

A Bouquet of Trust and Leadership



President Droupadi Murmu greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi, congratulating him on completing 12 years in office. She hailed the milestone as a reflection of the people's unwavering faith in his leadership and praised his government's inclusive welfare initiatives that have reached the most marginalized.



Meloni Congratulates Modi on Record-Breaking Tenure

New Delhi, June 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Wednesday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in India's history, marking a major political milestone as the Modi-led government completed 12 years in office.

BUZZ POINTS



PM Modi to Chair 11th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting Today PAGE 02



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Revanth Reddy Unveils Vision for 'Future City'

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday outlined an ambitious vision for the proposed "Future City," describing it as a transformative project aimed at positioning Telangana as a global economic powerhouse while sharply criticizing political opponents for allegedly attempting to obstruct the initiative.

Addressing a public gathering at the inauguration of the Future City Development Authority office, the Chief Minister said the government was laying the foundation today for a world-class city that would shape Telangana's future for generations.

Revanth Reddy highlighted Hyderabad's historic evolution, noting that the city expanded over the last two centuries to emerge alongside Secunderabad as twin cities and now contributes nearly 60 percent of the State's revenue. He said past visionary projects



such as Hitec City, the Outer Ring Road, the international airport and Genome Valley had transformed Telangana despite facing criticism and resistance at the time.

"Had those projects not materialised, would lakhs of jobs have been created today?" he asked, defending the government's long-term urban development agenda.

The Chief Minister accused opposition leaders, particularly the BRS, of spreading nega-

vestments. He announced plans to attract leading multinational corporations and Fortune 500 companies to the project.

Emphasising environmental sustainability, the Chief Minister said the government was restoring lakes and removing encroachments on water bodies to address urban flooding and improve civic infrastructure. He cited restoration works at several lakes in Hyderabad and asserted that illegal encroachments would be removed without compromise.

Revanth Reddy expressed confidence that Future City would become a major contributor to India's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar economy by 2034. He added that select villages had been included under the authority and assured regular monitoring of the project, with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister D. Sridhar Babu reviewing progress frequently.

Revanth Reddy said the government aims to make Future City a globally recognised, pollution-free urban centre focused on green industries, IT, Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and international in-

TGMDC Under Fire as Sand Booking Refunds Remain Pending for Months

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC) is facing growing criticism over alleged delays in processing refunds for cancelled or incomplete sand bookings, leaving numerous customers waiting for months to recover their money.

Several customers have expressed frustration over the prolonged delay in receiving refunds for payments made through the TGMDC sand booking portal. According to affected consumers, despite repeated follow-ups and complaints, there has been little to no progress in resolving their grievances.

Customers claim that while the online system efficiently collects payments for sand bookings, the refund process is



plagued by delays and a lack of accountability. In many cases, bookings were either cancelled or not fulfilled, yet the deposited amounts have not been credited back to the customers' accounts. Some individuals say they have been waiting for two to three months, while others report even longer delays.

The situation has sparked allegations of negligence against

TGMDC staff. Customers who visited TGMDC offices seeking clarification or assistance allege that they were made to wait for hours without receiving any concrete response. Many complain that officials fail to provide clear timelines for refund processing or explanations for the delay.

"Even if we reach the office early in the morning, we are

asked to wait until evening and then told to come back another day. How long are customers expected to tolerate this?" said one aggrieved customer.

Affected consumers further allege that attempts to seek assistance through phone calls, office visits, and online complaints have yielded little response. They say there is a complete lack of transparency regarding the status of their refund requests, leaving them uncertain about when, or if, they will receive their money.

The delay is reportedly causing financial strain and mental stress for many customers, particularly those who depend on timely refunds for ongoing construction or other essential expenses. Consumer advocates argue that as a government-owned organization, TGMDC has a responsibility to main-

tain high standards of customer service and ensure timely resolution of public grievances.

Experts point out that if payments can be collected digitally and processed instantly, refund mechanisms should also be efficient, transparent, and customer-friendly. They stress the need for a clear tracking system and regular updates to customers regarding pending refunds.

Customers are now urging senior TGMDC officials to intervene immediately, clear all pending refund cases within a fixed timeframe, and introduce greater transparency and accountability in the refund process. Many believe stronger supervision and monitoring are essential to restore public confidence in the corporation's services.

