



BUZZ POINTS



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Revanth Reddy Alleges Massive Irregularities in Irrigation Projects, Vows Completion in Two Years

Karivena, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on the previous BRS regime, alleging large-scale corruption and neglect of irrigation projects in the undivided Mahabubnagar district. Speaking at a press conference at the Karivena Reservoir during his tour, he accused the former government of siphoning off thousands of crores in commissions without delivering irrigation benefits to farmers.

On the second day of his visit, the Chief Minister inspected ongoing works of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project and the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He stated that except for the Jurala project, most irrigation works in the district remain incomplete, with even basic land acquisition left unaddressed.

Revanth Reddy recalled that former Minister Nagam Jannardhan Reddy had long raised concerns over corruption in lift irrigation projects. "I am touring every part of the district to ensure these projects are completed. While we are working on execution, others are engaging in political distractions," he said. Criticizing former Chief



Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, he said expectations were high when he was elected from Palamuru, but development failed to materialize despite the availability of Krishna river waters. He alleged that the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, which could have irrigated 2.6 million acres, remained incomplete despite an expenditure of 27,000 crore.

"Thousands of crores were looted as commissions, yet not a single acre received water. Even land acquisition was ignored. How can anyone claim the project is complete without fulfilling basic requirements?" he questioned.

The Chief Minister said his government has already spent 22,000 crore on irrigation works, including 8,000 crore in the Palamuru region. He emphasized that acquiring around 4,000 acres of land is crucial to complete pending projects and assured that the process would be expedited, even if premium compensation is required.

He pointed out financial constraints due to heavy debts inherited from the previous administration, which have limited the government's ability to secure fresh loans. Despite this, he reaffirmed his commitment to complete all

pending projects within two years.

Revanth Reddy also alleged that certain projects, including the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation scheme, were deliberately stalled due to political reasons. He dismissed criticism from BRS leaders as baseless and asserted that his government would move forward with determination.

"We will prioritize projects that ensure maximum water storage with minimal land acquisition. Coordination with neighboring Karnataka is also being explored, along with the feasibility of constructing bridge-cum-barrages," he said.

In a sharp remark, the Chief Minister compared KCR to a "demonetized thousand-rupee note," stating that the BRS has a past but no future. He challenged the party to identify a single project it had fully completed. Reiterating his government's focus on transparency and development, Revanth Reddy said efforts are underway to transform irrigation infrastructure and ensure water reaches farmers. He concluded by urging all stakeholders not to obstruct development works and to support initiatives aimed at strengthening the region's agricultural economy.



Revanth Reddy Conducts Extensive Second-Day Inspection of Palamuru Irrigation Projects

Mahabubnagar, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy continued his intensive field inspections of major drinking water and irrigation projects in the undivided Mahabubnagar district for the second consecutive day, undertaking a whirlwind tour to review the progress of works under the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS).

Beginning his day from the Somasila Guest House, the Chief Minister first visited the Yelluru Pump House in Kolapur Mandal. During the visit, he inspected key components of the PRLIS, including the Package-3 Head Regulator and the Package-2 Narlapur Reservoir. He also examined the Package-1 Delivery Cistern and the Lift-1 Pump House of the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme before reviewing

operations at the Yelluru Pump House.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Excise and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, and other ministers including Vahiti Srihari, along with public representatives and senior Irrigation Department officials, accompanied the Chief Minister during the inspections.

The Chief Minister closely reviewed the ongoing works at multiple project sites, issuing directions to officials to accelerate progress and address bottlenecks. At the Narlapur Reservoir and Delivery Cistern, he sought detailed briefings on construction status and timelines. Demonstrating hands-on engagement, he traveled nearly 1.5 km inside the PRLIS tunnel to assess the pace and quality of pump house works.

Continuing his tour, Revanth Reddy reached Kummera

Indiramma Housing to Come Up on Prime Land, Women to Get Ownership Share: Ponguleti

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the government will construct one lakh houses for Low-Income Group and Middle-Income Group families on high-value government land within Hyderabad, ensuring that beneficiaries remain close to their livelihoods. He said women in these families would be given ownership share in the houses.

The Minister reviewed progress of the 'Indiramma Houses' programme at the Secretariat and noted that administrative sanction has been accorded for 3.50 lakh houses for 2026-27, including one lakh within Hyderabad and 2.50 lakh in other regions. He directed officials to prepare a detailed action plan for implementation.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy criticized the previous govern-

ment for constructing double-bedroom houses 30-40 km away from the city without considering livelihood needs. He said many poor families dependent on daily wage work and local employment were unable to relocate due to lack of access to jobs, education, healthcare and transport, resulting in vacant housing units.

To address these issues, he said the new initiative would focus on building houses in areas where the poor currently reside, enabling them to lead dignified lives without disruption.

Emphasizing women's empowerment, the Minister said granting ownership rights to women would strengthen their economic security and family stability. He instructed officials to design houses with a minimum area of 400 square feet, keeping beneficiaries' needs in mind.

Housing Secretary V.P. Gautam and other officials attended the meeting.

Modi Targets Rahul Gandhi, Congress; Defends Self-Reliant India Push

New Delhi, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched a strong attack on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party, accusing them of consistently undermining the country's push towards self-reliance. Addressing a public meeting in Surat, Gujarat, Modi said certain "pessimistic elements" have made it their mission to criticize the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and weaken national resolve.

He asserted that no country in the world has achieved its true potential by remaining dependent on others, emphasizing that India's path to growth lies in strengthening domestic capabilities and confidence.

Turning to political developments in Karnataka, Narendra Modi claimed that public dissatisfaction with the Congress government had forced a change in leadership. He said the situation reflected growing discontent among people over governance issues in the state.

The Prime Minister highlighted the resilience of India

and its citizens in the face of multiple global crises in recent years. Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global energy crisis, he said the country successfully navigated challenges such as volatile fuel prices and disruptions in global supply chains.

Modi expressed satisfaction that India's 1.4 billion citizens responded to these crises with unity and determination. He said this collective spirit has strengthened the nation's ability to overcome adversity and move forward with confidence.

Reiterating his faith in the aspirations of the people, Modi said that the country is determined to achieve its goals through collective effort and commitment. He stressed that India's progress is driven by the resolve of its citizens to build a stronger and self-reliant nation.

As part of his visit to Gujarat, the Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth 18,800 crore in Surat, aimed at boosting infrastructure and economic growth in the region.



Congress to Fast-Track Irrigation Projects in Palamuru, Slams BRS for 'Wasting 1.81 Lakh Crore': Uttam Kumar Reddy

Mahabubnagar, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS government, accusing it of squandering massive public funds while failing to deliver tangible irrigation benefits to farmers across Telangana.

Addressing a press conference after a two-day tour of key irrigation projects in the Palamuru region, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government is committed to completing all pending and ongoing projects by removing long-standing bottlenecks.

He described the decision to shift the water source for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme from Jurala to Srisailem as a "major blunder," stating that it severely impacted the interests of the undivided Mahabubnagar district. "Despite spending nearly 27,000 crore, not a single acre of assured irrigation was created under this project," he said.

The Minister noted that several major projects, including Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme, Nettekpadu, Bhima and Koisagar in Mahabubnagar, as well as the SLBC tunnel in Nalgonda, remain incomplete even after a decade. He also alleged that around 8,000 crore spent on the Sitarama project in Khammam failed to



yield expected benefits, while the Kaleshwaram project suffered structural setbacks.

"Nearly 1.81 lakh crore was spent on irrigation, including borrowed funds, but without proportionate benefits. Those responsible have no moral right to lecture us," he remarked, dismissing criticism from opposition leaders.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government is aggressively pursuing Telangana's rightful share of Krishna river waters before the Krishna River Management Board, the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal and the Supreme Court. He claimed that water utilization has significantly improved since December 2023, resulting in increased cultivation, record paddy output and higher procurement levels.

Highlighting achievements, he said Telangana has recorded the highest-ever paddy production and procurement under the present government. Paddy procurement during the Yasangi season has crossed 71.5 lakh metric tonnes and is expected to reach 75 lakh metric tonnes, accounting for nearly 60 percent of national procurement.

Despite limited support from the Centre, the state is spending 6,600 crore to procure every grain produced by farmers, he said, adding that 16,649 crore has been spent on Rabi procurement since assuming office.

The Minister said a comprehensive action plan is being prepared to complete irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. He assured that issues related to land acquisition, rehabilitation, funding and forest clearances would be resolved within six months.

He also announced plans to construct bridge-cum-barrages across Krishna and Bhima rivers and enhance storage capacity of Gudem Doddi and Boothpur reservoirs.

Reaffirming commitment to farmers, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government aims to create new irrigation potential across lakhs of acres. "The people of Palamuru will witness a historic transformation. Our results will speak louder than past promises," he said.



People of Telangana Looking Towards BJP with Hope: Ramchander Rao

Mahabubabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

BJP State President Ramchander Rao stated that the people of Telangana are increasingly looking towards the Bharatiya Janata Party with hope for better governance and development. He was speaking after participating in a training programme for BJP cadres in Mahabubabad on Friday. He also planted saplings to mark World Environment Day.

Addressing party workers, Ramchander Rao criticized the previous BRS administration, alleging failures in managing funds, delays in recruitment, and neglect of irrigation systems. He further accused the current Congress government of functioning with corruption and negligence, stating that its key promise of a farm loan waiver remains only partially implemented.

He emphasized that Telangana requires a "double-engine government" for accelerated development, referring to alignment between the state

and the Centre under BJP leadership.

Ramchander Rao highlighted that since 2014, the country has been progressing steadily with a balance between welfare and development under the Central Government. He urged party cadres to effectively communicate this progress to the people.

He also advised BJP workers to adopt modern tools such as Artificial Intelligence and social media to strengthen outreach, while maintaining direct contact with the public at the grassroots level. He called upon cadres to clearly explain the 12 key topics discussed during the training sessions and spread awareness about Central Government welfare schemes as well as BJP's ideology.

The programme witnessed active participation from party leaders and workers, focusing on strengthening organizational structure and improving public engagement across the region.

Revanth Reddy Challenges BRS to Debate, Slams KCR Over 'Neglect' of Palamuru

Jadcherla, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday launched a strong attack on Bharat Rashtira Samithi and its chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, challenging them to a public debate comparing their ten-year rule with his 30-month tenure in office. Addressing a public meeting at Gangapur in Jadcherla Mandal after inspecting irrigation projects in the district, Revanth Reddy said BRS leaders cannot escape accountability for their past actions. He asserted that the people of the undivided Mahabubnagar district would not forget what he described as years of injustice and neglect.

Recalling political developments, the Chief Minister alleged that K. Chandrashekar Rao shifted focus to Palamuru fearing defeat in Karimnagar and was elected as a Member of Parliament from the region. However, he claimed that KCR failed to maintain a connection with the constituency during his tenure. Revanth Reddy accused the previous government of ignoring key irrigation projects in the district, stating that no serious efforts were made to improve water availability for farmers. In contrast, he said the present government has spent 8,000 crore out of 22,000 crore on projects in the Palamuru region since



assuming power.

Highlighting development initiatives, he said engineering and medical colleges have been secured and an educational campus spread over 200 acres is being established. He emphasized that transforming Palamuru into a fertile region is essential to stop migration.

The Chief Minister said he would seek votes only in areas where welfare measures such as Indiramma housing have been implemented, while challenging BRS leaders to do the same based on their performance. Throwing an open challenge, Revanth Reddy said he is ready for a debate in the Assembly with K. Chandrashekar Rao on governance and development. "If I lose the debate, I will apologize," he said.

He asserted that the BRS has lost public trust and declared that his party would not allow its political revival in the Palamuru region, expressing confidence that voters would reject it in future elections.

Ponnam Prabhakar Leads Tree Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

Karimnagar, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Marking World Environment Day, Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in a large-scale tree plantation programme at Deer Park in Karimnagar town and called upon citizens to actively contribute to environmental conservation by planting and protecting trees.

The programme was attended by District Collector Chitra Mishra, Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam, SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, Chief Conservator Officer Kshitij, Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Municipal Commissioner Prapal Desai, Munnuru Kapu Corporation Chairman Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy, RTA Member Padala Rahul, DFO Satyanarayana, corporators, public representatives, and senior officials.

Extending World Environment Day greetings, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said environmental protection should not remain confined to speeches and discussions. He urged people to take responsibility for safeguarding nature through meaningful action. He emphasized that society must serve as a guiding force in spreading awareness about environmental conservation.

The Minister noted that government initiatives become successful only with public participation. Referring to a plantation programme conducted in Siddipet district last year, he said nearly 11,000 people, ranging from attendants to the District Collector, participated in a simultaneous plantation drive. He suggested organizing similar initiatives in Karimnagar.

Highlighting eco-friendly



measures undertaken in Husnabad constituency, Ponnam Prabhakar said steel utility kits containing 13 items were distributed to 280 women's self-help groups. Around 70,000 steel plates and steel glasses were also distributed to encourage reduced plastic usage. He added that Husnabad and Suryapet municipalities were receiving recognition for their outstanding performance.

The Minister said committees comprising five members each had been formed in villages across his constituency to oversee plantation and environmental protection activities. He further stated that under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, nearly four lakh houses are being constructed across the state, and beneficiaries are being encouraged to plant useful trees such as curry leaf, drumstick, and guava saplings.

Calling for extensive avenue

and housing plantations, he urged authorities and citizens to utilize every available space for greenery. He also highlighted the state's EV policy, which offers significant tax exemptions to reduce pollution and ensure Hyderabad does not face environmental challenges similar to heavily polluted metropolitan cities.

Expressing concern over weather forecasts indicating the possible impact of El Niño this year, Ponnam Prabhakar stressed the need for rainwater conservation through recharge pits in every household. "If we protect nature, nature will protect us," he said, urging everyone to plant trees and uphold the spirit of "Vriksho Rakshati Rakshitah" (Protect Trees, Trees Protect Us). He also referred to the Prime Minister's call to plant trees in the name of one's mother and encouraged citizens to turn that message into action.

Congress Hits Back at BRS Over Palamuru-Rangareddy Project

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

TPCC Media Communications Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy strongly criticized the BRS over its remarks on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, accusing the previous government of misleading the people of Telangana and failing to complete the project despite being in power for ten years.

In a press statement issued on Thursday, Sama Ram Mohan Reddy questioned former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for not completing the project after promising in 2015 that it would be finished within two years. He said it was surprising that BRS leaders were now presenting themselves as defenders of a project they had allegedly failed to execute effectively.

The TPCC leader alleged that the BRS government spent thousands of crores of rupees in the name of irrigation projects without delivering the promised benefits to farmers. Referring to BRS

claims that 90 percent of the Palamuru-Rangareddy project had been completed, he challenged the party to explain the status of several key components.

Sama Ram Mohan Reddy pointed out that nine motors were planned for installation at the Narlapur pumping station, but only one motor had reportedly been installed during the BRS regime. He questioned how the project could be termed nearly complete when such a crucial requirement remained pending.

He also alleged that distributary canal excavation works had not been taken up despite substantial expenditure. Raising concerns over the utilization of nearly 28,000 crore, he demanded an explanation regarding the spending of public funds when major works remained unfinished.

Further attacking the BRS, he asked whether even a single acre had received irrigation water under the project during the party's decade-long rule. According to him, the project failed to provide practical ben-



efits despite repeated claims of progress.

Sama Ram Mohan Reddy praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy for speeding up pending works, addressing land acquisition issues, and taking steps to install the remaining motors. He said the present government was committed to

completing the project and ensuring irrigation benefits reach farmers. He also accused the BRS of relying on misleading presentations and publicity campaigns instead of answering questions about its performance. He asserted that the people of Telangana would judge the project based on results rather than political claims.

Ponnam Prabhakar Backs Rahul Gandhi's Stand on Nicobar Island Conservation

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has expressed solidarity with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's concerns over environmental issues related to the development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, emphasizing that economic growth should not come at the cost of ecological destruction.

Speaking on the occasion of World Environment Day, Ponnam Prabhakar said development is essential for the nation's progress, but it must be carried out in a manner that protects nature and preserves ecological balance. He stated that projects undertaken in environmentally sensitive regions should prioritize sustainability and long-term environmental protection.

Referring to the ongoing discussions surrounding development activities in the Nicobar Islands, the Minister said Rahul Gandhi had raised serious concerns about the potential impact of large-scale industrial projects on the region's unique ecosystem. According to Ponnam Prabhakar, the Congress leader has been consistently highlighting the need to safeguard natural resources and biodiversity while pursuing development initiatives.

The Minister noted that the Nicobar Islands are internationally recognized for their ecological significance, rich biodiversity, and unique geographical characteristics. He expressed concern that extensive developmental activities could adversely affect the fragile environmental balance of the region if adequate safeguards are not implemented. Ponnam Prabhakar alleged

that large numbers of trees and green cover in the area could be affected by proposed development works. He argued that environmental conservation must remain a priority and that any project undertaken in such ecologically sensitive zones should undergo careful evaluation to ensure minimal impact on nature.

