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Ramchandra Rao Meets Chiranjeevi Sparking Fresh Political Speculation



Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

A meeting between Telangana BJP president Ramchandra Rao and Megastar Chiranjeevi has triggered fresh political discussions in both political and film circles. Ramchandra Rao visited Chiranjeevi at his residence and held a meeting that reportedly lasted for more than thirty minutes. The visit comes as part of the

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Monday and discussed several key infrastructure and defence-related projects concerning the state. During the meeting, the Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the Union Minister for facilitating the transfer of Defence Ministry land required for the Gandhi Sarovar Project, one of the state government's important initiatives. Revanth Reddy also assured full cooperation from the Telangana government in matters related to the development of the Adilabad Airport, a project considered strategically important for national security and regional development. He informed the Defence Minister that the state would extend complete support in land acquisition,



utility shifting, and other related requirements. Highlighting the proposed expansion of the Indian Air Force airport at Adilabad, the Chief Minister sought support for developing extensive aviation infrastructure, including a civil aviation terminal for passengers, cargo

facilities, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services, and aircraft hangars. Referring to recent geopolitical developments in West Asia, Revanth Reddy suggested that Adilabad could emerge as an attractive destination for global airlines to establish maintenance and hangar facilities due to its strategic location and development potential. The Chief Minister also requested the Defence Minister to expedite approval for a key project proposed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO/DRDL) near Devarakadra in Mahabubnagar district. He emphasized that the state government would provide all necessary support for the successful implementation of defence and strategic infrastructure projects in Telangana.



Revanth, Kishan Reddy Discuss Metro Loan with Vaishnaw

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday expressed confidence that the pending Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) loan for the Hyderabad Metro Rail project would be resolved soon following a constructive meeting with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy, held detailed discussions with Vaishnaw on the release of the IRFC loan and other pending issues concerning the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. The meeting assumes significance as the Telangana government has been seeking Central support to expedite the disbursement of nearly ₹13,600 crore in financing required for the Metro project and to facilitate the takeover of Metro Phase-I from L&T. Speaking to media representatives after the meeting, Revanth Reddy said the discussions were held in a positive atmosphere and that both governments were working towards an early resolution of the issues. He also announced that he and Kishan Reddy would meet Union Housing and Urban

Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday to further pursue matters related to Hyderabad Metro Rail. According to official sources, the Railway Minister assured the Telangana government of his support in facilitating the release of the IRFC loan. However, the Centre reportedly advised the state government to revisit and revise the repayment framework proposed under the earlier Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Under the previous arrangement, the Telangana government had proposed servicing the loan using revenues generated through Metro ticket collections, advertisements and real estate earnings after meeting operational and maintenance expenses. The Centre, however, suggested that repayment of the IRFC debt should receive priority every month, with the remaining revenue being utilized for Metro operations and maintenance. Sources indicated that the Telangana government agreed to examine the proposal and work towards a revised agreement acceptable to all stakeholders. During the discussions, Revanth Reddy and Kishan Reddy also sought early approval and

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Basavatarakam Hospital Born Out of a Personal Tragedy, Says AP CM Naidu

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Hospital was born out of a personal tragedy and has grown into one of India's leading non-profit cancer care institutions. Addressing the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the hospital in Hyderabad, he said the inspiration for establishing the facility came after the death of Basavatarakam, wife of former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, due to cancer at a time when advanced treatment was not easily available in the region. "There is a story behind the



journey of the Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital. It was built inspired by my mother-in-law Basavatarakam. At that time, cancer treatment facilities were available only in cities like Mumbai and

Chennai," he said. He said the hospital was established with the vision that no patient should lose their life due to lack of access to treatment. It began with 100 beds and was guided in its

early phase by former Speaker Kodela Siva Prasada Rao as Managing Trustee, along with senior doctors including Dr Nori Dattatreyaudu. Naidu said the institution has grown over 25 years into a major healthcare facility and is now run as a non-profit institution under Trust Chairman Nandamuri Balakrishna, who continues to actively support its functioning. He appreciated Balakrishna's commitment and also congratulated him on plans for a 1,000-bed cancer hospital in Amaravati. He said the hospital currently has around 650 beds, performs over 8,000 surgeries, and conducts nearly 22 opera-

tions daily. It serves over 3 lakh patients annually from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states including Maharashtra, Karnataka and Odisha. Naidu said government efforts alone are not enough for public health and stressed the role of non-profit institutions. He added that Andhra Pradesh is focusing on preventive, curative and predictive healthcare models. He also mentioned the contribution of NTR Memorial Trust trustee Bhuvaneshwari in social service activities. He expressed confidence that Basavatarakam Hospital will emerge as one of the largest non-profit healthcare institutions in the country.

Minister Seeks Centre's Support for Telangana's Industrial Expansion

New Delhi, June 22 | TPN Bureau

IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has urged the Central Government to extend greater support for the State's industrial growth and help realize the goals of the ambitious "Telangana Rising Vision 2047." During a meeting with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi on Monday, Sridhar Babu submitted a detailed memorandum outlining several key proposals aimed at accelerating industrial development across Telangana. The minister emphasized that Telangana is building a future-ready industrial ecosystem capable of contributing significantly to the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. He appealed to the Centre to support major industrial and infrastructure initiatives that would strengthen manufacturing, logistics, exports, and employment generation in the State. One of the key proposals discussed was the development of a logistics hub in the Zaheerabad Industrial Smart City, where Hyundai Motor Group has proposed establishing a Global Innovation



and Research & Development Centre with an investment of ₹8,500 crore. Sridhar Babu said central assistance for the logistics ecosystem would enhance the project's viability and attract further investments. The minister also sought special priority for Telangana under Bhavya Scheme Phase-I, under which the State is preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for developing 15 to 20 plug-and-play industrial parks. He noted that approvals during the June-July 2026 application cycle would provide a major boost to Telangana's manu-

facturing sector. Highlighting Telangana's growing role in advanced industries, Sridhar Babu requested the sanction of an Aero-Defence Corridor and urged the Centre to support the establishment of a National Design Centre in Hyderabad. He said these initiatives would position Telangana as a major hub for innovation, aerospace, defence manufacturing, and design excellence. (The minister further requested the allocation of two Mega Leather Parks under the Mega Leather, Footwear and Accessories Cluster Develop-

ment Scheme. He also sought approval for a Multi-Modal Logistics Park being developed at Manoharabad in Medak district with an investment of ₹2,050 crore in collaboration with the National Highways Logistics Management Limited. In addition, he requested financial assistance under the Trade Infrastructure for Exports Scheme for an irradiation facility being established at Koheda in Rangareddy district to strengthen agricultural exports. Sridhar Babu also raised concerns regarding the interests of palm oil farmers and urged the Centre to restore the import duty on crude palm oil to 44 percent. He further sought special attention to the operations of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited and requested that the plant's entire urea production be allocated to Telangana to prevent fertilizer shortages during the agricultural season. The minister expressed confidence that stronger Centre-State cooperation would accelerate Telangana's industrial transformation and contribute significantly to India's long-term economic growth.

We Will Build Cancer Hospital in Amaravati, Says Nandamuri Balakrishna

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

We will build a cancer hospital in Amaravati and further expand healthcare services in Hyderabad, said Hospital Chairman and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna, reaffirming the institution's commitment to affordable cancer care. He made the remarks during the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Basavatarakam Indo-American Cancer Institute held recently in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Ministers Anupriya Patel and Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, Telangana Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha, AP Minister Satya Kumar, along with dignitaries and members of the NTR family. Balakrishna said the hospital was established to serve the poor and ensure that no patient is denied cancer treatment due to financial constraints. He said the institution currently performs around 35 to 40 surgeries daily and has become a source of hope for thousands of families. "I stand before you not merely as an actor or an MLA, but as a son. We were deeply dis-



tressed when my mother Basavatarakam was diagnosed with cancer. We had the financial strength to fight, but she used to ask how the poor could face such a disease," he said. He said the hospital has provided outpatient services to around 3.75 lakh people and continues to ensure dignity and hope for patients. One of India's early bone marrow transplantation centres also began here. Balakrishna said governments, donors and organisations have supported the institution over the years, enabling steady growth. He said the 25-year journey reflects a long-standing commitment to service and announced plans for a new cancer hospital in

Amaravati. Union Minister Anupriya Patel said the hospital is a beacon of hope, noting that 1.5 million people are diagnosed with cancer annually in India. She highlighted Ayushman Bharat screening for those above 30 and HPV vaccination for girls to prevent cervical cancer, covering 12 million girls. Union Minister Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said the hospital, now expanded from 100 to 650 beds, provides treatment at lower costs under Arogyasri and Ayushman Bharat schemes. Telangana Health Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha stressed early detection and said cancer has been declared a notifiable disease in the state.

Minister Sanctions RS.5 Crore for Phanigiri Buddhist Heritage Development

Phanigiri, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday laid the foundation stone for conservation and restoration works at the historic Buddhist sites of Phanigiri and Gajulabanda in Nagaram Mandal of Suryapet district. The Minister, accompanied by MLA Mandula Samuel, announced a grant of ₹5 crore for the comprehensive development of the Phanigiri Buddhist heritage site. Speaking on the occasion, Jupally Krishna Rao said the Telangana government is committed to preserving the state's rich Buddhist heritage and ensuring that its historical treasures are protected for future generations. He described Phanigiri as one of the most significant Buddhist heritage centres in South India and emphasized the importance of safeguarding monuments that reflect the values of peace, non-violence, and humanity associated with Buddhism. The conservation works are being undertaken with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from Telangana GENCO's Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS). An amount of ₹1.60 crore has been allocated for the preser-



vation of Buddhist structures at Phanigiri, while ₹23 lakh will be spent on conservation efforts at Gajulabanda. The Minister stated that the government is giving special priority to the protection of archaeological, historical, and cultural assets across Telangana. He noted that the sculptures, inscriptions, and coins unearthed during excavations at Phanigiri have significantly contributed to understanding the region's ancient history and have drawn attention from historians and researchers worldwide. Highlighting the tourism potential of the sites, Jupally said the development of Phanigiri and Gajulabanda would strengthen Telangana's position on the national and international Buddhist tourism map. Increased tourist inflow, he added, would generate employment opportunities for local youth and con-

tribute to rural economic growth. Responding to a request made by MLA Mandula Samuel, the Minister announced ₹5 crore for the integrated development of Phanigiri. The funds will be utilized for upgrading the approach road connecting the main highway to the heritage site, constructing a staircase pathway leading to the hilltop monuments, improving tourist infrastructure, and enhancing visitor amenities. Suryapet District Collector Tejas Nandalal Pawar, Superintendent of Police Narasimha, Archaeology Department Director Arjun Rao, senior archaeology officials, local public representatives, village sarpanches, and residents participated in the programme. The event marked another step in the state government's efforts to preserve and promote Telangana's rich Buddhist heritage.

Deputy CM Calls for Historic Success of Chintakani Farmers' Rally

Chintakani, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has called upon Congress leaders, party workers, and public representatives to make the proposed public meeting at Chintakani on June 30 a historic success. The massive gathering, expected to attract nearly two lakh people, will witness Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launching the disbursement of Rythu Bharosa funds to farmers across the state. Addressing a preparatory meeting with Congress leaders and elected representatives from the Madhira Assembly constituency at Jagannadhapuram Cross Roads in Chintakani Mandal on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka said the event would be one of the largest public meetings ever held in the constituency's history. He emphasized that the government had chosen an agriculture-dependent region for launching a scheme that would directly benefit millions of farmers throughout Telangana.



The Deputy Chief Minister stated that along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, several state ministers would participate in the event, making it a significant occasion for the constituency and the state. He noted that the programme would showcase the Congress government's commitment to farmer welfare and send a strong message about its pro-farmer governance. To ensure smooth conduct of the meeting, Bhatti Vikramarka directed party

leaders to undertake detailed micro-planning. He instructed them to appoint one in-charge for every hundred voters at the booth level and prepare accurate lists of attendees along with their contact details. He also stressed the importance of arranging transportation facilities so that farmers and supporters could reach the venue without inconvenience. Six special committees have been constituted to oversee various aspects of

the event, including organization, vehicle management, publicity, media coordination, drinking water arrangements, and volunteer services. The Deputy Chief Minister also advised Congress volunteers to assist in crowd management and facilitate the movement of important leaders and guests at the venue. Meanwhile, Wyrā MLA Maloth Ramdas Naik announced that around 50,000 people would be mobilized from the Wyrā constituency alone. He suggested naming the event the "Farmers' Blessings Meeting" and expressed confidence that the gathering would set new records for public meetings in Telangana. Later, Bhatti Vikramarka, accompanied by officials, inspected potential venues at Lachagudem and Jagannadhapuram Cross Roads in Chintakani Mandal to finalize the site for the mega public meeting. He reviewed accessibility and transportation arrangements to ensure convenience for attendees arriving from different parts of the state.

Sports Minister Urges Youth to Choose Sports Over Addiction



Mahabubnagar, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Sports, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Youth Services Minister Vakiti Srihari called upon young people to stay away from substance abuse and actively participate in sports, giving the message, "Quit addiction, join the playgrounds." The Minister laid the foundation stone for several modern sports infrastructure projects worth ₹12.53 crore at the Indoor Stadium Grounds in Mahabubnagar under the aegis of the Telangana Sports Authority. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, he said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is giving top priority to sports development and pro-

viding all necessary facilities to nurture talented athletes. Srihari stated that the proposed 400-metre, eight-lane synthetic athletics track, being developed to international standards, would provide district athletes with access to advanced training facilities. He emphasized that sports are not merely a form of recreation but a powerful tool capable of transforming lives through discipline, dedication, and perseverance. The Minister revealed that nearly ₹80 crore has already been allocated for sports development projects across various constituencies in the erstwhile Palamuru region. He further asserted that the government is prepared to spend up to ₹100 crore if

required to strengthen sports infrastructure and promote athletic excellence. Encouraging youth to take sports seriously rather than treating them as a pastime, Srihari urged aspiring athletes to aim for success at national and international levels. He said the government's objective is to identify and nurture sporting talent from the village level to global platforms. The Minister directed officials to ensure that the district swimming pool is managed under the supervision of the Sports Authority of Telangana and called on sports associations to play a more active role in discovering hidden talent in rural areas. He also announced

that sports projects would receive fast-track approvals through a "green channel" mechanism. As part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah campaign being observed from June 17 to 26, the Minister administered an anti-drug pledge to students and unveiled a poster promoting awareness against substance abuse. Mahabubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Telangana Olympic Association President Jitender Reddy, SATS Chairman Shivasena Reddy, District Collector Kushboo Gupta, Superintendent of Police D. Janaki, Mayor Gummalla Mamatha Srinivas, and other dignitaries attended the programme.

Irrigation Minister Reviews RDS Modernisation, Vows to Protect Telangana's Water Rights



Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday emphasized the urgent need to modernize the Rajolabanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) and accelerate the implementation of Phase-II of the Tummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme to strengthen irrigation facilities and safeguard Telangana's water interests. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the State Secretariat, the Minister assessed issues related to the RDS, operations of the Tungbhadra Dam, interstate water-sharing arrangements, and long-pending modernization requirements of the irrigation network. The meeting was attended by irrigation engineers, water experts, senior officials, and farmer representatives from the RDS command area. During the discussions, farmer leaders led by former RDS Chairman G. Sitarami Reddy submitted a detailed representation highlighting the deteriorating condition of RDS headworks, unauthorized diversions by neighbouring states, declining storage capacity in the Tungbhadra reservoir due to siltation, and the need for

comprehensive measures to protect Telangana's rightful share of river waters. The delegation informed the Minister that several parts of the RDS infrastructure had exceeded their intended lifespan and required immediate rehabilitation. They also pointed out that expert committees had recommended multiple restoration and strengthening works over the years, many of which remain incomplete. Concerns regarding reduced canal carrying capacity, sediment accumulation, damaged structures, and water losses affecting farmers were also raised. Responding to the concerns, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that modernization of the RDS could no longer be postponed and directed officials to prepare a detailed roadmap for completing pending works, strengthening embankments, and improving canal efficiency. Reviewing the Tummilla Lift Irrigation Scheme, the Minister instructed officials to prioritize land acquisition for the proposed Mallammakunta, Julakal, and Vallur reservoirs, which form part of Phase-II of the project. The reservoirs are expected to create a gross

storage capacity of around 2.12 TMC. He directed revenue authorities to ensure fair compensation and proper engagement with affected landowners. The Minister reiterated that Telangana's legitimate rights over Tungbhadra waters would not be compromised under any circumstances. He assured that the state government would pursue all technical, legal, and administrative measures necessary to protect farmers dependent on the RDS system. Uttam Kumar Reddy also called for a more proactive role by Telangana representatives on the Tungbhadra Board to closely monitor reservoir operations, canal management, and infrastructure maintenance. He directed officials to prepare a comprehensive report covering technical, legal, and policy issues for submission to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The Minister concluded by affirming that the government would continue engaging with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and the Centre while firmly safeguarding Telangana's water rights and ensuring equitable utilization of Tungbhadra waters.