Revanth Reddy Condolences Demise of Bharathiraja

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed deep condolences over the demise of veteran actor-director and Padma Shri awardee Bharathiraja. The Chief Minister recalled Bharathiraja's immense contribution to Indian cinema, stating that he left a lasting impact on the film industry through his remarkable work spanning nearly four decades.

Revanth Reddy noted that Bharathiraja earned widespread recognition as both a director and actor, creating several meaningful and diverse films across multiple languages. He said the legendary filmmaker played a significant role in shaping Indian cinema with his unique storytelling and ar-



tistic vision.

Describing his passing as an irreparable loss to the film fraternity, the Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to Bharathiraja's family members, admirers, and the entire film industry during this difficult time.

Modi's 12-Year Tenure Reflects India's Progress: Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Wednesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 12 years in office and becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in India's democratic history stands as a reflection of the country's progress and political stability.

Ramchander Rao stated that Prime Minister Modi has created history by completing 4,399 days in office and emerging as the Indian leader who has served the longest continuously as an elected Prime Minister through direct public mandate. He said Modi's leadership over the past 12 years has strengthened public trust in governance and accelerated the nation's development agenda.



Highlighting Modi's political journey, Ramchander Rao noted that while India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, served for a longer period after independence, Modi's tenure is unique because he was elected consecutively by the people for three terms and completed 12 years in office under a democratic mandate. The BJP Telangana chief said the BJP-led Central government has consistently focused on development, public welfare and economic progress

over the last decade. He claimed that the government has achieved significant milestones in infrastructure growth, welfare delivery and strengthening India's position globally. Ramchander Rao further expressed confidence that the BJP government would continue to enjoy public support in the coming years. He stated that with three years remaining in the current term, the party firmly believes Narendra Modi will once again assume office as Prime Minister after the next general elections. He said the Modi government's emphasis on governance, economic advancement and welfare schemes has helped transform India and contributed to long-term national development. Ramchander Rao added that BJP workers across the country are celebrating Modi's political milestone and his contribution to the nation's growth.

Pawan Kalyan Warns Against North-South Divide, Clarifies Stand on Telangana

New Delhi, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan cautioned against attempts to fuel divisions between North and South India, calling such regional rhetoric dangerous to national unity. Speaking in his first podcast interview with news agency, Pawan said leaders holding constitutional positions should avoid promoting regional hostility.

Clarifying his stance on Telangana, Pawan said he had never opposed the formation of the state but only objected to the manner in which the bifurcation of united Andhra Pradesh was carried out. He reiterated that Telangana's progress and development remain important and expressed hope that the state continues to prosper.

During the 84-minute interaction, Pawan remarked that comparing one region against another for political gains could weaken the country's in-



tegrity. Referring to past controversies, he said restricting political leaders from visiting certain regions sets a dangerous precedent and goes against India's democratic spirit. He also recalled India's historic integration of princely states, warning that divisive politics could undermine national unity.

The Deputy Chief Minister thanked the Central government for allocating 7,707.21 crore to Andhra Pradesh under the "VBG Ram Ji"

Telangana to Support Ghana's Pharma, Industrial Growth: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Information Technology and Industries D. Sridhar Babu on Wednesday said Telangana is ready to extend support to Ghana in pharmaceuticals, life sciences, and industrial development by sharing its expertise and experience in these sectors.

The assurance was given during a meeting with a high-level delegation from Ghana led by Augustus Obuadum Tano at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat in Hyderabad.

The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation and exploring opportunities in industrial growth, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, and economic transformation. During the meeting, the Ghanaian delegation briefed the minister on Ghana's flagship 24-Hour Economy and Acceler-



ated Export Development Programme, along with plans to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub aimed at boosting production and exports.

Seeking Telangana's support, the delegation highlighted the state's achievements in attracting investments and promoting

BJP Telangana Chief Ramchander Rao Offers Special Prayers for PM Modi

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Special prayers were conducted at a Shiva temple in Anandbagh, Malkajgiri, on Wednesday by Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing a significant milestone in his tenure as the country's elected leader.

The prayers were held to wish Prime Minister Modi good health, long life, and continued service to the nation. On the occasion, Ramchander Rao extended greetings to the Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Telangana and described his leadership as instrumental in shaping India's development trajectory.

Speaking to party workers and supporters, N. Ramchander Rao praised Modi's governance, stating that the Prime Minister has strengthened India's position on the global stage through initiatives focused on public service, governance, national security, and economic growth.

