are not just filling seats, but leading the nation.



Fouzia Iarannum

Youth Mentor

Suwendu Adhikari Demands 'Vande Mataram' Be Made Mandatory in Bengal Madrassas

West Bengal BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari has stirred a fresh political controversy after demanding that the singing of "Vande Mataram" be made compulsory in madrassas across the state.

Adhikari made the statement while addressing a public gathering, arguing that educational institutions in West Bengal, including madrassas, should promote patriotism and national identity by ensuring students sing the national song regularly. His remarks immediately triggered sharp political reactions and reignited debate over religion, education, and nationalism in the state.

According to Adhikari, "Vande Mataram" represents national

pride and unity, and no educational institution should object to its inclusion in daily activities. He claimed that all schools and madrassas should follow similar practices in order to strengthen a sense of national belonging among students.

The BJP leader's comments quickly became a major political issue in West Bengal, where tensions between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party frequently intensify around cultural and religious matters. BJP supporters backed Adhikari's demand, saying patriotic expressions should be encouraged across all institutions regardless of religious background.

However, opposition parties and several minority organizations strongly criticized the proposal. Critics accused the BJP of attempting to politicize education and target madrassas for ideological reasons. Some leaders argued that forcing institutions to follow political directives could create unnecessary social divisions and communal tensions.

The debate also revived longstanding discussions around the status of "Vande Mataram" in India's political and cultural landscape. While many consider the song a symbol of patriotism and the freedom movement, some groups have historically raised objections regarding specific religious references within the song.

Political analysts noted that issues related to identity, nationalism, and religious institutions often become highly sensitive in West Bengal, especially ahead of major elections. Statements involving madrassas and cultural practices frequently trigger intense public debate and political polarization in the state.

Social media reactions to Adhikari's comments remained deeply divided. Supporters praised the move as an effort to encourage patriotism among students, while critics described it as an attempt to impose majoritarian politics on minority educational institutions.

The controversy has once again highlighted the growing po-

litical battles over education, religious identity, and nationalism across different parts of India. Similar debates involving patriotic songs, dress codes, and educational practices have surfaced repeatedly in recent years.

Meanwhile, leaders from the ruling Trinamool Congress accused the BJP of deliberately creating divisive narratives for political gain. They argued that educational institutions should focus on academics and social harmony rather than becoming arenas for ideological conflict.

As political reactions continue to intensify, the issue is expected to remain a significant talking point in West Bengal's already heated political environment.



After 59 Years, Congress Gets Stronger Representation in Tamil Nadu Cabinet Expansion



Tamil Nadu politics witnessed fresh excitement after a cabinet expansion by the state government triggered intense speculation about actor-turned-politician Vijay and the growing political impact of his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

The cabinet reshuffle and induction of new ministers have become a major political talking point in the state, especially as political parties begin preparing for the upcoming electoral battles. While the expansion itself focused on administrative changes and balancing regional representation, much of the public discussion quickly shifted toward the

broader political implications involving Vijay's rising popularity.

Vijay, one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars, formally launched his political party earlier this year, dramatically changing political conversations in Tamil Nadu. Since then, both ruling and opposition parties have been closely monitoring his growing support base, particularly among young voters and first-time political participants.

The latest cabinet changes have fueled speculation that established parties are attempting to strengthen their positions ahead of future electoral challenges, especially with the

emergence of TVK as a potentially influential political force. Analysts believe traditional political players are increasingly aware that Vijay's popularity could reshape voter dynamics in the state.

The cabinet expansion reportedly included the induction of Congress representatives as ministers, reflecting the continued alliance dynamics within the ruling coalition. Political observers noted that balancing coalition interests, regional representation, caste equations, and administrative priorities played a major role in the reshuffle.

However, social media conversations surrounding the development were dominated by discussions about Vijay rather than the new ministers themselves. Supporters of TVK claimed the changing political atmosphere in Tamil Nadu has already begun influencing strategic decisions by major parties.

Vijay's political rise has attracted enormous public attention because of his massive fan following and strong influence in Tamil popular culture. His speeches emphasizing governance, anti-corruption, youth participation, and social welfare have gained traction

among sections of the electorate.

At the same time, critics argue that translating cinematic popularity into electoral success remains a major challenge. Tamil Nadu has a long history of film personalities entering politics, but sustaining long-term political growth requires strong organizational networks, grassroots leadership, and clear policy direction.

Political experts believe the coming months will be crucial for Vijay and TVK as the party works to establish a stronger political structure across the state. The reactions of established parties to his emergence are likely to shape campaign strategies and alliance calculations ahead of future elections.

The cabinet expansion has therefore become more than just an administrative exercise. It has also highlighted the changing political landscape in Tamil Nadu, where the entry of a major film star into active politics is already influencing discussions across party lines.

As political competition intensifies, Vijay's growing presence is expected to remain one of the most closely watched developments in Tamil Nadu politics.

Prashant Kishor May Take Up New Political Role in Maharashtra, Sparks Speculation

Political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor is once again at the centre of political buzz after reports suggested he could soon take up a new assignment in Maharashtra politics.

According to reports, Kishor is believed to be in discussions with the Sunetra Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) regarding a possible strategic role aimed at revamping the party's political machinery ahead of upcoming elections. The development has triggered intense speculation within Maharashtra's political circles.

Sources reportedly indicated that a key meeting recently took place between Prashant Kishor, NCP national president Sunetra Pawar, and MP Parth Pawar. The discussions are believed to have focused on strengthening the party organization, improving electoral strategy, and rebuilding the party's public image after recent political setbacks.

The possible collaboration comes at a sensitive time for the NCP, which has been dealing with internal restructuring, leadership changes, and uncertainty over future political direction. Reports suggest that legal and organizational formalities connected to the arrangement could be completed soon, following which Kishor's team may formally begin working with the party.

The news has already created considerable chatter within the NCP. Some party insiders reportedly view Kishor's entry as an opportunity to modern-



ize campaign strategy and improve the party's electoral positioning in Maharashtra. Others, however, are said to be uneasy about potential changes in the party's internal power structure and decision-making process.

Prashant Kishor remains one of India's most recognized political strategists, having worked with several major political leaders and parties over the past decade. His past clients have included Narendra Modi, Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, MK Stalin, and Amarinder Singh, among others.

At the same time, Kishor's own political journey in Bihar has recently faced challenges. His Jan Suraj Party failed to make a major breakthrough in the Bihar Assembly elections, leading to intense debate about his transition from political strategist to active politician.

Despite that setback, Kishor continues to command significant attention because of his reputation for designing aggressive election campaigns,

and organizational restructuring models.

The reports have also fueled speculation about changing political equations inside the NCP. Observers believe the possible induction of Kishor's team could strengthen younger leadership figures within the party while reshaping campaign management and digital outreach operations.

Meanwhile, Parth Pawar publicly attempted to downplay the speculation, describing Kishor as a family friend and stating that their recent interaction was informal. However, political observers believe the timing and nature of the meeting have intensified rumours of a larger political understanding.

As Maharashtra's political landscape continues evolving ahead of future elections, Prashant Kishor's possible entry into the state's political strategy space is likely to remain a closely watched development.

CBI Probe Into NEET-UG 2026 Leak Deepens as Translator Role Comes Under Scanner

The investigation into the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak has intensified, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) now focusing on the role of translators and subject experts involved in preparing the examination papers.

According to reports, the probe has revealed that one of the arrested accused, Pune-based Botany teacher Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, allegedly had access not only to the Biology section of the exam but also to the translation process linked to Botany and Zoology questions. Investigators suspect that this additional access may have expanded the scale of the leak.

Mandhare, who was appointed as an expert by the National Testing Agency (NTA), was reportedly involved in preparing and translating examination content. Officials believe this gave her access to highly confidential material connected to the medical entrance examination.

The CBI has been investigating whether sensitive questions were leaked to selected students before the examination through organized coaching sessions and intermediaries. Reports suggest that special classes were allegedly conducted for



students who may have received access to leaked content ahead of the exam.

The investigation has also uncovered a broader network involving multiple individuals across different states. Authorities are reportedly examining financial transactions, digital communication records, and links between coaching operators, middlemen, and exam-related personnel.

The scandal has triggered nationwide concern because NEET is one of India's most competitive entrance examinations, with lakhs of students appearing each year for admis-

sion into medical colleges. Allegations of paper leaks and manipulation have once again raised serious questions about examination security and transparency.

Investigators are now scrutinizing the complete process of paper-setting, translation, printing, and distribution to identify possible vulnerabilities in the system. Several officials linked to the examination process have reportedly been questioned as part of the expanding probe.

Reports also suggest that digital platforms and encrypted messaging channels are under

the scanner, as authorities suspect leaked material may have been circulated electronically before the examination.

The controversy has intensified political and public pressure on the National Testing Agency and the Education Ministry to strengthen safeguards for national-level examinations. Students and parents across the country have expressed anger and anxiety over repeated allegations of irregularities in competitive exams.

The NEET-UG 2026 examination was eventually cancelled following the leak allegations, and a re-examination has reportedly been scheduled. Meanwhile, the CBI continues conducting raids, interrogations, and forensic analysis to uncover the full extent of the alleged racket.

Officials believe the investigation may expose a larger organized network involving education consultants, coaching operators, and insiders connected to the examination system. More arrests are expected as the probe moves forward.