He clarified that neither he nor the Congress party opposing development. However, he stressed that growth should be inclusive, environmentally responsible, and beneficial to future generations. Projects should strike a balance between economic progress and environmental sustainability, he said.

The Minister further stated that protecting forests, biodiversity, and natural ecosystems is a collective responsibility. He called upon citizens,

environmental activists, and public representatives to support efforts aimed at preserving ecologically important regions across the country.

On World Environment Day, Ponnam Prabhakar urged people to draw inspiration from Rahul Gandhi's environmental advocacy and actively participate in initiatives that promote conservation and sustainable development. He said environmental protection should remain a shared social commitment and appealed for greater awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources for future generations.

The Minister reiterated that development and environmental conservation must go hand in hand and emphasized that safeguarding nature is essential for ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future.

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to Appear Before SIT in Phone Tapping Probe

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is scheduled to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday in connection with the ongoing phone tapping investigation in Telangana. SIT officials are expected to record his statement as part of their probe into allegations of unauthorized surveillance of political leaders during the previous BRS government.

According to sources, police have informed Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to report to the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Hyderabad at 11 a.m. on June 6. His appearance before the SIT comes after investigators reportedly identified him as one of the leaders whose phone may have been subjected to surveillance.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy emerged as a key Congress leader during the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections and played a significant role in strengthening the party's campaign in the Bhuvanagiri region. Congress leaders have often credited him with contributing to the party's success during the Assembly elections, which ultimately brought the Congress to power in the state.

Building on that political momentum, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from the Bhuvanagiri constituency



and secured victory, becoming a Member of Parliament. Since then, he has remained an active voice on several public and political issues.

The SIT investigation is focused on allegations that the phones of several opposition leaders, particularly Congress leaders, were monitored during the previous administration. As part of the inquiry, officials have been identifying individuals who may have been affected and collecting their statements to determine the scope and nature of the alleged surveillance activities.

Investigators are expected to seek details from Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy regarding any incidents, communications, or circumstances that may assist the probe. His testimony could provide valuable

information as officials continue to piece together evidence related to the alleged phone tapping network.

The phone tapping case has attracted significant public and political attention in Telangana, with the SIT examining technical records and statements from several individuals connected to the matter. Authorities have maintained that the investigation is being conducted thoroughly and in accordance with legal procedures.

With Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy set to appear before the SIT on Friday morning, the investigation is expected to move forward as officials continue gathering evidence and recording statements from key political figures linked to the case.

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has decided to conduct a state-wide special training programme for Anganwadi staff on June 7 with a focus on strengthening food safety standards and ensuring the delivery of safe and nutritious food to beneficiaries. The initiative is being organized under the directions of Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka as part of World Food Safety Day observances.

According to officials, the programme aims to enhance awareness among Anganwadi workers regarding food quality, hygiene, safe storage practices, and nutrition standards. The government has placed special emphasis on maintain-

ing food safety measures for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers who depend on Anganwadi services for nutritional support.

To ensure effective implementation, Food Safety Officers have been designated as master trainers across districts. These trainers will conduct awareness sessions and provide practical guidance to Anganwadi staff on various aspects of food handling and safety management.

The training programme will cover key areas such as food safety regulations, hygienic cooking practices, proper storage techniques, contamination prevention, and maintaining cleanliness in Anganwadi centres. Officials said the initiative is intended to improve the quality of services

provided through Anganwadi centres and strengthen public confidence in the nutrition programmes being implemented by the government.

Special focus will also be placed on educating staff about the safe preparation and distribution of supplementary nutrition provided to beneficiaries. Participants will be trained to identify potential food safety risks and adopt preventive measures to ensure the well-being of children and women receiving nutritional assistance.

The programme will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Officials believe that enhancing the knowledge and skills of Anganwadi workers will play a

crucial role in improving nutrition outcomes and promoting healthy practices at the grassroots level.

The Women and Child Welfare Department stated that food safety is a vital component of public health and that continuous training and capacity-building efforts are necessary to maintain high standards across all Anganwadi centres in the state.

Through this initiative, the government aims to create greater awareness about food safety while ensuring that beneficiaries receive safe, hygienic, and nutritious food. The programme is expected to benefit thousands of Anganwadi workers and contribute to the overall improvement of nutrition and child welfare services across Telangana.

Husnabad Municipality Wins Green Honour

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Husnabad Municipality received recognition as one of the best municipalities in the state for its outstanding performance in waste management and environmental protection. The prestigious award was presented on the occasion of World Environment Day during a special programme organized by the Pollution Control Board (PCB) in Hyderabad.

The award was received by

Husnabad Municipal Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi and Commissioner Mallikarjun from the hands of State Forests and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha. The recognition highlights the municipality's commitment to maintaining cleanliness, promoting environmental conservation, and implementing efficient waste management practices for the benefit of residents.

Following the achievement, TPCC Chief and MLC Bomma Ma-

hesh Kumar Goud, along with Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, congratulated and felicitated Chairperson Dandi Lakshmi and Commissioner Mallikarjun for bringing laurels to the municipality. They praised the dedicated efforts of the municipal administration in ensuring effective sanitation systems and creating a cleaner and healthier environment for the people.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders stated that the award reflects the collective efforts of mu-

nicipal officials, public representatives, sanitation workers, and citizens. They emphasized that environmental protection and cleanliness are shared responsibilities and that sustained participation from all sections of society is essential to achieve long-term success in waste management and ecological conservation.

Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud and Ponnam Prabhakar expressed hope that the recognition would serve as a source of inspiration for

the municipality to continue its efforts toward sustainable development and improved civic services. They also appreciated the role played by councillors, municipal staff, and residents in maintaining cleanliness standards and supporting various environmental initiatives.

The leaders further noted that such achievements demonstrate how local bodies can contribute significantly to environmental sustainability through proper plan-



ning, public awareness, and efficient implementation of waste management systems. They encouraged municipalities across the state to adopt similar practices and work collectively toward building cleaner and greener urban communities. The award has brought pride to Husnabad Municipality and

stands as a testament to its commitment to environmental stewardship. Officials expressed confidence that the honour would motivate them to strengthen their initiatives further and continue setting benchmarks in cleanliness, waste management, and environmental protection in the years to come.

Harish Rao Flags Threat to Telangana Water Rights

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has accused the Congress government of endangering Telangana's water rights through what he described as negligence in the management of key lift irrigation projects and flawed power policies. In an open letter addressed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao expressed serious concern over the condition of major irrigation infrastructure and the declining utilization of Krishna river waters by Telangana.

Harish Rao stated that the BRS had already warned the government through a letter dated April 7, 2026, regarding the risks associated with the operation and maintenance of lift irrigation pumps. However, he alleged that the Congress government failed to act on those warnings, resulting in damage to pumps and motors at important projects such as Kaleshwaram and Devadula.

According to him, repeated switching on and off of massive pumping equipment has caused severe damage to critical machinery. He said the state govern-

ment's negligence was leading to the deterioration of irrigation infrastructure built with thousands of crores of public funds. He also questioned whether efforts were being made to weaken these projects and subsequently place the blame on the previous BRS government.

The BRS leader raised concerns over Transco's reported recommendation that lift irrigation pumps be operated primarily during daytime hours when solar power is available. He argued that such a policy would force frequent start-stop operations of heavy motors, increasing the risk of equipment failures. Harish Rao questioned whether any technical study had been conducted before implementing such decisions.

He further criticized GO MS No. 8, which allocates a higher share of renewable energy to TGRPDCL. Since solar power is largely available only between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., he warned that irrigation pumping operations could become restricted to limited hours, reducing the state's ability to utilize Krishna and Godavari river waters effectively.

Harish Rao also highlighted what he termed a sharp decline



in Telangana's share of Krishna water utilization under Congress rule. While Andhra Pradesh reportedly utilized 72.73 percent of available waters during 2024-25, Telangana utilized only 27.27 percent. In 2025-26, Andhra Pradesh's share allegedly increased to 74.90 percent, while Telangana's utilization fell to a historic low of 25.10 percent.

The BRS has demanded 24-hour uninterrupted power supply for lift irrigation projects during pumping seasons, withdrawal of the proposed Rythu DISCOM, adequate funding for the maintenance and modernization of Kaleshwaram and Devadula projects, and immediate measures to ensure full utilization of Telangana's rightful share of Krishna and Godavari waters.

Revanth Reddy Challenges KCR to Debate BRS Rule, Vows Congress Dominance Till 2034

Jadcherla, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy challenged former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao to a public debate on the performance of the 10-year BRS rule and the two-and-a-half-year tenure of the present Congress government in the Assembly. Addressing a public meeting organized under the "Praja Palana - Pragati Pranalika" programme in Jadcherla, he said, "If your name is truly KCR, come forward for a debate. Let us discuss. We are also ready to apologize if we are at fault."

Continuing his attack on the previous government, Revanth Reddy accused the BRS regime of failing to complete key irrigation projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He alleged large-scale irregularities in the release of funds and misappropriation of loans taken for project construction. He reiterated that his government is ready for a transparent discussion on governance in the Assembly.

The Chief Minister also targeted Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, ac-

curring him of playing a "hide-and-seek" game on the Godavari river water issue. He questioned BJP leaders and Union ministers for evading responsibility and asserted that his government would hold them accountable. He declared that the Tummidihatti barrage would be constructed despite all challenges.

Highlighting the neglect of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, Revanth Reddy said the people of Palamuru had supported K Chandrashekhara Rao but received no benefits in return. "Not a single project was completed in the region in ten years. Our lands received no irrigation water, and hardships continued," he said, criticizing the renewed political activities of BRS leaders.

He stated that his government aims to provide irrigation water to 26 lakh acres in the region and noted that while 1 lakh crore was spent on the Kaleshwaram project earlier, even 800 crore was not allocated for affected areas like Uddandapur. In contrast, he said, the current government has spent 8,000 crore in just 30 months on district projects.

Revanth Reddy warned that the people of Palamuru would



politically reject BRS in the next Assembly elections. He asserted that Congress would remain in power in the state until 2034. "We will bring Congress back to power in 2029. This is my challenge to KCR," he said.

The Chief Minister assured that 90 TMC of water would be secured through the Palamuru-Rangareddy scheme and that funds would be released through a "green channel" for

timely completion of projects. He also highlighted welfare initiatives, including housing, free electricity, ration cards, and free bus travel for women, along with the development of an education hub in Kodangal.

He urged people to stay vigilant against "those who cheated in the past" and emphasized that education and welfare schemes would drive long-term development in the region.

Dasoju Sravan Defends KTR, Targets Revanth Reddy Over Rajesh Exports Row

Hyderabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Legislative Council member Dr. Dasoju Sravan launched a strong attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, accusing him of indulging in petty politics and attempting to malign the image of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) through what he termed as a misleading campaign surrounding Rajesh Exports.

Addressing the media, Dr. Dasoju Sravan alleged that individuals working under the influence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy were trying to unnecessarily link KTR with the Rajesh Exports issue. He claimed that a coordinated social media campaign was being carried out against KTR and the BRS party with the intention of damaging their reputation.

The BRS leader argued that Rajesh Exports is not an unknown company but a reputed

organization that had figured in the Fortune 500 list. He stated that the company had received support amounting to 18,100 crore from the Central Government and had also been granted certifications by central authorities. He further pointed out that the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) had invested nearly 600 crore in the company, indicating the confidence reposed in it by government-backed institutions.

Dr. Sravan questioned why the Telangana government of that period should be blamed for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rajesh Exports when the company had already received recognition and support from central agencies. He clarified that the agreement related to the proposed establishment of an electronic chips manufacturing facility and emphasized that the matter remained only at the MoU stage, with no financial benefits or incentives allegedly being extended by the state government to the



company. Drawing a comparison with the current administration, Dr. Sravan alleged that several MoUs signed during Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visits to international forums, including Davos, had not yielded tangible outcomes. He questioned how many industries had actually been brought to Telangana as a result of those agreements.

The MLC further alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was sidelining the Industries Minister and central-

izing decision-making within the government. He accused the Chief Minister of targeting KCR and KTR out of political jealousy and warned that such actions could ultimately harm the Congress party itself.

Dr. Dasoju Sravan demanded that the government stop what he described as attempts to distort facts regarding Rajesh Exports and refrain from conducting negative campaigns against KTR. BRS leader Palle Ravi Kumar Goud was also present at the press conference.

Kishan Reddy Plants Sapling in Support of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'

New Delhi, June 5 | TPN Bureau

In support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationwide call of 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy planted a sapling at his official residence in New Delhi on Thursday, marking the observance of World Environment Day.

The plantation drive was undertaken in response to the initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which encourages citizens across the country to plant a tree in the name of their mothers while promoting environmental conservation and sustainability. The campaign has gained widespread attention for combining the values of family, gratitude, and ecological responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy emphasized that protecting the environment is the responsibility of every citizen. He said that preserving nature and ensuring a clean, healthy environment for future generations should be considered a collective duty. He noted that environmental protection is no longer an option but a necessity in the face of grow-

ing challenges such as climate change, pollution, and ecological degradation.

The minister stated that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is much more than a tree-planting campaign. According to him, it is a significant people's movement that promotes respect and gratitude toward mothers while simultaneously creating awareness about the need to safeguard nature. He said the initiative has the potential to inspire millions of citizens to actively participate in environmental conservation efforts.

G. Kishan Reddy urged people to respond positively to the Prime Minister's call by planting at least one sapling and taking responsibility for its care and protection. He highlighted that merely planting trees is not enough and stressed the importance of nurturing them to ensure their growth and long-term contribution to the environment.

The Union Minister also reiterated that the Central Government places high priority on environmental protection and sustainable development. He said India is moving forward with a clear vision focused



on green growth, ecological balance, and climate resilience. Several initiatives undertaken by the government are aimed at increasing green cover, conserving biodiversity, and reducing the adverse effects of climate change.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, G. Kishan Reddy appealed to citizens from all walks of life to become active participants in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and contribute towards building a greener and more sustainable India. He expressed confidence that collective public participation would play a crucial role in creating a healthier environment and securing a better future for generations to come.

Grand Welcome for KTR in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, June 5 | TPN Bureau

BRS Party Working President Sri K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, along with his family to participate as the chief guest in the Telangana Formation Day celebrations scheduled to be held on June 6. The event is being jointly organized by the Malaysia Telangana Association (MYTA) and BRS Malaysia to commemorate the formation of Telangana and celebrate the achievements of the state among the Telugu diaspora.

Upon his arrival in Kuala

Lumpur, Sri K.T. Rama Rao received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from party leaders, Telangana association representatives, and members of the Telugu community residing in Malaysia. The reception reflected the strong connection maintained by overseas Telangana communities with their homeland and its cultural identity.

Among those who welcomed KTR were former Tungathurthi MLA Dr. Gadari Kishore Kumar, MYTA President S. Tirupathi, Women's Wing President Kiranmayi, BRS Malaysia President Maruthi, and several members of MYTA and BRS

Malaysia, including Mansoor, Santosh, Sandeep, Jyothi, Mounika, Supriya, Shashi, and Shiva. Supporters gathered at the venue to greet the BRS leader and expressed their enthusiasm for his participation in the Telangana Formation Day celebrations.

The Telangana Formation Day event is expected to bring together a large number of Telangana-origin families, professionals, entrepreneurs, students, and community leaders residing across Malaysia. Organizers have planned cultural performances, community interactions, and programs high-

lighting Telangana's history, culture, traditions, and development journey since statehood.

The presence of Sri K.T. Rama Rao as the chief guest has generated significant excitement among members of the Telangana diaspora. Organizers said his participation would further strengthen ties between overseas Telangana communities and the state while providing an opportunity to showcase Telangana's progress on an international platform.

Representatives of MYTA and BRS Malaysia stated that

the celebrations are aimed at fostering unity among Telangana people living abroad and preserving their cultural roots. They noted that the annual event has become an important occasion for the community to come together and celebrate the spirit of Telangana.

The Telangana Formation Day celebrations in Kuala Lumpur are expected to witness enthusiastic participation from members of the Telugu community across Malaysia, making the event a memorable gathering for Telangana supporters and well-wishers residing overseas.



Harish Rao Pays Tribute to Gajjala Ramesh

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Harish Rao visited the residence of BRS senior leader Gajjala Nagesh in Khairatabad and paid heartfelt tributes to Gajjala Ramesh, the brother of Gajjala Nagesh, who recently passed away.

During his visit, Harish Rao offered floral tributes to the portrait of the late Gajjala Ramesh and observed a mo-

ment of remembrance in honor of the departed soul. He expressed deep sorrow over the loss and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family members.