Bhatti Calls for Integrated Promotion of Arts and Tourism

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has called for greater coordination between the Culture, Tourism, and Endowments Departments to preserve the state's rich artistic heritage while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for artists. Speaking at the Ardhanareeswaram National Dance Festival held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka said temples historically served as the primary platforms for promoting classical arts and cultural traditions. He noted that rulers of earlier times used dance and other

art forms to effectively communicate spiritual values and social messages to the public. The Deputy Chief Minister said that a combined approach involving the Culture, Tourism, and Endowments Departments could produce remarkable results in Telangana. He suggested adopting a model similar to Kerala, where traditional art forms are showcased at major tourist destinations, creating opportunities for both artists and tourism development. "If traditional performances are organized at tourist attractions and temple premises, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of our culture while artists receive

recognition, encouragement, and employment," he said. He added that the government is keen on promoting cultural activities on a larger scale across temples and tourism hubs in the state. Referring to the theme of the festival, Bhatti Vikramarka said the concept of Ardhanareeswaram reflects the Indian philosophy of equality between men and women. He noted that the portrayal of Shiva and Shakti in a single form symbolizes harmony, mutual respect, and complementary strengths, conveying a powerful message of gender equality and shared responsibility. The Deputy Chief Minister welcomed artists who had

travelled from different parts of the country to participate in the festival and highlighted Telangana's tradition of warm hospitality. He expressed confidence that the visiting performers would cherish their experience in the state. During the event, Bhatti Vikramarka and Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao felicitated several distinguished artists in recognition of their contributions to the field of dance and culture. Among those present were Sangeet Natak Akademi Chairperson Alekhya Punjala, cultural personalities, artists, and art enthusiasts from across the country.

Ponguleti Pushes Faster Land Reforms

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday directed officials to speed up the disposal of pending Sadabainama applications and ensure timely resolution of land-related issues affecting farmers across the state. During a teleconference with revenue officials, the Minister said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to providing farmers with secure land ownership rights and transparent revenue services. He announced that since the implementation of the Bhū Bharati Act on April 14, 2025, the government has issued

3.65 lakh passbooks to landowners. The new system has significantly reduced delays, enabling farmers to receive passbooks soon after submitting their applications without repeatedly visiting revenue offices. Reviewing the pilot implementation of the Integrated Bhū Bharati system in five mandals, Ponguleti said the initiative, which links survey maps with land registrations, has shown encouraging results. He directed officials to prepare plans for extending the system to one mandal in every district in the next phase. The Minister also reviewed the status of Sadabainama applications. Of the 9.25 lakh applications received statewide, notices have

already been issued to around six lakh applicants. He instructed officials to complete notices for the remaining applicants within 15 days and ensure quick disposal of eligible cases after the mandatory notice period. Ponguleti alleged that the previous government failed to address Sadabainama issues despite receiving applications from thousands of farmers. He said the present government has amended regulations and initiated corrective measures to provide relief and legal clarity to eligible landholders. The Minister reiterated that resolving land disputes and delivering farmer-friendly revenue services remain among the government's top priorities.



Harish Rao Targets Revanth Govt at BRS Workers' Meet

Achampet, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing it of betraying farmers, students, and weaker sections through unfulfilled promises and ineffective governance. Addressing a BRS workers' meeting in Achampet on Sunday, Harish Rao alleged that the state government had failed to release 29,350 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme and had turned the promised crop bonus into a "bogus" benefit. He claimed that farmers were facing uncertainty due to the government's inability to ensure procurement of various crops and questioned its dependence on the Centre for purchase decisions.



The former minister accused the government of neglecting farmer welfare and failing to procure sprouted paddy at procurement centres. He also criticized the

administration for not releasing fee reimbursement funds, stating that an entire generation of students was being affected by the delay. Harish Rao alleged that while the government claimed to lack funds for welfare schemes, it was spending heavily on projects and publicity. He questioned the expenditure on a guest house, fencing, and advertisements outside Telangana, while claiming financial constraints in implementing welfare commitments. Drawing a comparison with historical taxation policies, he alleged that the Congress government was burdening people through increased costs related to fuel, fertilizers, transport services, and other sectors. He further accused the administration of failing to complete irrigation and infrastructure projects initiated during the previous BRS government. The BRS leader asserted that the party would continue to fight for public issues and expressed confidence that it would regain political

strength in the state. He predicted a strong performance for the party in future elections and claimed that people were looking for a government focused on welfare schemes rather than controversies. Harish Rao also praised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for his role in the Telangana movement and welfare initiatives undertaken during the BRS regime. He urged party workers to intensify grassroots activities and strengthen the organization across the erstwhile Palamuru region. Former ministers Srinivas Goud and Singireddy Niranjan Reddy, senior BRS leader R.S. Praveen Kumar, MLC Kuchukulla Naveen Kumar Reddy, former MLAs and several party leaders participated in the programme.

Revanth, Kishan Reddy Discuss Metro Loan with Vaishnaw

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financial assistance from the Centre for the proposed expansion of the Hyderabad Metro Rail network under Metro Phase-II. The leaders discussed ways to remove procedural hurdles and accelerate the project's progress. The meeting follows a series of efforts by the Telangana government over the past week. Revanth Reddy had written to Kishan Reddy seeking his intervention in arranging meetings with key Union ministers to address financing issues and secure approvals for Metro expansion. With continued engagement between the Centre and the state, officials are optimistic that a breakthrough on the IRFC loan and Metro Phase-II approvals could be achieved in the coming weeks, paving the way for the next phase of Hyderabad's urban transport development.

Ramchandra Rao Meets Chiranjeevi Sparking Fresh Political Speculation

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informational brochures detailing the government's progress and accomplishments. According to reports, the two also exchanged views on issues related to the country's economic development, cultural growth, and recent developments in the entertainment industry. While BJP leaders have described the interaction as a routine courtesy call, the meeting has generated considerable buzz on social media. Political observers and fans alike have begun speculating about the significance of the visit, especially given Chiranjeevi's past political experience. Chiranjeevi previously served as a Union Minister and has largely stayed away from active politics in recent years, focusing on his film career and social initiatives. However, his continued influence and popularity ensure that any political development involving him attracts widespread attention. The speculation has gained further momentum because his younger brother, Pawan Kalyan, is currently serving as Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as part of the NDA alliance. This has led some political analysts and social media users to wonder whether Chiranjeevi could play a larger role in public life again or strengthen ties with the BJP in the future. Despite the growing discussion, there has been no official indication from either Chiranjeevi or the BJP suggesting any political move. Party sources have maintained that the meeting was solely intended to share information about the Central Government's achievements and did not involve any political negotiations. Even so, the interaction has become a talking point among political enthusiasts and movie fans, with many closely watching for any future developments. For now, the meeting remains a courtesy visit, but it has undoubtedly reignited conversations about Chiranjeevi's political future and his possible role in the evolving political landscape.

KTR Alleges Congress Rule Has Pushed Telangana into Crisis

Warangal, June 22 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a strong attack on the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that the administration led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had pushed the state into crisis and failed to fulfil its promises to farmers and other sections of society. Addressing a BRS constituency-level workers' meeting in Vardhannapet Assembly segment of Warangal district, KTR claimed that the Congress government's recent decision on crop procurement would severely impact farmers. He

alleged that the state government had abandoned its earlier stand of purchasing every grain produced by farmers and was now limiting procurement in line with Central government guidelines. According to KTR, farmers are already facing multiple challenges, including shortages of fertilizers and seeds, concerns over power supply, and uncertainty regarding agricultural support schemes. He accused the government of weakening farmer welfare measures and creating anxiety among the farming community. The BRS leader said Telangana had witnessed sig-

nificant welfare and development initiatives during the ten-year BRS rule, whereas the last two-and-a-half years under Congress had resulted in economic and social difficulties. He questioned the government on the implementation of election promises and alleged that several welfare commitments remained unfulfilled. KTR also criticized the Congress government's financial management, alleging that despite substantial borrowings, the administration had failed to deliver meaningful development projects. He claimed that funds were not being effectively utilized for public wel-

fare and accused the government of focusing more on political interests than governance. Referring to Centre-State relations, KTR alleged that both the Congress and BJP were functioning under the influence of their respective national leaderships. He also criticized Revanth Reddy's frequent visits to New Delhi, claiming that Telangana had not received adequate benefits from the Centre despite repeated engagements. The former minister further accused the Congress government of targeting opposition leaders and BRS workers through legal and administrative measures. He assured

party cadres that the BRS would stand firmly by its workers and continue to fight what he termed as anti-people policies of the government. Acknowledging that party workers had stood by the BRS during challenging times, KTR promised to focus on strengthening the organization and supporting grassroots leaders over the coming years. He urged cadres to work collectively towards rebuilding the party and bringing K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) back to power in the state. The meeting was attended by BRS leaders, elected representatives, and party workers from the Vardhannapet constituency.

No Conspiracy Against Me in Congress: Meenakshi Natarajan

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan has dismissed speculation that there was any internal conspiracy within the Congress party behind the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination, asserting that no one in the party had any reason to conspire against her. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday along with TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC State Secretary Sachin Sawant, Meenakshi Natarajan alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) manipulated the Rajya Sabha election process in Madhya Pradesh to secure an additional seat. She explained that elections were held for three Rajya Sabha seats in Madhya Pradesh and claimed that the BJP fielded a third candidate despite lacking the required majority. According to her, the party initially hoped to secure victory through political maneuvering, financial inducements, and pressure tactics, but eventually real-

ized it would not be able to win the third seat legitimately. Natarajan alleged that the Returning Officer and the Election Commission compromised in favor of the BJP, leading to the rejection of her nomination. She questioned why information regarding a notice served to her would have been leaked from Telangana, rejecting claims that Congress leaders in the state were involved. "The BJP began spreading rumors about a conspiracy against me even before my nomination was rejected. There was no internal plot within Congress. No one in the party needed to conspire against me," she said. Refuting reports that a Rajya Sabha member from Telangana would resign to accommodate her, Natarajan clarified that there was no truth in such speculation. She emphasized that her political base remains in Madhya Pradesh and that she has no intention of securing a Rajya Sabha berth by replacing an existing member.

She further stated that there are no criminal cases against her and that the issue cited during the nomination process related only to a notice, not a criminal charge. She argued that such notices do not require disclosure in nomination papers and informed the Returning Officer that the matter predated her appointment as AICC in-charge for Telangana. Natarajan also defended Congress leader Kumbam Shivakumar, stating that while complaints had been made against him, nothing had been proven so far. She said allegations against one individual cannot automatically be extended to family members. Concluding her remarks, Natarajan said the Congress was not discouraged by the rejection of her nomination. Instead, she claimed the episode exposed what she described as the BJP's political tactics and reinforced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's concerns about electoral integrity and democratic processes.

SC/ST Commission Chairman Venkataiah Reviews GHMC Employee Welfare

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Chairman of the SC/ST Commission, B. Venkataiah, chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Head Office on Monday, focusing on employee welfare and service-related issues. During the meeting, Venkataiah reviewed various concerns affecting SC/ST employees and sanitation workers within the corporation. He stressed the importance of safeguarding employee welfare and ensuring that eligible workers receive timely career advancement opportunities. A key issue discussed was the promotion of sanitation workers. The Commission Chairman directed officials to take necessary steps to ensure that promotions are processed without unnecessary delays, enabling employees to receive the benefits and recognition due to them. Venkataiah also emphasized the need to expedite compassionate appointments for the families of deceased employees. He noted that delays in providing employment assistance can create financial hardship for affected families and urged officials to complete the process at the earli-



est to offer timely support. The review meeting examined several service-related matters concerning employee welfare, working conditions, and administrative procedures. Officials were instructed to address pending issues in a time-bound manner and ensure that welfare measures reach eligible beneficiaries effectively. The Chairman reiterated the Commission's commitment to protecting the rights and interests of SC/ST employees and sanitation workers and called for coordinated efforts between the Commission and GHMC authorities to resolve employee grievances promptly. Senior GHMC officials participated in the meeting and briefed the Chairman on the status of promotions, compassionate appointments, and other welfare initiatives being implemented for employees across the corporation. Venkataiah urged officials to maintain regular monitoring of these issues and ensure that employee welfare remains a priority in the corporation's administration.

Peddapalli MP Slams Centre Over NEET Exam Controversy

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Peddapalli MP Dharmendra Pradhan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Centre was attempting to divert attention from the real issues affecting students. He remarked that the anguish and disappointment of students who missed the examination despite extensive preparation would remain a serious concern for the government. "Governments should work for the future of children, not play with their lives," Vamsi Krishna said, urging authorities to adopt a more student-friendly approach and ensure transparency and accountability in conducting competitive examinations. The remarks come amid continuing debate over the NEET-UG 2026 examination process. Concerns regarding paper leaks, examination management, and entry restrictions have triggered criticism from students, parents, and political leaders across the country. Vamsi Krishna called upon the Centre to take corrective measures to restore confidence in the examination system and protect the interests of aspiring medical students. He stressed that the future of young students should never be compromised due to administrative failures or procedural lapses.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Centre was attempting to divert attention from the real issues affecting students. He remarked that the anguish and disappointment of students who missed the examination despite extensive preparation would remain a serious concern for the government. "Governments should work for the future of children, not play with their lives," Vamsi Krishna said, urging authorities to adopt a more student-friendly approach and ensure transparency and accountability in conducting competitive examinations. The remarks come amid continuing debate over the NEET-UG 2026 examination process. Concerns regarding paper leaks, examination management, and entry restrictions have triggered criticism from students, parents, and political leaders across the country. Vamsi Krishna called upon the Centre to take corrective measures to restore confidence in the examination system and protect the interests of aspiring medical students. He stressed that the future of young students should never be compromised due to administrative failures or procedural lapses.

N. Ramchander Rao Calls for Responsible Participation in SIR Process

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP leader N. Ramchander Rao addressed a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) workshop organized for BJP workers in Malkajgiri, alongside Malkajgiri MP Etna Rajender. He urged party cadre to actively and responsibly participate in the voter list revision process. Speaking at the workshop, Ramchander Rao alleged that the BRS and Congress parties were spreading misinformation about the SIR exercise and creating unnecessary fears among the public. He emphasized that BJP workers should approach the process with seriousness and ensure that correct information reaches voters. He stated that the SIR exercise is a routine electoral roll purification process aimed at making voter lists clean, transparent, and accurate. According to him, the exercise is intended to identify and remove ineligible entries while ensuring the integrity



of electoral rolls. Ramchander Rao further said that the process would help authorities identify illegal infiltrators, including Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants, and remove their names from voter lists wherever found to be ineligible under electoral rules. He maintained that the exercise was being conducted in accordance with election procedures and should not be viewed through a political lens. The BJP leader called upon party workers to engage with voters at the grassroots level, clarify doubts regarding the SIR process, and assist eligible citizens in ensuring that their names remain correctly listed in the electoral rolls. The workshop was attended by senior BJP leader Marri Shashidhar Reddy, district in-charge Mahender, and several district and state-level party leaders. Participants discussed strategies for voter awareness and the effective implementation of the SIR exercise across the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency.

BJP Legislature Party Leader Maheshwar Reddy Assures Support to Police Job Aspirants

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Legislature Party Leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy has assured full support to Telangana police job aspirants and vowed to fight against what he termed as injustices being faced by unemployed youth in the state. A delegation of the Police Unemployed Joint Action Committee (JAC) met Maheshwar Reddy and BJP MLC Anji Reddy at the BJP Telangana State Office in Hyderabad on Monday and submitted a memorandum highlighting their grievances. The JAC representatives explained that they have been conducting peaceful protests for the last 20 days at Dilsukhnagar, Chaitanyapuri, RTC Cross Roads, and Osmania University against what they described as the Congress government's indifferent atti-

tude towards their demands. According to the aspirants, although the state government officially acknowledged nearly 19,000 vacant police posts in its job calendar, it has announced recruitment for only about 5,000 positions. They argued that this would drastically increase competition, with nearly 300 candidates competing for a single post, severely affecting employment opportunities. The delegation also demanded an increase in the age limit for constable recruitment from 32 years to 36 years. They questioned the rationale behind providing a 35-year age limit for Sub-Inspector posts while restricting constable recruitment to 32 years despite similar physical eligibility requirements. The aspirants further alleged that GO No. 46 has resulted in disparities in recruitment.