The case has once again highlighted the growing challenge of protecting large-scale public examinations in India from organized malpractice and paper leak syndicates.

Nominations Invited for Prime Minister Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026

The Government of India has invited nominations for the prestigious Prime Minister Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2026, a national award presented annually to recognize exceptional achievements of children across the country.

The awards honour young achievers who have displayed excellence and outstanding contribution in various fields including bravery, sports, social service, science and technology, environment, arts, and culture.

The Prime Minister Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is regarded as one of the highest honours for children in India. It aims to encourage and celebrate young talent that inspires society through dedication, innovation, courage, and service at an early age.

Children who are Indian

citizens and residing in the country are eligible to apply for the award. Applicants must have completed five years of age and should not be above 18 years as of July 31, 2026.

The nomination process has been made completely online through the National Awards Portal. Citizens can submit nominations by visiting the official portal at awards.gov.in. Both self-nominations and recommendations by individuals, institutions, schools, or organizations will be considered for the awards.

The last date for submission of online nominations is July 31, 2026. Authorities have encouraged parents, teachers, educational institutions, and members of the public to identify and nominate deserving children who have made remarkable contributions in

their respective fields.

The awards are presented by the Government of India to honour children whose achievements create a positive impact on society and inspire others. Over the years, several young achievers from different parts of the country have received recognition under the scheme for their extraordinary accomplishments.

Officials stated that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to supporting and encouraging talented children who contribute meaningfully to the nation through courage, creativity, innovation, leadership, and social responsibility.

Further details regarding eligibility, categories, and the nomination process are available on the National Awards Portal.

PM Modi Gifts Dutch PM a Special Madhubani Painting Featuring Sacred Fish Motif

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof with a traditional Madhubani painting featuring the iconic fish motif, highlighting India's rich artistic heritage and shared environmental values between the two nations.

Madhubani painting, a GI-tagged folk art tradition from the Mithila region of India and Nepal, is globally celebrated for its intricate geometric designs, vibrant colours, and deep cultural symbolism. Traditionally practiced by women, the art form has long been associated with festivals, weddings, and sacred rituals. Rooted in mythology and folklore, Madhubani paintings often portray deities, nature, and scenes from everyday life using motifs such as flowers, birds, trees, and fish.

The artwork gifted to the Dutch Prime Minister prominently features the fish motif, considered one of the most sacred and enduring symbols in Madhubani art. In Indian cultural traditions, fish represent

fertility, prosperity, harmony, and positive energy. The symbol is also seen as a sign of abundance and the continuity of life.

The choice of artwork carried a deeper symbolic meaning linked to environmental sustainability and ecological balance. The fish motif was said to reflect the shared commitment of India and the Netherlands toward protecting natural ecosystems and promoting sustainable coexistence.

The symbolism also drew parallels with the Netherlands' renowned Fish Migration

River project at the Afsluitdijk, an innovative ecological initiative designed to restore natural migration routes for aquatic species. Just as the Dutch project supports the free movement of fish and the preservation of biodiversity, the Madhubani artwork represents harmony between humans and nature.

The gift exchange became a reflection of cultural diplomacy, where traditional Indian art was used to communicate values extending beyond aesthetics. Such sym-

bolic gifts are often carefully selected during diplomatic visits to strengthen cultural connections and highlight shared priorities between countries.

India has increasingly used traditional handicrafts, folk art, and regional crafts as diplomatic gifts during high-level international engagements. These gifts not only showcase the country's artistic diversity but also promote local artisans and heritage traditions on the global stage.

Madhubani art itself has gained inter-

national recognition over the years for its distinctive style and cultural significance. Artists continue to preserve and modernize the centuries-old tradition while maintaining its strong connection to nature, spirituality, and storytelling.

The presentation of the fish motif painting therefore served not only as a cultural gesture but also as a symbolic message about environmental awareness, sustainability, and international cooperation in preserving ecological balance.

national recognition over the years for its distinctive style and cultural significance. Artists continue to preserve and modernize the centuries-old tradition while maintaining its strong connection to nature, spirituality, and storytelling.

The presentation of the fish motif painting therefore served not only as a cultural gesture but also as a symbolic message about environmental awareness, sustainability, and international cooperation in preserving ecological balance.



PM Modi's 'Chaiwala' Remark in Rome Goes Viral During Italy Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Rome grabbed major attention online after a light-hearted comment about his past as a tea seller quickly went viral across social media platforms. The remark, made during an informal interaction in Italy, once again highlighted Modi's ability to blend humour and personal storytelling into high-profile diplomatic events.

During the interaction, PM Modi jokingly referred to himself as a "chaiwala" while speaking about International Tea Day. In a cheerful moment that drew laughter and applause, he said the "chaiwala" had arrived early to celebrate the occasion. The statement immediately resonated with audiences online, with clips from the event rapidly spreading across social media.

The comment carried symbolic value because Modi has frequently

spoken about his humble beginnings as a tea seller before entering politics. Over the years, the "chaiwala" narrative has become an important part of his public image and political identity. Supporters often see it as a reflection of his rise from an ordinary background to the country's highest political office.

The Rome visit itself generated significant global and online attention, especially because of Modi's interactions with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Social media users once again revived the viral "Melodi" trend — a playful combination of the names Modi and Meloni — after the two leaders were seen sharing warm and friendly moments during official meetings and public appearances.

One of the highlights from the visit was PM Modi gifting Giorgia Meloni a packet of "Melody" toffees, cleverly referencing the popu-

lar "Melodi" meme circulating online. Videos and photos from the exchange quickly became viral content, with users across platforms turning the diplomatic interaction into a major internet trend.

While the viral moments dominated online conversations, the visit also focused on important diplomatic discussions between India and Italy. The two leaders reportedly discussed cooperation in areas such as trade, defence, technology, renewable energy, and strategic partnerships. Both nations are said to be interested in strengthening bilateral ties amid changing global economic and geopolitical conditions.

Political observers noted that Modi's communication style often combines formal diplomacy with relatable public messaging. His use of humour, cultural references, and personal anecdotes fre-

quently helps create memorable moments that extend beyond traditional political coverage and gain traction among younger audiences online.

The "chaiwala" remark especially struck a chord with supporters who praised the Prime Minister for embracing his background openly even on international platforms. Many social media users described the moment as authentic and relatable, while others appreciated the informal tone amid an otherwise serious diplomatic visit.

As videos and memes from the Rome visit continue circulating online, PM Modi's "chaiwala" comment has emerged as one of the most widely discussed moments from his Italy tour, once again demonstrating how politics, diplomacy, and internet culture increasingly intersect in today's digital age.



Iran Reviews Fresh US Peace Proposal as Trump Warns Talks Are "On the Borderline"

Iran has confirmed that it is reviewing a fresh proposal from the United States aimed at easing tensions and moving toward a possible peace agreement, as former US President Donald Trump warned that negotiations are now "on the borderline."

The latest development comes amid growing international concern over the prolonged tensions involving Iran, the United States, and Israel. According to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei, Tehran has received the latest American proposal and is carefully examining its contents before delivering an official response.

Trump, while speaking about the ongoing negotiations, signaled both optimism and frustration. He claimed the discussions were entering a decisive phase and warned that if diplomacy failed, the United States remained prepared to take stronger action against Tehran.

Reports suggest the negotiations are being supported by regional mediators, including Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Egypt. Diplomats are reportedly trying to bridge major disagreements sur-

rounding Iran's nuclear programme, economic sanctions, and maritime tensions linked to the Strait of Hormuz.

One of the biggest sticking points remains Iran's uranium enrichment programme. Iranian leadership has reportedly refused to fully surrender its enriched uranium stockpile, arguing that such a move would weaken national security and increase vulnerability to future attacks.

At the same time, Tehran is believed to be demanding relief from US sanctions, the release of frozen financial assets, and an end to certain military and naval pressures in the region. Discussions are also connected to the reopening and security of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil shipping routes. The negotiations have reportedly created tension between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. While Trump appears increasingly open to a negotiated settlement, Netanyahu is said to favor a tougher military strategy against Iran.

Global markets are closely monitoring the talks because any escalation in the region could impact oil prices, shipping routes, and broader economic stability. Oil prices have already shown volatility as investors react to every major development connected to the negotiations.

Meanwhile, diplomatic activity across the Middle East continues to intensify. Reports indicate Pakistan's military leadership may travel to Tehran as part of mediation efforts aimed at preventing another round of conflict.

Although both sides continue to exchange warnings, there are also signs that neither Washington nor Tehran wants a full-scale escalation at this stage. Analysts believe the coming days could prove crucial in determining whether the talks lead to a breakthrough or push the region closer to another major crisis.



Trump Claims He Could "Run for Israel PM" Amid Growing Differences With Netanyahu Over Iran

Former US President Donald Trump has sparked global attention after making a dramatic statement suggesting he could "run for prime minister in Israel" because of his popularity there. The remark came during a period of rising tensions between Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over how to handle the ongoing conflict involving Iran.

Trump reportedly made the comment while discussing his strong support base in Israel and his long-standing relationship with the country. His statement quickly went viral online, with supporters and critics debating whether it was meant as humour, political messaging, or a reflection of his confidence in Israeli public support.