Harish Rao later met Gajjala Nagesh and other members of the family, offering his personal support and sympathies during this difficult period. He prayed for strength and courage for the family to overcome their grief and bear the irrepa-

rable loss.

The former minister recalled the contributions and personal qualities of Gajjala Ramesh and stated that his untimely demise had caused sadness among relatives, friends, and well-wishers. He emphasized the importance of standing by families during times of sorrow and extending emotional support to those who have lost their loved ones.

Family members appreciat-

ed Harish Rao's visit and his words of comfort. They expressed gratitude for the solidarity shown by party leaders, supporters, and friends who have been visiting the family and sharing their condolences.

Several local leaders, party workers, and well-wishers also paid their respects and extended condolences to Gajjala Nagesh and his family. The atmosphere at the residence was

marked by grief as relatives and associates gathered to remember Gajjala Ramesh and offer prayers for the peace of his soul. Harish Rao concluded his visit by once again conveying his deepest sympathies to the family and assuring them of his support during this period of mourning. His visit reflected the spirit of compassion and solidarity that leaders and colleagues often extend to families facing personal loss.



Revanth Reddy Conducts Extensive Second-Day Inspection of Palamuru Irrigation Projects

continued

in Bijinapally Mandal, where he inspected the Package-8 Stage-3 pump house and the Vattem Reservoir. He later flew by helicopter to Kothur in Bhoothpur Mandal to examine the works related to the Karivena Reservoir under Packages 14 and 15 of the scheme.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister visited Uddandapur in Jadcherla Mandal, where he reviewed progress on Packages 17 and 18 associated with reservoir construction. At each location, officials presented photo exhibitions detailing various stages of project execution, and the Chief Minister sought specific clarifications on technical and administrative aspects. Throughout the tour, Revanth Reddy emphasized the importance of timely

completion of irrigation infrastructure to ensure water security and agricultural growth in the region. He reiterated the government's commitment to expediting pending works and ensuring that the benefits of large-scale irrigation projects reach farmers at the earliest.

Following his inspection of the Karivena Reservoir works at Kothur, the Chief Minister addressed a media conference, outlining the government's strategy for advancing irrigation and drinking water projects in the Palamuru region.

The two-day field visit reflects the government's focus on closely monitoring critical infrastructure projects and ensuring accountability in execution, with an aim to transform irrigation capacity and support farmers across the district.

Revanth Reddy Sets 2029 Poll Tone, Challenges KCR to Public Debate

Jadcherla, June 5 | TPN Bureau:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is set to complete half of his five-year term on June 7, signaled his political roadmap for the future by unveiling the slogan "Aur Ek Baar, Congress Sarkar" for the 2029 Assembly elections. Addressing a large public gathering in Jadcherla on Friday, he urged the crowd to echo the slogan, creating a charged atmosphere as the audience responded enthusiastically. Revanth Reddy said Telangana has a consistent political pattern of giving ruling parties two consecutive terms since 1994. He pointed out that the Telugu Desam Party governed from 1994 to 2004, the Congress from 2004 to 2014, and the BRS from 2014 to 2024. Expressing confidence,



he asserted that the Congress, which assumed power in 2023, would continue to rule until 2034. Launching a sharp attack on BRS president and former chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the Chief Minister

challenged him to an open debate comparing the performance of the BRS government's 10-year tenure with the Congress government's two-and-a-half years in office. He said he was ready to apologise

publicly if the Congress was found lacking and urged Chandrasekhar Rao to attend the Assembly and face discussion.

Highlighting the government's achievements, Revanth Reddy claimed that several welfare initiatives had already been implemented. These include the distribution of 15 lakh ration cards, sanction of 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses, provision of 200 units of free electricity to 50 lakh households, and expenditure of nearly 10,000 crore on free bus travel for women. He remarked that listing all achievements would resemble an epic in scale. Criticising Chandrasekhar Rao, he accused him of misleading the people despite leading what he described as a resource-rich state for two terms. He warned that the BRS would face a complete political

setback in the Palamuru region and declared that the Congress would ensure no BRS candidate wins from the area in the future.

Taking a dig at BRS leaders planning padayatras, he questioned their credibility and dismissed their efforts. He also targeted the BJP and the Maharashtra government over delays in discussions on sharing Godavari waters, alleging avoidance of accountability.

Revanth Reddy reaffirmed his commitment to securing 90 tmc ft of Krishna water for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and promised expedited funding through a green channel mechanism. He urged the public to remain cautious of those attempting to mislead them and to support the government's development agenda.

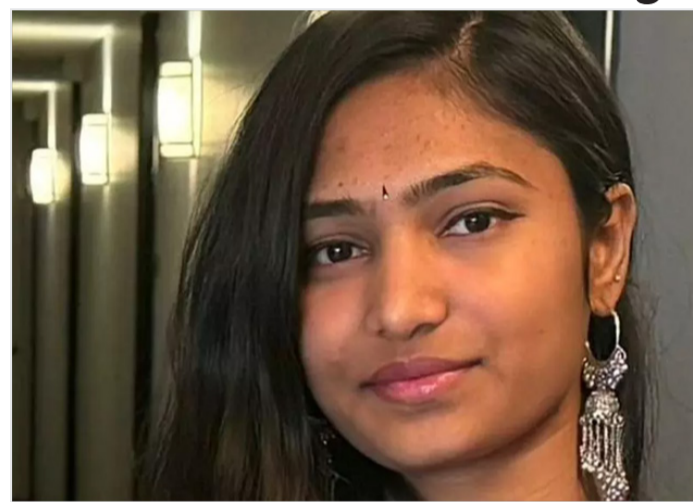
Mancherial Student in Coma After Fall in Chicago

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

A 22-year-old student from Mancherial, currently pursuing higher education in the United States, is in critical condition after suffering a severe fall at a train station in Chicago. The student, Lagishetti Spandana, who is enrolled at Elmhurst University in Illinois, reportedly fell from a staircase approximately 25 feet high while exiting the city's elevated transit system, popularly known as the "L," on May 30.

Following the accident, she was rushed to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Chicago, where she is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit and remains in a comatose state. According to doctors, she has sustained multiple serious injuries, including internal bleeding, fractures, dislocations, liver damage, and other complications.

Spandana's parents, Lagishetti Srinivas and Sunitha, expressed deep distress over the incident. They said their



daughter had traveled to the United States in early January 2025 and was just months away from completing her course. "We are devastated by what has happened. She was about to finish her education in five months," Srinivas said.

The family has appealed to the government for immediate assistance in securing passports and visas so they can travel to the United States to be with their daughter. They have

also requested financial support to manage the mounting medical expenses.

In a letter, trauma surgeon Rebeca Rico from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital urged authorities to facilitate visa approvals for the parents on humanitarian grounds. Meanwhile, relatives have initiated a GoFundMe campaign, which had raised over \$44,000 as of Friday night to support Spandana's treatment.

GHMC Launches Special Drive for Respectful Disposal of Sacred Items

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to organize the city's first dedicated collection drive for sacred items on June 6, offering residents a respectful and environmentally responsible way to dispose of religious materials. The initiative will be held from 9 am to 11 am at SB Hall, ISKCON Temple in Banjara Hills.

As part of this pilot programme, citizens are encouraged to bring old deity photographs, damaged frames, worn-out idols, and other sacred objects that are no longer used for purposes. Instead of being discarded along with regular waste, these items will

undergo a dignified process that includes prayers, followed by eco-friendly recycling and material recovery.

GHMC officials emphasized that religious articles should not be thrown away carelessly, highlighting the importance of handling such items with reverence. The initiative aims to blend cultural sensitivity with environmental responsibility by promoting proper disposal practices.

The civic body also noted that this drive aligns with its broader efforts to encourage waste segregation at the source, improve cleanliness across public spaces, and promote sustainable waste management practices in Hyderabad.

Tech and Pharmacy Dominate Choices in TG PGECET 2026

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Technology and healthcare streams continue to attract the largest number of postgraduate aspirants in Telangana, as reflected in the results of TG PGECET 2026 announced on Friday. Computer Science and Information Technology emerged as the most preferred choice, with over one-third of candidates opting for the stream. Out of the total candidates, 8,972 appeared for the Computer Science and IT paper, making up nearly 38% of all test-takers. Of these, 8,367 candidates successfully qualified. Pharmacy followed closely as the second most popular discipline, with 7,977 candidates appearing and 7,753 qualifying, indicating a strong and growing interest in healthcare-related education. Together, these two streams accounted for close to 17,000 appearances, significantly surpassing traditional engineering branches such as Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering. The examination was conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad on behalf of the Telangana Council

of Higher Education. A total of 26,077 applications were received, out of which 23,637 candidates took the test, registering an attendance rate of 90.64%. The exam was held from May 29 to June 1 across 31 centres, including 23 in Hyderabad and eight in Warangal. Several streams recorded impressive qualification rates. Pharmacy achieved a pass percentage exceeding 95%, while disciplines like Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Management, Chemical Engineering, Mining Engineering, and Nano-Technology also reported strong results. Among the top rankers in Pharmacy, Nyalam Mythri from Jagtial secured the first rank with 101 marks. Shivarathi Sandeep from Mahabubabad stood second with 100 marks, and Chopra Yoga Chaitanya Srikrishna Rangaswamy from Medchal Malkajgiri secured the third rank with 99 marks. Officials noted that the results clearly highlight a continuing trend, with students increasingly choosing technology and healthcare fields for their postgraduate studies.

HYDRAA Secures 200 Acres of Government Land Worth 30,000 Crore in Puppallaguda

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) conducted a major operation in Puppallaguda village of Gandipet Mandal in Ranga Reddy district, securing nearly 200 acres of government land valued at approximately 30,000 crore. Officials fenced the land to prevent further encroachments and ensure its protection.

The identified land parcel is known for its historic rock formations and had earlier been allocated to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) by the state government. Environmental activists, particularly members of the Society to Save Rocks, have been campaigning for decades to preserve these natural formations and safeguard the land from illegal occupation.

The issue had previously reached the High Court, which directed the Municipal and Revenue departments to take necessary steps to protect both the rock formations and the government property. However, delays in demarcating boundaries and fencing left the land vulnerable to encroachments over time.

Recently, representatives of the Society to Save Rocks raised the issue during HYDRAA's public grievance programme, Praja Vani, prompting immediate action. Following the complaint, HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath visited the site and reviewed the situation.

Acting on his directions, HYDRAA personnel, in coordination with Revenue and Municipal officials, carried out fencing operations on Friday to secure the land and prevent further encroachments.

TG DEECET 2026 Admissions: Web Options Open from June 6

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Candidates who qualified in TG DEECET-2026 can begin submitting their web options for admission into D.El.Ed and DPSE courses from June 6 (5 pm) to June 8 through the official portal, as announced by the Director of SCERT, Telangana, who also serves as the convener of TG DEECET-2026.

The admission process covers two-year programmes offered in Government District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) as well as private unaided Elementary Teacher Education Institutions, including both minority and non-minority colleges, for the academic session 2026-28.

The TG DEECET-2026 notification was released on February 27, and the entrance examination was conducted on

May 21. Certificate verification for candidates was carried out from June 2 to June 5 at 10 Government DIETs located across erstwhile districts. Authorities have extended the deadline for certificate verification until June 6, 2 pm, for candidates who were unable to attend earlier.

Applicants will have an opportunity to modify their web options on June 9. The seat allotment results are scheduled to be declared on June 14. Candidates allotted seats can pay the tuition fee and download their allotment letters between June 14 and June 17.

All selected candidates must report to their respective colleges on or before June 17. The academic session for the new batch is set to commence on July 1.

Railway Board Turns Down Telangana's Free MMTS Proposal

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

In a setback to Telangana's efforts to reduce traffic congestion in the city, the Railway Board has declined the state government's proposal to introduce free MMTS services in Hyderabad. The decision comes despite the state offering to bear the operational expenses of the suburban rail network.

The proposal was initially planned to be launched on June 2 to coincide with Telangana Formation Day, aiming to encourage greater use of public transport and ease vehicular pressure on city roads. However, the Railway Board cited financial concerns and unresolved dues as key reasons for rejecting the plan.

According to sources, the MMTS system is currently operating at a significant loss, es-



timated at around 160 crore annually. In addition, the Board pointed out that the Telangana government has outstanding liabilities of approximately 490 crore related to MMTS projects.

The issue was discussed as part of a broader proposal to waive fares for daily commuters using the suburban rail network. However, questions over long-term financial sus-

tainability led to the proposal being set aside.

Officials indicated that until pending payments are cleared and financial viability is ensured, such initiatives may face challenges in gaining approval. The rejection is seen as a hurdle in the state's push to strengthen urban transport infrastructure and promote affordable commuting options for the public.

Esha Singh Felicitated After World Record Feat at ISSF World Cup Munich

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad shooter Esha Singh was honoured by Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Sriganesh Narayanan on Thursday following her record-breaking performance at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol Munich 2026. Esha created history by registering 43 hits in the women's 25m pistol final, setting a new world record at the prestigious international event. Congratulating her on the achievement, Narayanan described her as one of India's top emerging pistol shooters who has consistently represented the country with distinction on the global stage. He noted that her performance in Munich marked a significant milestone in her career and brought immense pride to the nation. Highlighting her connection to the region, Narayanan said that as a resident of



the Secunderabad Cantonment constituency, her accomplishment had brought recognition not only to Hyderabad but also to Telangana and India as a whole. He further stated that Esha Singh's success would serve as a strong source of inspiration for young athletes, especially those aspiring to take up shooting. He encouraged budding sportspersons to follow her example, work hard, and aim to compete at the highest levels in international sports.

Medak SP Calls for Stronger Coordination to Support Women and Child Victims

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Medak Superintendent of Police D.V. Srinivasa Rao has emphasized the importance of enhanced coordination among various departments to ensure timely assistance and justice for women and children affected by violence and abuse.

Speaking at a review meeting of Bharosa services held at the district police office on Friday, the SP highlighted that effective collaboration between police, medical, legal, and welfare departments is essential to deliver prompt support, including counseling, rehabilitation, and protection for victims.

He stressed that cases involving crimes against women and



children must be handled with urgency, ensuring swift investigations and immediate access to essential services. Officials were directed to avoid delays in providing medical care, legal aid, counseling, and rehabilitation support.

Srinivasa Rao also pointed out that Bharosa centres are

designed to offer comprehensive services under a single roof, reducing the need for victims to approach multiple offices for help. He urged departments to improve coordination and strengthen referral systems to ensure efficient handling of cases.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Vikrant Kumar Singh, DSP Prasanna Kumar, Bharosa coordinator Soumya, representatives from Childline, members of the Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, District Legal Services Authority, public prosecutors, health officials, women and child welfare officers, SERP representatives, NGOs, investigating officers, and She Teams personnel.

Over 54,000 Waqf Properties in Telangana Digitised on UMEED Portal

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana State Waqf Board has successfully uploaded details of 54,445 waqf properties onto the UMEED portal ahead of its scheduled closure on Friday, marking a significant step in the digitisation of religious endowments.

According to official data recorded until 5 pm, a total of 63,911 properties were taken up for processing. Of these, 54,445 entries received approval, while 3,801 properties were initiated for entry by makers. Another 79 properties were awaiting verification by designated checkers. The UMEED portal, developed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, is designed to streamline the management of waqf assets by enabling their digitisation, verification and monitoring at the national level. Officials noted that 5,582 properties were either rejected

or remained pending due to various discrepancies. Hyderabad district accounted for the highest number of approved properties at 9,986. It was followed by Nizamabad with 4,629 properties, Sangareddy with 4,428, Rangareddy with 3,362 and Kamareddy with 3,310. Abul Fateh Syed Bandagi Badsha Quadri stated that no new registrations or entries would be accepted once the portal closes. He also pointed out that several private trusts classified under the waqf-by-user category had not registered, largely due to limited awareness. He estimated that more than one lakh institutions fall under this category. Authorities attributed most rejections to duplicate entries, often submitted both by individual makers and the waqf board, leading to inconsistencies during verification.



Rajiv Gandhi an Inspiration for Welfare Governance: Mahesh Kumar Goud

Karimnagar Town, June 5 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who sacrificed his life for the nation and its integrity, continues to inspire welfare-oriented governance. He stated that several welfare schemes being implemented in the state are guided by the ideals and vision of Rajiv Gandhi.

Mahesh Kumar Goud was speaking after unveiling a bronze statue of Rajiv Gandhi in Karimnagar on Friday night. The statue, installed under the aegis of SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, was unveiled in the presence of State BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar, MLAs, and other leaders.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted that Rajiv Gandhi introduced several reforms aimed at empowering youth and enabling them to compete globally. He noted that Gandhi laid the foundation for the development of the computer, mobile phone, and telecommunications sectors in India. He urged young people to draw inspiration from the spirit of sacrifice shown by Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi.