They claimed that candidates securing 75 marks in some districts are getting selected, while those scoring as high as 120 marks in other districts are being left out. They urged the government to remove TGSP recruitment from the purview of GO 46 and adopt a uniform recruitment policy across the state. The JAC also raised concerns over local reservation norms and physical test standards, alleging that rural Telangana candidates are being unfairly disadvantaged. They criticized the long jump criterion of four metres for police recruitment, stating that even military recruitment requires only 3.88 metres. Addressing the gathering, Maheshwar Reddy accused the Congress government of betraying unemployed youth despite making several promises before the elections regarding job recruitment,

age relaxation, and amendments to recruitment policies. He alleged that the government was neglecting unemployed aspirants while failing to provide clarity on employment generation. The BJP leader demanded that the state government release a white paper on job recruitment and immediately withdraw cases filed against protesting students. He also criticized the Police Recruitment Board for allegedly ignoring representations from aspirants. Maheshwar Reddy assured that the BJP would continue its fight until all 19,000 vacant police posts are filled and age relaxation demands are addressed. He announced that he would soon visit coaching centres in Dilsukhnagar and interact directly with aspirants before outlining the party's future course of action.

KP Vivekanand Draws Congress Flak Over Remarks Against Government

Quthbullapur, June 22 | TPN Bureau

A fresh political war of words erupted in Quthbullapur after Congress leaders strongly criticized Quthbullapur MLA and BRS leader K. P. Vivekanand for his recent comments against the Congress government and party leaders. Addressing the media on Monday, local Congress leader A.R. Sadhu Yadav accused the MLA of neglecting public issues and focusing instead on political criticism. He said elected representatives should prioritize the welfare and development of their constituencies rather than engaging in what he termed "baseless political attacks." Sadhu Yadav asserted that the Congress government is committed to addressing the needs of farmers, women, and unemployed youth across Telangana. He maintained that the state administration is implementing wel-



fare-oriented policies and development initiatives aimed at improving the lives of citizens. According to him, the allegations being made by BRS leaders against the government are unfounded and intended to mislead the public. Congress leaders further alleged that Vivekanand has been concentrating more on political accusations than on constituency development. They claimed that the opposi-

tion party's primary objective is to obstruct developmental activities being undertaken by the government. The people, they said, are closely observing the political conduct of all parties and will respond accordingly. The Congress leaders also pointed to the outcome of previous elections, stating that voters had already delivered a verdict against the BRS. They expressed confidence that the party would

Kalvakuntla Kavitha to Lead Land Rights Protest for Telangana Activists on July 2

Chengicherla, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena leaders on Monday announced that a major land rights protest for Telangana movement activists will be held at Uppal Bhagayat on July 2 under the leadership of Kalvakuntla Kavitha. The announcement was made during a Telangana Rakshana Sena flag-hoisting programme held at Chengicherla under the leadership of state leader Gorige Narasimha Kuruma. Addressing a press conference after the event, party leaders said the agitation would continue until the government fulfills its promises made to Telangana movement activists. Among the key demands are



the allotment of 250 square yards of land, issuance of identity cards, and pension benefits for activists who participated in the Telangana statehood movement. Leaders asserted that they would continue their struggle until these assurances are implemented. The programme was attended by TRS Greater Hyderabad Programme In-charge Dugunta Naresht Prajapati, Medchal TRS In-charge Lalitha Yadav, and several Telangana movement activists. The leaders called upon activists from all

political backgrounds to participate in large numbers in the July 2 land rights protest. Several Telangana JAC members and senior movement leaders also participated in the event and expressed solidarity with the proposed agitation.

BC JAC State Convenor Jajula Lingam Goud Demands Fee Reimbursement for All BC Students

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

BC JAC State Convenor Jajula Lingam Goud has urged the Telangana government to provide full fee reimbursement to all Backward Class (BC) students irrespective of their entrance examination ranks. Speaking at Osmania University on Sunday, Lingam Goud criticized the government for imposing a rank-based eligibility criterion exclusively on BC students. He said the rule restricting fee reimbursement to students who secure ranks within 10,000 is unfair and discriminatory. According to him, the rank condition is



preventing many BC students from securing admissions in their preferred colleges, thereby affecting their educational opportunities. He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the 10,000-rank restriction and extend fee reimbursement benefits to all eligible BC students. With engineering counselling already underway, Lingam Goud stressed the need for urgent intervention. He appealed to the state government to ensure that every BC student receives complete fee reimbursement without any rank-related limitations, enabling equal access to higher education.

HYDRAA Prajavani Receives 47 Complaints After Six-Week Break

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) resumed its Prajavani grievance redressal programme on Monday after a six-week hiatus, receiving 47 complaints from residents across the city. Most grievances centered on flood management, encroachments on public spaces, and the protection of lakes and colony infrastructure. Citizens from various localities raised concerns about inadequate stormwater management and urged authorities to ensure that floodwater channels are connected directly to lakes rather than drainage systems. Residents

argued that natural flow channels leading to lakes would help prevent waterlogging and reduce flooding risks in residential colonies during heavy rainfall. One of the major complaints came from residents of Pragathi Nagar, who expressed apprehension over the stormwater drainage works being undertaken along the six-lane road connecting Miyapur and Gandimaisamma. According to the residents, large-capacity stormwater drains are being constructed on either side of the road, but these are reportedly being linked to much smaller pipelines within Pragathi Nagar. They warned that the mismatch in drainage capacity could lead

to severe flooding in the colony during the monsoon season. In another representation, residents of Telephone Colony in Boduppal sought protection for a 1,166-square-yard park site. They alleged that repeated attempts were being made to encroach upon the park land and construct unauthorized structures. Despite bringing the matter to the attention of local authorities on several occasions, residents claimed that no effective action had been taken. They appealed to HYDRAA to intervene and safeguard the public space. Residents of Secretariat Colony in Nekkampur also submitted a complaint seeking demarcation and protec-

SOT Busts Illegal Tramadol Racket in Quthbullapur, Four Arrested

Quthbullapur, June 22 | TPN Bureau

A major crackdown on the illegal sale of prescription drugs has exposed a growing substance abuse problem in Hyderabad's suburban areas. The Quthbullapur Special Operations Team (SOT) raided a medical store in Suraram and seized a large quantity of Tramadol-based tablets and injections that were allegedly being sold without valid medical prescriptions. The raid was conducted at Sri Balaji Medical Shop located in Vishwakarma Colony, Suraram Village, within the limits of Suraram Police Station. Police arrested the medical shop owner along with three consumers during the operation. Investigators revealed that Schedule H and H1 category drugs, which require a doctor's prescription, were being sold illegally to young customers. According to police, Tramadol tablets were being sold for Rs.100 each, while injections were being supplied for Rs.500 apiece. The accused allegedly targeted individuals addicted to the substance, enabling easy access to prescription drugs



without any medical supervision. During questioning, police uncovered a disturbing pattern of abuse. Consumers reportedly dissolved Tramadol tablets in water and injected the solution directly into their veins using insulin syringes. Medical experts warn that such practices can lead to severe health complications, addiction, organ damage, and even death. The seized material is valued at approximately Rs.27,000 and includes Tapentadol tablets, Ultra Tab, Ultra King tablets, Tramajack injections, Lignox injections, and syringes. The case has been handed over to Suraram Police Station for further investigation. Police officials expressed concern that medi-

cines marketed as pain relievers are increasingly being misused as intoxicants, particularly among young people. They cautioned that minors could also fall prey to such substance abuse if strict monitoring is not enforced. Issuing a stern warning to pharmacy owners, police stated that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found selling Schedule H and H1 drugs without a valid prescription. They also urged parents to closely monitor their children's behavior and activities to prevent them from being drawn into drug abuse. The incident has once again highlighted the need for stricter regulation of prescription medicines and increased awareness about the dangers of drug misuse among youth.

BRSV Submits Memorandum to Medchal DEO Over Rising School Fees

Quthbullapur, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the BRSV on Sunday submitted a memorandum to the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Education Officer (DEO), demanding immediate action against private and corporate schools allegedly charging exorbitant fees and placing a heavy financial burden on parents. Addressing the media, BRSV state leaders alleged that the education sector in Telangana has increasingly become commercialized, with private educational institutions hiking fees without regulation. They accused the Congress government of failing to control fee structures and allowing corporate schools to operate without adequate oversight. The student leaders claimed that while many private schools are collecting lakhs of rupees in annual fees, the government has remained a



silent spectator. They alleged that the administration is indirectly supporting corporate educational institutions that have turned education into a business rather than a service. As a result, they said, poor and middle-class families are struggling to cope with the rising cost of education. As part of their protest, BRSV leaders submitted a representation at the district education office, urging authorities to take strict action against schools violating fee regulations. They warned that if corrective measures are not initiated immediately, the organization would launch large-scale protests across the state in coordination with students and parents. The BRSV leaders also criticized the condition of government schools, stating that many institutions continue to suffer from inadequate infrastructure, shortages of essen-

tial facilities, and a large number of vacant teaching posts. They argued that the lack of quality education in government schools reflects administrative neglect and called for urgent recruitment of teachers and strengthening of the public education system. The organization demanded comprehensive reforms, including regulation of private school fees, improvement of government educational institutions, and filling of vacant teaching positions. They warned that statewide agitations would be intensified if the government fails to address these concerns. The programme was attended by BRSV state leaders Narsing, Bhaskar Yadav, Yashwanth, Nishanth, Jaikrishna, Praveen Naik, Ravi Kiran, Pawan, Manisha, Surya Teja, Imran, Shoab, Rajesh, Sai Ram Goud, Raju and other activists.

SSF Chief Felicitates Pravalika

Hyderabad, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Sports Students Federation (SSF) State Chairman Repaka Pradeep Reddy congratulated Telangana athlete Narimalla Pravalika on her selection to represent India at the upcoming Asian Under-23 Championship to be held in China. At a felicitation ceremony held in Hyderabad, Pradeep Reddy honored Pravalika and expressed confidence that she would bring laurels to both India and Telangana through her performance on the inter-



national stage. He praised her dedication, hard work, and determination, describing her achievement as an inspiration for young sports persons across the state. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized the need for continued support from the government, sports associations, and society to help talented athletes reach greater heights in their careers. He stated that Pravalika's accomplishment serves as a motivating example for aspiring athletes and reflects the growing sporting talent emerging from Telangana. Pradeep Reddy wished her success in the forthcoming championship and expressed hope that she would secure a medal for the country. He assured that the Sports Students Federation would continue to support and encourage her sporting journey until she achieves success at the Olympic level. SSF Founder and State President Shaganti Rajesh, coach Parashuram, Pravalika's parents, and other federation members attended the event.

CI Naresh Conducts Anti-Drug Awareness Programme at Pragati School

Ichoda, June 22 | TPN Bureau

An anti-drug awareness programme was organized at Pragati School in Ichoda Mandal with the objective of educating students about the dangers of narcotic substances and preventing drug abuse among youth. CI Naresh, who attended the event as the chief guest, urged students to stay away from drugs and focus on building a bright future. Addressing the gathering, CI Naresh said drug addiction is a serious social menace that can destroy the future of young people. He explained that individuals who become addicted to narcotic substances often face severe



health, psychological, and financial problems. He advised students to avoid harmful habits, remain focused on their education, and work towards achieving their goals. The police officer also encouraged students and the public to immediately inform law enforcement authorities if they come across any suspicious information related to the sale or consumption of drugs. He emphasized that creating a drug-free society is

a shared responsibility and called upon youth to spread awareness among their friends and peers. School Principal K. Praveen said such awareness programmes play an important role in promoting social responsibility and legal awareness among students. He appreciated the efforts of the police department in educating young minds about the harmful effects of drug abuse. Teachers, students, and police personnel participated in the programme. At the end of the event, students took a pledge to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Nalgonda Collector Directs BLOs to Attend Voter List Revision Duties



Nalgonda, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Collector B. Chandrasekhar has directed all officials appointed as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and BLO Supervisors for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to attend their duties without fail. He emphasized that no exemptions would be granted to employees assigned election-related responsibilities. The Collector issued the instructions during a review meeting held after the weekly Prajavani grievance redressal programme at the Collectorate on Monday. He noted that employees from various government departments, along with several officers, had been assigned responsibilities related to the voter list revision process and must participate in the exercise mandatorily. Reviewing preparations for the Praja Palana-Pragati

Pranalika programme, Chandrasekhar informed officials that IAS officer Gaurav Uppal, the district special officer for the programme, would visit Nalgonda on June 24. He directed all department heads to remain available and submit PowerPoint presentations detailing the activities and achievements undertaken under the programme. Officials were also instructed to organize a photo exhibition and submit success stories highlighting developmental initiatives. The Collector further stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is likely to visit the district soon for the foundation laying of road development projects. In view of the proposed visit, he instructed officials from all departments to submit reports related to their respective sectors to the Chief Planning Officer and

begin making necessary arrangements. Chandrasekhar also directed mandal special officers to submit their tour diaries by the end of the month and furnish reports on hostel inspections and meetings conducted by food safety monitoring committees. During the review, the Collector assessed the progress of the pilot Miryalaguda NAKSHA programme, land acquisition activities, and the implementation of the Indiramma Housing Scheme in the district. Additional Collector (Revenue) J. Srinivas, DRDO Shekhar Reddy, ZP CEO Prem Karan Reddy, Housing Department Project Director Raj Kumar, and other officials were present and received grievances from members of the public during the Prajavani programme.

Bandi Sanjay Clears Way for Ramp at Kothagattu on Karimnagar-Warangal Highway

Karimnagar, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Relief is in sight for residents of Kothagattu village and surrounding areas as authorities have initiated steps to construct ramps on both sides of the Karimnagar-Warangal National Highway at Kothagattu in Shankarapatnam Mandal. The development comes following the intervention of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who responded positively to long-pending demands from local residents. Villagers, along with BJP District General Secretary Mada Venkata Reddy, had earlier met the Union Minister and requested the construction of ramps at the location, highlighting



the difficulties faced by commuters and motorists due to the absence of proper access points. Taking note of the issue, Bandi Sanjay recently directed National Highway Project Director Bharadwaj

to examine the matter and take appropriate action. Stressing the need to address public concerns and ensure safe and convenient travel, the Minister instructed officials to provide ramps on both sides of the highway. Following the Minister's directions, highway authorities conducted field inspections and initiated the process required for the construction of the ramps. Officials are now preparing to take up the works at the site. The proposed ramps are expected to significantly improve connectivity for Kothagattu and nearby villages, making travel safer and more convenient for local residents, farmers, and motorists using the busy national highway corridor. The decision has been welcomed by villagers, who said the long-awaited facility would help ease transportation difficulties and improve access to the highway network.

Deputy CM Highlights Welfare Schemes, Calls for Wider Outreach

Khammam, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday said the benefits of the state government's welfare initiatives are reaching households across Telangana and urged Women Congress leaders to take the achievements of the government to every doorstep. Addressing a Women Congress review meeting organized by the Khammam District Congress Committee, Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government is committed to empowering women socially, economically, and politically through a range of welfare and development programmes. He stated that the government's objective is to ensure equal opportunities and financial independence for women across the state. Criticizing the previous BRS government, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that poor families had waited for years to receive housing benefits. He said the Congress government has launched the Indiramma Housing Scheme, providing financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to eligible beneficiaries for house construction. According to him, 4.5 lakh houses were sanctioned across the state last year, while 2,000 houses have been allocated to each Assembly constituency this



year. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government is effectively implementing fee reimbursement for students and providing employment opportunities under the rural employment guarantee scheme. He also highlighted improvements in residential educational institutions, including a 40 percent increase in diet charges and a 200 percent increase in cosmetic charges for students. He announced that Young India Integrated Residential Schools would soon be established in every constituency to provide education of international standards. The Deputy Chief Minister noted that the limit under Rajiv Aarogyasri has been increased to ₹10 lakh, enabling poor families to access advanced treatment in corporate hospitals without financial hardship. Emphasizing women's economic empowerment, he said the government aims to provide ₹1 lakh crore in loans to Self-Help Group (SHG) women over five years. He revealed that interest-free loans worth ₹67,000 crore have already been distributed in the last 30 months, while the loan eligibility limit has been enhanced from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh. Bhatti Vikramarka also highlighted initiatives such as free bus travel for women, allotment of petrol bunks, Mahila Shakti canteens, and opportunities in solar power projects managed through women's groups. He assured Women Congress leaders that the party would recognize and support those who worked for the organization during difficult times. The Deputy Chief Minister also urged women to actively participate in the ongoing voter list revision process and help ensure that eligible voters are included. Women Congress State President Errabelli Swarna, Khammam DCC President Nuthi Satyanarayana, MLA Maloth Ramdas Naik, and several party leaders attended the meeting.