The comments arrived at a sensitive moment as reports emerged of growing disagreements between Trump and Netanyahu regarding the future strategy toward Iran. According to international media reports, a recent phone call between the two leaders became tense, with both sides reportedly clashing over whether diplomacy or military pressure should guide the next phase of the conflict.

Trump is said to be increasingly interested in exploring diplomatic options with Tehran, while Netanyahu has reportedly pushed for a more aggressive military approach aimed at weakening Iran's strategic capabilities. The divide highlights growing differences between Washington and Tel Aviv over how to secure long-term stability in the region.

At the same time, negotiations involving Iran appear to be entering a critical stage. Iranian officials confirmed that Tehran has received a fresh proposal from the United States and is currently reviewing it. Trump described the talks as being "on the borderline," warning that the US was prepared to act quickly if negotiations failed to produce satisfactory results.

The broader conflict has already caused major geopolitical and economic concerns across the world. Tensions surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, global oil supply disruptions, and fears of wider regional escalation have kept international markets on edge. Several countries are reportedly involved in diplomatic mediation efforts aimed at preventing another round of military



anyahu reflects a deeper strategic divide. While both leaders remain strongly opposed to Iran's nuclear ambitions, they may differ on how far military pressure should go and whether a negotiated settlement remains possible.

As peace talks continue and regional tensions remain high, Trump's controversial "Israel prime minister" remark has added another unexpected twist to an already volatile geopolitical situation.

US, UK and Italy Condemn Israeli Minister After Video Shows Activists Pushed to Ground

The United States, United Kingdom, and Italy have strongly condemned the actions of an Israeli minister after a viral video showed pro-Palestinian flotilla activists being pushed to the ground during a tense confrontation.

The incident reportedly took place during a gathering linked to activists supporting humanitarian efforts toward Gaza. Videos circulating widely online appeared to show individuals being forcefully handled and pushed down amid heated exchanges involving supporters, security personnel, and political figures.

The controversy intensified after Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir was accused of encouraging aggressive behaviour toward the activists. International criticism quickly followed, with Western governments expressing concern over the treatment shown in the footage.

Officials from the US, UK, and Italy issued statements condemning the incident and calling for restraint, respect for human rights, and the protection of peaceful demonstrators. The reactions reflected growing international unease over rising tensions connected to the Israel-Gaza conflict and increasing political polarization surrounding protests and humanitarian campaigns.

The flotilla activists involved in the incident were reportedly participating in efforts aimed at drawing attention to the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Several activist groups have recently attempted to organize symbolic aid missions and demonstrations to protest ongoing mili-



tary actions and restrictions affecting civilians in the region.

The viral video quickly triggered outrage across social media platforms, where many users criticized what they described as excessive force and intimidation against activists. Human rights organizations and international observers also expressed concern over the broader climate surrounding protests linked to the Gaza conflict.

Supporters of the Israeli minister, however, defended his actions and argued that security concerns remain extremely high due to ongoing regional tensions. Some Israeli political figures accused activists of provoking confronta-

tions and attempting to create international controversy through highly public demonstrations.

The incident comes at a time when Israel faces mounting diplomatic pressure from several Western nations over its handling of the conflict and the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Protests, demonstrations, and political disputes connected to the war have intensified across multiple countries in recent months.

Political analysts believe the strong response from key allies such as the US, UK, and Italy highlights growing divisions within the international community regarding Israel's domestic political rhetoric and security policies. The criti-

cism also reflects increasing sensitivity around incidents involving protesters, journalists, and humanitarian activists.

Meanwhile, activist groups have vowed to continue organizing demonstrations and awareness campaigns despite the confrontation. They argue that international attention remains essential to keeping focus on the humanitarian crisis and civilian suffering in the region.

As the video continues circulating globally, the incident has become another flashpoint in the broader debate surrounding free protest, state security, and international reactions to the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Pakistani Senator's Anti-India Speech Sparks Massive Outrage Online

A Pakistani senator has triggered widespread outrage after delivering a fiery anti-India speech in the country's Senate, with clips of the remarks rapidly going viral across social media platforms.

The controversy erupted after the senator made provocative comments directed at India during a speech filled with aggressive rhetoric and warnings. One particular phrase — "Mit jaoge" — drew especially strong reactions online, with many viewers criticizing the tone and language used during the address.

Videos of the speech quickly spread across the internet, sparking sharp reactions from Indian social media users, political commentators, and several public figures. Many accused the senator of making irresponsible and inflammatory statements at a time when regional stability and diplomatic relations remain sensitive issues.

The remarks reportedly came during a discussion related to India-Pakistan relations and broader geopolitical tensions in South Asia. The speech included criticism of India's policies and strong nationalist messaging aimed at energizing domestic political audiences.

Social media platforms witnessed intense debate soon after the clips surfaced. Many users condemned the speech as unnecessarily provocative, while others described it as political posturing designed to attract attention and appeal to headline supporters.

Several Indian commentators argued that such rhetoric only increases hostility be-



tween the two neighboring countries and makes constructive diplomatic engagement more difficult. Others questioned why inflammatory speeches continue to receive attention despite repeated calls for peace and regional cooperation.

The incident once again highlighted the fragile nature of India-Pakistan relations, which have remained strained for years due to border disputes, terrorism concerns, political disagreements, and military tensions. Public statements made by political leaders on either side often attract major attention and can quickly escalate online debates.

Analysts noted that fiery political speeches are frequently used in domestic politics across the region to project strength and nationalism. However, they warned that such statements can deepen mistrust and fuel public anger

during already tense geopolitical situations.

The viral reaction also demonstrated how quickly political remarks now spread globally through digital platforms. Within hours, short video clips from the speech were being widely shared, debated, and criticized across multiple social media networks.

Despite the backlash, supporters of the senator defended the speech, claiming it reflected strong patriotic sentiment and frustration over longstanding bilateral disputes. Critics, however, argued that inflammatory rhetoric risks damaging prospects for dialogue and regional peace.

The episode has once again underscored how political speeches in South Asia can rapidly become international talking points, especially when they involve sensitive issues connected to India-Pakistan relations.

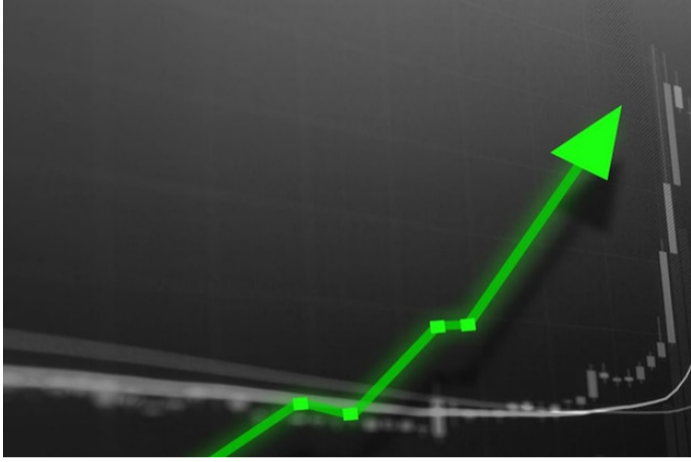
Apollo Hospitals Shares Hit 52-Week High After Strong Q4 Results

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd witnessed a sharp rally in its share price after reporting strong fourth-quarter earnings, with the stock climbing to a fresh 52-week high during Thursday's trading session. The impressive results boosted investor confidence and triggered renewed optimism around the company's growth outlook.

The healthcare major delivered better-than-expected performance across key business segments, driven by strong hospital occupancy, growth in pharmacy operations, and improving margins. Analysts noted that steady demand for healthcare services and expansion in digital health platforms also contributed significantly to the company's robust quarterly numbers.

Following the earnings announcement, Apollo Hospitals shares surged over 4 percent in intraday trade, touching a new yearly high on the stock exchanges. The rally reflected strong buying interest from investors who viewed the results as a sign of continued momentum in the healthcare sector.

Brokerage firms largely responded positively to the earnings report, with several maintaining bullish views on the stock. Analysts highlighted that the company continues to benefit from its leadership position in India's private healthcare industry, supported by strong brand value, expanding hospital capacity, and rising healthcare spending across the country.



The company's hospital business reportedly delivered healthy revenue growth due to increased patient volumes and higher occupancy rates. Improved operational efficiency and better cost management also helped strengthen profitability during the quarter.

Apollo's pharmacy and digital healthcare segments remained important contributors as well. The company has continued investing heavily in technology-driven healthcare solutions, including online pharmacy services and digital consultations, which are increasingly becoming major growth drivers.

Market experts believe the healthcare sector remains structurally strong due to rising awareness about quality medical care, expanding insurance coverage, and increasing demand for organized healthcare services in India. Apollo Hospitals, being one of the country's largest healthcare

providers, is considered well-positioned to benefit from these long-term trends.

Despite the positive sentiment, some analysts advised investors to remain cautious about short-term valuations after the recent sharp rally in the stock price. They noted that while the company's fundamentals remain strong, a significant rise in share value over a short period could lead to temporary profit booking.

Still, the broader outlook for Apollo Hospitals remains optimistic according to most market observers. Many believe the company's diversified healthcare ecosystem, strong operational performance, and ongoing expansion plans could support future growth.

The latest rally has once again highlighted investor confidence in healthcare stocks, especially companies capable of delivering consistent earnings growth even amid broader market volatility.