He criticized parties that

promote divisions based on caste and religion, stating that such politics has no future. He stressed that people are more concerned about law and order, education, employment, and overall well-being. He accused the BJP of fostering divisions and failing to fulfill its promises to the public.

Mahesh Kumar Goud also said that the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is committed to the welfare and development of the poor, taking inspiration from Rajiv Gandhi's vision. He objected to the use of religion in politics and recalled Rajiv Gandhi's role in laying the foundation stone for the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. He added that the widespread use of mobile phones and computers today reflects Gandhi's forward-looking policies.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar recalled that the original statue of Rajiv Gandhi was installed at the same location in 1994 after considerable struggle. He expressed satisfaction over the installation of the new bronze statue and praised Rajiv Gandhi for reforms such as granting voting rights to youth. Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed confidence that the Congress party would return to power in the upcoming elections.



TPCC Chief Lays Foundation Stone for IDSMT Project

Karimnagar, June 5 | TPN Bureau

TPCC Chief and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with Ministers Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Adluri Laxman, laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the IDSMT (old Municipal Guest House) facility in Karimnagar town on Thursday.

The programme was attended by public representatives, officials, and local leaders who gathered to mark the commencement of the much-awaited development initiative. The project is expected to enhance civic infrastructure and contribute to the modernization of public amenities in the city.

Following the foundation stone-laying ceremony, the ministers and TPCC Chief inaugurated newly established food courts aimed at providing improved facilities for residents and visitors. The food courts are expected to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs while offering a modern and convenient dining experience for the public.

Addressing the gathering, the leaders emphasized the state government's commitment to strengthening urban infrastructure and promoting development across Karimnagar. They stated that projects aimed at improving civic amenities, public spaces, and commercial facilities would

contribute significantly to the city's growth and economic activity.

The leaders also highlighted the importance of creating better public infrastructure that caters to the needs of a growing urban population. They expressed confidence that the IDSMT redevelopment project and the newly inaugurated food courts would serve as valuable additions to Karimnagar's development landscape.

Several elected representatives and officials participated in the programme, including MLAs Gangula Kamalakar, Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, and Medipalli Sathyam. Also present were SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy, Munnuru Kapu Corporation Chairman Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy, RTA Member Padala Rahul, Library Chairman Sattu Malleshham, Urban Bank Chairman Karra Rajasekhara, the District Collector, and other senior government officials. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and stakeholders, who welcomed the initiatives aimed at improving public infrastructure and enhancing the city's urban development. Officials stated that the projects would be executed efficiently and completed within the stipulated timeframe to ensure maximum benefit to the people of Karimnagar.

Land Values Surge Up to 75% in Rajanna Sircilla District, Real Estate Sector Concerned

Sircilla, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Land values in urban areas of Sircilla and Vemulawada in Rajanna Sircilla district have witnessed a steep increase, with revised market rates coming into effect on Friday. The government has raised land valuation by 50% to 75% across the district to enhance revenue through the Registration Department, while rates for apartments and plots have seen a moderate increase of 10% to 20%.

The revised values were determined based on recent sale transactions in Sircilla and Vemulawada municipalities and across several mandals, including Vemulawada Urban, Vemulawada Rural, Chandurthi, Rudrangi, Konaraopeta, Boinpalli, Illanthakunta, Tangalappalli, Mustabad, Gambhirapeta, Yellareddypeta, and Veernapalli. This marks the first major revision in nearly four years. In the district headquarters, land value per square yard has increased from 2,100 to 3,200, with premium locations reaching up to 25,300 per square yard. In rural areas, prices have risen by 700 to



1,100, with higher rates observed in mandal headquarters. In Vemulawada municipality, land rates have increased from 3,000-6,000 to 5,000-9,500, while property values in villages have surged from 15 lakh-25 lakh to 25 lakh-40 lakh.

Stamp duty remains unchanged at 7.5%, but the hike in land values has significantly increased registration costs, resulting in higher financial burden on buyers. Officials estimate an additional revenue of 8 crore to 10 crore annually,

adding to the district's existing 50 crore income from registrations.

R. Venkataveeraswamy, Sub-Registrar, Sircilla, confirmed that the revised rates are now in force and that registration slots, which were increased to 80 last month, have now been streamlined to 40 per day.

However, real estate stakeholders have expressed concern, stating that the sharp rise in land values could further slow down property transactions in an already struggling market.

Green Champion Honoured on Environment Day

Adilabad, June 05 | TPN Bureau

Former Mukhra village Sarpanch Smt. Gadge Meenakshi was honoured with an award on the occasion of World Environment Day in recognition of her outstanding contribution to environmental conservation and sustainable village development.

The award was presented by District Collector Rajarshi Shah, Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan, and District Forest Officer (DFO) Bajirao during a special ceremony held to mark World Environment Day celebrations in Adilabad district.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials praised Gadge Meenakshi for her remarkable efforts in promoting environmental protection during her tenure as Sarpanch of Mukhra village. They noted that she not only focused on the overall development of the village but also gave exceptional importance to creating and preserving green spaces.

Under her leadership, several environmental initiatives were undertaken, including avenue plantations, the development of Haritha Vanam, public parks, and large-scale green zones. Officials highlighted that every available open space in the village was utilized for plantation drives, transforming the landscape into a vibrant and eco-friendly environment.

The authorities further stated that Gadge Meenakshi's ef-



orts extended beyond merely planting saplings. She introduced innovative measures to ensure their survival and growth, making environmental conservation a continuous community-driven activity. One of the most notable achievements of Mukhra village was becoming the first village in the country to introduce Digital Tree Aadhaar identification for trees. This unique initiative enabled systematic monitoring and protection of every tree planted in the village.

Officials observed that the dedicated care and regular monitoring of the plantations have resulted in lush greenery across Mukhra. Today, the village stands as a shining example of environmental stewardship, attracting attention for its sustainable development practices.

The event was attended by public representatives, government officials, villagers, and environmental enthusiasts who applauded her efforts and celebrated the village's achievements in creating a greener and healthier future.

They also remarked that vis-

Comprehensive Arrangements Underway for Godavari Pushkaram in Dharmapuri: Minister Laxman Kumar

Dharmapuri, June 5 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for SC, ST, and Differently-abled Welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar assured that comprehensive facilities would be provided for pilgrims attending the upcoming Godavari Pushkaram and emphasized the need for public cooperation in developing Dharmapuri as a major pilgrimage destination.

The minister conducted a review meeting on Friday at the Dharmapuri Devasthanam Executive Officer's office along with District Collector Satya Prasad, officials, and individuals displaced due to land acquisition. The meeting focused on development works and arrangements for the Pushkaram festival.

Addressing the gathering, Laxman Kumar stated that the concerns of displaced persons would be taken into considera-

tion and assured that compensation would be provided in accordance with the law. He noted that discussions with affected families have been ongoing for several months and that further consultations would be held. He appealed to locals not to politicize the development process and urged those affected by land acquisition to cooperate in the larger interest of the region's growth.

The minister announced that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has allocated 117 crore in the first phase for the development of Dharmapuri and Kotilingala in preparation for the Pushkaram. He said infrastructure such as bypass roads, parking areas, and bathing ghats are being developed to ensure a smooth experience for pilgrims. Additional proposals identified during a Collector-led review meeting are being submitted to the government

for approval and funding.

District Collector Satya Prasad stated that all development works would be carried out in accordance with government norms while considering the views of displaced persons. He assured that arrangements are being made to ensure devotees face no inconvenience during the festival.

The meeting was attended by Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Raja Goud, Jagtial RDO Madhusudhan, Karimnagar Endowments Assistant Commissioner Nayini Supriya, Dharmapuri Temple Executive Officer Sankatala Srinivas, Municipal Chairperson Vemula Nagalakshmi, former Temple Trust Board Chairman Jakkuravinder, Tahsildar Erukonda Srinivas, Municipal Commissioner Mamilla Srinivas Rao, and officials from various departments.



CM Reviews Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Works

Nagarkurnool, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday inspected the ongoing works of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), one of Telangana's flagship irrigation projects aimed at providing water security to drought-prone regions of the state.

During the visit, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of the Head Regulator works under Package-3 and the Narlapur Reservoir works under Package-2. He was accompanied by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, Minister Vakiti Srihari, and local MLAs.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the current status of construction activities, timelines for completion, and measures being taken to expedite the project. Revanth Reddy closely examined various components of the irrigation infrastructure and sought details regarding engineering progress, water storage capacity, and future operational plans.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of completing the project within the stipulated timeframe, stating that the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is crucial for ensuring irrigation fa-

cilities, drinking water supply, and agricultural development across several districts. He directed officials to maintain quality standards while accelerating the pace of construction.

Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Damodar Rajanarasimha, and Vakiti Srihari also reviewed the works and interacted with engineers and project officials. They discussed various technical aspects of the project and the steps required to achieve timely completion.

The Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme is expected to play a transformative role in improving water availability in the region, benefiting farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity. The project is designed to utilize Krishna River waters and deliver them to areas that have historically faced water scarcity.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister reiterated the state government's commitment to strengthening irrigation infrastructure and ensuring that major projects are completed efficiently for the welfare of farmers and rural communities. Officials accompanying the team assured that all efforts are being made to meet the construction targets and bring the project into operation at the earliest.

RTC Accused of Charging Express Fares on PalleVelugu Buses

Narayankhed (Sangareddy), June 5 | TPN Bureau

Passengers in Narayankhed have raised serious concerns over alleged irregularities by RTC officials, accusing them of collecting higher fares by mislabeling PalleVelugu buses as Express services. The issue came to light after a bus from the Sangareddy depot, operating between Narayankhed and Lingampally, reportedly charged Express fares despite being a PalleVelugu service.

According to passengers, RTC staff affixed 'Express' boards on PalleVelugu buses and collected fares applicable to Express services, causing financial strain. Commuters expressed anger, stating that this practice violates established norms and places an unfair burden on daily travelers, especially those from rural areas who rely heavily on affordable public transport.

As per regulations, PalleVelugu buses are meant for rural connectivity and are priced

lower than Express services. Additionally, there is a notable difference in comfort and seating capacity. Express buses generally have 44 seats and offer relatively better comfort, whereas PalleVelugu buses accommodate around 55 passengers and lack similar amenities. Despite this, passengers allege that they are being forced to pay higher fares without receiving corresponding service quality.

The incident has sparked outrage among commuters, who are demanding immediate intervention from higher authorities. They have urged RTC officials to strictly adhere to operational guidelines and ensure that PalleVelugu buses are used only for their intended purpose.

Passengers have also called for accountability and action against those responsible, warning that such practices erode public trust in the transport system.

Hyderabad Police Seize Over 2,100 Vehicles in 'Operation Kavach' Crackdown

Hyderabad, June 5 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad City Police conducted a large-scale enforcement drive, 'Operation Kavach,' on Thursday night, seizing 2,149 vehicles across the city for violations related to tampered, fake, or missing number plates. The special operation was carried out between 10 pm and midnight, targeting the misuse of registration plates—an offence often linked to evasion of law enforcement and involvement in criminal activities. Officials said such violations also result in innocent vehicle owners receiving wrongful e-challans and facing unnecessary legal issues. Police teams set up checkpoints in all police station limits and inspected a total of 12,098 vehicles. This included 8,802 two-wheelers, 1,693 four-wheelers, and 1,623 autorickshaws. During the checks, authorities identified 1,406 vehicles with irregular or tampered number plates, 1,132 vehicles operating without proper registration plates, and 69 vehicles allegedly using fake

number plates. Of the total vehicles seized, 2,046 were two-wheelers, 52 were four-wheelers, and 51 were autorickshaws.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar personally reviewed enforcement activities at several locations, including Jubilee Hills-Venkata-giri, Madhuranagar-Krishna Kanth Park, Borabanda-Pili Dargah, Sanathnagar, and Ameerpet-Sathyam Theatre junction. He interacted with motorists found violating norms and instructed officials to initiate strict legal action against those deliberately flouting rules. Sajjanar warned that tampering with number plates would not be treated as a minor traffic offence and could lead to criminal charges such as cheating and forgery. He advised motorists to ensure their number plates comply with transport regulations and to carry valid vehicle documents at all times. Police officials said that 'Operation Kavach' will be conducted in phases and expanded to cover all categories of vehicles in the coming days.



How Many Children Become Successful After Leaving Child Homes?

Thousands of orphan and abandoned children are living in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) across India. In Andhra Pradesh, there are 712 Child Care Institutions (CCIs), including 679 Child Homes, 27 Shelter Homes, 10 Observation Homes, 12 Specialized Homes, and 2 Special Homes, providing care and protection to more than 14,000 Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP). In addition to these registered institutions, some orphanages are reportedly functioning without government licenses, raising concerns about monitoring, standards of care, and child safety.

The children living in these institutions include orphans, semi-orphans, children from broken or destitute families, children in conflict with the law, and victims of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or exploitation. Many of them come from highly vulnerable social and economic backgrounds and require not only shelter and food, but also emotional support, education, healthcare, counseling, and rehabilitation.

Under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 amended in 2021, these children are provided shelter, food, education, healthcare, and emotional support until they attain 18 years of age. However, a serious question arises after they leave the Child Homes: how many of these orphan children become successful and independent in life?

The reality is that only a small number of them are able to settle successfully. The children who continue higher education, receive guidance, and stay in hostels or after-care facilities often secure decent jobs and lead respectable lives. Unfortunately, many others struggle after leaving the institutions. Once they cross 18 years, they are no longer considered children

under the law and are expected to leave the Child Homes. While girls receive some continued support through Women Development and Child Welfare Department Homes, orphan boys often face uncertainty and insecurity.

Many young boys leaving institutions do not have relatives, social support, financial backing, or emotional guidance. In several cases, they fall into the company of antisocial elements or take up low-paying and exploitative jobs merely for food and shelter. Some join catering contractors, workshops, or daily wage labour without any future security. This situation highlights the urgent need for stronger rehabilitation and livelihood support systems.

The Juvenile Justice Act has already provided a solution through the "After Care" program. Under this provision, orphan children can continue to receive support for another three years after attaining adulthood. During

this period, they can undergo skill development training, vocational education, counseling, and personality development programs to prepare them for independent and sustainable living.

However, the present vocational training systems require major reforms. Most institutions continue to provide training only in traditional trades such as tailoring, carpentry, motor winding, electrical repair, or motor mechanic work. While these skills were once useful, many of them are losing market demand in today's rapidly changing economy. The world is moving towards digital services, modern technology, automation, e-commerce, renewable energy, food processing, logistics, healthcare support services, and entrepreneurship.

There is an urgent need to redesign the skill development programs for orphan children based on present market opportunities. The

Government should introduce training in computer applications, digital marketing, mobile servicing, graphic design, artificial intelligence support services, electric vehicle maintenance, online business management, hospitality, healthcare assistance, and other emerging sectors that can provide sustainable incomes.

At the age of 18, every orphan child should receive professional counseling to identify his or her interests, talents, and abilities. Some children may be interested in higher education, while others may wish to start small businesses or learn technical skills. Dedicated After Care Homes should be established with proper mentoring and career guidance facilities.

The Government of India already runs several schemes for first-generation entrepreneurs, where financial assistance is provided without collateral security. These schemes can become life-

changing opportunities for orphan youth if properly linked with After Care programs. With training, financial support, and proper handholding, these children can become successful entrepreneurs, industrialists, and employers rather than remaining unemployed or dependent.

Orphan children do not need sympathy; they need support, opportunity, and confidence. Given the right environment and encouragement, they can prove that they are equal to any other child in society. Many of them possess extraordinary resilience, determination, and talent developed through hardship.

If Governments, institutions, and society work together to strengthen After Care programs, the coming years can witness many CNCP children emerging as successful professionals, businessmen, and role models. Business Houses should

come forward to their rescue under their CSR initiatives. Every Children's Day should celebrate not only the protection of orphan children but also their remarkable success stories.



B.V.S. Kumar
Former Chairman
Child Welfare Committee
Krishna district

Reimagining Our Blue Frontier: Why Andhra's Coastline Needs True Marine Sanctuaries

The ocean is not a passive backdrop to human history; it is the engine of life on Earth. Yet humanity has long treated it as an inexhaustible pantry and a bottomless dump yard. On World Oceans Day 2026, this reality demands urgent reflection, especially along India's eastern coastline.

This year's themes—"Reimagine" and "Strong Marine Protected Areas for Our Blue Planet"—call for more than awareness. They demand a shift in how marine ecosystems are valued and protected.

From Reckless Extraction to Active Stewardship

Reimagining the ocean means breaking the illusion of its invulnerability. In Andhra Pradesh, where marine exports accounted for 38% of India's total in 2025-26, pressures from aquaculture waste, coastal erosion, and microplastic pollution are rising.

The approach must move from extraction to stewardship, where ocean health is directly linked to the survival of coastal economies and

communities.