TPCC President Calls for Strengthening Congress at Booth Level

Warangal, June 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday emphasized the importance of strengthening the Congress party at the grassroots level and called upon party workers to focus on organizational expansion and effective implementation of party programmes. Speaking at a Booth Level Agents (BLA) meeting held in the Warangal West Assembly constituency, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the primary objective of the gathering was to reinforce the party's booth-level structure, expand membership, and enhance coordination among party cadres. The meeting was attended by AICC Telangana In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, public representatives, district leaders, block committee members, booth-level leaders, and party workers. Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud said he shares a special bond with Warangal and expressed con-



cern over what he described as growing threats to democratic values in the country. He alleged that attempts were being made to weaken the electoral process by removing eligible voters from electoral rolls. Referring to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists, he claimed that the current revision process differs from previous exercises and raised concerns over the exclusion of eligible voters. He stressed that the right to vote is one of the most fundamental democratic rights and must be protected. The TPCC chief also criticized the functioning of the Election Commission, alleging that it was not acting independently and was operating under the influence of the BJP-led Central Government. He further alleged that voters belonging to minority, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and tribal communities were being disproportionately targeted during the revision process. Mahesh Kumar Goud claimed that the deletion of

large numbers of votes in previous elections had adversely affected democratic processes and asserted that the Congress party would continue to oppose any attempts to influence electoral outcomes through voter exclusion. He also referred to AICC leader Meenakshi Natarajan, alleging that her nomination had been rejected despite there being no legal cases or complaints against her. He said targeting leaders who follow Gandhian principles was not healthy for democracy. The TPCC president reminded party workers that political power is temporary and that governments must remain accountable to the people. He urged Congress cadres to work collectively, strengthen the party from the booth level upwards, and actively address public issues. The meeting concluded with a call for greater grassroots mobilization and organizational preparedness ahead of future political and electoral challenges.

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Pays Tribute to MVI Venkanna

Bhupalpally, June 22 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud paid tributes to Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) Venkanna, who lost his life in a tragic road accident while performing official duties in Bhupalpally district. Mahesh Kumar Goud visited Venkanna's residence and offered floral tributes to the deceased officer. He was accompanied by Transport Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar and Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavaya. The leaders met the bereaved family members and expressed their heartfelt condolences. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud assured the family that the



Telangana Congress government would stand firmly by them during this difficult time. He consoled Venkanna's wife and said the government would extend all possible support to the family. The leaders remembered Venkanna's dedication and commitment to public service, noting that he sacrificed his life while discharging his

official responsibilities. They described his death as a great loss to the Transport Department and the state. Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that efforts would be made to ensure that all benefits and assistance due to the family from the government are provided without delay. He reiterated the government's commitment to supporting the family and addressing their needs. The leaders prayed for the eternal peace of Venkanna's soul and expressed hope that his family would find the strength to overcome the tragedy. Several public representatives, officials, and local leaders also paid their respects and offered condolences to the bereaved family.

JTC Chandrasekhar Goud Appointed Inquiry Officer in MVI Venkanna Death Case

Bhupalpally district, June 22 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Government has appointed Joint Transport Commissioner M. Chandrasekhar Goud as the inquiry officer to investigate the tragic death of Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) M. Venkanna, who was killed in a road accident while on duty in Bhupalpally district. The incident occurred on the morning of June 22 near the RTO office at Chelapur. According to preliminary information, Venkanna was performing official duties when a coal-laden lorry allegedly rammed into him, resulting in his death. Expressing deep grief over the

incident, the government stated that the accident would be treated with utmost seriousness. It has ordered a comprehensive inquiry to ascertain the circumstances leading to the tragedy, identify any lapses, and recommend measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The government directed the inquiry officer to conduct a detailed investigation and submit a report at the earliest. Chandrasekhar Goud has also been asked to suggest safety protocols and operational guidelines for field-level transport officials, particularly during vehicle inspections, enforcement

drives, and seizure operations. Based on the findings of the inquiry, further action will be taken by the Transport Department. The government emphasized the need to strengthen safety measures for transport officials who regularly perform duties on highways and busy roads. The orders appointing the inquiry officer were issued by Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj. Officials said the inquiry report would play a key role in formulating measures aimed at enhancing the safety and security of transport enforcement personnel across the state.

editorial

Who Will Carry the Burden of Tomorrow's Borrowing?

State finances in India are entering a phase where borrowing is no longer a policy tool but a structural dependence.

Tamil Nadu's debt is estimated at 7-10 lakh crore, Karnataka's at 6-7 lakh crore, Kerala's above 5 lakh crore with one of the highest debt-to-GSDP ratios, while Andhra Pradesh and Telangana each carry over 4 lakh crore.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's State Finances 2024-25 report notes that the combined liabilities of 28 states rose to 90.51 trillion in 2024-25.

This is where the debate shifts from welfare to sustainability. Free bus travel for women, cash transfers, farm loan waivers, subsidised power, and housing support schemes have become central to state politics.

At the same time, disaster-related spending is rising, with floods, cyclones, drought relief, and rehabilitation becoming recurring fiscal burdens.

The two Telugu states reflect this contradiction. Andhra Pradesh continues to balance large welfare commitments with revenue stress, while Telangana is recalibrating spending amid rising debt obligations.

The core issue is not welfare itself but its financing model—whether states are building long-term capacity in education, health, infrastructure, and climate resilience, or expanding consumption-led expenditure funded by debt.

Ultimately, borrowing today is not free; it is a deferred burden carried by future taxpayers.

Editor

AI: Laying the Foundation Today for Tomorrow's Job Market

Chennu Peddiraju



Sr Journalist

Quantum & Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation marks a significant milestone in technology. Across the world, technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing are ushering in revolutionary changes in industries, governance, education, healthcare, and agriculture.

Singapore, in particular, has become a model for other nations through its effective collaboration among government, industry, and universities. According to experts, the success of these countries is driven not merely by technology itself, but by their ability to develop highly skilled human resources.

educational qualifications, many young people struggle to find suitable job opportunities. Under such circumstances, the establishment of a Quantum & AI Innovation Center may initially create anxiety among youth about the future of employment.

One of the major challenges facing today's youth is unemployment. Despite possessing degrees and higher educational qualifications, many young people struggle to find suitable employment opportunities. Under such circumstances, the establishment of a Quantum & AI Innovation Center may initially create concerns among youth about the future of jobs.



AI will eliminate jobs, it is important to remember that it will also create substantial demand for entirely new categories of employment. Professions such as data scientists, AI engineers, software developers, cybersecurity specialists, quantum researchers, and digital transformation consultants are expected to gain even greater prominence in the coming years.

In addition, the center can serve as a platform for startups. Today, many young innovators possess promising ideas but lack the guidance, infrastructure, and investment needed to transform those ideas into reality.

comes. In education, AI can provide personalized learning experiences tailored to individual student needs. In governance, it can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.

First, increasing automation may lead to the disappearance of certain traditional jobs. Workers engaged in repetitive tasks may face difficulties adapting to future workplace requirements. Therefore, technological advancement must be accompanied by reskilling and upskilling initiatives to help people remain relevant in the evolving job market.

standards, and transparency. As quantum computing advances, it may also pose challenges to existing cybersecurity systems. Hence, technological progress must be supported by appropriate regulatory frameworks and governance mechanisms.

From a long-term perspective, the Quantum & AI Innovation Center has the potential to become a focal point for regional economic development, investment attraction, research, and innovation. Institutions of this nature will play a crucial role in ensuring competitiveness in the global technology race.

(What is the Goal of the Telugu States? ... Continued in Part 2)

A Reader's Reflection on Meenakshi Natarajan's Literary Voice

K. S. Anantha Charya



Poet

(Response to True Point Article by Varala Anand)

Anand sir, congrats. A great work is being done by you, sir.

Political power is transient. Elections are won and lost, terms end, and names fade from government letterheads. But literature endures. A single line written with honesty can outlive a hundred speeches delivered from power.

As Anand Sir rightly noted, "Political power may come and go, but your literature will spread across generations." That statement is not flattery. It is a historical pattern.

Great literature does not list dates; it revives pain. Meenakshi Natarajan's treatment of 1857 is a case in point. The First War of Independence is often reduced to textbooks and names—Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Bahadur Shah Zafar.

By detailing 1857 "k lankashanga"—with thoroughness—she shifts history from the battlefield to the courtyard. She reminds us that every revolution begins at the hearth, not just in the cantonment. This is history with a heartbeat.

Prati Inti Kurukshetram: Her most striking contribution is the concept of Prati Inti Kurukshetram—"A Kurukshetra in Every Home."

The Mahabharata is not a 5,000-year-old epic; it is a daily reality. Brothers dispute property. Ideologies clash between father and daughter. A woman's dignity is gambled in the casual words of family members.

By drawing parallels between epic characters and modern actors, she makes the classics urgent again. Literature becomes a tool for social introspection, not just aesthetic pleasure.

Indian political writing has long been male, macro, and policy-driven. Natarajan

Meenakshi Natarajan: Not Just a Politician, but a Student of History and Literature



brings a woman's drushti—perspective. Where male writers see budgets, she sees the mother who budgets a family meal. Where others debate laws, she examines the law that operates inside a kitchen: who eats first, who eats last.

This does not make her work "soft." It makes it complete. A nation cannot be understood without understanding its homes. Prati Inti Kurukshetram is therefore not domestic fiction. It is political theory written in the language of relationships.

India has a rare tradition of s hit v tala r jak ya parampara—politicians who are also men and women of let-

ters. Meenakshi Natarajan belongs to this lineage of P.V. and A.B. Vajpayee. Her prose carries policy insight, but her soul is literary. She writes not to win votes, but to win empathy.

To place her "next after P.V. and Vajpayee" is therefore not exaggeration. It is recognition that when a public servant writes honestly, she serves twice—once in office, once on paper.

A book by a politician faces a natural bias. Readers assume propaganda. Critics assume ghost-writing.

Anand Sir's hitya vivechana—literary discernment—did something vital: He separated the author from the office. He read Meenakshi Natarajan not as "Congress leader," but as "writer." By doing so, he gave literature the dignity of being judged on merit, not on party symbol.

Sir your line—"Your literature will spread across generations"—is the highest validation. Awards rust. Reviews fade. But to be told that your words will raise questions in a child yet unborn is immortality.

Defeat in an election is a footnote. But a defeat in literature—when no one reads you after you're gone—is the real loss. Meenakshi Natarajan's work ensures she will not face that defeat. Prati Inti Kurukshetram will be read when today's manifestos are archival waste. The 1857 she described will be remembered when today's headlines are forgotten. So, vandanam to Natarajan gaaru's literature. Abhinandanalu to Anand Sir for his vision. And respect to every reader who chooses to see the writer beyond the neta. Because the throne is temporary. The thought is permanent.

Where Monsters Truly Dwell

Sudha Murali



Poet, Writer 8309622246

Every time a child is subjected to sexual violence and brutal murder, society recoils in horror. Candlelight vigils are held, slogans demanding justice echo across streets, and calls for harsher punishments grow louder. Yet, beneath this familiar cycle of outrage and grief lies an uncomfortable truth: we rarely confront the deeper roots of such crimes.

Such labels are not only inadequate; they are misleading. The scale of cruelty involved in these crimes defies the notion of a fleeting lapse. When an individual can witness a child's

terror, hear their cries, and still persist in unspeakable violence, it is no longer about impulse—it is about a deeply embedded brutality. What kind of mind suppresses empathy so completely? What drives a person to destroy innocence and then, in fear of exposure, escalate that violence into calculated murder? These are not acts of sudden weakness; they are manifestations of a long-nurtured moral decay.

a profound failure of empathy and conscience.

The most unsettling reality, however, is that such individuals are not easily identifiable. They do not resemble the monsters we imagine. They are not marked by visible signs of cruelty. They exist within our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces—often as trusted, even respected, members of society. Their public personas conceal inner distortions, leaving us shocked in the aftermath, repeating the same refrain: "We never imagined he was capable of this."

dren, therefore, cannot be reduced to a legal issue alone. It is a social, moral, and psychological crisis—one that strikes at the very foundation of civilization. Childhood is a time when trust in the world begins to take shape. When that trust is shattered by the very people meant to protect, the damage is not confined to the individual—it ripples through families and corrodes the moral fabric of society. These crimes do more than harm the body; they fracture the ability to trust, to feel safe, to believe in human goodness. They leave behind a society gripped by suspicion, where faith in relationships weakens and fear takes root.



Deadly Lucknow Coaching Centre Fire Claims 15 Lives, Several Injured

A devastating fire that erupted in a three-storey commercial building in a residential area of Lucknow on Monday afternoon claimed the lives of at least 15 people, most of them believed to be students, while seven others sustained injuries. The tragedy has sent shockwaves across Uttar Pradesh and triggered a massive rescue operation involving multiple emergency agencies.

According to officials at King George's Medical University (KGMU) Trauma Centre, around 21 to 22 students were brought to the hospital following the incident. Medical Su-

perintendent Dr. Anil Agrawal confirmed that 15 victims were brought dead, while several injured students are receiving treatment. Two students suffered serious back injuries after jumping from the building in an attempt to escape the flames.

The fire broke out in a commercial building reportedly housing an animation and coaching centre on the upper floors, while a pet-related establishment operated on the ground floor. Thick smoke rapidly engulfed the structure, trapping many occupants inside. Eyewitnesses reported seeing students leaping from

windows and balconies as panic spread through the building.

Rescue teams from the Fire Department, Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and Civil Defence rushed to the scene. Firefighters used ladders and accessed the building through adjacent structures after dense smoke made entry difficult. Rescue personnel conducted extensive searches of classrooms, offices, washrooms, and other sections of the building.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who visited

the site, said authorities were focused on ensuring that anyone trapped inside was rescued safely. He noted that hospitals, ambulances, and emergency medical teams had been placed on high alert.

The blaze also affected animals housed within the building. Rescue workers recovered several animal bodies during the operation, highlighting the broader impact of the disaster.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and directed officials to provide the best possible treatment to the injured and all necessary sup-

port to affected families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also conveyed his condolences and announced an ex gratia of 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each deceased victim, while injured persons will receive 50,000.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of the fire, with preliminary reports suggesting a possible electrical spark. The incident has once again raised concerns about fire safety compliance in educational and commercial establishments.



Odisha Transfers Rayagada Mob Assault Probe to Special Unit; 23 Arrested



The Odisha Police have transferred the investigation into the shocking mob assault of a young woman and her male companion in Rayagada district to the Integrated Unit for Crime Against Women (IUCAW), underscoring the seriousness of the incident. Authorities have so far arrested 23 people in connection with the attack, which was triggered by rumours that the victims were child kidnappers.

Additional Director General of Police S. Shyni, who heads the Crime Against Women and Children Wing, announced that the case has been classified as a "Red Flag" investigation and will be closely monitored by the specialized unit. She stated that the transfer aims to ensure a comprehensive, impartial, and speedy probe into the incident.

The assault took place on June 16 when the victims, travelling on a scooter from Dar-

ingbadi to Kalahandi, reportedly lost their way and entered Intalguda village in Rayagada district. Rumours quickly spread among villagers that the pair were involved in child kidnapping activities. A mob allegedly chased them, causing their scooter to skid before they were physically attacked.

Police said the victims were eventually rescued by local residents who intervened and prevented further violence. Both sustained injuries and were initially treated at a community health centre before being shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Rayagada. Officials confirmed that they have since recovered and been discharged.

ADG Shyni praised the villagers who helped rescue the victims and reiterated that strict action would be taken against all those found responsible. She also assured full support to the woman victim, who

is reportedly not a resident of Odisha.

The police have registered three separate cases and launched an extensive investigation with assistance from the Crime Branch. Following intensified police raids, many adult men from Intalguda village are reported to have fled, leaving large parts of the village deserted.

The incident has once again highlighted the dangers of mob justice and misinformation. Police appealed to the public not to take the law into their own hands and urged citizens to report suspicious activities directly to law enforcement agencies rather than acting on rumours.

Authorities have emphasized that maintaining law and order remains a top priority and vowed to ensure justice for the victims while preventing similar incidents in the future.

LDF Walks Out of Kerala Assembly Over Health Department Functioning

The Kerala Assembly witnessed sharp exchanges between the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) and the opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF) on Monday over the functioning of the Health Department amid growing concerns about communicable diseases in the state. The opposition staged a walkout after the Speaker rejected its demand for an adjournment motion.

The motion was moved by CPI(M) MLA and former minister P. A. Mohammed Riyas, who alleged that Kerala's widely acclaimed healthcare system was showing signs of decline under the Congress-led government. He expressed concern over reported cases of diseases such as Nipah virus, West Nile fever, amoebic meningoencephalitis and monkey fever, claiming that the government had failed to ensure proper coordination within the health sector. Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan accused the government of allowing grassroots disease-prevention activities to weaken and alleged that extensive transfers within the department had disrupted public health services. He maintained that preventive measures had been taken during the previous adminis-



tration and rejected allegations of negligence.