Sensex, Nifty Turn Volatile Despite Strong Start as Global Cues Keep Investors Cautious

Indian stock markets witnessed a volatile trading session on Thursday as benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty swung between gains and losses despite a strong opening supported by easing crude oil prices and positive global sentiment.

The market began the day on a bullish note after GIFT Nifty indicated a sharp opening, trading over 150 points higher before the opening bell. Investors initially responded positively to falling crude oil prices, softer US bond yields, and optimism surrounding possible diplomatic progress in the Middle East.

During early trade, the Sensex surged more than 500 points while the Nifty crossed the 23,800 mark. Realty, PSU banking, auto, and metal stocks emerged as early leaders, reflecting strong buying interest across broader markets. Analysts noted that cooling oil prices brought temporary relief to investors worried about inflationary pressures and rising import costs for India.

However, the rally gradually lost momentum as volatility increased throughout the session. Markets pared most of their gains and eventually traded near the flat line as investors turned cautious amid rising global uncertainty and profit booking in heavyweight stocks.

Market experts observed that while lower crude oil prices helped sentiment initially, concerns surrounding



global bond yields, foreign investor selling, and geopolitical tensions continued to keep traders nervous. Reports also suggested that fluctuations in oil prices linked to developments involving Iran and global supply concerns added uncertainty to the market mood.

Among sectoral performers, metal stocks continued their strong rally for the second straight session, while oil & gas shares also attracted buying support. Consumer durables and selected midcap counters remained active de-

spite the broader market volatility.

Several individual stocks also remained in focus due to quarterly earnings announcements. Companies such as Grasim Industries, Angel One, JSW Cement, Bosch, Whirlpool India, and Jubilant FoodWorks drew investor attention after reporting earnings or business updates.

By the closing stages of trade, benchmark indices had surrendered most intraday gains. The Sensex ended lower while the Nifty hovered near

the 23,650 level as investors remained cautious ahead of further global developments.

Analysts believe Indian markets are currently balancing between optimism over easing commodity prices and concerns over inflation, global interest rates, and geopolitical risks. While short-term sentiment has improved slightly, experts warn that volatility may continue in the coming sessions as investors react to international developments and corporate earnings.

ITC Reports Sharp Drop in Q4 Profit, Announces 8 Dividend for Shareholders

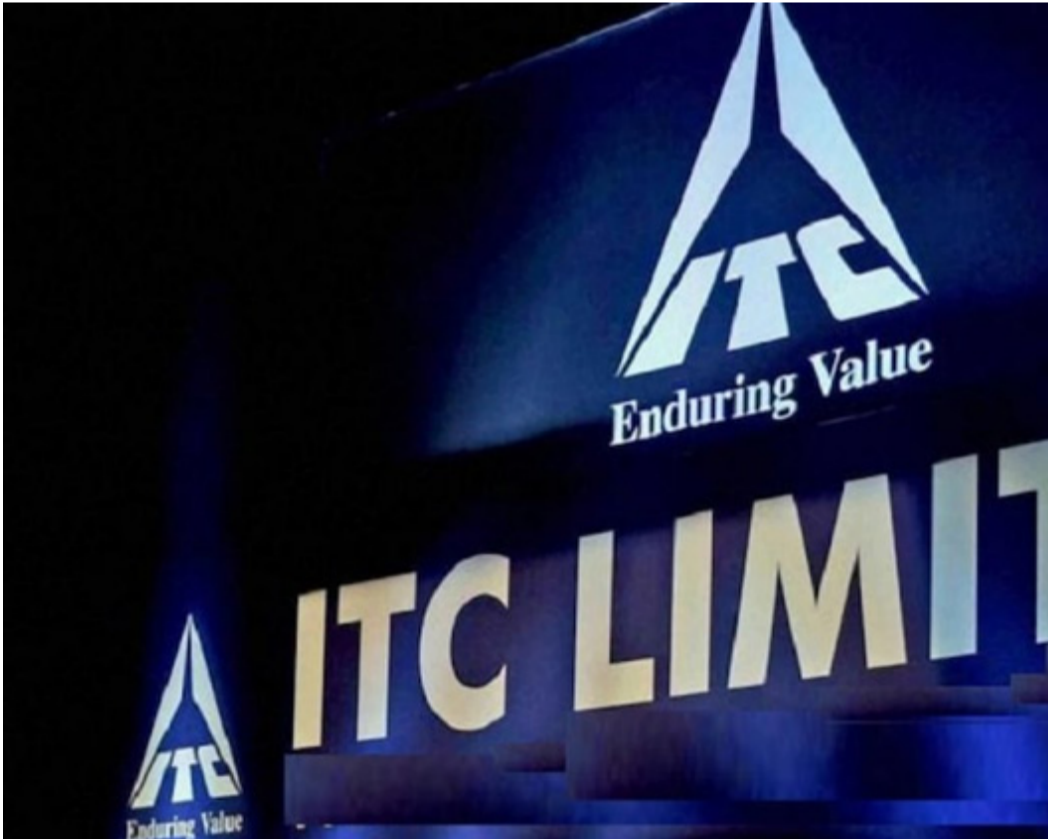
ITC Ltd reported a steep decline in its fourth-quarter net profit, with earnings falling nearly 74 percent year-on-year due to exceptional items and pressure on margins following higher taxation in the cigarette business. Despite the sharp fall in profit, the company announced a final dividend of 8 per share for shareholders.

According to the company's latest financial results, consolidated net profit for the quarter stood at 5,113 crore, significantly lower compared to the same period last year. The decline was largely attributed to one-time adjustments and rising tax-related pressures impacting the cigarette segment, which remains ITC's core profit-generating business.

Revenue growth, however, remained relatively stable as several non-cigarette businesses continued to perform steadily. The company's FMCG segment, which includes packaged foods, personal care, and household products, maintained growth momentum despite challenging market conditions and inflationary pressures.

The cigarette business continued to deliver healthy volumes, but profitability came under pressure due to increased taxes and higher input costs. Analysts noted that cigarette taxation remains a key factor influencing margins for tobacco companies, especially in a highly regulated environment.

ITC's hotels business also delivered a solid performance during the quarter, supported by strong travel demand, higher occupancy levels, and growth in premi-



um hospitality services. The paperboards and agri-business divisions contributed positively as well, although market volatility and export-related challenges affected some areas of performance.

The company's board recommended a final dividend of 8 per share, which was welcomed positively by investors looking for steady returns from one of India's most consistent dividend-paying companies.

Following the results, market reactions remained mixed. While some investors were concerned about the sharp drop in headline profit numbers, others

focused on the company's resilient core operations and diversified business structure.

Brokerage firms observed that ITC continues to benefit from its strong cash flows, dominant market position in cigarettes, and expanding FMCG portfolio. However, analysts also pointed out that regulatory pressures and taxation policies remain long-term risks for the tobacco segment.

In recent years, ITC has aggressively expanded its non-tobacco businesses to reduce dependence on cigarettes and strengthen its position as a diversified con-

sumer goods company. Its packaged foods, dairy, snacks, and personal care brands have gradually gained stronger market presence across India.

Despite the temporary pressure on profitability, many market experts believe ITC remains fundamentally strong due to its diversified revenue streams, stable cash generation, and consistent shareholder returns. Investors are now expected to closely monitor future growth in the FMCG business and the impact of regulatory changes on cigarette margins in the coming quarters.

Is Parle Industries Becoming India's First 'Meme Stock'?

Parle Industries has suddenly become one of the most talked-about stocks on Dalal Street after an unusual mix of social media frenzy, political memes, and retail investor excitement triggered a sharp rally in its share price.

The buzz began after a viral online trend featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni — popularly dubbed the "Melodi" meme by internet users — started circulating widely across social media platforms. Soon after, retail traders began aggressively discussing Parle Industries online, leading to comparisons with the famous GameStop-style meme stock phenomenon seen in the United States.

The stock witnessed extraordinary trading activity as retail participation surged dramatically. Investors flooded social media groups and trading forums with memes, jokes, and speculative discussions, causing the company's shares to rise sharply within a short period.

Market observers noted that the rally appeared disconnected from the company's financial fundamentals, with sentiment and viral online attention becoming the primary drivers behind the stock movement. This is one of the key characteristics typically associated with "meme stocks," where internet hype and collective retail trading create rapid price spikes.

The sudden attention on Parle Industries surprised many market participants because the company had previously re-



mained relatively under the radar among mainstream investors. However, once the stock started trending online, momentum traders and speculative investors quickly joined the rally.

Analysts warned that such price movements can be extremely volatile and risky. Meme stock rallies are often driven more by emotion and internet-driven momentum rather than business performance, making them vulnerable to sudden corrections once excitement fades.

The incident has once again highlighted the growing influence of retail investors and social media on stock market behaviour. Over the past few years, online communities and viral trends have increasingly impacted trading patterns, especially in smaller-cap stocks with lower liquidity.

Experts also pointed out that younger investors are now participating in markets in ways that combine entertainment,

internet culture, and trading activity. Memes, viral clips, and online campaigns are increasingly shaping investor sentiment alongside traditional financial analysis.

Despite the excitement, market professionals advised caution, emphasizing that speculative rallies can expose inexperienced investors to heavy losses if prices reverse sharply. Regulatory authorities are also believed to be closely monitoring unusual trading activity in such stocks.