Moving Beyond 'Paper Parks' on the Andhra Coast

Marine protection often exists only on paper, with weak enforcement. While Andhra Pradesh implements a 61-day fishing ban under the State Marine Fishing Regulation Act, experts argue this is not enough.

Stronger Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are needed, including permanent bans on destructive practices like bottom trawling, to safeguard both ecosystems and traditional fishing communities.

Lessons from Olive Ridley Sanctuaries

Success stories show what protection can achieve. In the 2026 nesting season, over 3 lakh Olive Ridley hatchlings were released along Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, and Krishna coasts by the Forest Department and NGOs like TREE Foundation.

In Kakinada Bay's Hope Island, around 20,000 eggs were protected in situ, proving that well-managed sanctuaries strengthen fisheries and coast-



al resilience.

Meeting the Global 30x30 Target Locally

The global "30x30" goal aims to protect 30% of oceans by 2030, but current protection levels remain low. Andhra

Pradesh's Coastal Vision Plan seeks eco-friendly tourism and mangrove-based protection systems.

However, experts stress the need for legally enforceable offshore marine sanctuaries to

meet global commitments effectively.

A Groundswell of Collective Regional Action

Sustainable marine protection requires collaboration between governments, indus-

tries, and coastal communities. Andhra Pradesh's Marine Access and Benefit Sharing framework is a step forward in involving fishermen in conservation governance.

Yet stronger funding, pollu-

tion control, and public participation are essential to ensure long-term ocean health.

The ocean has sustained Andhra's coastline for generations. The challenge ahead is to protect it through meaningful sanctuaries and responsible stewardship.

(context: World Oceans Day on June 8 every year)



Pokkuluri Subbarao
Veteran Journalist

Rahul Gandhi Criticises Centre Over Great Nicobar Project, Calls on Youth to Defend Environment

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has criticized the Central government over the proposed Great Nicobar Island development project, calling on young Indians to oppose what he described as a threat to one of the country's most ecologically sensitive regions. On the occasion of World Environment Day, Gandhi used social media to highlight concerns about the environmental impact of the ambitious infrastructure project and urged citizens to take a stand for conservation.

In his message, Gandhi alleged that the Great Nicobar project could cause significant

damage to the island's fragile ecosystem. He warned that large-scale construction activities may lead to deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and disruption of natural habitats. Stressing the importance of environmental protection, he appealed to the youth to become active participants in safeguarding the nation's natural resources.

The Great Nicobar project is a major infrastructure initiative planned by the Centre. It includes the development of a transshipment port, an international airport, power infrastructure, and urban facilities. The government has

projected the project as a strategic and economic investment that could improve connectivity, generate employment opportunities, and strengthen India's presence in the Indian Ocean region.

However, environmental groups and activists have raised concerns about its possible impact on the island's unique ecology. Great Nicobar is known for its dense forests, diverse wildlife, and indigenous tribal communities. Critics argue that large-scale development could endanger sensitive ecosystems and threaten the habitat of several

rare and protected species.

Rahul Gandhi accused the government of prioritizing commercial and strategic interests over environmental sustainability. He said development should not come at the expense of nature and emphasized the need for a balanced approach that protects ecological wealth while pursuing economic growth. According to him, preserving forests and biodiversity is crucial for future generations. The government, on the other hand, maintains that the project has undergone the required environmental assessments and approvals. Officials

argue that the development is essential for economic progress and national security, and that measures are being taken to minimize environmental impact. Gandhi's remarks have brought renewed attention to the debate surrounding the Great Nicobar project. His call to the younger generation reflects growing concerns about environmental issues and sustainable development. As discussions continue, the project remains a focal point in the broader conversation about balancing infrastructure growth with ecological preservation in India.



K Annamalai Quits BJP, Signals New Political Journey in Tamil Nadu

In a major political development, former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai has resigned from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), bringing an end to weeks of speculation about his future within the party. BJP national president Nitin Nambin formally accepted his resignation from the party's primary membership on Friday, marking a significant moment in Tamil Nadu politics.

Hours after stepping down, Annamalai said he had long been grappling with a personal and political dilemma over whether he should prioritize his identity as a BJP leader or as a Tamilian. He revealed that he had informed the party leadership of his intention to resign as early as December 2025, but was requested to continue until the completion of the Assembly elections.

The former IPS officer, who emerged as one of the BJP's most recognizable faces in Tamil Nadu, said he entered politics with the goal of bringing positive change and promoting clean politics. He stressed that throughout his tenure in the BJP, he never compromised on Tamil Nadu's identity and interests. At the same time, he acknowledged growing differences over certain organizational and operational matters during the past 18 months.

Before resigning, Annamalai reportedly held discussions with senior BJP leaders,



including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president Nitin Nambin. According to reports, the BJP leadership made efforts to persuade him to reconsider his decision, but he ultimately chose to move forward with his exit.

Sources suggest that Annamalai had sought either a long-term leadership role with greater autonomy in Tamil Nadu or the freedom to pursue an independent political path. Reports indicate that he is now exploring the possibility of launching a new political platform aimed at creating an alternative force in the state's political landscape.

Following his resignation, Annamalai called on young people to enter public life and support a new era of transparent and people-centric politics.

He urged aspiring leaders to participate in initiatives designed to groom newcomers

for political leadership and emphasized the need to move away from negative and defamatory political discourse.

Reacting to the development, Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagendran said the party would not suffer due to Annamalai's departure, asserting that the BJP remained a strong national organization with a substantial presence across the country.

Annamalai's resignation is expected to have significant implications for Tamil Nadu politics. Having played a key role in expanding the BJP's visibility in the state, his next political move will be closely watched by supporters, rivals, and political observers alike. Whether he launches a new party or pursues another political course, his exit has added a new dimension to the evolving political landscape of Tamil Nadu.

TMC Rebel Ritabrata Banerjee Says He Has Not Spoken to MPs Amid Speculation of Wider Revolt

Amid growing political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC), rebel leader Ritabrata Banerjee has dismissed speculation that he is actively coordinating with party Members of Parliament, saying he has not spoken to any MPs and does not know what course of action they may take in the coming days. His remarks come at a time when reports of internal dissent and possible defections have intensified in West Bengal politics.

Speaking to the media, Banerjee sought to distance himself from claims that he was orchestrating a larger rebellion involving TMC parliamentarians. He maintained that while political developments are unfolding rapidly, he has not personally held discussions with MPs regarding their future plans. According to him, any decisions taken by lawmakers would be their own and should not be linked directly to his activities.

Banerjee's statement comes against the backdrop of an unprecedented crisis within the TMC following the party's defeat in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. In recent days, a significant group of MLAs has rallied behind the expelled leader, leading to the formation of a powerful rebel bloc that has challenged the authority of the party's central leadership.

The political drama escalated further after Banerjee



claimed that the West Bengal Assembly Speaker had recognized the rebel faction as a separate legislative group and appointed him as the Leader of the Opposition. The development was seen as a major setback for the official TMC leadership and highlighted the depth of the internal divisions within the party.

Adding to the uncertainty, reports have suggested that several TMC MPs may be in contact with the rebel camp. Sources quoted in media reports claimed that more than twenty parliamentarians have been maintaining communication with dissident leaders, fueling speculation that the crisis could soon extend beyond

the state assembly. However, Banerjee has refrained from confirming such reports and reiterated that he has not been involved in discussions with MPs.

The rebellion has already triggered significant organizational changes within the TMC. In an apparent attempt to contain the crisis, the party recently dissolved several committees and organizational wings while exploring legal and political options to challenge the growing influence of the dissident faction.

Despite the escalating confrontation, Banerjee has projected confidence about the future of the rebel group, claiming that support for his

camp continues to grow. At the same time, he has avoided making definitive statements about possible moves by TMC MPs, insisting that he cannot predict what individual lawmakers will ultimately decide.

As West Bengal's political landscape undergoes a dramatic transformation, attention is now focused on whether the rebellion will remain confined to the state legislature or evolve into a broader challenge affecting the Trinamool Congress at the national level. The coming days are expected to be crucial in determining the future direction of the party and the strength of the rebel movement led by Ritabrata Banerjee.

DK Shivakumar Faces Early Challenges as New Karnataka Government Battles Internal Dissent

Just days after taking oath as Karnataka Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar is already confronting a series of political and administrative challenges within his newly formed Congress government. What was expected to be a celebratory beginning for the veteran leader has quickly turned into a test of his political management skills as discontent over cabinet positions, representation issues, and internal rivalries surfaces within the party.

The first major setback came when senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy resigned from the cabinet, expressing dissatisfaction over the portfolio allocated to him. Reddy reportedly expected the Bengaluru Development portfolio but was instead assigned the Irrigation Department. His resignation has triggered unrest among his supporters and intensified concerns about dissatisfaction within the ruling party.

Another senior leader, K.H. Muniyappa, also publicly voiced disappointment with his portfolio. The veteran politician stated that, given his experience and seniority, he deserved a more significant ministry. His remarks added to the perception that several leaders in the new govern-

ment are unhappy with the distribution of responsibilities.

Reports also suggest that Energy Minister K.J. George is unhappy over alleged interference in his department, while Public Works Minister Sathish Jarkiholi has indicated that he had hoped for a larger role within the party organization. These developments have created an impression of growing dissatisfaction among key Congress figures at a crucial stage of the government's formation.

Apart from cabinet-related tensions, the Shivakumar government is facing criticism over the lack of women ministers in the first round of cabinet appointments. Senior Congress leader Margaret Alva publicly expressed disappointment over the absence of female representation, while opposition parties have also questioned the decision. In response, Shivakumar has assured that women will be included during the next phase of cabinet expansion.

Another challenge comes from demands for greater representation of the Muslim community in the cabinet. Community leaders and organizations have argued that the Congress should provide more ministerial positions to



Muslim representatives, citing the community's electoral support for the party.

The challenges are particularly significant because Shivakumar assumed office following a closely watched leadership transition within the Karnataka Congress. After years of political negotiations and speculation, he finally secured the chief minister's post, succeeding Siddaramaiah. Expectations from party workers and supporters are therefore exceptionally high. Political observers believe that Shivakumar's ability to address these grievances and maintain unity

within the Congress will be critical to the stability of his government. With several cabinet positions still vacant and expansion plans on the horizon, the new chief minister has an opportunity to balance competing interests and strengthen his administration. For now, however, the Karnataka government's early days have been marked less by governance initiatives and more by internal political turbulence. How Shivakumar navigates these challenges in the coming weeks could shape both the future of his administration and the Congress party's prospects in the state.

RBI Has No Immediate Plans to Introduce Polymer Currency Notes, Says Governor Malhotra

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has clarified that the central bank currently has no plans to introduce polymer currency notes in the country, putting to rest speculation about a possible shift from traditional paper-based banknotes. The statement came amid discussions on the future of cash usage and the potential adoption of more durable currency materials in India.

Responding to queries on the issue, Malhotra said the RBI is not actively considering a transition to polymer notes at this stage. His remarks indicate that the central bank remains focused on improving the efficiency, security, and circulation of the existing currency system rather than pursuing a major change in the composition of banknotes.

Polymer notes, which are made from a synthetic plastic material, are used in several countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. These notes are generally considered more durable than paper currency, as they can withstand wear and tear for longer periods. They are also equipped with advanced security features that make counterfeiting more difficult.

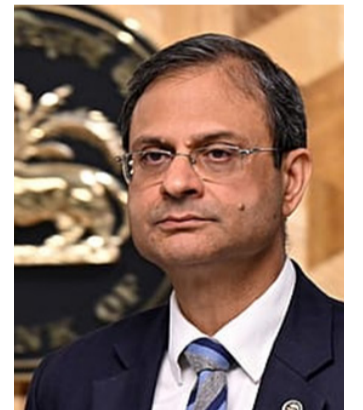
The idea of introducing polymer notes in India has sur-

facted periodically over the years. Advocates argue that their longer lifespan could reduce replacement costs and improve hygiene, particularly in a tropical country where currency notes are often exposed to moisture and heavy handling. However, concerns regarding production costs, infrastructure requirements, and large-scale implementation have also been raised.

India continues to rely heavily on cotton-based paper currency despite the rapid growth of digital payments. While digital transactions have increased significantly in recent years through platforms such as UPI, cash remains an essential part of the economy, particularly in rural areas and among small businesses. As a result, maintaining a reliable and cost-effective currency system remains a key priority for the RBI.

The governor's remarks come at a time when the central bank is pursuing multiple initiatives aimed at strengthening India's financial ecosystem. These include enhancing digital payment infrastructure, ensuring adequate cash availability, improving currency management, and maintaining financial stability amid changing economic conditions.

Experts note that any move toward polymer notes would



require extensive planning, investment, and testing. The transition would involve changes in printing technology, distribution networks, cash-handling machines, and public awareness campaigns. Given the scale of India's currency circulation, such a shift would be one of the largest currency-management exercises undertaken by the RBI.

For now, the RBI appears committed to its existing currency framework. Malhotra's statement provides clarity on the issue, indicating that while polymer notes may remain a topic of discussion internationally, they are not part of the central bank's immediate agenda. The focus will instead remain on ensuring the smooth functioning, security, and efficiency of India's current currency system.

Trump Warns Iran Against Attacks on US Troops, Signals Tough Response if Red Line Is Crossed

US President Donald Trump has issued a strong warning to Iran, declaring that any attack resulting in the death of American troops could trigger a swift and forceful military response from the United States. The remarks come amid continuing tensions between Washington and Tehran despite ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing a wider regional conflict.



Speaking to reporters, Trump emphasized that the safety of American military personnel remains a top priority for his administration. He indicated that while the United States is still pursuing diplomatic channels and negotiations with Iran, any action that causes casualties among US forces would fundamentally alter the situation and could lead to renewed military operations.

The warning follows recent Iranian missile and drone attacks that targeted facilities associated with the United States in the Middle East. Although the strikes caused concern and heightened tensions across the region, no American troops were reportedly killed. Trump suggested that this distinction remains critical, noting that the loss of US military personnel would represent a major escalation requiring a different response from Washington.

At the same time, the US president signaled that diplomacy remains his preferred option. Trump has repeatedly stated that negotiations with Iran are continuing, though progress has been slow and differences between the two sides remain substantial. He has even suggested that high-level meetings with Iranian leadership could be possible if they contribute to a lasting resolution of the crisis.

The situation has sparked intense debate within the United States. Members of Congress from both major parties have questioned the administration's handling of the conflict and have pushed for greater legislative oversight of military actions involving Iran. Some lawmakers have supported measures aimed at limiting the president's authority to expand military operations without congressional approval. Public opinion has also be-

come increasingly divided as concerns grow over the economic impact of prolonged tensions in the Middle East. Rising energy prices and uncertainty in global markets have added pressure on policymakers to find a diplomatic solution while avoiding a broader conflict.

Despite the challenges, the Trump administration maintains that Iran has been significantly weakened through economic sanctions and military pressure. Officials argue that the United States remains in a strong position and will continue to use both diplomacy and deterrence to achieve its objectives.

For now, Trump's message to Tehran is clear: negotiations can continue, but any attack that kills American troops would cross a red line and could rapidly reignite military confrontation between the two countries.

Russia Offers Su-57 Stealth Fighter to India Amid Search for Fifth-Generation Combat Jet

Russia has renewed its push to strengthen defence ties with India by offering its advanced Su-57 stealth fighter aircraft as New Delhi explores options for acquiring and developing a fifth-generation combat jet. The proposal comes at a time when India is seeking to modernize its air combat capabilities and address future security challenges through next-generation fighter platforms.



The Su-57, developed by Russia's Sukhoi design bureau, is Moscow's premier fifth-generation stealth fighter aircraft. Designed to compete with some of the most advanced combat jets in the world, the aircraft combines stealth characteristics, supercruise capability, advanced avionics, and high maneuverability. Russia has been promoting the fighter to friendly nations as it looks to expand exports of its latest military technology.

According to reports, Russian officials have once again presented the Su-57 as a potential solution for India's future fighter aircraft requirements. The offer reportedly includes the possibility of deeper cooperation, technology sharing, and industrial participation, factors that have traditionally played a major role in India's defence procurement

Credit: @ivan_8846 on X

decisions. India has been evaluating multiple pathways to strengthen its air power. Alongside ongoing acquisitions and upgrades of existing aircraft fleets, the country is also working on the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program, an ambitious indigenous project aimed at developing a homegrown fifth-generation stealth fighter. Defence planners view the AMCA as a crucial component of India's long-term strategy for achieving greater self-reliance in advanced military technologies.

The renewed Russian proposal comes as the Indian Air Force continues to assess its

future requirements. The force has consistently emphasized the need to maintain adequate squadron strength while preparing for evolving aerial warfare environments that increasingly rely on stealth, sensor integration, network-centric operations, and advanced weapons systems.