He said India has witnessed

major transformation over the past decade under Modi's leadership and added that the country is progressing steadily toward the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). He also said special prayers and rituals were performed seeking divine blessings for the Prime Minister's health and continued leadership.

According to BJP leaders, celebrations were organised across Telangana, with party workers in districts and mandals marking the occasion through various programmes and temple visits.

Ramchander Rao stated that BJP cadre across the state were celebrating the day enthusiastically and reiterated the party's belief that the Prime Minister's leadership has brought significant changes to the country's development path.

Several BJP leaders and party workers participated in the special puja ceremony and extended their wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praying for his continued contribution to the nation.

Women's Empowerment Key to Telangana's Progress: Minister Seethakka

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka on Wednesday reaffirmed the state government's commitment to women's empowerment, stating that the progress of women directly reflects the progress of society.

The minister was speaking at a certificate distribution programme organised at Gandhi Bhavan under the aegis of the Mother Education and Rural Development Society, a voluntary organisation led by B. J. Sandhya Reddy. The event was held for 3,000 women who completed sewing machine training programmes from across the Bhongir Parliamentary constituency.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Seethakka said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is working with the vision that women's advancement is central to Telangana's development. She encouraged women aged between 15 years and

above, including senior citizens over 60, to join women's self-help groups and take advantage of government welfare and employment schemes.

The minister announced that sewing machines would be distributed to women who successfully completed training. She further stated that financial assistance ranging from 1 lakh to 2 lakh would be provided to women willing to establish tailoring shops or self-employment ventures. Additional loans and skill training would also be extended to those interested in expanding their businesses.

Highlighting the state's initiatives for women, Seethakka said the government has already provided loans worth 61,000 crore to women's self-help groups, with the government bearing the interest burden. She noted that nearly six lakh women have benefited from such loan programmes so far.

Referring to recent initiatives, the minister said 553 buses were handed over to

women's groups, enabling many beneficiaries to earn an average monthly income of around 70,000. She added that women's groups earned nearly 159 crore through procurement activities during the previous year.

Seethakka also urged women to explore opportunities in sectors such as event management, jewellery, tailoring, and retail businesses. She said interest-free loans ranging from 5 lakh to 10 lakh are being offered to support entrepreneurship and reduce dependence on microfinance institutions.

Highlighting social empowerment, the minister said over one lakh women have been trained to ride bicycles through friendship groups and revealed plans to provide electric bikes in the future. She asserted that the government would continue implementing programmes aimed at strengthening women economically and socially, while strongly condemning remarks that undermine women's dignity.

MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy to File Cyber Crime Complaint



Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is set to file a complaint with the Central Crime Station (CCS) Cyber Crime Wing against social media platforms, including Telugu Scribe, alleging a misinformation campaign targeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

According to the MP, certain social media handles allegedly circulated claims suggesting that the rejection of the Rajya Sabha nomination of Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan was the result of a political conspiracy by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The allegations were reportedly amplified across digital platforms.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that he would seek a comprehensive investigation into the matter and request the registration of an FIR to identify those responsible for spreading what he termed "false and politically motivated propaganda."

The MP alleged that the social media content was intended to damage the political im-

age and reputation of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He further claimed that Telugu Scribe has been functioning as a "digital mouthpiece" for the principal opposition party in Telangana and accused it of deliberately publishing misleading content with political motives.

He said the proposed complaint would urge cyber crime authorities to investigate the role of Telugu Scribe and other associated social media accounts in disseminating allegedly false narratives concerning internal Congress matters and the Chief Minister.

The development comes amid heightened political exchanges in Telangana, with leaders increasingly turning to legal and cyber crime channels over allegations of misinformation and politically sensitive online content.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy is expected to formally submit the complaint to CCS seeking action against those involved in circulating what he described as fabricated reports aimed at misleading the public and harming the credibility of the state leadership.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Congratulates Mallikarjun Kharge on Rajya Sabha Re-Election

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries,

Youth Services and Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari met Mallikarjun Kharge and congratulated him on his re-election to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka.

Minister Srihari met Kharge and presented him with a bouquet, conveying his best wishes following the recent election. Speaking on the occasion, the

minister said Kharge's vast political experience and leadership would further strengthen the Congress party at the national level. He expressed confidence

that Kharge's continued guidance would contribute significantly to the party's growth and organisational development.

PESA Act Symbol of Tribal Self-Respect: Minister Seethakka

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Seethakka on Wednesday said the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, popularly known as the PESA Act, is not merely a law but a symbol of tribal self-respect and self-governance.