The comparison with GameStop — the American video game retailer whose shares exploded due to coordinated retail trading in 2021 — has further fueled discussion around whether India is now witnessing its own meme stock era.

While it remains unclear whether Parle Industries can sustain the momentum, the episode has already become one of the most unusual and talked-about stories in the Indian stock market this year.

WeWork India Shares Jump 19% After Strong Q4 Profit Growth

WeWork India shares witnessed a sharp rally on Thursday after the company reported a strong rise in fourth-quarter profit, driven by increasing demand for flexible office spaces and co-working solutions.

The stock surged nearly 19 percent during trading after the company announced an impressive 80 percent jump in net profit for the quarter. The strong earnings performance boosted investor confidence and highlighted the growing strength of India's

flexible workspace market.

According to the company's latest financial results, higher occupancy levels, strong enterprise demand, and expansion across major cities contributed significantly to revenue and profit growth. Businesses across sectors are increasingly opting for flexible office models instead of traditional long-term commercial leases, benefiting co-working operators like WeWork India.

Market experts noted that hy-

brid work culture continues to reshape the commercial real estate sector in India. Many companies now prefer flexible workspaces because they offer scalability, lower operational costs, and shorter lease commitments. This trend has helped co-working companies attract both startups and large corporate clients.

WeWork India's strong quarterly performance reflected this growing demand. Analysts observed that the company has

managed to strengthen its market position by focusing on premium office spaces, enterprise customers, and expansion in key business hubs.

Investor sentiment toward the stock improved sharply following the earnings announcement, with traders viewing the results as a sign of sustained growth potential in the flexible workspace industry. The broader market also responded positively to signs of continued recovery in commercial office demand.

The company has reportedly expanded aggressively across metro cities, benefiting from rising office attendance and renewed business activity after years of disruption caused by the pandemic. Demand from technology firms, startups, consulting companies, and multinational corporations has remained particularly strong.

Industry observers believe India's co-working sector still has significant room for expansion as businesses continue adapting

to hybrid work models. Flexible office providers are increasingly becoming an important part of the country's commercial real estate ecosystem.

Despite the strong rally, some analysts cautioned that competition in the co-working industry remains intense, with multiple players expanding aggressively in major urban markets. Profitability and occupancy management are expected to remain critical factors for long-term success.

Still, the latest results have strengthened optimism surrounding WeWork India's future growth prospects. Investors now expect the company to benefit further from rising demand for modern, flexible, and technology-driven workspaces.

The sharp rise in the stock price also reflects broader investor confidence in businesses linked to evolving workplace trends and changing corporate office strategies in India.

School Principal Sparks Outrage With Remark to Newlywed Teacher About Childbirth Timing

A school principal has come under heavy criticism after allegedly making an inappropriate and deeply personal suggestion to a newly married teacher regarding when she should plan to have a child. The incident, which quickly gained attention online, has triggered widespread debate about workplace boundaries, gender expectations, and the treatment of women employees in educational institutions.

According to reports, the principal advised the teacher to "have your baby in June," apparently so that maternity leave would coincide with the school's summer vacation period. The remark was reportedly made during a conversation about staffing schedules and academic responsibilities. What may have been intended as a practical suggestion was

instead viewed by many as insensitive and intrusive. The teacher, who had recently married, was said to be shocked by the comment. Several colleagues who learned about the incident also expressed discomfort, arguing that decisions related to marriage, pregnancy, and family planning are deeply personal and should never become subjects of professional planning or administrative convenience.

As details of the episode spread on social media, users strongly condemned the principal's behavior. Many described the comment as an example of how women in workplaces are often expected to balance professional duties around institutional demands rather than personal choice. Others pointed out that such remarks place

unfair pressure on women employees and reinforce outdated attitudes toward motherhood and work. The controversy also reopened discussions about maternity policies and gender sensitivity in workplaces. Critics argued that instead of expecting women to organize pregnancies around work calendars, institutions should create supportive systems that respect employees' rights and personal lives. Education professionals and activists stressed that workplaces should encourage empathy and professionalism rather than interfere in family-related decisions.

Some users online shared similar experiences from their own workplaces, revealing that subtle pressure regarding marriage and childbirth remains common in many sectors.

These stories highlighted how women are often made to feel responsible for minimizing the "inconvenience" caused by maternity leave. While the school administration has not publicly clarified the principal's remarks in detail, the incident has already sparked an important conversation about respect, privacy, and gender equality at work. Many believe it serves as a reminder that professional environments must maintain clear boundaries and ensure employees are treated with dignity, regardless of marital or parental status.

The episode continues to draw reactions, with many calling for greater awareness and sensitivity training in educational institutions and workplaces across the country.



Bengaluru Vegetable Vendor Goes Viral for Using AI Gear, Reportedly Earns 350 Per Hour

A vegetable vendor in Bengaluru has captured the internet's attention after being spotted wearing an unusual head-mounted device while working on the streets. What initially looked strange to passersby soon turned into a fascinating story about how artificial intelligence is creating unexpected earning opportunities in everyday life.



The vendor was seen with an iPhone attached to a headgear setup, reportedly recording his surroundings as he moved around selling vegetables. According to people who interacted with him, the footage was being collected for artificial intelligence training purposes. The data would allegedly help AI systems understand real-world human environments and daily activities more effectively.

The incident came to light after a social media user shared a video of the vendor online. Curious about the unusual setup, the person reportedly stopped to ask the vendor why he was wearing the device. The seller explained that he was working for a company involved in collecting "real-world data" for AI models. The work allegedly pays him around 350 per hour.

The earnings figure quickly became the biggest talking point online. Many users calculated that if the vendor worked for nearly ten hours a day, he could potentially earn over 1

lakh per month — a figure that surprised many social media users and sparked debate about how AI is changing employment opportunities.

Several people online described the story as a glimpse into the future, where even traditional occupations may become connected with emerging technologies. Some users were amazed that a street vendor could supplement his income through AI-related work, while others raised questions about privacy, surveillance, and the long-term implications of such data collection methods.

Technology enthusiasts explained that this kind of work is often referred to as "egocentric data collection." In such

projects, wearable devices record real-life actions and surroundings to help train AI systems and robotics software to better understand human behaviour and movement.

The viral video has once again highlighted Bengaluru's unique blend of technology and everyday life. Known as India's tech capital, the city frequently produces stories where innovation intersects with ordinary professions in unexpected ways.

As AI continues to expand into new sectors, the vendor's story has become a striking example of how technology is reshaping work opportunities far beyond office spaces and corporate environments.

After Seven Years in Europe, NRI Considers Returning to India as Loneliness Takes a Toll

An Indian professional living in Europe for the past seven years has sparked a heartfelt discussion online after revealing plans to return to India despite enjoying a comfortable life abroad. The person admitted that while Europe offered excellent quality of life, emotional isolation and a growing sense of loneliness had slowly become overwhelming.



In a post shared on social media, the NRI explained that life overseas had become increasingly "comfortable and chill," but somewhere along the way, a deeper feeling of disconnect began to emerge. The individual said that although Europe provided stability, good infrastructure, and professional security, the emotional cost of living far from family and familiar surroundings had become difficult to ignore.

The user described feeling conflicted about leaving behind a well-paying job, benefits, and a predictable lifestyle. However, the dream of eventually returning to India and pursuing entrepreneurship continued to grow stronger. The post reflected an inner struggle between choosing financial comfort abroad and seeking emotional fulfillment back home.

The NRI also acknowledged concerns about returning to

India. They noted that many people had become pessimistic about the country's current condition, pointing to issues such as pollution, overcrowding, and declining civic standards. Even so, the emotional emptiness experienced abroad appeared to outweigh those worries.

The post quickly resonated with many members of the Indian diaspora, especially those living in Western countries. Several users shared similar experiences, saying that despite professional success and better living conditions overseas, loneliness often becomes one of the biggest challenges for immigrants.

Some commenters encouraged the individual to follow their instincts and return home if emotional well-being mattered more than financial gains. Others advised caution, warning that moving back to India after many years abroad can bring its own set of challenges, including reverse culture shock, lower salaries, and difficulties adjusting to everyday life.

A few users highlighted that returning to India is not always the perfect solution people imagine. They explained that nostalgia can sometimes create unrealistic expectations, and adapting again to Indian systems, traffic, work

culture, and pollution can be stressful after years in Europe.

Still, many agreed that being close to parents, relatives, and lifelong friends provides a kind of emotional support that is difficult to replace abroad. For several NRIs, the debate is no longer only about money or career growth, but also about mental well-being, belonging, and personal happiness.

The viral discussion once again highlighted a growing conversation among Indians living overseas: whether professional success abroad is truly worth the emotional distance from home and loved ones.

Ashley St. Clair Explains Why She Chose to Have Elon Musk's Child

Ashley St. Clair, the conservative influencer and author who previously revealed that Elon Musk fathered her child, has opened up about the reasons behind her decision to become a mother again with the billionaire entrepreneur. Her candid remarks, shared during a recent social media video, have sparked widespread discussion online about relationships, motherhood, and financial security.



St. Clair explained that at the time she met Musk, she was already a single mother and believed that the idea of a traditional family life had become unrealistic for her. According to her, the experience of raising a child alone and dealing with financial uncertainty played a major role in shaping her outlook on future relationships and parenthood.