Russia and India share a long-standing defence partnership that spans several decades. A significant portion of India's military inventory, including fighter aircraft, air defence systems, tanks, submarines, and helicopters, has either originated from Russia or been developed through bilateral cooperation. The Su-57 offer is seen as part of Mos-

cow's broader effort to preserve and expand that strategic relationship.

Defence analysts note that any decision involving a fifth-generation fighter aircraft will likely be influenced by multiple factors, including operational requirements, technology transfer provisions, cost considerations, maintenance infrastructure, and compatibility with India's long-term indigenous defence objectives. The government is expected to carefully evaluate all available options before making a commitment.

While no formal decision has been announced, Russia's proposal has added a new dimension to discussions surrounding India's future combat aviation plans. As the country seeks to balance immediate operational needs with long-term self-reliance goals, the choice of a fifth-generation fighter platform will remain one of the most significant defence decisions in the years ahead.

The Su-57 offer underscores the growing competition among global defence manufacturers to participate in India's modernization efforts, while also highlighting New Delhi's increasing importance in the international defence and aerospace landscape.

Pam Bondi Says Todd Blanche Led Epstein Files Release Amid Growing Scrutiny

Former US Attorney General Pam Bondi has told lawmakers that Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche was responsible for overseeing the controversial release of documents related to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as questions continue to mount over the Justice Department's handling of the case. The disclosure came during Bondi's testimony before the House Oversight Committee, which is examining the release process and allegations of errors in the handling of sensitive material.

entire release process. She emphasized that many operational decisions were delegated to him while she served as attorney general. Her remarks have drawn significant attention because Blanche currently serves as acting attorney general and has recently been nominated by President Donald Trump to hold the position permanently.

The Epstein files controversy has become one of the most politically sensitive issues facing the Justice Department. In January, the department released millions of pages of documents connected to Epstein, claiming it had complied with transparency requirements. However, critics argued that important material remained withheld

and that mistakes were made during the release process.

During her testimony, Bondi acknowledged that some redaction errors occurred but defended the department's overall handling of the documents. She maintained that officials acted in good faith and followed legal requirements while attempting to balance transparency with the protection of victims and sensitive information. Her comments did little to quiet criticism from lawmakers and advocacy groups, many of whom continue to demand greater accountability.

The hearing also touched on broader concerns regarding the release of personal information and the protection of

survivors connected to the Epstein case. Several lawmakers questioned whether sufficient safeguards were in place before documents were made public. Bondi reiterated that Blanche managed much of the review process and praised his professionalism and ethical standards. The issue has gained additional political significance because Bondi was removed from her position earlier this year, with reports suggesting that controversy surrounding the Epstein files contributed to growing dissatisfaction within the administration. Following her departure, Blanche assumed a more prominent leadership role within the Justice Department.

Meanwhile, Democratic lawmakers continue to push for further investigations and have called for additional testimony from senior Justice Department and FBI officials. Questions remain about how documents were reviewed, what information was withheld, and whether all legally required materials have been released.

As congressional scrutiny intensifies, the debate surrounding the Epstein files shows little sign of fading. Bondi's testimony has shifted attention toward Todd Blanche's role in the process, ensuring that the controversy will remain a major political and legal issue in Washington in the weeks ahead.



Prince Andrew's Royal Property Deal Faces Fresh Scrutiny After Audit Findings

Prince Andrew has found himself at the center of fresh scrutiny following the publication of an audit report that raised questions about the financial arrangements surrounding Royal Lodge, his long-time residence in Windsor. The findings have reignited debate in the United Kingdom over the management of royal properties and the extent of financial privileges available to members of the royal family.



According to the report, Prince Andrew benefited from a long-standing lease arrangement at Royal Lodge, a historic property located within the Windsor Estate. The audit highlighted concerns regarding the leasing structure and the use of associated residential properties on the estate, prompting calls for greater transparency in the administration of royal assets.

At the heart of the discussion is the issue of a so-called "peppercorn rent," a legal term used to describe a very small or symbolic rental payment that is often included in long-term property agreements. The audit noted that such arrangements can be legally valid but may attract public attention when they involve high-profile figures or publicly owned assets.

The report also examined the use of cottages and residential units linked to the Royal Lodge estate. Questions were raised about whether some of these properties had been sublet, generating income while remaining part of

a broader arrangement involving Crown Estate assets. While the practice itself is not necessarily unlawful, auditors indicated that the circumstances warranted closer examination to ensure compliance with existing agreements and governance standards.

The revelations have fueled public and political discussion about the management of royal residences, particularly at a time when the monarchy is under increasing pressure to demonstrate financial accountability. Critics argue that greater disclosure is necessary whenever public assets or Crown Estate properties are involved, while supporters maintain that lease

agreements should be viewed within their legal and historical context.

The issue has also attracted attention because of ongoing efforts by King Charles III to modernize aspects of the monarchy and improve public confidence in royal institutions. Observers note that transparency and efficient asset management have become increasingly important themes during his reign. Royal Lodge has been Prince Andrew's residence for many years and has frequently attracted media attention due to discussions surrounding its maintenance, lease terms, and future occupancy. The latest audit findings have once again placed the property in

the public spotlight. Neither Buckingham Palace nor representatives for Prince Andrew have indicated that any laws were broken. The discussion instead centers on whether existing arrangements meet modern expectations of transparency and accountability.

As debate continues, the audit is expected to prompt further examination of how royal properties are managed and how agreements involving Crown Estate assets are monitored. The findings have added another chapter to the ongoing conversation about the role, responsibilities, and financial arrangements of the British royal family in the 21st century.

Cambridge Scientists Develop AI-Powered Universal Coronavirus Vaccine

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have announced a major breakthrough in vaccine research with the development of what is being described as the world's first artificial intelligence-designed vaccine targeting a broad range of coronaviruses. Researchers believe the innovation could help protect against not only existing coronavirus strains but also future variants and potentially new coronavirus outbreaks.

The vaccine was developed using advanced artificial intelligence tools that analyzed vast amounts of genetic and biological data from different coronavirus families. By studying the similarities and differences among numerous coronavirus strains, the AI system helped researchers identify stable regions of the virus that are less likely to mutate over time. These regions then became the primary targets for the new vaccine design.

Unlike conventional vaccines, which are often developed to combat a specific virus or variant, the new approach aims to provide broader protection. Scientists say the vaccine trains the immune system to recognize shared features

found across multiple coronaviruses, enabling it to respond more effectively even when new variants emerge.

Researchers involved in the project explained that one of the biggest challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic was the virus's ability to evolve rapidly. New variants often reduced the effectiveness of existing vaccines, requiring updated formulations and booster doses. The AI-designed vaccine seeks to overcome this limitation by focusing on viral components that remain relatively unchanged across different coronavirus strains.

The development process relied heavily on machine learning algorithms capable of examining millions of biological possibilities in a fraction of the time required by traditional research methods. By narrowing down the most promising vaccine targets, AI helped accelerate a process that would otherwise take years of laboratory work.

Preliminary studies have produced encouraging results, with researchers reporting strong immune responses in early testing. The vaccine demonstrated the ability to gener-

ate antibodies and cellular immunity against a range of coronavirus variants. While further studies and clinical trials will be necessary before the vaccine can be approved for widespread use, scientists are optimistic about its long-term potential.

Experts believe the technology could transform the way vaccines are developed in the future. Instead of reacting to emerging diseases after outbreaks occur, researchers may eventually be able to design preventive vaccines against entire families of viruses before they become global threats.

The breakthrough also highlights the growing role of artificial intelligence in medical research. From drug discovery to disease diagnosis and vaccine development, AI is increasingly being used to accelerate scientific progress and improve healthcare outcomes.

If future trials confirm its effectiveness, the Cambridge-developed vaccine could represent a significant step toward achieving broader and longer-lasting protection against coronaviruses, helping the world prepare more effectively for future pandemics.



Sensex, Nifty End Lower After RBI Policy; Banking Stocks Outshine in Volatile Session

Indian benchmark equity indices ended in negative territory after a volatile trading session on Friday as investors reacted to the Reserve Bank of India's latest monetary policy announcement. While banking stocks managed to outperform the broader market, selling pressure in several other sectors dragged the Sensex and Nifty lower by the close.

The trading day began on a positive note, with market participants closely tracking the outcome of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting. However, early gains proved difficult to sustain as investors digested the central

bank's cautious outlook on growth and inflation. The RBI maintained its policy stance but revised key economic projections, leading to mixed reactions across Dalal Street.

The BSE Sensex slipped around 117 points to close near 74,243, while the NSE Nifty settled below the 23,400 mark. Analysts noted that although the policy announcement initially boosted sentiment, concerns surrounding the RBI's economic outlook eventually prompted profit-booking in several sectors.

Banking stocks emerged as one of the brightest spots in the market. Investors appeared en-

couraged by the relative stability offered by financial institutions amid broader uncertainty. Several major banking counters registered gains, helping the banking index outperform the benchmark indices. Axis Bank, for instance, advanced strongly and outperformed many of its peers during the session.

Market experts said investors are currently balancing multiple factors, including domestic monetary policy, global crude oil prices, foreign fund flows, and geopolitical developments. Rising energy prices and concerns linked to global tensions have added another

layer of caution to investor sentiment in recent weeks. Higher crude prices are particularly significant for India, as they can increase inflationary pressures and affect corporate profitability.

Despite the weakness in equities, the Indian rupee witnessed strength following measures announced by policymakers to attract foreign investments and support market stability. Currency gains offered some relief to investors even as stock markets struggled to maintain momentum. Looking ahead, analysts believe market direction will depend on a combination of do-

mestic and global cues. Investors will closely monitor inflation trends, corporate earnings, crude oil movements, and international developments. The RBI's cautious stance has reinforced the importance of economic data in shaping future market expectations.

Although benchmark indices finished in the red, the resilience shown by banking stocks suggests that investors continue to favor fundamentally strong sectors during periods of uncertainty. As markets adjust to the latest policy signals, volatility is expected to remain elevated in the near term.



Nippon India Mutual Fund Imposes Investment Limits on Gold BeES ETF and Gold Savings Fund

Nippon India Mutual Fund has announced restrictions on fresh investments in its popular gold-based schemes, Nippon India ETF Gold BeES and Nippon India Gold Savings Fund, amid rising investor interest and strong inflows into gold-backed investment products. The move comes at a time when gold prices remain elevated and demand for gold-linked financial assets continues to surge.

According to the fund house, the new measures are aimed at managing inflows and ensuring the efficient functioning of the schemes. The restrictions will apply to certain categories of investments, particularly large-ticket subscriptions, while existing investors and systematic investment plans (SIPs) are expected to continue operating under specified guidelines. The fund house has advised investors to refer to official communications for complete details regarding the revised limits.

Nippon India ETF Gold BeES is among the largest and most widely traded gold exchange-traded funds in India. The scheme seeks to provide returns that closely track domestic gold prices through investments backed by physical gold. Over the years, it has emerged as a preferred choice for investors looking for exposure to gold without the challenges associated with pur-



chasing and storing the metal in physical form.

The Nippon India Gold Savings Fund, which invests primarily in units of Gold BeES, has also gained popularity among retail investors because it allows participation in gold investments without requiring a demat account. The fund has attracted significant interest from investors seeking diversification and protection against market volatility.

Industry observers note that the decision reflects a broader trend in the mutual fund sector, where asset managers are becoming increasingly cautious about handling large inflows into commodity-linked products. Similar restrictions have recently been introduced by other fund houses in response to extraordinary investor demand for gold-focused investment vehicles.

Gold has remained a favored investment option amid global

economic uncertainty, inflation concerns, and geopolitical tensions. These factors have contributed to strong inflows into gold ETFs worldwide and boosted the popularity of domestic gold funds. Nippon India's flagship Gold BeES fund has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of this trend, recording substantial asset growth and investor participation.

Market experts believe the restrictions are primarily operational in nature and should not be interpreted as a negative view on gold as an asset class. Instead, they are intended to help maintain fund efficiency and protect the interests of existing investors. As gold continues to attract attention as a portfolio diversifier, investors are expected to closely monitor further updates from fund houses regarding investment limits and product availability.

RBI May Consider Rate-Hike Shift in August if Rupee and Foreign Inflows Remain Weak

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could be forced to reassess its monetary policy stance as early as August if the Indian rupee fails to stabilize and foreign capital inflows do not improve significantly, according to market experts and policy observers. While the central bank has so far maintained a balanced approach toward growth and inflation, evolving economic conditions may require a more cautious strategy in the coming months.

The RBI's latest policy review reflected confidence in India's economic fundamentals, but concerns surrounding external factors continue to persist. A weakening rupee, coupled with inconsistent foreign portfolio investment (FPI) inflows, has emerged as a key challenge for policymakers. If these trends continue, the central bank may need to prioritize currency stability and inflation control over growth-supportive measures.

The Indian rupee remains vulnerable to several global developments, including fluctuations in crude oil prices, changes in US monetary policy, and geopolitical uncertainties. Since India is heavily dependent on energy imports, a weaker rupee can increase the cost of imported goods, particularly oil, which in turn can fuel



inflationary pressures across the economy.

Foreign capital flows are another critical factor influencing the RBI's policy outlook. Sustained inflows from overseas investors help support the currency, strengthen foreign exchange reserves, and improve overall market confidence. However, if global investors continue to prefer developed markets or reduce exposure to emerging economies, India could face in-

creased pressure on both the currency and financial markets.

Analysts believe that under such circumstances, the RBI may have limited room to pursue accommodative policies. Instead, policymakers could be compelled to adopt a more hawkish stance, including the possibility of signaling tighter monetary conditions. While an actual interest rate hike may not be the base-case scenario at present, it cannot be ruled out

if inflation risks intensify alongside external vulnerabilities.

The central bank is expected to closely monitor several indicators before its next policy review. These include inflation trends, exchange-rate movements, foreign investment activity, global commodity prices, and domestic economic growth. Any significant deterioration in these metrics could influence the RBI's decision-making process.

Despite these concerns, India's economic outlook remains relatively strong compared to many major economies. Robust domestic demand, healthy government spending, and continued infrastructure investment continue to provide support to growth. Nevertheless, policymakers remain aware that external shocks can quickly alter economic conditions.

As the August policy meeting approaches, investors and market participants will be watching closely for signals from the RBI. The direction of the rupee and the strength of foreign capital inflows are likely to play a crucial role in determining whether the central bank maintains its current stance or considers a shift toward tighter monetary policy.

Rupee Rebounds to 94 Per Dollar Mark Following RBI Measures to Boost Foreign Inflows

The Indian rupee strengthened significantly on Friday, returning to the 94-per-dollar level after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unveiled a series of measures aimed at attracting foreign capital and enhancing liquidity in the financial system. The currency's recovery was welcomed by market participants, who viewed the central bank's initiatives as a proactive step toward supporting external stability and investor confidence.

The rupee had been under pressure in recent weeks due to a combination of global and domestic factors, including a strong US dollar, elevated crude oil prices, and concerns over foreign capital outflows from emerging markets. These challenges had pushed the Indian currency toward weaker levels, prompting investors to closely watch the RBI's policy response.

During its latest monetary policy review, the RBI announced several initiatives designed to encourage foreign investment and improve the flow of capital into the country. The measures were intended to make Indian financial markets more attractive to overseas investors while strengthening the country's external financing position. Market participants responded positively, leading to renewed demand for the rupee.

Currency traders noted that the RBI's actions helped improve sentiment at a time when emerging-market currencies have been facing heightened volatility. By addressing concerns related to capital inflows, the central bank signaled its commitment to maintaining orderly market



conditions and preserving confidence in India's macroeconomic fundamentals.

The rupee's appreciation was also supported by expectations that the new measures could encourage greater participation from foreign institutional investors in Indian debt and equity markets. Increased inflows typically boost demand for the local currency, helping to stabilize exchange rates and strengthen foreign exchange reserves.

Analysts observed that the return to the 94-per-dollar range represents an important psychological milestone for the currency. While exchange rates remain influenced by

global factors such as US interest rates, geopolitical developments, and commodity prices, the RBI's intervention has provided reassurance to investors concerned about excessive volatility.

The strengthening of the rupee could offer multiple benefits for the Indian economy. A firmer currency helps reduce the cost of imports, particularly crude oil and other essential commodities, which can ease inflationary pressures. It may also improve investor sentiment by demonstrating resilience in the face of global economic uncertainty.

However, market experts caution that sustaining the ru-

pee's gains will depend on broader economic conditions and the continued flow of foreign capital into the country. Factors such as global risk appetite, international monetary policy trends, and domestic economic performance will remain critical in determining the currency's trajectory.

For now, the RBI's measures appear to have delivered the desired immediate impact. The rupee's recovery underscores the importance of timely policy action and highlights the central bank's role in ensuring stability in India's currency and financial markets amid an increasingly uncertain global environment.