Responding to the criticism, Health Minister K. Muraliedharan strongly defended the government's performance. He stated that only one Nipah case had been reported in the state and emphasized that there was no confirmed Ebola case anywhere in India. The minister said medicines required for Nipah treatment were procured from abroad within 24 hours and asserted that effective coordination existed

among health authorities.

Muraliedharan also said the government's focus was on preventing disease outbreaks through vigilance, public participation and joint inspections by health and food safety departments. He assured the House that vacancies in the health sector would be filled soon and dismissed claims that the state faced a public health crisis.

After hearing the arguments, Speaker Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan denied

permission for the adjournment motion, stating that the matter did not warrant suspending House business. In protest, LDF members walked out of the Assembly, accusing the government of failing to address serious public health concerns.

The debate highlighted the political tensions surrounding healthcare management in Kerala, particularly during the monsoon season when the risk of communicable diseases typically increases.

Six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs Join Shinde Camp

Mumbai witnessed a significant political development on Monday as six Lok Sabha members of the Shiv Sena (UBT) formally joined the ruling Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, deepening the split within the faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray.

The induction took place at a party event attended by Shinde and senior Shiv Sena leaders, just five days after the rebel MPs skipped a crucial parliamentary party meeting convened by the Shiv Sena (UBT) in New Delhi. Only three MPs attended that meeting, fuelling speculation about an impending split.

The six MPs who switched allegiance are Sanjay Deshmukh, Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Dina Patil, Nagesh Patil-Ashtikar, Omprakash Rajenimbalkar and Bhausaheb Wakchaure. All six had won their seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, defeating candidates from the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance.

The development is a major setback for the Shiv Sena (UBT), which had secured nine Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra in the 2024 general elections. With six MPs crossing over, the party's parliamentary



strength has been significantly reduced.

Addressing the gathering, Shinde described the move as a return to the "original Shiv Sena" founded on the ideals of the late Bal Thackeray. He said the MPs had chosen to join a party that continues to follow Balasaheb Thackeray's vision and principles.

Drawing a parallel with his 2022 rebellion that split the undivided Shiv Sena, Shinde remarked that the latest development represented the "second stage" of the party's expansion. Referring to the six MPs who joined his camp, he said

he had "hit a sixer," highlighting the numerical significance of the defections.

Shinde also declared the success of what he termed "Operation Tiger," claiming that the political realignment further strengthened his faction's position in Maharashtra politics.

The latest defections are expected to intensify the political battle between the Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the Uddhav Thackeray camp ahead of upcoming electoral contests, while also reshaping opposition dynamics in Maharashtra.

A fresh political controversy erupted in the Kerala Assembly after Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan alleged that police used contaminated water in water cannons to disperse protesters marching towards the Assembly against the PM SHRI education scheme. The allegation triggered heated exchanges between the opposition and the government, prompting authorities to order a scientific examination of the water used during the protest.

Raising the issue in the Assembly on Monday, Vijayan claimed that activists of the AISF and AIYF, who staged a protest march to the legislature, were sprayed with contaminated water rather than clean water. To support his allegation, he reportedly displayed a bottle containing the water in the House and expressed concern over its potential health implications.

Vijayan argued that the matter was particularly serious at a time when Kerala was already facing concerns related to communicable diseases. He alleged that the water used could pose health risks and even contribute to diseases such as amoebic meningoencephalitis. Questioning the necessity of using such water, he said ordinary water could have been used and urged the government to treat the matter with utmost seriousness.

Responding to the allegations, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala defended the po-



lice action, stating that water cannons are routinely used when protesters attempt to breach police barricades. He pointed out that such crowd-control measures have been employed by successive governments and are not unusual in Kerala.

However, the minister acknowledged concerns regarding the quality of the water. He stated that the water used in police tankers is sourced from the Kerala Water Authority and said preliminary in-

structions had already been issued to investigate the allegation. According to Chennithala, samples of the water have been sent to a laboratory for testing, and the findings will be presented before the Assembly once the analysis is completed.

The controversy stems from a protest organized by AISF and AIYF activists demanding the withdrawal of the PM SHRI scheme. As protesters attempted to advance toward the Assembly premises, police in-

tervened with water cannons to disperse the crowd.

The incident has now shifted from a law-and-order issue to a public health and political debate, with opposition parties demanding accountability and clarity regarding the source and quality of the water used during the protest. The laboratory report is expected to play a crucial role in determining the validity of the allegations and the government's next course of action.

Jaishankar Reviews Strategic Partnership with Mongolia

India and Mongolia reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held high-level discussions with Mongolian leaders during his visit to Ulaanbaatar on Monday. The talks focused on expanding cooperation across development projects, security, culture, education, mining, clean energy, and multilateral engagement.

Jaishankar's visit marks the first leg of his two-nation diplomatic tour and reflects India's continued efforts to deepen relations with key partners in Asia. During his meeting with Mongolian Foreign Minister Battsetseg Batmunkh, both sides reviewed the progress achieved under the India-Mongolia Strategic Partnership and explored new opportunities for collaboration.

The discussions covered a wide range of sectors, including capacity building, cultural exchanges, educational cooperation, and security partner-



ships. Particular emphasis was placed on emerging areas such as mining, clean energy, and agricultural processing, which are expected to play an important role in future economic cooperation between the two countries.

Jaishankar described the relationship as one rooted in both strategic interests and deep cultural bonds. He reiterated India's commitment to supporting Mongolia as a trusted partner and referred to the country as India's "third neighbour" and a significant spiritual ally.

The External Affairs Minister also called on Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa and conveyed greetings from President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the momentum generated by President Ukhnaa's visit to India last year and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across multiple sectors.

A significant aspect of the visit was the emphasis on cultural and spiritual ties between the two nations. Jaishankar met Khamba Nomun

Khan Geshe Lharampa D. Javzandorj, Chief Abbot of Mongolia's Gandan Monastery, the country's largest Buddhist monastery. The meeting highlighted the enduring Buddhist heritage shared by India and Mongolia and the role of cultural diplomacy in strengthening people-to-people relations.

Upon his arrival in Ulaanbaatar, Jaishankar was welcomed by Mongolia's State Secretary Munktushig Ilkhanajav. He expressed optimism about productive engagements aimed at advancing the special partnership between the two countries.

Following the Mongolia visit, Jaishankar will travel to South Korea, where he is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and deliver the keynote address at the prestigious Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity. The visit underscores India's broader strategy of enhancing regional cooperation, economic partnerships, and stability across Asia.

US Lifts Iran Oil Sanctions; Breakthrough in Switzerland Talks



A significant diplomatic breakthrough has emerged after high-level talks between Iran and the United States in Switzerland, with Iran announcing that Washington has agreed to lift sanctions on Iranian oil exports. The development is being viewed as a major step toward easing tensions between the two longtime adversaries and could have far-reaching implications for global energy markets.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced the outcome following the first round of negotiations. According to Iranian officials, both sides agreed on a memorandum of understanding and decided to establish a joint committee to oversee its implementation. The move is expected to facilitate the gradual return of Iranian crude oil to international markets, potentially easing concerns over

global energy supplies and prices.

As part of the discussions, the two countries also agreed to create a direct communication mechanism aimed at preventing misunderstandings and military tensions in the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, through which a substantial portion of the world's oil shipments pass. Another key outcome was the decision to establish a de-escalation mechanism concerning developments in Lebanon, a region that has frequently witnessed tensions involving regional and international powers.

Pakistan and Qatar, which played important mediating roles during the negotiations, issued a joint statement welcoming the progress and expressing hope that continued dialogue would contribute to regional stability and peace.

Despite the positive developments, challenges remain. Technical-level discussions are scheduled to continue throughout the week to finalize details and ensure implementation of the agreements reached during the initial round of talks.

The negotiations, however, faced a moment of tension following comments made by U.S. President Donald Trump. In a social media post, Trump called for an end to the activities of Iran's intelligence apparatus and warned of severe consequences if concerns were not addressed. His remarks reportedly caused friction during the talks, with members of the Iranian delegation expressing strong objections.

Iranian parliamentary officials responded by asserting that Tehran remains prepared to defend its interests and respond to any hostile actions. While disagreements persist on several issues, both sides have indicated a willingness to continue discussions.

Analysts believe the breakthrough could mark the beginning of a new phase in U.S.-Iran relations, with energy cooperation, regional security, and diplomatic engagement expected to dominate future negotiations.

BRICS Security Meeting Focuses on Middle East, Emerging Threats

Top security officials from BRICS nations gathered in New Delhi on Monday for high-level discussions on global security challenges, with developments in the Middle East and emerging technological threats featuring prominently on the agenda. The meeting brought together representatives from major BRICS countries, including China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa, India, and Iran.

On the sidelines of the meeting, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with Iranian official Ghadir Nezamipour. The discussions focused on the evolving situation in the Middle East and the broader strategic partnership between India and Iran.

The meeting comes at a crucial time as regional tensions continue to influence global energy markets and security dynamics. India, which relies heavily on imported energy resources, has been closely monitoring developments in the region, particularly following recent hostilities involving Iran and the United States. The discussions reflected New Delhi's efforts to safeguard its strategic



and economic interests while maintaining balanced diplomatic relations with all stakeholders.

Iranian officials also held separate talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. According to diplomatic sources, the discussions covered the implementation of recent peace understandings and regional stability. China reiterated its support for Iran's sovereignty and welcomed the continuation of diplomatic consultations between Tehran and Washington.

Wang emphasized Beijing's willingness to deepen cooperation with Iran through stronger political engagement and practical collaboration. The Chinese

side also expressed support for ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions and promoting stability across the region.

The BRICS security meeting itself focused on what Indian officials described as "non-traditional security challenges." These include cyber threats, technological disruptions, artificial intelligence-driven risks, and other emerging concerns that increasingly affect national and international security frameworks. Officials discussed the rapidly changing nature of security threats in an interconnected world, highlighting the growing role of advanced technologies in shaping future

risks. The meeting also explored avenues for greater cooperation among BRICS nations in addressing these challenges through information sharing, capacity building, and coordinated responses.

The gathering underscores the increasing importance of BRICS as a platform for dialogue on global security issues beyond traditional military concerns. As geopolitical tensions continue to evolve, member nations are seeking greater coordination on issues ranging from regional conflicts and energy security to cyber resilience and technological governance.

The meeting also reflects improving engagement between India and China. Relations between the two Asian powers have gradually stabilized following years of tension after the deadly 2020 border clash in the Himalayas. Continued diplomatic interactions within multilateral forums such as BRICS are viewed as important steps toward maintaining regional stability and strengthening international cooperation on shared security concerns.

Netanyahu Vows Continued Military Presence in South Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that Israeli troops will remain deployed in southern Lebanon for as long as necessary, emphasizing that Israel's security interests will remain a top priority amid ongoing regional tensions.

Speaking on Sunday, Netanyahu said Israeli forces would continue operating in what he described as a security zone in southern Lebanon to protect residents of northern Israel and ensure long-term security. He stressed that Israel's commitment to safeguarding its citizens would not change regardless of political developments in the region.

The Israeli leader also reiterated his government's determination to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Netanyahu asserted that as long as he remains prime minister, Israel would not allow Tehran to develop a nuclear arsenal, describing such a possibility as an existential threat to

the Jewish state. At a later public event, Netanyahu claimed that the recent conflict involving Israel, the United States and Iran had achieved one of its principal objectives by preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear ambitions. He argued that military actions taken against Iranian targets had removed a major security threat and significantly weakened Tehran's strategic capabilities.

According to Netanyahu, the joint Israeli-American campaign inflicted severe damage on Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. He suggested that the impact on the organization could be long-lasting and predicted that growing divisions between Iran's leadership and its population could eventually challenge the stability of the Iranian government.

The Prime Minister also addressed Israel's military operations against Hezbollah in Lebanon. He maintained that

Israeli forces were targeting Hezbollah fighters rather than civilians and claimed the military had taken extensive measures to minimize non-combatant casualties during operations.

Netanyahu argued that Israel's campaign was directed solely against Hezbollah, which he described as an Iranian proxy force operating in Lebanon. He expressed hope that once Hezbollah is dismantled and disarmed, a path toward lasting peace between Israel and Lebanon could emerge.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalated earlier this year after the Lebanese militant group launched attacks on Israeli territory, citing developments in the wider Middle East conflict. Since then, cross-border hostilities have intensified, leading to significant casualties and displacement on both sides.

Lebanese authorities report that thousands of people have been killed and many more in-



jured in Israeli military operations since the escalation began. The casualties include civilians, emergency personnel, and Hezbollah fighters, highlighting the heavy humanitarian toll of the ongoing conflict.

Netanyahu's latest remarks underscore Israel's determination to maintain military pressure on both Hezbollah and Iran while pursuing what it views as long-term regional security objectives. However, the continued fighting and rising civilian casualties remain a source of international concern as diplomatic efforts to stabilize the region continue.

US-Iran Talks Show Progress Toward Lasting Peace: JD Vance

The first round of high-level talks between the United States and Iran in Switzerland has generated cautious optimism, with US Vice President JD Vance stating that the negotiations have laid a strong foundation for a potential long-term peace agreement aimed at ending tensions in the Middle East.

Speaking to reporters at the Burgenstock resort in Switzerland on Monday, Vance described the discussions as constructive and said both sides had made meaningful progress toward establishing a framework for future negotiations.

"We laid a very good foundation for a successful final deal," Vance said, emphasizing that while a comprehensive agreement has not yet been achieved, the initial discussions created the groundwork necessary for further diplomatic engagement. Comparing the process to building a house, he remarked, "The

final deal is the house. We haven't built the house, but we've laid a successful foundation to get to a good place for the American people."

The talks come amid heightened regional tensions and ongoing concerns about security, nuclear issues, and military confrontations that have affected stability across the Middle East. Diplomatic efforts in Switzerland are being viewed as a significant step toward reducing hostilities and opening channels for sustained dialogue between Washington and Tehran.

Officials familiar with the discussions indicated that the negotiations focused on key areas of mutual concern, including regional security, de-escalation measures, and mechanisms to prevent future conflicts. While neither side has disclosed specific details of the discussions, both have signalled a willingness to continue engagement in the coming

weeks. The Switzerland talks mark one of the most important diplomatic contacts between the two countries in recent months. International observers have welcomed the development, noting that successful negotiations could help reduce geopolitical risks, improve regional stability, and ease concerns in global energy markets.

Analysts caution, however, that significant challenges remain before a comprehensive agreement can be reached. Long-standing disagreements over security policies, sanctions, and regional influence continue to complicate relations between the two nations.

Despite these hurdles, Vance's comments reflect growing confidence within the US administration that diplomacy can produce meaningful results. The Vice President stressed that the objective remains a durable and sustainable settlement



that serves the interests of both regional stability and international security.

With technical discussions and follow-up meetings expected in the coming days, attention will now focus on whether the positive momentum generated in Switzerland can be translated into concrete agreements. Diplomats on both sides hope the talks will eventually lead to a broader framework capable of ending years of confrontation and establishing a more stable future for the Middle East.

Over 100 Migrant Workers in Singapore Allege Unpaid Wages

More than 100 migrant workers, mainly from India and Bangladesh, gathered at Singapore's Ministry of Manpower (MOM) on Monday, alleging that they have not received salaries for the past two months from their employer, KPA Engineering, an air-conditioning maintenance services company.

The workers claimed that despite repeatedly raising the issue with company management, their wages remained unpaid. Concerns intensified after reports emerged that the company had ceased operations, leaving employees uncertain about their future and financial security.

One of the affected workers, Sampath from India, said the workers had been struggling without salaries for two months. He explained that many employees were worried after learning that the company had reportedly shut down and were unsure where to seek help.

Following their visit, officials from the Ministry of Manpower met the workers and began gathering details regarding the complaints. The workers were identified as employees of KPA Engineering and were assured that the matter would be investigated.

Rajenderan Berthap, a



36-year-old air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation technician, said ministry officials listened to their concerns and informed them that appropriate action would be taken after examining the case.

The Tripartite Alliance for Dispute Management (TADM) and the Ministry of Manpower stated that assistance was being provided to the affected workers. Authorities said they were also reaching out to the employer to verify the claims and determine whether any employment laws had been violated.

According to officials, the immediate priority is ensuring that the workers have access to essential support, including accommodation and meals, while investigations continue. Authorities emphasized that enforcement action would be taken if the company is found guilty of breaching labour regulations.

Business records indicate that KPA Engineering has two foreign directors with registered addresses in Singapore's Hillview area. One of the directors, who holds Singapore permanent residency, is reportedly associated with several other companies involved in engineering, plumbing and air-conditioning services.

The incident has once again highlighted the challenges faced by migrant workers and the importance of timely wage payments. Labour rights advocates have called for swift intervention to ensure affected employees receive their outstanding salaries and necessary support while the investigation is underway.