She said Musk encouraged her to have more children and often spoke openly about the importance of parenthood. St. Clair admitted that his confidence, influence, and enormous financial resources made the idea appealing. She stated that one of the biggest attractions was the belief that her children would never have to struggle financially or face economic insecurity.

In her remarks, St. Clair said she wanted to focus on being a mother without constantly worrying about bills, financial stress, or the pressures created

by the economy. She argued that many people would understand why the promise of long-term stability and security could influence such an important life decision.

The influencer also reflected on how her relationship with Musk changed after she became pregnant. She claimed that things began to feel "different" once the pregnancy started, adding that the relationship gradually became more complicated and emotionally distant. Despite that, she maintained that the original conversations about having children felt sincere and natu-

ral at the time. St. Clair first drew major public attention after revealing that she had secretly welcomed a child with Musk. The disclosure generated intense media coverage because Musk, already known for having several children from previous relationships, has frequently spoken about declining birth rates and the need for larger families.

The latest comments have reignited online debate, with social media users divided in their reactions. Some sympathized with St. Clair's perspective, saying financial stability

is an understandable concern for any parent. Others criticized the situation, arguing that emotional compatibility and long-term commitment should matter more than wealth.

The discussion has also highlighted broader conversations about modern relationships, single parenthood, and the growing role financial considerations play in personal decisions. As the story continues to attract attention, it remains another example of how the private lives of high-profile figures often become subjects of public fascination and debate.

Job Seeker Shocked After Being Asked to Fold Hands and Close Eyes During Virtual Interview

A job applicant was left stunned after being instructed to sit in a "namaste position" with eyes closed during a virtual interview for an accountant role. The bizarre experience, later shared online, has triggered widespread reactions and renewed conversations about unprofessional hiring practices.



According to the candidate, the interview initially appeared normal before suddenly taking an unusual turn. During the online meeting, the interviewer reportedly asked the applicant to fold their hands in a traditional namaste gesture and keep their eyes closed for a period of time. Confused by the unexpected request, the candidate complied briefly but later questioned the purpose behind the strange exercise.

The applicant shared the experience on social media, describing the interaction as deeply uncomfortable and inappropriate for a professional job interview. The post quickly went viral, with many users expressing disbelief that such behaviour could occur during a recruitment process.

Several people online speculated that the interviewer may have been attempting some form of personality assessment or stress test. Others believed it reflected a misuse of authority and poor professional standards. Many commenters argued that interviewers should focus on a candidate's qualifications, experience, and skills rather than unusual exercises unrelated to the job

role. The incident also sparked debate about the growing number of unconventional interview techniques being used by some companies. While certain organizations adopt creative assessment methods to evaluate confidence, communication, or behaviour under pressure, many users felt this crossed professional boundaries.

A number of social media users shared similar experiences involving awkward or intrusive interview questions. Some recalled being asked personal questions unrelated to their work, while others described interviews that felt more like psychological experiments than recruitment conversations.

Human resource professionals commenting on the discussion noted that interviews should always maintain professionalism and transparency. They stressed that any activity

conducted during hiring should have a clear connection to the position being offered and should not make candidates feel humiliated or manipulated.

The viral story has once again highlighted the frustrations many job seekers face in today's competitive employment market. For candidates already dealing with stress and uncertainty during interviews, unusual behaviour from recruiters can create additional anxiety and confusion.

As reactions continue pouring in online, many users are calling for companies to adopt more respectful and standardized hiring practices. The incident serves as a reminder that professionalism and mutual respect remain essential in recruitment, regardless of how innovative or unconventional interview methods may become.

Gujarat Titans Crush Chennai Super Kings to End CSK IPL 2026 Campaign

Chennai Super Kings' campaign in IPL 2026 came to a crushing end as they suffered an 89-run defeat against Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, officially getting eliminated from the playoff race. The comprehensive loss marked a disappointing conclusion to their season, while Gujarat Titans strengthened their position at the top end of the table with a dominant all-round performance.

Batting first after losing the toss, the Gujarat Titans posted a formidable total of 229 for 4 in 20 overs, built on a commanding top-order display. Skipper Gujarat Ti-

tans led from the front with a fluent 64 off 37 deliveries, setting the tone alongside Sai Sudharsan, who played a classy knock of 84 off 53 balls. The duo added 125 runs for the opening wicket, effectively laying the foundation for a big score.

Jos Buttler then provided the finishing fireworks, remaining unbeaten on 57 from just 27 balls. His aggressive stroke play, featuring multiple boundaries and towering sixes, ensured Gujarat crossed the 220-run mark with ease, putting Chennai under immense pressure before they even began their chase.

In response, Chennai

Super Kings collapsed early in pursuit of the massive target. The innings never gained stability, with early breakthroughs dismantling their top order. An early dismissal in the first over set the tone, and regular wickets ensured Chennai were always behind the required rate.

Ruturaj Gaikwad showed brief resistance with 16 runs, but the lack of partnerships hurt Chennai's chase. Shivam Dube fought a lone battle with a powerful 47 off 17 balls, striking several boundaries and sixes, but received little support from the other end. The rest of the batting lineup failed to withstand Gujarat's

disciplined bowling attack.

The Gujarat bowling unit delivered a clinical performance. Mohammed Siraj struck early blows to break Chennai's momentum, while Kagiso Rabada and Rashid Khan joined in with consistent breakthroughs. Each of the trio claimed three wickets, dismantling Chennai's batting lineup and wrapping up the innings at 140 in 13.4 overs. The emphatic victory not only confirmed Gujarat Titans' dominance in the match but also sealed Chennai Super Kings' exit from IPL 2026, ending their campaign on a disappointing note.



Hardik Pandya Penalised by BCCI After Mumbai Indians' Defeat to KKR



Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya has been handed disciplinary punishment by the BCCI following his team's defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2026. The all-rounder was fined 10 percent of his match fee and also received one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the match.

The incident reportedly occurred during the 10th over of KKR's innings at Eden Gardens. According to reports, Hardik knocked the bails off the stumps forcefully while walking back to his bowling mark, an action that was considered a Level 1 offence under the league's disciplinary rules.

The Mumbai Indians skipper accepted the sanction imposed by the match referee, meaning there was no need for a formal hearing. Under IPL regulations, Level 1 breaches are generally handled directly by the match referee, whose decision remains final in such matters.

The punishment came at a difficult time for Mumbai Indians, who suffered a four-wicket loss to Kolkata Knight Riders in a crucial encounter. The defeat further damaged MI's campaign, with the team struggling for consistency throughout the season.

After the match, Hardik openly admitted that Mumbai

Indians had fallen short both with the bat and in the field. He acknowledged that dropped catches and poor fielding standards had repeatedly hurt the team during IPL 2026.

The incident has sparked mixed reactions among fans online. While some supporters felt the punishment was minor and routine under IPL rules, others believed players, especially captains, are expected to maintain composure even during tense moments on the field.

Hardik's season as captain has remained under intense scrutiny, with Mumbai Indians facing criticism for inconsistent performances and missed opportunities in key matches. The latest disciplinary action has only added to the pressure surrounding the franchise.

Despite the controversy, Hardik continues to remain one of India's most important white-ball cricketers. However, with the IPL entering its crucial stages and international assignments approaching, maintaining discipline and form will become increasingly important for both the player and the team.

BCCI Concerned About Rohit Sharma's Fitness Ahead of ODI World Cup 2027



India captain Rohit Sharma's participation in the 2027 ODI World Cup is reportedly becoming a major point of discussion within the BCCI, with concerns growing over whether the veteran batter can maintain the fitness levels required for the demanding 50-over format.

According to recent reports, selectors and team management are uncertain about Rohit's long-term physical readiness, especially with the next ODI World Cup still more than a year away. The concern is not centered on his batting ability or experience, but rather on the physical demands of modern one-day cricket, where players are expected to field at high intensity for 50 overs.

Reports suggest that the issue became a serious talking point during discussions related to India's ODI roadmap ahead of upcoming international assignments. While Rohit remains one of India's most accomplished white-ball cricketers, the management is reportedly evaluating whether his body can consistently han-

dle the workload leading into the 2027 tournament.

One of the major factors influencing these discussions is Rohit's recent fitness struggles, including injury concerns during the IPL season. The veteran opener reportedly dealt with hamstring-related issues and, at times, featured only as an Impact Player for Mumbai Indians, limiting his involvement on the field.

Sources quoted in reports stated that ODI cricket presents a different challenge compared to the IPL because there

is no Impact Player rule in international 50-over matches. This means players must remain active on the field for extended periods, making endurance and mobility extremely important.

The reports also indicate that the BCCI is closely monitoring the fitness of other senior players, including Hardik Pandya, as part of long-term World Cup planning. However, Rohit's situation has drawn particular attention because he would be nearly 40 years old during the 2027 World Cup.

Despite the concerns, there has been no official indication that Rohit is being removed from India's ODI plans. The experienced opener continues to be regarded as one of the team's most influential players, especially in major ICC tournaments. His leadership and ability to perform in high-pressure matches remain highly valued within Indian cricket.

At the same time, selectors are reportedly exploring backup opening options and planning for the future to ensure India transitions smoothly whenever senior players eventually move on.