The minister was speaking after inaugurating a two-day state-level workshop on the implementation of the PESA Act at Rajendranagar. The workshop was organised to create awareness among officials and public representatives on the effective implementation of the legislation in tribal areas.

Addressing the gathering, Seethakka stressed the need

to strengthen Gram Sabhas to protect tribal rights and ensure local communities have a decisive role in governance. She said village assemblies form the foundation of democracy and emphasized that tribal development is possible only through empowering Gram Sabhas and village panchayats.

Seethakka said the PESA Act grants decision-making authority to Gram Sabhas over natural resources in Scheduled Areas and called for respecting the opinions of local communities before decisions are made on resource utilisation. She cautioned against allowing natural resources to fall into corporate control without considering the concerns of indigenous populations.

The minister observed that despite the existence of legal protections, unlawful activities continue in some tribal regions and stressed the importance of implementing the spirit of the PESA Act at the grassroots level rather than limiting it to policy documents.

Highlighting the challenges faced by tribal communities, Seethakka said many tribal regions still suffer from inadequate basic infrastructure and declining natural resources. She urged elected village representatives, especially sarpanches, to take an active role in village development and safeguarding community rights.

She further stated that discussions during the workshop should help identi-

fy practical solutions to challenges in implementing the PESA Act and strengthen tribal self-governance mechanisms.

The minister also highlighted the government's efforts to modernise rural governance through technology and mentioned that around 4,500 sarpanches have been brought together through the "Sarpanch Samvad" initiative to improve coordination and governance practices.

Reaffirming her commitment to tribal welfare, Seethakka said protecting the dignity, rights, and self-governance of tribal communities remains a special responsibility and stressed that public service should focus on supporting the underprivileged.

M. Rajashekhar Assumes Charge as TGSRTC Executive Director (IT)

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Senior official M. Rajashekhar on Wednesday formally assumed charge as Executive Director (IT, Personnel, Asset Management and Legal) of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) at Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad.

After taking charge, the newly appointed Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagireddy and presented him with a bouquet. Senior officials and staff of the corporation welcomed Rajashekhar and extended their best wishes on his appointment.

Speaking on the occasion, M. Rajashekhar said efforts would be made to further strengthen the corporation's Information Technology (IT) division in line with changing times and

growing commuter expectations. He said digital services such as ticket booking and live bus tracking would be enhanced to provide passengers with a smoother and more convenient travel experience.

Rajashekhar stated that along with the IT division, he would focus on efficiently managing the Personnel, Asset Management, and Legal departments. He emphasised that special attention would be given to increasing the organisation's revenue sources while improving administrative efficiency.

He also assured that employee welfare would remain a priority and said steps would be taken to streamline internal administration. Legal matters concerning the corporation would be addressed promptly to safeguard the interests of TGSRTC, he added.



The Executive Director said coordinated efforts involving management, officials, and workers would help bring TGSRTC closer to the public and improve services across the state.

Several senior officials and employees attended the event and welcomed the new Executive Director at the corporation headquarters.

Bandi Sanjay Performs Special Prayers for PM Modi's Long Life

Karimnagar, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would continue leading the country until 2047 and achieve his vision of transforming India into a global leader.

To mark Prime Minister Modi completing 4,398 days in office, Bandi Sanjay conducted special prayers at the Sri Mahashakti Temple in Karimnagar along with BJP leaders and party workers. The Union Minister prayed for Modi's long life, good health, and continued service to the nation.

Addressing the media after the prayers, Bandi Sanjay said Prime Minister Modi had created history by surpassing the tenure record of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He said special prayers were being organised across the country to celebrate the milestone.

The minister praised Modi's leadership, stating that the past 12 years had witnessed major transformations in governance, infrastructure, and



welfare delivery. He claimed that millions had been lifted out of poverty and highlighted developments in roads, railways, aviation, telecommunications, and rural infrastructure under the Centre's initiatives.

He further stated that welfare schemes have been reaching beneficiaries transparently and without corruption, adding that Modi's administration has focused on accountability and development.

Commenting on the contro-

versy surrounding the rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination papers of Meenakshi Natarajan, Bandi Sanjay said the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Election Commission and that the appropriate authorities should take a decision in accordance with the law.