Singapore authorities are expected to continue monitoring the situation closely as workers await clarity on their employment status and unpaid dues.

Meta Invests in CRED; Kunal Shah Set to Lead WhatsApp

Meta Platforms has announced a major strategic investment in Indian fintech startup CRED, committing \$900 million (approximately 8,550 crore) as part of the company's Series H funding round. The deal, which values CRED at around \$4.5 billion (43,239 crore) on a post-money basis, also marks a significant leadership transition, with CRED founder Kunal Shah set to take charge of WhatsApp globally.

Under the agreement, Meta will acquire an estimated 20 percent minority stake in CRED through a combination of primary and secondary share purchases. The investment reflects Meta's growing interest in India's rapidly expanding digital financial ecosystem and its confidence in CRED's long-term growth prospects.

As part of the leadership reshuffle, Kunal Shah will step down from his role as Chief Executive Officer of CRED and join Meta's global leadership team. He will succeed Will Cathcart, who has led WhatsApp for the past seven years and is now expected to focus on Meta's artificial intelligence initiatives.

Meta said Shah will oversee WhatsApp's next phase of expansion, with particular emphasis on strengthening monetisation through advertising, subscription-based services and the integration of AI-powered tools and digital assistants across the messaging platform.



Following Shah's departure from day-to-day operations, Miten Sampat, who has been responsible for strategy and finance at CRED since 2020, has been appointed interim CEO. The company stated that its board and senior leadership are working on a long-term management structure as it prepares for a potential public listing in the future.

Founded in 2018, CRED initially gained popularity by rewarding users for timely credit card bill payments. Over the years, it has transformed into a comprehensive financial services platform offering payments, lending, insurance, wealth management and lifestyle-related services.

According to the company, CRED currently serves around 1.7 crore monthly active users and facilitates more than 40 per-

cent of India's credit card bill payments. Its lending business has also expanded significantly, managing assets worth approximately 24,000 crore through partner financial institutions.

The company reported annual revenues of nearly 3,200 crore and stated that it has achieved profitability, a milestone that strengthens its position ahead of future expansion plans. The investment represents one of Meta's largest bets on India's fintech sector and highlights the increasing convergence of digital payments, financial services, artificial intelligence and communication technologies. Industry observers believe the partnership could accelerate innovation in both fintech and messaging platforms while creating new opportunities for growth across global markets.

India Pushes for Better Terms in US Trade Deal Talks



India is intensifying efforts to secure a favorable trade agreement with the United States, seeking tariff concessions that would provide its exporters with a competitive edge over other Asian economies. The renewed push comes ahead of a crucial two-day visit by U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, aimed at advancing negotiations and resolving key trade concerns between the two countries.

The discussions follow a recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in France, marking their first direct interaction in more than a year. The meeting is widely seen as an attempt to improve bilateral ties and inject momentum into the long-pending trade negotiations.

Indian officials are expected to press for lower tariffs on a range of exports while also seeking assurances that Washington will not impose additional duties after a trade agreement is finalized. New Delhi believes that predictable tariff policies are essential for long-term investment planning and export growth.

Trade talks have gained urgency as several Asian nations continue to negotiate preferential access to the American market. India is keen to ensure that any agreement places its products on a stronger footing than those of regional competitors.

However, the negotiations face several challenges. Uncertainty remains over an ongoing U.S. Section 301 investigation concerning allegations of industrial overcapacity and forced labour practices in glob-

al supply chains. The outcome of the probe could influence future trade measures and affect the scope of any agreement.

Diplomatic strains have also surfaced following the deaths of three Indian sailors in attacks on commercial vessels in the Gulf involving U.S. naval operations. The incident has added a sensitive dimension to the broader relationship at a time when both governments are attempting to deepen economic cooperation.

Despite these concerns, officials on both sides remain optimistic about reaching a mutually beneficial arrangement. The United States views India as a key strategic and economic partner in the Indo-Pacific region, while India sees stronger trade ties with Washington as critical to boosting exports, attracting investment, and accelerating economic growth.

The upcoming negotiations are expected to focus on market access, tariff reductions, supply-chain cooperation, and mechanisms to prevent future trade disputes. A successful outcome could strengthen one of the world's most important bilateral economic partnerships and provide greater stability for businesses operating across both markets.

Bulls Regain Control as Markets Rebound; Nifty Ends Above 24,100



Indian benchmark indices staged a strong recovery on Monday after the previous session's sell-off, with investors returning to equities amid easing crude oil prices and optimism surrounding progress in U.S.-Iran peace negotiations. Positive sentiment in heavyweight stocks, particularly Reliance Industries, further boosted market confidence.

The BSE Sensex climbed 291.17 points, or 0.38 percent, to close at 77,094.07, while the NSE Nifty gained 89.80

points, or 0.37 percent, ending the session at 24,102.90. The broader market also remained firm, with the Nifty Midcap index rising 0.3 percent and the Nifty Smallcap index advancing 0.6 percent.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, and Sun Pharma. On the losing side, Asian Paints, Titan Company, Nestle India, Trent, and Power Grid witnessed selling pressure.

Sector-wise, most indices

ended in positive territory. Media, IT, metal, pharma, auto, and energy stocks gained between 0.5 and 1 percent, while FMCG and consumer durables were the only sectors to close lower.

Reliance Industries attracted attention after its telecom subsidiary, Jio Platforms, filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for its proposed initial public offering. Other notable movers included Goodluck India, which rose 4.4 percent after securing a

255-crore defence order, and Power Mech Projects, which gained following a 1,008.9-crore contract win from JSW Thermal Energy.

More than 200 stocks touched their 52-week highs on the BSE, reflecting broad market strength. These included Kirloskar Oil, Aegis Logistics, New India Assurance, HFCL, Aditya Birla Capital, Bharat Forge, Nykaa, Polycab India, and RBL Bank. Market analysts noted that the Nifty traded within a narrow range and formed a Doji candle on the daily chart, indicating indecision among investors. However, the index continues to remain above key moving averages, suggesting that the broader trend remains positive.

Going forward, the 24,200-24,230 zone is expected to act as immediate resistance. A decisive breakout above this range could trigger a rally toward 24,400 and beyond. On the downside, support is seen around the 24,000 level, with stronger support emerging near 23,950. Analysts expect volatility to remain elevated ahead of the weekly expiry session, although the market's overall outlook remains cautiously optimistic.

Reliance Rally Gains Momentum on AI, Jio

Reliance Industries shares advanced following the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM), as investors responded positively to its long-term growth strategy centered on artificial intelligence, digital services, and clean energy initiatives. The stock outperformed the broader market amid renewed optimism over the conglomerate's future expansion plans.

The AGM marked what analysts described as a new phase of growth for the company, with management outlining ambitious plans across multiple high-potential sectors. A key highlight was Reliance's increased focus on artificial intelligence infrastructure, which is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening its digital ecosystem and supporting future technological innovations.

Global brokerage CLSA maintained its "Outperform" rating on the stock and set a target price of 1,800, indicating substantial upside potential from current levels. The brokerage noted that Reliance's investments in AI infrastructure and compute capacity could position the company as a significant player in India's evolving digital economy.

CLSA also highlighted growth opportunities across several business segments, including fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), advanced materials, exports, and clean ener-



gy. These businesses are expected to complement the company's traditional strengths in telecommunications, retail, and energy.

Another major catalyst identified by analysts is the potential initial public offering (IPO) of Jio Platforms. Brokerage firm Nomura retained its "Buy" rating on Reliance and stated that a future listing of Jio Platforms could unlock significant value for shareholders. According to analysts, the IPO would provide greater transparency regarding the valuation of Reliance's telecom and digital services businesses while attracting fresh investor interest.

Reliance's new energy initiatives also remain a major focus area. The company has been investing heavily in renewable energy projects, green manufacturing facilities, and clean technology solutions as part of its long-term sustainability strategy. Market experts believe these investments could become important growth drivers as India accelerates its

transition toward cleaner energy sources.

Beyond AI and renewable energy, analysts continue to see strong opportunities in Reliance's retail and telecommunications businesses, both of which remain key contributors to the company's revenue and profitability.

Investor sentiment remained upbeat after the AGM, with market participants viewing the company's diversified growth strategy as a strong foundation for future expansion. The positive response from leading brokerages further reinforced confidence in Reliance's ability to capitalize on emerging opportunities across technology, energy transition, and consumer-driven sectors.

With multiple growth engines in place, Reliance Industries appears well-positioned to strengthen its leadership across several industries while pursuing its vision of becoming a major force in India's digital and sustainable economy.

Aditya Birla Capital Crosses ₹1 Lakh Crore Market Cap Milestone

Shares of Aditya Birla Capital surged more than 4 percent on Monday, helping the financial services major achieve a significant milestone as its market capitalization crossed the 1 lakh crore mark for the first time. The strong rally reflected growing investor confidence in the company's growth strategy, capital strengthening plans, and robust financial performance.

The stock climbed to 392.15 during trading, registering a gain of over 4 percent and emerging as one of the notable gainers in the financial sector. Market participants attributed the rally to the company's recent capital-raising initiative and its consistent earnings growth across businesses.

Investor sentiment has remained positive since the company announced plans to raise 4,000 crore through a preferential allotment aimed at strengthening its capital base and supporting future expansion. The board ap-

proved a preferential issue worth 2,880 crore to promoter Grasim Industries, 200 crore to Surya Investment Pte Ltd, and 920 crore to International Finance Corporation (IFC).

According to the company, the proceeds from the fundraising exercise will be utilized to meet growth objectives, strengthen the balance sheet, support lending operations, and address general corporate requirements. The fresh capital is expected to provide greater financial flexibility as the company expands its presence across lending, insurance, asset management, and wealth management businesses.

The rally has also been supported by strong operational performance. During the January-March quarter, Aditya Birla Capital reported a consolidated net profit of 1,124 crore, representing a robust 30 percent year-on-year increase. The earnings growth highlighted the resilience of the company's diversified financial services portfolio de-



spite a challenging economic environment.

Analysts believe the company's diversified business model, combined with rising demand for financial products and services, positions it well for sustained growth. The participation of promoter entities and global institutional investors in the preferential issue has further strengthened market confidence regarding the company's long-term prospects.

The achievement of a 1 lakh crore market capitalization places Aditya Birla Capital

among India's leading financial services firms and underscores its growing significance in the country's financial sector. Investors will now closely watch how the company deploys the fresh capital to accelerate growth, expand lending operations, and enhance shareholder value in the coming years.

With strong earnings momentum, a strengthened capital base, and continued expansion across key business segments, Aditya Birla Capital appears well-positioned for its next phase of growth.

Defence Stocks Gain on Prospects of UAE Missile Deal



Shares of defence public sector companies surged on Monday after reports indicated that India is in discussions with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the potential export of advanced defence systems, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile and the Akasheer air defence control system. The development boosted investor sentiment and lifted key defence stocks during the trading session.

Shares of Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) rose more than 2 percent to 1,401.70 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), while Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) gained over 1 percent to 431.70 per share, recovering from losses recorded in the previous session.

Market participants viewed the reported negotiations as a positive sign for India's growing defence exports and the expanding global acceptance of in-

digenous military technology. If finalized, the proposed deal could further strengthen defence cooperation between India and the UAE while enhancing the international profile of India's defence manufacturing sector.

The BrahMos missile, jointly developed by India and Russia, is regarded as one of the world's fastest operational supersonic cruise missiles. The missile system can be launched from land, sea, and air platforms, making it a versatile weapon for modern military operations. Its speed, precision, and operational flexibility have made it a key component of India's strategic defence capabilities.

Operating under the Ministry of Defence, Bharat Dynamics Limited serves as the primary manufacturer and integrator of the BrahMos missile system. Any large-scale export order involving

BrahMos is expected to provide significant business opportunities for the company and strengthen its order book.

Meanwhile, Akasheer has emerged as one of India's notable indigenous defence technologies. Developed by Bharat Electronics in collaboration with the Indian Army, the automated air defence control and reporting system is designed to integrate and coordinate air defence operations in real time. The platform enhances battlefield awareness and improves the efficiency of air defence responses against aerial threats. The prospect of exporting sophisticated systems such as BrahMos and Akasheer reflects India's increasing emphasis on becoming a major defence exporter. The government has been actively promoting domestic defence production and encouraging public and private sector participation in global markets under its self-reliance initiative.

Analysts believe successful defence export agreements could provide long-term growth opportunities for companies such as Bharat Dynamics and Bharat Electronics, while also strengthening India's position as an emerging supplier of advanced military technology. The positive market reaction underscores investor confidence in the sector's growth potential and expanding international footprint.

Asian Energy Shares Jump on ₹188-Crore Gujarat Power Project

Shares of Asian Energy Services climbed nearly 5 percent on Monday after the company announced the award of a major engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract worth 187.62 crore from Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL).

The stock gained as much as 4.72 percent during intraday trading following the announcement before trimming some of its gains. By the afternoon session, shares were trading at 376.90, up 2.63 percent, reflecting continued investor optimism over the company's growth prospects and expanding project portfolio.

According to a regulatory filing, the contract involves the enhancement of the Stage-II Coal Handling Plant at the Ukai Thermal Power Station in Gujarat. The project will be executed on a lump-sum EPC basis and includes comprehensive responsibilities covering engineering, procurement, construction, testing and commissioning.

The company stated that the

project is expected to be completed over the next two to three years, providing sustained revenue visibility during the execution period. Market participants viewed the order as a significant boost to the company's infrastructure and engineering business.

A key aspect of the contract is its strategic importance for Asian Energy Services. The order marks the company's first major project outside the network of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries and associates. Analysts believe this diversification reduces the company's dependence on a single customer group and opens new opportunities in the broader power and infrastructure sectors.

Commenting on the development, Managing Director Kapil Garg said the project represents an important milestone in the company's growth journey. He noted that the contract strengthens the firm's order book within the mineral infrastructure segment and enhances revenue visibility for the



coming years.

The project also highlights Asian Energy Services' ability to secure business from new clients in the competitive EPC market. Winning a contract from GSECL demonstrates the company's technical capabilities and growing reputation in handling large-scale industrial infrastructure projects.

Investors responded positively to the announcement, viewing it as evidence of the company's successful expansion strategy. Market experts believe the addition of new

customers and sectors could support long-term growth while reducing concentration risks.

The latest contract is expected to contribute significantly to the company's future earnings and reinforce its position in India's energy and industrial infrastructure landscape. With a stronger order pipeline and broader customer base, Asian Energy Services appears well-positioned to capitalize on upcoming opportunities in the country's power and mining sectors.

General Motors Replaces 1,000 Workers with 50 Robots

The growing influence of artificial intelligence and robotics on employment has once again come under the spotlight after American automobile giant General Motors (GM) reportedly replaced more than 1,000 workers with around 50 collaborative robots, commonly known as "cobots." The move has triggered widespread debate about automation and its impact on the workforce.



GM has introduced the robotic units at its facilities in Michigan as part of its broader strategy to modernize manufacturing operations and improve efficiency. Unlike traditional industrial robots that work in isolated environments, cobots are designed to work alongside human employees on vehicle assembly lines, performing repetitive and physically demanding tasks.

According to company officials, the adoption of advanced robotics is aimed at increasing productivity, maintaining competitiveness in the rapidly evolving automotive industry, and ensuring consistent manufacturing quality. The company maintains that automation is essential to meet future production demands and technological advancements in the sector.

However, the decision has drawn criticism from labor organizations and employee unions, which argue that technological progress should not come at the cost of workers' livelihoods. Union representatives have expressed concerns that the replacement of a large number of employees with a relatively small number of robotic units could set a worrying precedent for industries worldwide.

The development has reignited a broader conversation about the balance between innovation and employment. Experts note that while automation can create new opportunities in robotics maintenance, software development, and technical operations, it can also eliminate traditional manufacturing jobs, particularly those involving repetitive tasks.

Industry analysts believe the trend is likely to accelerate in the coming years as companies seek to reduce operational costs and improve efficiency through automation and AI-driven systems. Sectors such

as automotive manufacturing, logistics, warehousing, and electronics production are expected to witness increasing deployment of robotic technologies.

For workers, the shift underscores the growing importance of acquiring new skills and adapting to emerging technologies. Governments, educational institutions, and corporations may need to invest more heavily in reskilling and workforce development programs to help employees transition into new roles created by technological change.

As businesses continue to embrace automation, the debate over whether robots are enhancing productivity or replacing human livelihoods is expected to intensify. The General Motors case has become a prominent example of the challenges and opportunities that accompany the next phase of industrial transformation.

Techie Says AI Is Making Developers Forget How to Code

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence in the workplace is transforming industries across the world, but not everyone is celebrating the change. A software developer has sparked a widespread discussion online after sharing concerns that heavy reliance on AI tools is reducing critical thinking skills and taking the joy out of coding.