The discussion has sparked mixed reactions among fans. While some believe fitness standards must remain non-negotiable, others argue that Rohit's experience, tactical understanding, and big-match temperament still make him indispensable for India.

As preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup gradually begin, Rohit Sharma's fitness and workload management are expected to remain key topics within Indian cricket circles.

Former India Star Questions Whether MS Dhoni Wanted Ruturaj Gaikwad as CSK Captain



A fresh debate has emerged around Chennai Super Kings' leadership after a former India cricketer made a bold claim suggesting that MS Dhoni may not have fully supported Ruturaj Gaikwad's appointment as captain.

The discussion gained momentum following Chennai Super Kings' inconsistent performances and growing scrutiny over the team's leadership transition after Dhoni stepped away from captaincy duties. According to reports, the former India player questioned whether the decision to hand over the role to Gaikwad had complete backing from Dhoni, who remains the most influential figure within the franchise.

The comments have sparked intense reactions among cricket fans, especially because Dhoni's presence in the CSK setup continues to dominate discussions even after relinquishing the captaincy. Many observers believe that despite officially stepping down, Dhoni's experience, tactical influence, and popularity still shape much of the team environment.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, meanwhile, has found himself under considerable pressure since taking over the role. While widely respected for his calm personality and batting consistency, the young opener is now dealing with the challenge of leading one of the IPL's most successful franchises during a period of transition.

The former cricketer reportedly pointed out that replacing a legendary captain like Dhoni is never easy, especially in a franchise where the former skipper's presence remains enormous both inside and outside the dressing room. According to the remarks, Gaikwad may be struggling under the weight of expectations and constant comparisons.

The comments have divided opinion among fans and analysts. Some believe Gaikwad deserves more time and patience to establish himself as a leader, while others feel CSK may still be overly dependent on Dhoni's influence during key moments of matches.

Social media discussions intensified after viewers noticed

Dhoni frequently interacting with bowlers and fielders on the field, even while Gaikwad officially serves as captain. While many fans see this as natural mentorship, others believe it creates confusion about who is truly in charge during pressure situations.

Despite the criticism, Gaikwad has continued to receive support from sections of the cricket community who believe leadership transitions take time, especially in franchises built around iconic captains. Many former players have also argued that learning under Dhoni could eventually help Gaikwad evolve into a stronger leader.

The situation has once again highlighted the enormous challenge of succeeding legendary captains in franchise cricket. For CSK, the transition from the Dhoni era remains one of the biggest storylines surrounding the team.

As the IPL season progresses, both Gaikwad's captaincy and Dhoni's continuing influence are expected to remain major talking points among fans and cricket experts alike.

Manpreet Singh Challenges Virat Kohli, RCB Team for Yo-Yo Test Showdown

Former Indian hockey team captain Manpreet Singh has thrown an exciting fitness challenge toward Virat Kohli and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru squad, expressing his desire to compete against them in a Yo-Yo fitness test.

The remark came during a recent interaction where Manpreet was asked whether he would be interested in facing Kohli in a fitness contest. Responding enthusiastically, the hockey star said he would love to invite Virat and the entire RCB team for a combined training session where both sides could test themselves against each other.

The challenge has quickly grabbed attention

among sports fans because both Virat Kohli and the Indian hockey team are widely admired for their exceptional fitness standards. Kohli, in particular, has long been regarded as one of the fittest cricketers in the world and played a major role in transforming fitness culture within Indian cricket. Interestingly, Manpreet admitted that hockey players may hold an advantage in endurance-based tests because of the intense physical demands of the sport. He pointed out that hockey requires nonstop movement, high-speed sprints, and constant stamina throughout the game. At the same time, he acknowledged that cricket pre-

sents its own unique challenges, especially when facing fast bowlers and maintaining concentration under pressure.

The comments came shortly after Virat Kohli himself praised the fitness levels of Indian hockey players. Kohli had reportedly stated that cricketers are "not even 15%" as fit as hockey players in terms of physical conditioning, a statement that earned appreciation from the hockey community.

Manpreet and other hockey players said interactions between athletes from different sports can benefit Indian sports culture overall. They believe such events create mutual respect, inspire younger athletes, and encourage higher

fitness standards across disciplines. The idea of a friendly Yo-Yo competition between hockey players and cricketers has already sparked excitement on social media. Fans are imagining a high-energy showdown between some of India's fittest athletes, with many curious to see whether hockey players or cricketers would come out on top. While there are no official plans yet for such an event, the challenge has added an entertaining twist to the ongoing conversation about fitness standards in Indian sports. For fans, the possibility of Virat Kohli and the RCB squad training alongside India's hockey stars is already an exciting prospect.



Chiranjeevi, PawanKalyan and Ram Charan Unite for Grand Launch of 'Mega 158'

The much-awaited launch of Megastar Chiranjeevi's upcoming film, tentatively titled Mega 158, turned into a star-studded celebration as several members of the Mega family came together for the special occasion. The grand opening ceremony created huge excitement among fans, especially with the presence of Chiranjeevi, Power Star PawanKalyan, and Global Star Ram Charan under one roof.

The film marks another major project in Chiranjeevi's illustrious career and is being directed by young filmmaker Anil Ravipudi. Known for his commercial entertainers and family-oriented storytelling, Ravipudi's collaboration with Chiranjeevi has already generated significant buzz in the Telugu film industry.

The launch event was held in Hyderabad with a traditional pooja ceremony attended by prominent personalities from the Mega family and film fraternity. PawanKalyan's appearance at the event quickly became one of the biggest highlights, as fans rarely get to see both brothers together at film functions. Ram Charan's presence further elevated the



excitement, turning the occasion into a memorable celebration for Mega fans.

Photos and videos from the ceremony rapidly went viral on social media. Fans enthusiastically shared moments featuring the three stars together, calling it a "mega reunion."

The visuals created massive online buzz, with many describing the event as one of the most exciting film launches in recent times.

According to industry reports, the movie is expected to feature Chiranjeevi in a powerful and entertaining role de-

signed to appeal to family audiences as well as mass viewers. Director Anil Ravipudi is reportedly planning a commercial entertainer packed with humour, emotion, and energetic moments tailored to the Megastar's image.

The makers officially began

the project with a ceremonial clap, while members of the family extended their support and best wishes to the team. The atmosphere at the venue reflected both celebration and anticipation as fans eagerly await further details about the cast, music, and release schedule.

The combination of Chiranjeevi's screen presence and Anil Ravipudi's commercial filmmaking style has already raised expectations for the project. Industry observers believe the film could become one of the major Telugu releases in the coming years.

Meanwhile, the launch event itself became a talking point across social media platforms, largely due to the rare public gathering of Chiranjeevi, PawanKalyan, and Ram Charan. Their appearance together delighted fans and added emotional value to the ceremony.

With the project now officially underway, excitement surrounding Mega 158 is expected to grow even further as more updates about the film emerge in the coming months.



Ram Charan Reveals His Favourite Episode in Peddi – And There's a Surprise Twist

Ram Charan has once again raised excitement around his upcoming film Peddi after revealing details about his favourite portion in the movie. During a recent interaction connected to the film's promotions, the actor shared that one particular episode stood out for him emotionally and creatively — but what surprised fans most was the unexpected twist attached to it.

According to reports, Charan said his favourite segment in Peddi is not one of the expected mass action sequences or emotional confrontations. Instead, the actor hinted that the most special part of the film revolves around a surprising transformation in the story that audiences may not see coming. While he avoided revealing major spoilers, his comments have intensified curiosity among fans.

Directed by BuchiBabu Sana, Peddi is being promoted as a rural sports drama packed with action, emotion, and powerful character arcs. The film features Ram Charan in a rugged and physically demanding role, with the actor reportedly undergoing multiple body transformations for the character. Reports suggest that he appears in different looks throughout the movie, adding another layer of intrigue to the narrative.

Charan reportedly became especially attached to the emotional depth of the episode he mentioned. The actor hinted that the sequence combines strong storytelling with a ma-

joor shift in the protagonist's journey, making it both emotionally impactful and unexpected. Fans are now speculating whether the twist involves his character's transformation, relationships, or the sports backdrop central to the film.

The buzz surrounding Peddi has been growing rapidly ever since the trailer release. The promotional material showcased Ram Charan in an intense and rustic avatar that immediately grabbed attention online. The trailer also hinted at large-scale action, emotional drama, and sports-based conflicts set against a rural backdrop.

The film stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, while actors such as Shiva Rajkumar, JagapathiBabu, Divyendu Sharma, and BomanIrani play important roles. Music for the project is composed by A.R. Rahman, which has further increased expectations among audiences.

Industry circles believe Peddi could become one of the biggest Telugu releases of the year due to its scale, star cast, and emotional storytelling. Ram Charan's latest comments have only added to the anticipation, with fans eager to discover the "big twist" he hinted at.

As excitement continues building around the film, audiences are now waiting to see whether Peddi delivers the emotional surprise that Ram Charan himself considers the highlight of the movie.

Prashanth Neel Confirms Interest in Exploring Mythological Films



Dulquer Salmaan's 'I'm Game' Locks Grand August 2026 Release

Dulquer Salmaan's upcoming gangster action drama I'm Game has officially locked its theatrical release date, creating major excitement among Malayalam cinema fans. The much-anticipated film is set to hit screens worldwide on August 20, 2026, coinciding with the festive Onam season.