Hexagon Nutrition IPO Fully Subscribed on Day 1 as Retail, NII Investors Drive Demand

The initial public offering (IPO) of Hexagon Nutrition received a strong response from investors on the very first day of bidding, achieving full subscription and signaling healthy market appetite for the public issue. Retail investors and non-institutional investors (NIIs) emerged as the primary drivers of demand, helping the IPO cross the subscription mark within hours of opening.

Hexagon Nutrition, a company engaged in the nutrition and health products segment, launched its IPO with the objective of raising funds for business expansion, working capital requirements, and other corporate purposes. The issue attracted significant interest from investors looking to tap into the growing healthcare and nutrition sector, which has witnessed rising demand in recent years.

According to subscription data available at the end of Day 1, the IPO was fully subscribed, with the retail and NII portions witnessing particularly strong participation. Market observers noted that the enthusiastic response reflects investor confidence in the company's growth prospects and the broader potential of the nutrition industry.

Retail investors showed robust interest in the issue, with subscriptions in their category exceeding expectations. Non-institutional investors also participated actively, indicating confidence among high-net-worth individuals and other sophisticated investors. The strong response from these segments played a crucial role in ensuring the IPO achieved full subscription on its opening day.

Another factor contributing



to investor enthusiasm was the positive trend in the grey market. Reports indicated that Hexagon Nutrition shares were commanding a premium over the issue price in the unofficial market, suggesting expectations of a favorable listing. While grey market premiums (GMPs) are not an official indicator and can fluctuate significantly, they are often closely monitored by investors to gauge market sentiment ahead of listing.

Market analysts pointed out that the successful Day 1 subscription reflects the resilience of India's primary market despite ongoing volatility in broader equity markets. Several recent IPOs have attracted strong participation, demonstrating continued investor willingness to back companies with compelling business models and growth opportunities.

The nutrition sector itself has become increasingly attractive due to rising health awareness, growing consumer

demand for nutritional products, and expanding opportunities in both domestic and international markets. These factors have helped position companies operating in the segment as potential long-term growth stories.

The IPO will remain open for subscription for the scheduled bidding period, and analysts expect participation from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) to gain momentum in the later stages of the issue. Their involvement could further strengthen overall subscription levels before the offer closes.

With a fully subscribed issue on Day 1 and encouraging grey market sentiment, Hexagon Nutrition has made a promising start to its public market journey. Investors will now closely monitor the remaining subscription period and eventual listing performance to assess whether the strong early demand translates into sustained market success.

“Just Shut Up”: How Strategic Silence Helped a Job Candidate Secure a Higher Salary

A simple yet powerful salary negotiation tactic is gaining attention online after a job candidate revealed how remaining silent helped him secure a significantly better compensation package.

The story, shared on social media, has sparked widespread discussion about the psychology of salary negotiations and the value of patience during critical career conversations. According to the candidate, the breakthrough came not from making an aggressive demand or presenting lengthy arguments, but from choosing to stay quiet at the right moment.

During salary discussions with a recruiter, the candidate was asked about his compensation expectations. Instead of immediately quoting a figure or attempting to justify his worth, he paused and allowed the recruiter to continue the conversation. That silence proved to be a game-changer.

The recruiter, apparently uncomfortable with the pro-

longed pause, eventually offered a salary package that was higher than what the candidate had initially planned to request. Reflecting on the experience, the candidate said that the key lesson was simple: “Just shut up.” By resisting the urge to fill every silence, he allowed the employer to reveal their position first.

The incident has resonated with professionals and career experts who argue that silence can be one of the most effective tools in negotiation. Many people feel compelled to keep talking, explain themselves, or lower their expectations when conversations become uncomfortable. However, experienced negotiators often recommend the opposite approach.

Psychologists have long noted that silence creates pressure. In negotiations, the person who speaks first after a pause often reveals additional information or makes concessions. By remaining calm and patient, candidates may gain

valuable insights into what an employer is willing to offer.

The story also highlights a common mistake made by job seekers: underselling themselves. Candidates frequently quote a salary figure without knowing the company's budget range, potentially leaving money on the table. Allowing the employer to present an offer first can provide a stronger starting point for further discussions.

While silence alone is not a guaranteed route to a higher salary, experts say it works best when combined with preparation, confidence, and a clear understanding of market value. The viral anecdote serves as a reminder that negotiation is not always about saying more—it is often about knowing when not to speak.

In an age where communication is constant, this candidate's experience suggests that sometimes the most powerful negotiation strategy is simply staying silent and letting the other side talk.

Indian-American CEO Says He Wouldn't Choose the US Today: A Sign of Changing Global Opportunities

For decades, the United States has been viewed as the ultimate destination for ambitious young professionals seeking better education, rewarding careers, and entrepreneurial success. However, Indian-American entrepreneur Srinu Madala, who built a successful career in the US after migrating there in 1986, recently made a striking observation: if he were 25 years old today and had the same opportunities, he would not choose to move to America.

Madala's comments have sparked a wider debate about whether the traditional “American Dream” still holds the same appeal it once did. Having founded three successful startups and spent nearly four decades in the US, he speaks from experience. His statement reflects the changing realities of immigration, employment, and economic growth across the world.

When Madala arrived in the United States in the 1980s, America offered unmatched opportunities in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

For many Indians, moving to the US represented a pathway to prosperity and professional advancement. Today, however, the global landscape has changed significantly.

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and a leading hub for technology, startups, and innovation. Cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune have become global technology centres, attracting investment and talent from around the world. As a result, many young professionals now see promising opportunities at home rather than abroad.

Another factor influencing perceptions is the increasingly complex immigration environment in the United States. Lengthy visa processes, uncertainty surrounding work permits, and intense competition for permanent residency have made the path to long-term settlement more challenging than it was for earlier generations.

Madala's remarks echo a growing sentiment among some business leaders and investors who believe that the bal-



ance of opportunity is shifting. While the United States remains a global leader in innovation and higher education, emerging economies like India are offering compelling alternatives for ambitious professionals.

His comments do not suggest that the US has lost its appeal entirely. Rather, they highlight how the world has become more competitive, with multiple centres of economic growth and

innovation. Young professionals today have far more choices than previous generations.

Ultimately, Madala's reflection underscores a broader shift in global aspirations. The decision to move abroad is no longer automatic for many talented Indians. Instead, they are increasingly weighing opportunities at home against those overseas, signalling a new chapter in the evolving story of global talent and migration.

Viral Toronto Festival Video Triggers Debate Over Immigration and Multiculturalism in Canada



A viral video showing hundreds of people celebrating at an Indian cultural festival in Toronto has ignited a heated online debate about immigration, multiculturalism, and cultural integration in Canada.

The footage, which quickly spread across social media platforms, captures large crowds enjoying traditional Indian music, dance performances, and food stalls at a public event in Toronto. What began as a vibrant display of cultural pride soon became the centre of a broader discussion after the video was shared with a controversial caption claiming that Canada had “turned into an Indian colony.”

The clip attracted millions of views and generated thousands of comments from people expressing sharply divided opinions. Supporters of the event argued that Canada has long embraced multiculturalism and that cultural festivals are a reflection of the country's diversity. They viewed

the celebration as an example of immigrant communities preserving their heritage while contributing to Canadian society.

Critics, however, used the video to voice concerns about rising immigration levels and changing demographics in major Canadian cities. Some commenters argued that newcomers should focus more on integration into local culture, while others claimed that large ethnic gatherings symbolized a growing cultural shift within the country. The debate soon expanded beyond the festival itself and touched on broader issues surrounding immigration policies and national identity.

The online reaction also highlighted the increasingly polarized nature of discussions around immigration in many Western countries. While some social media users celebrated the festival as a positive example of cultural diversity, others viewed it through the lens of economic pressures, housing challenges,

and population growth. These concerns have become recurring themes in immigration debates across Canada in recent years.

Observers noted that a short video often lacks the context necessary to understand the full picture. Cultural festivals are common in multicultural societies and are regularly attended by people from various backgrounds. Nevertheless, viral social media posts frequently amplify emotions and encourage polarized reactions.

The Toronto festival video serves as another example of how cultural events can become flashpoints for larger political and social discussions. As Canada continues to welcome immigrants from around the world, debates over diversity, integration, and national identity are likely to remain prominent in public discourse. What began as a celebration of culture has now become part of a much wider conversation about the future of multiculturalism in Canada.

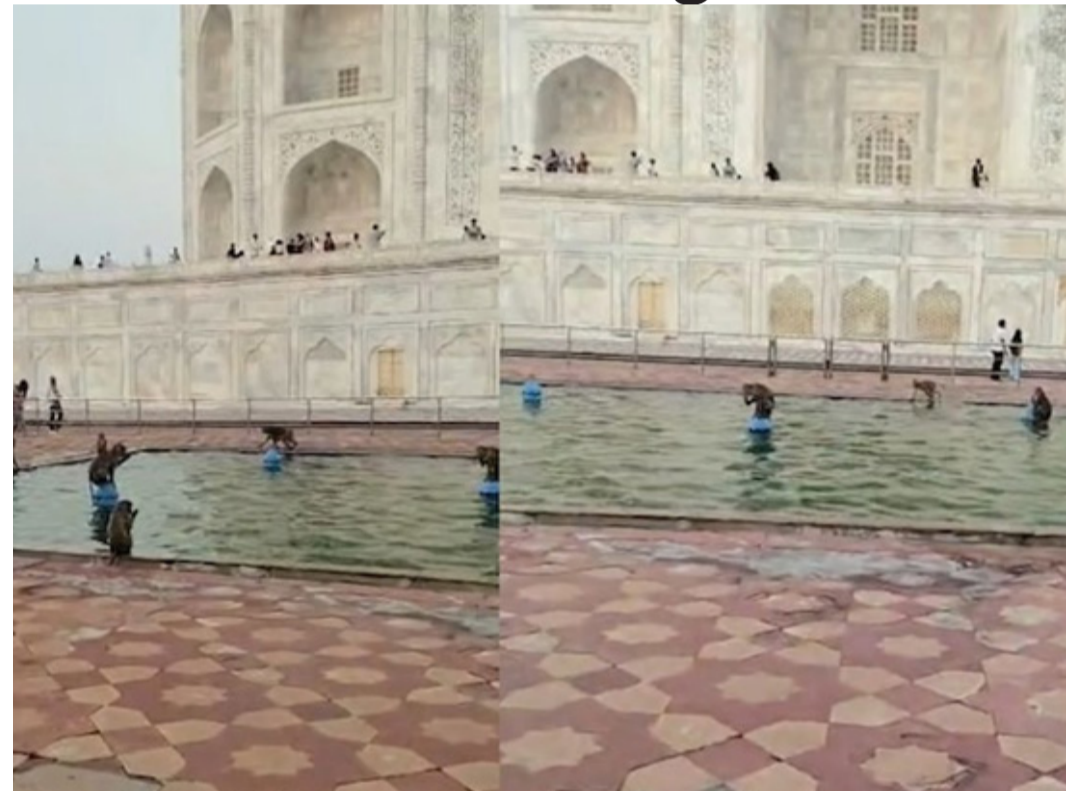
Monkeys Turn Taj Mahal Fountain Into Their Own Water Park Amid Scorching Heatwave

Visitors at the Taj Mahal recently witnessed an unusual and entertaining sight when a group of monkeys transformed one of the monument's fountains into a makeshift water park to escape the intense summer heat.

A viral video circulating on social media shows several monkeys splashing, jumping, and playing in the fountain waters within the iconic monument complex. As temperatures continue to soar across northern India, the animals appeared determined to find relief from the sweltering conditions, delighting tourists who watched the scene unfold. Similar incidents of monkeys seeking out pools and water bodies during extreme heat have been reported across India in recent years.

The footage captures the playful primates enthusiastically leaping into the water, chasing one another, and cooling off under the spray of the fountain. Many visitors paused to record videos and take photographs, turning the monkeys into an unexpected attraction alongside the world-famous marble monument.

The incident quickly gained traction online, with social media users expressing amusement at the animals' ingenuity. Many commented that the monkeys seemed to have discovered the perfect way to beat the heat, while others joked that they were



enjoying a summer vacation at one of India's most famous tourist destinations.

Monkeys are a familiar presence around the Taj Mahal and the surrounding areas of Agra. Over the years, they have become known for their bold behaviour, frequently interacting with visitors and occasionally creating challenges for authorities responsible for maintaining order at the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Reports of monkey-related incidents, includ-

ing encounters with tourists, have periodically emerged from the monument complex.

The viral video also highlights the broader impact of the ongoing heatwave on wildlife. As temperatures climb to uncomfortable levels, animals often seek innovative ways to stay cool and access water. Experts note that extreme heat affects not only humans but also urban wildlife, forcing animals to adapt their behaviour in search of relief.

For tourists, the monkeys' playful antics provided a memorable and light-hearted moment. What began as an ordinary day at one of the world's most celebrated monuments quickly turned into an unexpected wildlife spectacle. The video serves as a reminder that even amid historic grandeur, nature can steal the spotlight, especially when its furry residents decide to turn a fountain into their personal summer playground.

Vietnamese Waiter Wins Hearts After Defending Indian Tourist's Vegetarian Food Concerns

A Vietnamese waiter has earned widespread praise on social media after standing up for an Indian tourist who faced criticism for repeatedly confirming whether her meal was strictly vegetarian at a restaurant in Hanoi.

The incident, captured in a viral video, took place at Hanoi's famous Train Street, a popular destination frequented by tourists from around the world. In the clip, an Indian woman can be seen asking the waiter several times whether the dish she ordered contained any meat, fish, or eggs. Her questions stemmed from a desire to ensure that the meal complied with her vegetarian dietary preferences.

Rather than appearing annoyed or impatient, the waiter responded with remarkable

courtesy and understanding. He repeatedly reassured the customer that the meal consisted only of vegetables and contained no non-vegetarian ingredients. His calm and respectful manner quickly attracted attention online, with many viewers appreciating his professionalism and hospitality.

The video was shared by an Indian travel content creator and soon garnered thousands of reactions across social media platforms. While many users found the interaction wholesome and relatable, some critics argued that the tourist was being overly cautious and should have trusted the restaurant staff from the beginning. These comments triggered a debate about cultural differences, dietary re-

strictions, and the challenges travellers sometimes face when ordering food abroad.

As the discussion intensified, the waiter himself stepped in to address the controversy. Responding through social media, he explained that he fully understood the customer's concerns and felt honoured to serve her. He emphasized that ensuring guests feel comfortable with their meals is a normal part of his job and that he did not view her questions as unreasonable. His response further strengthened public support and earned him admiration from users across different countries.

Many social media users pointed out that vegetarian travellers often need to be extra careful when dining over-

seas, especially in countries where vegetarianism is less common than in India. Ingredients such as fish sauce, meat broth, or eggs may be included in dishes that appear vegetarian, making it understandable for tourists to seek clarification before eating.

The viral interaction has since become a symbol of patience, cultural sensitivity, and good customer service. What could have been a routine restaurant exchange turned into a heartwarming example of mutual respect between a traveller and a hospitality worker. In a world where misunderstandings often dominate online discussions, the waiter's thoughtful response reminded many people of the importance of empathy and understanding across cultures.



Image Credit: Instagram/@the_balanced_ph

Liam Livingstone Reveals How IPL Team Owners Influence Player Selections



England all-rounder Liam Livingstone has shed light on the often-discussed role of franchise owners in team selection decisions during the Indian Premier League (IPL), offering a candid glimpse into how decision-making works behind the scenes.

Speaking about his experience in the IPL, Livingstone revealed that he once approached Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori to better understand why certain selection decisions were being made. His comments have reignited discussions about the extent to which team owners and management influence playing XIs in one of the world's biggest cricket leagues.

According to Livingstone, player selections are not always determined solely by coaches and captains. He explained that franchise owners, management groups, and other stakeholders often have a say in various aspects of team operations. Curious about how these dynamics functioned within the IPL environment,

the England international said he directly sought clarity from Vettori regarding the process.

The experienced all-rounder noted that franchise cricket involves multiple layers of decision-making, unlike international teams where selections are typically handled by designated selectors and coaching staff. In leagues such as the IPL, commercial considerations, long-term planning, player investments, and management strategies can all influence discussions surrounding team composition.

Livingstone's remarks have attracted attention because they touch upon a topic that is frequently debated but rarely discussed openly by players. Fans often speculate about the role owners play in selecting players, particularly when high-profile signings are retained in the lineup despite inconsistent performances. His comments suggest that while coaches remain central to cricketing decisions, franchise management structures can also have a meaningful impact

on the overall process.

The Sunrisers Hyderabad star emphasized that understanding the reasoning behind decisions helped him adapt to the franchise environment. Rather than viewing such involvement negatively, he appeared to acknowledge it as part of the unique ecosystem of franchise-based cricket, where sporting and business interests coexist.

Daniel Vettori, one of the most respected coaches in world cricket, has been instrumental in guiding Sunrisers Hyderabad's strategy and player development. Livingstone's interaction with the former New Zealand captain reportedly provided valuable insight into how IPL franchises balance performance, investment, and long-term objectives when making selection calls.