In a viral social media post, the tech professional revealed feeling increasingly demotivated and directionless since AI-powered coding assistants became a major part of daily work. According to the developer, tasks that once required deep analysis, research, and problem-solving are now completed through simple prompts, with AI generating much of the required code.

The employee explained that their company recently provided access to advanced AI coding tools. While these technologies have significantly improved speed and productivity, they have also changed the way software development is carried out. Instead of carefully designing and writing code, many developers now spend their time instructing AI systems, reviewing generated output, and submitting the results.

What worries the developer most is the growing pressure to work faster. The post claimed that taking extra time to thoroughly review AI-generated code is often viewed negatively because it can delay project schedules. As a result, teams may end up producing large volumes of software without fully understanding the logic behind it.

The techie also admitted that after relying heavily on AI for several weeks, writing code independently had become unexpectedly difficult. They revealed that they had recently attempted to write code without assistance and found themselves struggling with tasks that previously felt natural. This experience led them to question whether constant dependence on AI could weaken essential reasoning and learning abilities over time.

The post resonated with many professionals and students in the technology sector. Several users commented that they shared similar concerns, saying the excitement of solving complex programming challenges had diminished because AI could provide answers almost instantly. Others feared that younger develop-

ers might miss out on valuable learning opportunities if they become overly dependent on AI from the beginning of their careers.

However, not everyone agreed with the concerns. Some users argued that AI should be treated as a productivity tool rather than a replacement for human skills. They believe developers can still learn and grow by understanding, testing, and improving AI-generated solutions instead of accepting them blindly.

The discussion reflects a growing debate within the technology industry about the balance between efficiency and expertise. While artificial intelligence is helping teams work faster than ever before, many professionals believe it is equally important to preserve creativity, problem-solving abilities, and technical understanding. As AI continues to reshape software development, finding that balance may become one of the industry's biggest challenges.

Fresh Graduate Loses Hope as Tough IT Job Market Fuels Career Anxiety

The challenging job market has become a source of growing anxiety for many young professionals, and one recent computer science graduate has captured that frustration in a social media post that resonated with thousands of people online. The student, who completed a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering this year, expressed concerns about whether securing a software job is still a realistic goal in the current hiring environment.

According to the graduate, months of preparation and effort have yet to result in a job offer. Despite completing two internships, building multiple projects, maintaining a professional portfolio, and

consistently practising data structures, algorithms, and interview questions, she remains unemployed after graduation. The student's post reflected the emotional strain that many fresh graduates experience when entering a highly competitive job market. While she believed she had taken the right steps to improve her employability, the lack of positive responses from employers left her questioning her future in the technology industry.

Adding to her worries was the feeling of falling behind her peers. She revealed that seeing friends and acquaintances move forward with their careers and higher edu-

cation plans had intensified her self-doubt. In particular, she mentioned comparing herself to her boyfriend, who recently secured admission to a prestigious management institute, leading her to wonder whether she was making the right career choices.

As uncertainty grew, the graduate began considering alternative paths. She admitted that she had started preparing for competitive entrance examinations as a backup plan. However, she later questioned whether that decision was driven by logic or simply a reaction to frustration and comparison with others.

Her story quickly attracted attention online, with many

An Indian woman living in France has sparked a conversation on women's safety after sharing a video of herself walking home alone at 4:30 in the morning. The video, posted on social media by Shubhangi Vyas, has attracted widespread attention for highlighting the sense of security and freedom she experienced while returning home after a college celebration.

According to Shubhangi, the day marked an important milestone in her life as she attended her convocation ceremony. Following the graduation event, her college organized a party for students. After the celebrations ended in the early hours of the morning, she began walking home alone through the streets of France.

What made the experience memorable for her was not the celebration itself but the feeling of safety she enjoyed while walking. In the video, she is seen strolling barefoot on quiet streets at around 4:30 a.m.



She explained that no one bothered her, questioned her presence, or made her feel uncomfortable despite the late hour. Shubhangi expressed her surprise and appreciation for the environment around her. She described the experience as one of complete freedom, noting that she could walk alone without fear or anxiety. Her comments resonated with many social media users, particularly women, who often face concerns about personal safety when traveling alone at

night. The video quickly gained traction online, with viewers discussing the differences in public safety experiences across countries. Many users praised the sense of security that allowed her to move freely during the early morning hours. Others pointed out that such experiences highlight the importance of creating safer public spaces for women everywhere. The discussion also touched on broader issues such as urban planning, law

enforcement, community awareness, and social attitudes toward women in public spaces. For many, Shubhangi's experience represented more than a personal story—it became a reminder of how safety and freedom are closely linked.

Women around the world frequently modify their routines, transportation choices, and travel plans based on concerns about harassment or crime. As a result, stories that showcase environments where women feel secure often attract significant public interest.

Shubhangi's video has become a powerful example of how a simple walk home can symbolize something much larger. Her experience has reignited conversations about the need for safer cities and greater freedom of movement for women. While opinions may vary, the video has undoubtedly highlighted a universal aspiration: the ability to step outside at any hour and feel completely safe.

Man's South Korea Experience Highlights a Culture of Trust and Safety

A social media post describing everyday life in South Korea has gone viral after a man shared how living there changed his understanding of public safety and trust. His observations about people leaving personal belongings unattended without fear of theft have sparked widespread discussion online about what makes a society feel secure.

The man, who has been living in South Korea with his wife and daughter for the past month, recounted several experiences that he said would be difficult to imagine in many parts of the world. According to him, one of the first things that surprised him was how comfortable people were leaving valuable items unattended in public spaces.

He explained that whenever his family visits a shop, restaurant, or public place, they often leave their baby stroller outside without any lock or security measure. What initially seemed risky soon became normal after he realized that no one attempted to take

it. Another incident involved a friend who rode a bicycle to meet him for lunch. The bicycle was left in an alley without being locked. After spending nearly two hours at lunch, they returned to find it exactly where it had been left. The experience reinforced his impression that theft is extremely uncommon in everyday situations.

Perhaps the most surprising story involved a friend who accidentally left an iPhone on a park bench. Several hours later, when the owner returned to search for it, the phone was still lying in the same spot untouched. For many social media users, this example became a powerful illustration of the level of trust that exists in certain communities.

The man also described seeing visitors at a K-pop concert leave their luggage outside a subway station without locks or supervision. Curious about the practice, he asked local residents whether they were concerned about theft. Their



response was simple: Why would anyone take something that belongs to someone else?

His experiences quickly generated reactions across social media. Many users praised the culture of responsibility and respect that appears to exist in parts of South Korea. Others shared similar stories from small towns and close-knit communities in different countries, where public trust remains high.

Experts often point out that strong social norms, effective law enforcement, community accountability, and mutual re-

spect contribute to creating high-trust societies. In such environments, people are less likely to commit theft because social expectations strongly discourage such behavior.

The viral post has sparked a broader conversation about safety, trust, and civic responsibility. While every society faces its own challenges, the stories from South Korea have inspired many people to imagine what daily life could be like in a world where leaving belongings unattended is not considered a risk but simply a normal part of life.

AI Startup Employee Earns Extra Income Through Dog Sitting

Rising living costs are pushing many professionals to look for additional sources of income, and a New York-based product manager has become an example of how side hustles can provide both financial support and personal fulfillment. Jennifer Martinez, who works at an artificial intelligence startup, has revealed how she earns nearly 90,000 a month outside her regular job through a combination of dog sitting, ceramics, and social media content creation.

Despite working in a growing technology sector, Jennifer felt that her salary was no longer enough to keep up with inflation and achieve important life goals such as buying a home and travelling more frequently. Seeking greater financial stability, she decided to explore opportunities beyond her traditional nine-to-five role.

Two years ago, Jennifer started offering dog-sitting services in her neighbourhood.

Although she initially had concerns about caring for unfamiliar pets, the venture soon turned into a successful and enjoyable side business. She now hosts dogs in her home for around 20 to 25 days every month and charges approximately \$65 per night. The service generates more than \$1,000 in monthly income, providing a significant boost to her finances.

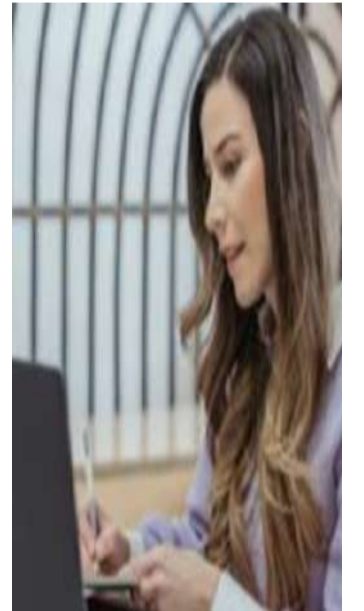
However, the benefits extend far beyond money. Jennifer says caring for dogs has helped her become more connected to her local community. Through regular interactions with pet owners and neighbours, she has built new relationships and expanded her social circle. Since she works remotely, the daily walks and companionship provided by the dogs have also helped reduce feelings of isolation and encouraged a healthier lifestyle.

In addition to pet care, Jennifer has transformed a crea-

tive hobby into another income stream. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed an interest in making ceramic plates and later enrolled in specialized training to improve her skills. She now sells her handmade creations online. While sales remain modest, the venture has allowed her to monetize a passion that she genuinely enjoys.

Jennifer is also active on social media, where she creates content focused on wellness, preventing burnout, healthy habits, and balancing multiple sources of income. By sharing her experiences, she hopes to inspire others who are looking for practical ways to improve their financial situations.

Although her side hustles have provided an additional financial cushion, Jennifer admits they have also prompted her to rethink her long-term career goals. She hopes that one day one of these ventures could grow into a full-time pro-



fession. Her story highlights how creativity, determination, and a willingness to explore new opportunities can open doors to both financial independence and personal growth.

According to the graduate, months of preparation and effort have yet to result in a job offer. Despite completing two internships, building multiple projects, maintaining a professional portfolio, and

consistently practising data structures, algorithms, and interview questions, she remains unemployed after graduation. The student's post reflected the emotional strain that many fresh graduates experience when entering a highly competitive job market. While she believed she had taken the right steps to improve her employability, the lack of positive responses from employers left her questioning her future in the technology industry.

Adding to her worries was the feeling of falling behind her peers. She revealed that seeing friends and acquaintances move forward with their careers and higher edu-

cation plans had intensified her self-doubt. In particular, she mentioned comparing herself to her boyfriend, who recently secured admission to a prestigious management institute, leading her to wonder whether she was making the right career choices.

As uncertainty grew, the graduate began considering alternative paths. She admitted that she had started preparing for competitive entrance examinations as a backup plan. However, she later questioned whether that decision was driven by logic or simply a reaction to frustration and comparison with others.

Her story quickly attracted attention online, with many

users sharing similar experiences. Several young professionals said they were facing the same difficulties despite having internships, certifications, and strong academic records. Others pointed out that hiring in the technology sector has become more selective, making it harder for fresh graduates to secure entry-level positions.

At the same time, many experienced professionals offered words of encouragement. They reminded job seekers that graduating without an immediate offer does not mean the end of a career. Many successful software engineers, they noted, faced months of rejection before landing their first

opportunity. The discussion highlights the realities of today's technology job market, where competition is intense, and patience is often required. While the road may be longer than expected, industry experts frequently emphasize that persistence, continuous learning, networking, and skill development remain the most effective ways to improve employment prospects.

For many graduates entering the workforce in 2026, the journey may be challenging, but stories like this reflect a shared struggle rather than an individual failure. The search for the right opportunity continues, even when the path seems uncertain.



ICC Introduces New Maternity Policy to Support Women Cricketers



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken a significant step forward in supporting women cricketers by introducing comprehensive guidelines that will help players return to competitive cricket after childbirth. The new policy aims to ensure that motherhood does not become a barrier to a professional sporting career and encourages athletes to balance family responsibilities with their cricketing ambitions.

As part of the new framework, the ICC has introduced a "6-R" model that outlines six key stages in the return-to-play process. These include readiness, review, recovery, reconditioning, return, and refinement. The structured approach is designed to help players recover physically and mentally after childbirth before gradually regaining their fitness and returning to competitive cricket.

According to members of the ICC Medical Advisory Committee, the primary objective of these guidelines is to reassure female athletes that giving birth does not mark the end of their sporting careers. With proper planning, medical support, and

a tailored recovery process, players can successfully return to the highest level of the game. The guidelines have been developed in a flexible manner, allowing cricket boards across different countries to adapt them according to their specific needs and resources.

The ICC has also recommended appointing a dedicated case manager for every pregnant cricketer. This role will typically be handled by a doctor or physiotherapist who will oversee the player's journey from pregnancy through to her return to the field. The case manager will coordinate support and ensure that the athlete receives the necessary care throughout the process.

In addition, the guidelines emphasize the importance of a multidisciplinary support team consisting of medical professionals, physiotherapists, psychologists, nutritionists, coaches, and family members. Such a support network is expected to play a crucial role in helping players navigate both the physical and emotional challenges associated with pregnancy and motherhood.

Player privacy has also been

given significant importance under the new policy. The ICC has made it clear that the decision on when to disclose a pregnancy rests entirely with the athlete. Member boards have been instructed not to enforce mandatory pregnancy testing. While physical activity and training during pregnancy are encouraged, participation in training and competition should always be guided by medical advice.

The guidelines further include practical measures such as childcare support, breastfeeding facilities, family-friendly travel arrangements, and dedicated spaces for mothers and infants during tours and training camps. These initiatives are aimed at creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in cricket.

As women's cricket continues to grow globally, the ICC believes that providing better support systems for female athletes is essential. The new maternity policy is expected to offer greater confidence to women cricketers and serve as an important milestone in making the sport more inclusive and sustainable for future generations.

Hardik Pandya-Yashasvi Jaiswal Trade Rumours Create IPL Buzz

Even before preparations for IPL 2027 have begun, speculation surrounding a blockbuster trade deal between Mumbai Indians and Rajasthan Royals has become a major talking point in cricket circles. Reports suggest that discussions are underway involving two of Indian cricket's biggest names — Hardik Pandya and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Hardik Pandya's future with Mumbai Indians has remained a subject of debate ever since the conclusion of the IPL 2026 season. Several reports have hinted that the star all-rounder could leave the franchise through a trade arrangement, although neither Hardik nor Mumbai Indians have officially commented on the matter.

According to the latest reports, Mumbai Indians are exploring the possibility of acquiring young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal from Rajasthan Royals. In return, Hardik Pandya could move to the Jaipur-based franchise. While the discussions are still at a preliminary stage, the potential swap has already generated significant interest among fans. Yashasvi Jaiswal has emerged as one of India's most promising young batters over the last few seasons. Many expected him to eventually take on a leadership role



at Rajasthan Royals after Sanju Samson. However, the franchise handed captaincy responsibilities to Riyan Parag, leading to fresh speculation about Jaiswal's long-term future with the team.

The rise of young sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi has also intensified competition within the Rajasthan setup. Some cricket experts believe a move to Mumbai Indians could provide Jaiswal with a fresh challenge and a more prominent role in the franchise's future plans. For Mumbai Indians, the move would align with their strategy of strengthening the Indian core of the bat-

ting lineup. While veterans Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav remain important figures, the franchise is reportedly looking to build a team around young Indian stars capable of leading the side in the coming years.

Currently, Tilak Varma is regarded as one of Mumbai's most dependable young batters. Bringing in Jaiswal would significantly boost the team's top order and provide a long-term opening option. Reports also suggest that if Rohit Sharma does not feature in a future season, Jaiswal could be considered as a permanent opener and even a potential

captaincy candidate. Despite the excitement surrounding the rumours, there has been no official confirmation from either franchise. Trade talks during the IPL off-season are common, and many discussions do not ultimately materialize.

For now, the proposed Hardik Pandya-Yashasvi Jaiswal swap remains speculation. However, if such a deal were to happen, it would undoubtedly rank among the biggest and most impactful trades in IPL history, reshaping the plans of both the Mumbai Indians and the Rajasthan Royals.

Nalgonda Knights Post Big Total, Set 190-Run Target for Rangareddy Risers

The second match of the TG20 League 2026 season is turning into an exciting contest as Rangareddy Risers take on Nalgonda Knights in Hyderabad. After winning the toss, Nalgonda Knights elected to bat first and posted an impressive 189 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs, setting a challenging target of 190 runs for their opponents.

Nalgonda got off to a shaky start, losing opener Gaurav Reddy for a duck. Fellow opener Pranav Suryadevara managed only 7 runs before returning to the pavilion. Arfan Ahmed also departed for 7, leaving the team under pressure in the early stages of the innings.

Captain Rahul Buddhi then steadied the innings with a valuable knock of 30 runs. He found support from Varun Goud, who contributed 26 runs, while Patkuri Nitish Reddy chipped in with 20. Their efforts helped rebuild the innings and kept the scoreboard moving.