Directed by RDX fame NahasHidayath, the film is being mounted on a massive scale and is already being described as one of the most ambitious projects in Dulquer Salmaan's career. The actor is not only playing the lead role but is also producing the movie under his Wayfarer Films banner.

The announcement has generated significant buzz online, especially after Dulquer shared stylish posters and promotional material from the film. Fans have been particularly excited about the actor's intense and mass-oriented makeover, with many calling it one of his most stylish looks to date.

Reports suggest that I'm Game was shot extensively across more than 100 locations in South India over an 11-month schedule. The large-scale production, combined with high-end action sequences and stylish visuals, has increased expectations around the film.

The movie features an ensemble cast including Antony Varghese, KayaduLohar,

Mysskin, Vinay Forrt, Parth Tiwari, SamyukthaVishwanathan, Aadam, and Ashish Mathew. Music for the project is composed by Jakes Bejoy, while the technical team is said to be focusing heavily on creating a slick commercial entertainer with pan-Indian appeal.

Industry observers believe the Onam release slot could work strongly in the film's favour, as festival seasons traditionally attract massive audiences in Kerala and overseas Malayalam markets. The film is also expected to release in multiple languages, aiming to reach a broader audience across India.

Meanwhile, discussions on social media platforms and fan communities have further fueled anticipation. Many fans are curious about the movie's storyline, with speculation ranging from gambling and sports drama elements to intense gangster themes.

After the mixed response to King of Kotha, many fans see I'm Game as an important project for Dulquer Salmaan's return to Malayalam commercial cinema. The combination of NahasHidayath's energetic filmmaking style and Dulquer's star power has already made the movie one of the most talked-about Malayalam releases of 2026.

Acclaimed filmmaker Prashanth Neel has revealed that he is keen on exploring the mythological genre in the future, exciting fans who have long wanted to see the KGF and Salaar director take on stories rooted in Indian epics and folklore. Known for his intense action dramas, larger-than-life characters, and dark cinematic worlds, Neel recently spoke about his creative ambitions and hinted that mythology is a genre he has always been deeply interested in. According to reports, the director admitted that he has discussed mythological concepts in the past and hopes to eventually bring such stories to the big screen in his own unique style. The revelation has immediately sparked curiosity among movie lovers, especially considering Neel's reputation for presenting heroic characters with grand emotional arcs and powerful visual storytelling. Fans believe his filmmaking style could perfectly suit mythological narratives filled with scale, conflict, and larger-than-life emotions. Interestingly, reports suggest that Prashanth Neel had even discussed a mythological storyline during conversations related to his collaboration with Jr NTR. However, another concept reportedly generated stronger excitement and eventually evolved into their ongoing project, Dragon. Even so, Neel's latest comments indicate that the mythological idea remains close to his heart and may still happen in the future.

Over the years, Indian cinema has witnessed a renewed interest in mythological and epic storytelling, especially after the success of large-scale pan-Indian films. Directors are



increasingly attempting stories inspired by ancient legends, folklore, and historical fantasy. With Prashanth Neel now expressing interest in the space, expectations are naturally rising about how he might reinterpret mythology through his gritty cinematic lens. Fans on social media reacted enthusiastically to the news, with many saying Neel's visual style and world-building abilities would be ideal for epic mythological dramas. Some even began speculating about which actors could collaborate with him if such a project materialises in the future.

At present, the director remains occupied with multiple high-profile projects, including

Dragon starring Jr NTR and the much-awaited sequel to Salaar. Despite his busy schedule, Neel's confirmation about wanting to attempt mythology has already become a major talking point among cinema audiences. Industry observers believe that if Prashanth Neel eventually enters the mythological genre, the project could become one of the most ambitious ventures in Indian cinema. Given his track record of creating visually striking mass entertainers, expectations would naturally be enormous.

For now, fans will have to wait and see when the filmmaker finally transforms his mythological ambitions into reality.

Akhil's Lenin Needs Stronger Buzz Ahead of Release

AkhilAkkineni's upcoming film Lenin is slowly building curiosity among Telugu cinema audiences, but with the release date approaching fast, many fans believe the movie now needs aggressive promotions to create stronger excitement before hitting theatres.

Directed by MuraliKishorAbburu, Lenin is scheduled for a grand theatrical release on June 26, 2026. The film stars BhagyashriBorse as the female lead and is considered one of the most crucial projects in Akhil's career. Expectations are already decent, especially because the movie marks Akhil's return after a gap and comes at an important phase in

his journey as an actor.

However, despite the anticipation surrounding the project, fans on social media feel the promotional campaign has not yet reached the level needed for a major commercial release. With less than a month left before the film arrives in cinemas, many believe the makers should intensify publicity efforts through teaser launches, interviews, songs, and large-scale promotional events.

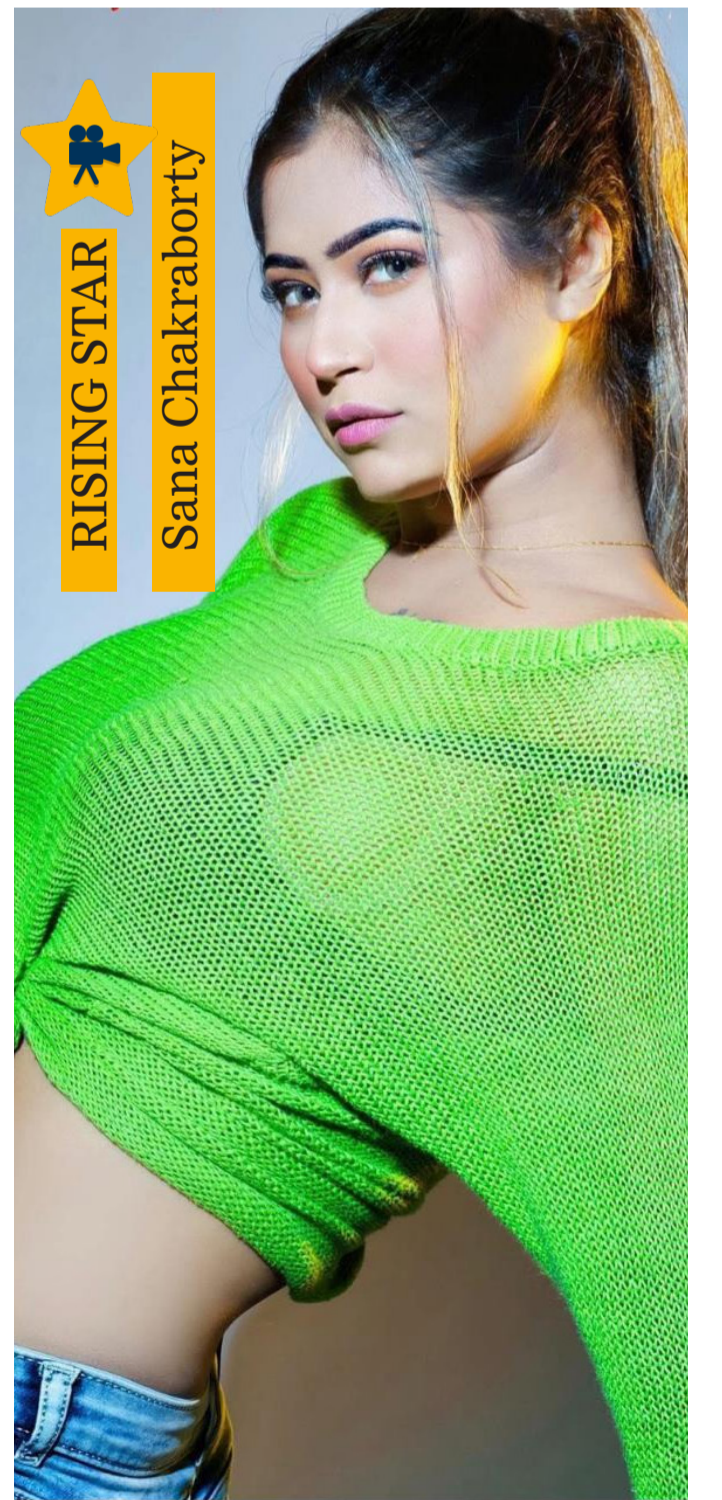
Akhil's career has often been discussed in terms of unrealised potential. While the actor has built a loyal fan base and earned praise for his screen presence and dedication, he is

still waiting for a massive breakthrough success that firmly establishes him among the top league of young Telugu stars. Because of this, Lenin is widely viewed as a highly important film for his future.

The project has already generated some positive talk after NagarjunaAkkineni reportedly watched the first cut and praised the film enthusiastically. He even hinted that audiences would witness a "new Akhil" in the movie, creating curiosity about the actor's transformation and performance.

Reports suggest that Lenin blends action, romance, and emotional drama with socially

relevant themes. Industry insiders believe the film could present Akhil in a more mature and mass-oriented avatar compared to his earlier projects. In today's highly competitive film market, strong content alone may not be enough. Moviegoers are constantly exposed to promotional material from multiple big-budget releases, making visibility and audience engagement extremely important before release day. Fans feel Lenin now requires stronger online presence and wider publicity to remain in public discussion. The coming weeks are expected to be crucial for the film's promotional campaign.



RISING STAR Sana Chakraborty