The revelation has sparked fresh conversations among cricket fans and analysts about transparency in franchise cricket. While most teams maintain that cricketing decisions are primarily driven by coaching staff and captains, Livingstone's observations highlight the collaborative nature of decision-making within modern T20 franchises.

As franchise leagues continue to grow in influence across the cricketing world, discussions surrounding team management structures and owner involvement are likely to remain a significant topic. Livingstone's candid comments have offered fans a rare behind-the-scenes perspective on how one of cricket's most competitive tournaments operates beyond the boundary ropes.

Rajat Patidar Emerges as Serious Challenger to Shreyas Iyer in India's T20I Captaincy Race



The debate over India's future T20I captain has gained fresh momentum, with Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Rajat Patidar emerging as a strong contender alongside frontrunner Shreyas Iyer. As discussions intensify over the leadership succession plan in Indian cricket, Patidar's impressive IPL 2026 campaign has added a new dimension to the conversation.

For much of the season, Shreyas Iyer was widely viewed as the leading candidate to take over India's T20I captaincy whenever the transition occurs. His proven leadership credentials, consistent performances, and success across multiple IPL franchises have strengthened his case. Several former cricketers and experts have publicly backed Iyer, citing his tactical awareness and ability to handle

pressure in high-stakes matches.

However, Patidar's remarkable rise has forced selectors and analysts to take notice. Leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru with calm authority, the Madhya Pradesh batter guided the franchise to another highly successful IPL season. His leadership, combined with impactful performances with the bat, has earned widespread praise from cricket experts and former players.

What makes Patidar's candidacy particularly interesting is his composed style of captaincy. Unlike more expressive leaders, he has built a reputation as a quiet strategist who leads through performance and clear decision-making. Observers believe these qualities could make him a strong option for India's

white-ball setup in the years ahead.

The discussion comes at a time when Indian cricket is evaluating its long-term leadership structure. Reports suggest that the selectors are keen to identify captains who can guide the team through the next T20 World Cup cycle. While Shreyas Iyer's experience still places him at the front of the queue, Patidar's achievements have ensured that the race is no longer a one-horse contest.

Former players and analysts have increasingly highlighted Patidar's credentials, arguing that leadership success at the IPL level should carry significant weight when national captaincy decisions are made. His ability to remain composed under pressure and inspire teammates has become a major talk-

ing point in cricket circles.

Despite the growing debate, Shreyas Iyer remains the favourite due to his broader leadership experience and strong record across domestic and franchise cricket. Yet Patidar's emergence has provided selectors with another compelling option, ensuring healthy competition for one of Indian cricket's most important roles.

As India prepares for future T20 assignments, the battle between Shreyas Iyer and Rajat Patidar for leadership recognition is likely to remain one of the most closely watched storylines in Indian cricket. Whether experience ultimately prevails or a new challenger rises, the discussion reflects the depth of leadership talent currently available to Indian cricket.

Gambhir Explains Need for Fourth Spinner as Harsh Dubey-Manav Suthar Selection Battle Intensifies

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has defended the inclusion of an additional spin-bowling option in the squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan, stating that the team must prepare for the future by building depth in its spin department. His comments come amid growing speculation over whether uncapped left-arm spinners Harsh Dubey or Manav Suthar will make their Test debut.

Ahead of the match in New Chandigarh, one of the biggest selection discussions revolves around the fourth-spinner slot. With Ravindra Jadeja

rested for the fixture, the team management has an opportunity to assess emerging spin talent at the international level. Harsh Dubey and Manav Suthar, both highly rated left-arm spin-bowling all-rounders, are competing for a place in the playing XI.

Addressing the issue, Gambhir stressed that India cannot rely on a limited pool of spinners and must continually develop multiple options across formats. According to him, preparing backup players is essential for sustaining success in Test cricket, especially during a period of transition and squad rebuilding.

Harsh Dubey enters the contest with an impressive domestic record. The Vidarbha captain earned national attention after a remarkable Ranji Trophy campaign and was rewarded with his maiden Test call-up. His ability to contribute with both bat and ball has made him a strong contender for selection.

Manav Suthar, meanwhile, has also emerged as one of the country's most promising spin-bowling prospects. The Rajasthan left-arter has consistently impressed in domestic cricket and is viewed as a long-term candidate for India's Test setup. His control,

accuracy, and ability to bowl long spells have reportedly impressed the team management during training sessions.

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has expressed particular interest in seeing how the young spinners perform if given an opportunity at the highest level. Observers believe the Afghanistan Test offers the ideal platform to evaluate emerging talent without the pressure of a lengthy series.

The selection dilemma highlights India's broader transition strategy under Gambhir. Along with confirming Sai Sudharsan at No. 3, the coach

has repeatedly emphasized the importance of giving young players meaningful opportunities to establish themselves in international cricket.

Whether the final choice falls on Harsh Dubey or Manav Suthar, the message from the Indian team management is clear: the focus is not only on winning the Afghanistan Test but also on building a strong pipeline of talent for the future. The battle for the fourth-spinner role may therefore be less about a single match and more about identifying India's next long-term spin-bowling asset.



Diana Edulji Urges Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma to Regain Form Ahead of Major Assignments SAC T20 Cricket Tournament Launched in Grand Style at Visakhapatnam

Former India captain and cricket legend Diana Edulji has stressed the importance of India's opening pair, Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma, rediscovering their best form quickly as the team prepares for crucial international assignments. According to Edulji, the success of the Indian women's team often depends heavily on the performances of its star openers, making their return to consistent run-scoring a key priority.

Edulji's comments come at a time when India is looking to build momentum and establish a settled batting unit. While both Mandhana and Shafali remain among the most talented batters in women's cricket, recent performances have raised questions about consistency at the top of the order. Their inability to convert starts into substantial scores has occasionally put additional pressure on the middle order.

The former spinner, one of India's most respected cricket voices, believes the opening partnership holds the key to the team's fortunes. She emphasized that the duo must place a premium on their wickets and provide strong starts,



especially in major tournaments where early breakthroughs can significantly alter the course of a match. Edulji has previously described Mandhana and Shafali as the team's "biggest bets" and highlighted their importance in India's batting plans.

Despite the recent scrutiny, both players possess impressive records and proven match-winning abilities. Mandhana remains one of the most accomplished batters in world cricket, with more than 10,000 international runs and a reputation for delivering in high-pressure situations. She has also established herself as one

of the leading figures in women's cricket globally.

Shafali, meanwhile, continues to be regarded as one of the most explosive young batters in the game. Her aggressive approach at the top of the order has transformed India's batting style in recent years, and she has already achieved several milestones at a remarkably young age. She also captained India to the inaugural Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup title, underlining her value to Indian cricket.

Edulji's remarks are viewed as constructive rather than critical. The former India great believes that both players

have the talent and experience necessary to overcome temporary dips in form. With major tournaments and important bilateral series on the horizon, India will be hoping its star opening pair can return to peak form and provide the strong foundations needed for success.

As the team continues its preparations, much attention will remain on Mandhana and Shafali. If the duo can rediscover their rhythm at the crease, India will significantly strengthen its chances of competing with the world's best teams and achieving its ambitions on the global stage.

Noting that North Andhra is home to several talented cricketers, the organizers of the Sri Aradhana Charitable Trust have launched the SAC T20 Cricket Tournament with the objective of identifying and encouraging young cricketing talent. Organiser Chatla Suryaprakash Reddy said the tournament aims to provide a platform for promising players to showcase their skills and advance their careers.

The tournament was inaugurated in a grand manner on Friday at the Railway Grounds in Visakhapatnam. Speaking on the occasion, Suryaprakash Reddy said that nine teams would compete fiercely over the next ten days across three different venues. The participating players have been selected and divided into nine franchise-based teams to ensure a competitive and professional tournament structure.

Pollution Control Board Executive Engineer Srinivas and National Journalists Association Secretary Gantla Srinubabu attended the event as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, they said such tournaments play a crucial role in identifying and nurturing young sporting talent. They



emphasized that strong performances in these competitions could open doors for players to earn opportunities in higher-level tournaments, including the Andhra Premier League (APL) and even the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The guests appreciated the efforts of the organizers in conducting the tournament on such a large scale and stressed the need for society to support talented sportspersons. They noted that providing opportunities and encouragement to young athletes is essential for producing future stars who can represent the state and the country with distinction.

As part of the inaugural ceremony, the chief guests were introduced to the players of the participating teams, including Vizag Rising Stars and Dharma Warriors, who played

the opening match of the tournament. The dignitaries interacted with the players and extended their best wishes for the competition.

The tournament was formally declared open amid enthusiasm from players, officials, and cricket lovers. The event witnessed the participation of several prominent personalities, including Ramakrishna Prasad, Federation Visakhapatnam District General Secretary G. Srinivasa Rao, Madan, and a large number of cricketers and sports enthusiasts.

With nine teams battling it out over ten days, the SAC T20 Cricket Tournament is expected to provide exciting cricketing action while serving as an important platform for emerging talent from North Andhra to showcase their abilities.

'Peddi' Roars at the Global Box Office, Collects 135.36 Crore on Opening Day



Ram Charan's much-awaited sports action drama Peddi has stormed the global box office, delivering a sensational opening and reaffirming the actor's massive star power. The film, directed by Buchi Babu Sana and featuring Janhvi Kapoor in a key role, reportedly grossed an impressive 135.36 crore worldwide on its first day in theatres.

Released amid huge expectations, Peddi generated tremendous buzz even before its theatrical debut. Strong advance bookings, packed shows, and enthusiastic fan response translated into a record-breaking opening across several territories. Trade analysts had predicted a strong start for the film, but the actual numbers exceeded many expectations.

The Telugu-speaking states emerged as the film's biggest strength, with audiences turning out in large numbers from the early morning shows. Reports indicate that Andhra Pradesh and Telangana contributed significantly to the opening-day collections, while overseas markets, particularly North America, also witnessed strong demand.

According to figures shared by the makers, Peddi collected 135.36 crore gross globally on Day 1, making it one of the biggest openings in Ram Charan's career. The achievement comes four years after the global success of RRR

and marks a strong comeback for the actor on the big screen. The production team celebrated the milestone by hailing Ram Charan as a "Box Office Champion," highlighting his continued popularity among moviegoers.

The film's success has been driven by a combination of factors, including Ram Charan's fan following, an extensive promotional campaign, and curiosity surrounding its sports-drama storyline. Audience reactions on social media have been largely positive, with many praising the actor's performance, high-energy action sequences, and the film's emotional moments.

Industry observers believe that the strong opening has laid a solid foundation for a successful theatrical run. While the opening weekend performance will determine the film's long-term prospects, the initial response suggests that Peddi is well-positioned to emerge as one of the major box-office successes of the year.

With a blockbuster first day already in the bag, all eyes are now on whether Peddi can maintain its momentum over the coming days. If the positive word-of-mouth continues and family audiences embrace the film, it could set new benchmarks at the box office and further strengthen Ram Charan's standing as one of Indian cinema's biggest stars.

Vijay's Stand on 'Jana Nayagan' Theatrical Deals Creates Buzz in Film Circles

Fresh reports surrounding Thalapathy Vijay's much-awaited film Jana Nayagan have sparked widespread discussion in the Tamil film industry. The latest buzz revolves around the actor's reported decision regarding the film's theatrical business, a move that has caught the attention of distributors, exhibitors, and fans alike.

Jana Nayagan, directed by H. Vinoth and produced by KVN Productions, has remained one of the most talked-about projects in South Indian cinema. The film holds special significance as it is widely regarded as Vijay's final movie before he fully dedicates himself to his political career. As a result, every development related to the project has generated enormous public interest.

According to recent reports, Vijay is said to have taken a firm stand regarding the film's theatrical agreements and distribution strategy. Industry insiders suggest that the actor is keen on ensuring that the film reaches audiences on the best possible terms rather than rushing into deals that may not fully benefit the project. This reported approach has triggered extensive discussions within trade circles, with many viewing it as a reflection of the film's immense market value and the expectations surrounding its release.



The timing of these discussions is particularly noteworthy because Jana Nayagan has already faced multiple hurdles. Originally scheduled for release earlier this year, the film encountered certification-related issues and subsequent delays, leaving fans eagerly awaiting an official release announcement. Despite the setbacks, the project continues to command strong interest from distributors and streaming platforms.

Trade analysts believe that Vijay's massive fan following and the emotional value attached to his final cinematic

Chiranjeevi-Bobby Kolli Film Advances to Key Pollachi Schedule

The much-anticipated collaboration between Megastar Chiranjeevi and director Bobby Kolli has entered an important phase of production, with the film's latest shooting schedule now underway in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu. The project, tentatively referred to as Chirui58 or Mega158, has generated tremendous buzz among fans ever since it was announced, especially because it reunites the successful duo behind the blockbuster Waltair Veerayya.

According to reports, the production is progressing at a brisk pace, and the makers have now shifted to Pollachi for the latest schedule. Key portions of the film featuring Chiranjeevi and several principal cast members are currently being filmed in the picturesque Tamil Nadu location, which has long been a favorite destination for Indian filmmakers due to its scenic landscapes and versatile shooting spots.

The film is being produced on a grand scale by Venkat K.

Narayana under the banner of KVN Productions. Notably, this marks the production house's maiden Telugu venture after achieving success in multiple other film industries. The scale of the project and the star power involved have already positioned it among the most eagerly awaited Telugu films currently in production.

Adding to the excitement, the makers recently released a special video conveying their best wishes to the team behind Ram Charan's Peddi. The gesture was warmly received by fans on social media and further amplified interest in Chiranjeevi's upcoming project.

Industry reports suggest that Bobby Kolli has crafted a larger-than-life story for the film, aiming to present Chiranjeevi in one of the most powerful roles of his illustrious career. To suit the character, the veteran actor has reportedly undergone a significant physical transformation and has been sharing glimpses of his fitness prepara-



tions, which have impressed fans and generated further anticipation.

The film also boasts a strong technical team. Music is being composed by S. Thaman, while cinematography is handled by Vijay Kartik Kannan. Production design responsibilities have been entrusted to Avi-

nash Kolla, with Antony L. Ruben serving as editor. The screenplay is being developed by a team that includes Kona Venkat and K. Chakravarthy Reddy, with dialogues penned by Bhanu and Nandu.

While details regarding the leading lady and other major cast members are yet to be of-

ficially announced, the Pollachi schedule signals that the project is moving ahead steadily. With Chiranjeevi and Bobby Kolli joining forces once again, expectations are sky-high, and fans are eagerly awaiting more updates from the sets of this ambitious entertainer.

Naga Chaitanya's 'Dhootha 2' Officially Launched, Nagarjuna Attends Grand Ceremony

The much-awaited second season of Dhootha, starring Naga Chaitanya, has officially gone on floors with a grand launch ceremony, much to the delight of fans who have been eagerly awaiting the return of the supernatural thriller. The project was formally inaugurated in the presence of several members of the cast and crew, marking the beginning of production for one of Telugu OTT's most anticipated sequels.

Adding prestige to the launch event was veteran actor Nagarjuna, who attended as the chief guest. The Akkineni star gave the ceremonial clap to officially kick-start the shoot, while extending his best wishes to the entire team. His presence made the occasion even more special for fans of the Ak-



kineni family and generated significant buzz on social media.

The first season of Dhootha, which premiered on Amazon Prime Video in 2023, emerged as a major success and received widespread appreciation for its gripping blend of mystery, sus-

pense, and supernatural elements. The series also marked Naga Chaitanya's OTT debut and showcased him in a completely different avatar, earning praise from both critics and audiences.

Season 2 reunites Naga Chaitanya with creator-director

Vikram K. Kumar, the filmmaker behind the success of the original installment. According to reports, the new season will delve deeper into the eerie and psychological world established in the first chapter. The makers are said to have crafted a more complex narrative filled with heightened suspense, unexpected twists, and darker mysteries.

Parvathy Thiruvothu and Priya Bhavani Shankar are expected to play important roles in the upcoming season, continuing the story that captivated viewers in the first installment. Reports indicate that the screenplay was completed earlier this year, paving the way for production to begin.

Interestingly, Dhootha 2 also marks a new milestone for Naga Chaitanya, as he is re-

portedly associated with the project not only as an actor but also as a producer. The series is being backed by Annapurna Studios and NorthStar Entertainments for Amazon Prime Video. More details regarding the plot, supporting cast, and release timeline are expected to be revealed in the coming months.

With the original season setting a high benchmark in the Telugu OTT space, expectations for Dhootha 2 are naturally sky-high. The official launch has now intensified excitement among viewers, who are eager to see how the next chapter unfolds. If the first season's success is any indication, the sequel could once again become one of the most talked-about streaming releases when it eventually premieres.



Sejal Mandavia

RISING STAR