The real momentum, however, came from the lower middle order. Batting at number six, Divesh Singh played a crucial innings of 48 runs off just



27 balls. His aggressive knock included five boundaries and a six. Although he narrowly missed a half-century by just two runs, his contribution proved vital in pushing Nalgonda toward a competitive total.

In the final overs, Harshvardhan Singh provided the finishing touches with a blistering unbeaten 40 off just 20 deliveries. His innings featured five fours and a six, helping Nalgonda maximize their scoring opportunities in the death overs. Thanks to the late flourish, the team reached a formidable total of 189 runs.

For Rangareddy Risers, Punnaiah was the standout bowler,

claiming three wickets. Nithin Sai Yadav and Aryan Chariappa picked up two wickets each, while Thanay Thyagarajan accounted for one dismissal. Despite their efforts, they were unable to prevent Nalgonda from posting a strong score.

With a target of 190 runs now in front of them, all eyes will be on the Rangareddy batting lineup. Chasing such a total in a T20 contest will require a strong start and consistent partnerships throughout the innings. Whether the Risers can successfully hunt down the target or the Knights can defend their total remains to be seen in what promises to be an exciting finish to the match.

FIFA Faces Tough Choice as Hydration Breaks Spark World Cup Debate

The FIFA World Cup currently being held in North America has witnessed an unexpected controversy surrounding mandatory hydration breaks introduced to protect players from extreme weather conditions. While FIFA insists the measure is necessary for player welfare, coaches, players, and experts remain divided over its impact on the game.

Under the current rule, every match includes two mandatory three-minute hydration breaks, one in each half, regardless of weather conditions. FIFA introduced the policy to ensure consistent player protection across all venues and climates, drawing lessons from previous tournaments held in hot conditions. The organization believes that a standardized approach is the best way to safeguard athletes from heat-related health risks.

However, the decision has drawn criticism from several prominent figures in football. Critics argue that the breaks disrupt the natural rhythm and flow of the game. Football has traditionally been valued for its continuous action, and many believe these interruptions alter the sport's unique character.

Among the strongest critics are leading coaches who feel the breaks divide what should be a two-half contest into four separate segments. They argue that the pauses reduce the intensity of competition and change the tactical dynamics of matches. Some players have also expressed concerns, suggesting that hydration breaks should be introduced only



when weather conditions genuinely demand them rather than being made compulsory for every game.

On the other hand, sports scientists and medical experts have defended FIFA's decision. They point out that even when temperatures appear manageable, players can lose significant amounts of fluid through sweat during high-intensity matches. Dehydration can affect concentration, decision-making, reaction times, and overall physical performance. According to experts, hydration breaks serve as an important preventive measure that reduces the risk of heat-related illnesses and helps athletes

maintain safe performance levels.

Interestingly, while many experts support the concept, some question whether three minutes is sufficient for players to properly cool down and recover. Researchers note that hydration alone may not fully counter the effects of rising body temperatures during intense competition. In particularly hot conditions, they suggest extending the duration of the breaks to provide better protection for players.

The debate has placed FIFA in a difficult position. On one side are coaches and players who want the sport's traditional flow preserved. On the other

are medical professionals who emphasize the growing importance of player welfare in an era of rising global temperatures. Both sides acknowledge the need for safety, but differ on how it should be implemented.

As climate conditions continue to become more challenging worldwide, football authorities may increasingly face decisions that balance tradition with athlete welfare. The ongoing discussion over hydration breaks highlights the broader challenge of adapting the world's most popular sport to changing environmental realities while preserving its essence.

BCCI Begins Master Plan for 2027 World Cup Under Gill's Leadership

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has already set its sights on the 2027 ICC ODI World Cup, determined to erase the painful memories of the 2023 final defeat. Despite an unbeaten run throughout the tournament on home soil, India fell short in the summit clash, leaving fans heartbroken. Now, the board is laying the foundation for a fresh World Cup campaign with a long-term strategy aimed at building a stronger and more balanced team.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia has revealed that the board has started preparing a comprehensive roadmap for the 2027 World Cup, scheduled to be held in October and November 2027. The focus is on ensuring that the Indian team gets enough ODI

cricket over the next year and a half, allowing selectors and coaches to assess players thoroughly and identify the best combinations for the mega event. As part of this plan, the upcoming three-match ODI series against England is being viewed as a crucial testing ground. Scheduled from July 14 to July 19, the series will provide an opportunity for the team management to evaluate players, experiment with combinations, and fine-tune strategies. The board sees this series as an important step in the new World Cup cycle.

A key aspect of the preparation is the close coordination between chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir. According to BCCI officials, the selection committee,



coaching staff, and team management are all working toward a common goal. Their focus is not only on immediate results but also on building a squad capable of competing successfully in the 2027 World Cup.

The selectors have already announced a 15-member squad for the England series. Senior stars Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah have retained their places, while young pacer Harshit Rana has also earned another opportunity. However, a few players who featured in recent assignments, including Yashasvi Jaiswal, Harsh Dube, and Prince Yadav, have missed out this time, sparking discussions about the team's future direction and selection priorities.

The journey toward the 2027 World Cup also marks the beginning of a new era in Indian cricket. Following the post-2023 transition, Shubman Gill has taken over leadership responsibilities from Rohit Sharma and has already enjoyed a successful start, guiding India to a 3-0 clean sweep over Afghanistan.

With a blend of experienced campaigners and emerging talents, the BCCI is aiming to create a balanced squad capable of delivering on the biggest stage. Every ODI series from now until the World Cup is expected to play a significant role in shaping India's future, as the team embarks on a carefully planned mission to reclaim cricket's most prestigious trophy in 2027.



Sleekha Roy

RISING STAR

The Red Bag Teaser Wins Praise at Launch Event

The teaser of The Red Bag, produced by Harikrishna Somisetty under the Memory Makers banner and directed by Ravi Kumar Seerapu, was launched on Sunday by Andhra Pradesh Minister TG Bharath. The film stars Kabir Singh, Prasad Behara, Raadya, Monika, Sneha Singh, Akanksha, Eshan Shankar, Avinash Badal, Bhargavi, Raasi and others in key roles.

Speaking at the event, Minister TG Bharath praised the teaser and expressed confidence in the film's success. He said the teaser looked outstanding and hoped the movie would create a nationwide buzz. Bharath noted that most of the film was shot in Kurnool and appreciated how visually rich it appeared on screen. He extended his best wishes to producer Harikrishna Somisetty and the entire team.

Director Nageshwar Reddy lauded the teaser, saying innovative films like The Red Bag deserve success. He said he was impressed after watching the teaser and felt the film would stand out with its unique concept. He also hoped the film would encourage the producer to back more distinctive projects in the future.



Director Ravi Kumar Seerapu described The Red Bag as a film that would leave a lasting impression on audiences. He said viewers would instantly recall the movie whenever they see a red bag after watching the film. Ravi Kumar revealed that the project came to him after a 16-year wait and thanked producer Harikrishna Somisetty for believing in the story. He added that the film's story itself is the hero and that extensive location scouting was carried out in Kurnool before completing the shoot.

Producer Harikrishna Somisetty thanked everyone who supported the project and said the film had shaped up well. He expressed confidence that audiences would enjoy the teaser and support the movie upon its release.

Actresses Raadya, Akank-

sha and Monika also shared their experiences, thanking the producer and director for the opportunity and praising the team's collective effort. They expressed hope that audiences would connect with the film and support it after release.

Director Ahishor, actor Prasad Behara, lyricist Tirupati and writer Hari Prasad also spoke at the event, highlighting the film's strong storyline and emotional depth. Prasad Behara noted that the film is not just about a bag but carries a compelling emotional narrative and engaging drama.

With its intriguing concept and positive response to the teaser, The Red Bag is gearing up for release soon, aiming to capture the attention of moviegoers with its unique storyline and emotional appeal.

Theatre Gave Me My First Real Opportunity Says Vijay Deverakonda

Popular Tollywood actor Vijay Deverakonda has spoken about the role theatre played in shaping his career and helping him discover his passion for acting. Reflecting on his early days in the industry, the actor said theatre provided him with the opportunities he needed to develop his skills and gain valuable experience.

Vijay revealed that when he started his journey, he was not focused on choosing specific projects or platforms. Instead, his primary goal was to find any opportunity that would allow him to improve as an actor and showcase his talent.

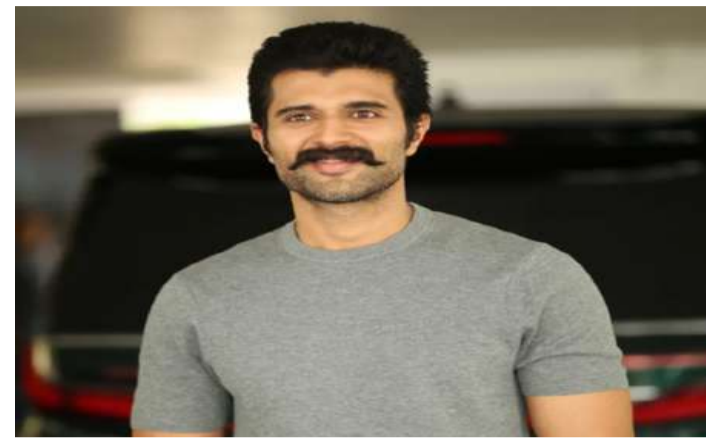
According to the actor, those initial years were driven by a desire to learn and grow rather than by personal preferences. He explained that every platform and every role mattered because they helped him sharpen his craft and gain visibility in the entertainment industry.

The 'Arjun Reddy' star emphasized that theatre had a

profound impact on both his professional and personal life. He credited stage performances with helping him channel his energy positively and discover his true passion at a young age. Vijay believes that his theatre experience laid the foundation for the successful career he enjoys today.

Speaking about the transformative nature of theatre, Vijay said it allows individuals to break free from limitations and express themselves more openly. He described theatre as an experience that "unshackles" a person and gives them a sense of freedom, helping them grow both creatively and emotionally. The actor's comments have resonated with many aspiring performers, as they highlight the importance of grassroots artistic experiences in building confidence and talent. Theatre, he suggested, offers a unique environment where actors can experiment, learn, and evolve without restrictions.

On the professional front, Vi-



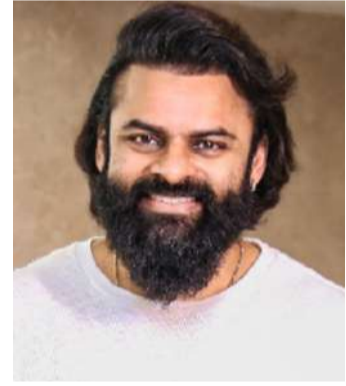
jay Deverakonda is gearing up for several exciting projects. He is set to share screen space with Rashmika Mandanna in the upcoming period drama Ranabaali. The film has generated considerable buzz, especially as it marks their first on-screen collaboration as a married couple after previously starring together in Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade.

Reports suggest that Ranabaali is inspired by real incidents from the 1850s that were

allegedly overlooked or misrepresented in historical records. The film is expected to bring those stories to audiences through a compelling narrative.

Apart from Ranabaali, Vijay also has an impressive lineup that includes Janardhana and VDXShoryuv. With multiple projects in hand and a growing fan base, the actor continues to be one of the most sought-after stars in the Telugu film industry.

Sai Durga Tej Promises Quality Cinema Despite Delay In Sambarala Etigattu



Mega hero Sai Durga Tej has finally addressed the delay surrounding his much-awaited pan-India film Sambarala Etigattu. The actor clarified that the project is progressing steadily and assured fans that the team is focused on delivering a high-quality cinematic experience rather than rushing the release.

Directed by Rohit KP, Sambarala Etigattu is produced by Niranjan Reddy and Chaitanya Reddy. The film stars Aishwarya Lakshmi as the female lead, while Jagapathi Babu, Sai Kumar, and Srikanth play key roles. Set against the backdrop of Rayalaseema in the 1980s, the period action drama revolves around a powerful tribal leader named Bali who fights for the rights of oppressed tribal communities.

With only a glimpse released so far, the absence of regular updates had sparked speculation about possible delays and issues surrounding the project. Responding to these rumors at a recent event, Sai Durga Tej explained that evolving audience expectations have influenced the way filmmakers approach storytelling today.

The actor pointed out that the rise of OTT platforms has exposed viewers to a wide variety of films and web series from across the world. As a result, audiences have become more knowledgeable about filmmaking techniques, storytelling styles, and content quality. According to Tej, this shift has made it essential for filmmakers to be more careful in selecting and crafting stories. He emphasized that viewers are no longer satisfied with routine and predictable narratives. To meet their expectations, filmmakers must focus on creating fresh and engaging content that offers something unique. Tej stated that he is taking extra care with his projects to ensure they deliver a memorable theatrical experience.

Addressing concerns about

the film's timeline, the actor made it clear that he prefers taking additional time if it means presenting a stronger and more impactful film. He assured fans that Sambarala Etigattu will arrive with solid content and a fresh cinematic experience.

The film's music is composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, known for his work in several successful pan-Indian films. With its unique rural backdrop, strong cast, and ambitious storyline, Sambarala Etigattu continues to generate curiosity among movie lovers.

Sai Durga Tej's comments have reassured fans that the delay is part of a larger effort to maintain quality and deliver a film that stands out in today's highly competitive entertainment landscape.

Cocktail 2 Crosses Rs 50 Crore Mark in Opening Weekend

Bollywood romantic drama Cocktail 2, starring Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Kriti Sanon, has made a strong impact at the box office by crossing the Rs 50 crore mark within its first weekend. Directed by Homi Adajania, the film was released on June 19 and has received an enthusiastic response, particularly from younger audiences.

The movie benefited from a relatively clear release window, with no major Hindi films hitting theatres during the same weekend. This helped Cocktail 2 attract large crowds, especially in metro cities and urban centres, where the film's modern storyline, music, and star cast resonated strongly with moviegoers.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh highlighted the film's impressive



performance, noting that only a handful of Hindi films released in 2026 have managed to cross Rs 50 crore during their opening weekend. According to the reported figures, Cocktail 2 earned Rs 14.10 crore on Friday, followed by a significant jump to Rs 17.15 crore on Saturday. The momentum contin-

ued on Sunday with collections of Rs 18.85 crore, taking the total first-weekend earnings beyond Rs 50 crore.

Industry experts believe the film's success can be attributed to its youthful appeal, engaging performances, and strong word-of-mouth publicity. Shahid Kapoor's

charismatic screen presence, combined with the popularity of Rashmika Mandanna and Kriti Sanon, has helped draw audiences across multiple regions. The film's opening weekend collections have positioned it among the biggest Bollywood performers of the year so far. With positive audience feedback and limited competition in the coming days, trade circles expect the movie to maintain a steady run at the box office during its first week.

As the film continues to attract viewers, all eyes are now on whether Cocktail 2 can sustain its momentum and emerge as one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of 2026. The strong opening has certainly given the makers plenty of reasons to celebrate and has reaffirmed the box-office pull of its star-studded cast.

Meher Ramesh Invites Pawan Kalyan to His Daughter's Wedding

Director Meher Ramesh recently met Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor Pawan Kalyan in Vijayawada and personally invited him to his daughter's upcoming wedding. The meeting has attracted attention among fans, with photographs from the occasion going viral on social media.

Sharing the pictures online, Meher Ramesh spoke about his long-standing relationship with Pawan Kalyan and described their bond as one that has remained strong over the years. Recalling a memorable moment from the past, the director said that Pawan Kalyan had attended his wedding in Vijayawada several years ago and blessed the couple.

Now, as his daughter prepares to begin a new chapter in

life, Meher Ramesh feels honoured to personally invite Pawan Kalyan to the wedding celebrations. He expressed happiness over meeting the Deputy Chief Minister and emphasized that despite the passage of time and changing generations, their brotherly relationship has remained unchanged.

"Years ago, Pawan Kalyan attended my wedding and blessed me. Today, I had the privilege of inviting him to my daughter's wedding. Times may change, and generations may move forward, but our bond remains eternal," Meher Ramesh said while sharing the photographs.

The meeting comes shortly after the Andhra Pradesh government appointed Meher Ramesh as the Vice Chairman

of the AP State Film, TV and Theatre Development Corporation. Following his appointment, the director had also met Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the film industry through the corporation.

Pawan Kalyan, who is balancing his responsibilities as Deputy Chief Minister and leader of the Jana Sena Party, continues to maintain close ties with many personalities from the Telugu film industry. His meeting with Meher Ramesh reflected a personal relationship that has endured beyond professional and political developments.

The photographs from the interaction have been widely shared by fans, who appreciated the warmth and mutual



respect between the two. As preparations for the wedding continue, the meeting has become a talking point among both political observers and cinema enthusiasts, highlighting the strong bond between the director and the actor-politician.

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