BJP District President Gangadi Krishna Reddy, Karimnagar Mayor Kolagani Srinivas, Deputy Mayor Sunil Rao, BJP corporators, and other party leaders participated in the programme.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Sets Summer 2027 Deadline for Kaleshwaram Barrages Restoration

Medigadda, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday announced that the state government has set a target to complete the rehabilitation of the damaged Kaleshwaram barrages by the summer of 2027, with detailed designs expected to be finalised by September 2026.

After reviewing the progress of investigations and technical studies at Medigadda, the minister said the government is moving ahead with a clear technical roadmap to restore the damaged barrages under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). He said ongoing hydrological studies, Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) tests, geotechnical borehole investigations, and other assessments are progressing on a fast-track basis and are expected to be completed by the end of June or the first week of July.

According to Uttam Kumar Reddy, detailed rehabilitation designs will be prepared based on the findings and submitted to the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the National



Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for approval. The minister said rehabilitation works are likely to begin after the monsoon, around November-end or early December 2026, with an aim to complete them within one working season.

The minister said the government intends to make the Medigadda barrage operation-

al by June 2027 and restore the entire system in a safe and technically sound manner. He added that the Congress government was focused on accountability and safety rather than politicising the issue.

Providing background, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the original Dr B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Project

was launched by the previous Congress government at an estimated cost of 38,000 crore, with nearly one-third of the work completed before 2014. He alleged that the previous BRS government altered the project and escalated its cost to over 1 lakh crore, which, according to CAG estimates, could eventually reach 1.45 lakh crore.

The minister claimed that despite heavy expenditure, the barrages have remained non-operational since December 2023 following structural damage reported in October that year. He said central agencies identified deficiencies in design, construction, and operational planning.

He informed that global consultancy firm AFRY, in collaboration with IIT Bombay, has been appointed to prepare rehabilitation designs, while the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, is conducting technical studies. Colonel Parikshit Mehra has been appointed to head the revival coordination team overseeing the rehabilitation process.

Irrigation Secretary E. Sridhar and senior department officials attended the review meeting.

Telangana to Support Ghana's Pharma, Industrial Growth: Sridhar Babu

continued

industrial growth across multiple sectors.

Addressing the delegation, D. Sridhar Babu said Telangana has emerged as a major destination for investments in pharmaceuticals, life sciences, electronics, aerospace, food processing, defence, and advanced manufacturing. He attributed this growth to the state government's industry-friendly policies and strong ease-of-doing-business framework.

The minister said Telangana is willing to share its expertise

in pharmaceutical manufacturing, vaccine production, research and development, life sciences, and global supply chain management. He assured the delegation that Telangana would be a dependable partner in Ghana's industrial and economic transformation journey.

The meeting concluded with discussions on knowledge-sharing and potential partnerships in pharmaceuticals, life sciences, and industrial development, with both sides expressing interest in strengthening economic cooperation in the future.

Pawan Kalyan Warns Against North-South Divide, Clarifies Stand on Telangana

continued

scheme, stating that the funds would help strengthen rural infrastructure and generate employment opportunities. He noted that Andhra Pradesh received the third-highest allocation under the programme.

Pawan also revealed that party workers in Telangana have been urging his party to

contest elections in the state. He stressed that every Indian citizen has the freedom to live and travel anywhere in the country. Apart from politics, the interview touched on issues such as spirituality, welfare schemes, language politics, IT-sector employment, and his future plans regarding Telangana.

KTR Blames Revanth Government for Hyderabad Rain Disruptions

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday criticised the Congress government, holding Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responsible for the disruption caused by the season's first major rainfall in Hyderabad.

KTR alleged that the city's infrastructure failed to withstand even moderate rainfall, resulting in severe traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters across several parts of the city. He accused the state government of failing to undertake adequate pre-monsoon preparedness measures and neglecting precautionary works usually carried out before the rainy season.

Expressing concern over the hardships faced by residents, KTR said office-goers, women, and daily commuters were stranded in traffic for several hours due to waterlogging and poor traffic management. He questioned the government's handling of the situation and alleged that authorities failed to respond promptly to public concerns.

Highlighting initiatives undertaken during the previous



BRS administration, K. T. Rama Rao said projects such as the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) and Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP) were introduced to address urban flooding and traffic congestion in Hyderabad. He alleged that the present administration had failed to continue or strengthen those efforts.

KTR also raised concerns over reported power outages and incidents of electrocution during the rains, accusing the government of neglecting public welfare and civic infrastruc-

ture. He further alleged that the administration was focusing on land-related matters instead of addressing pressing urban issues.

Warning of political consequences, the BRS leader said Hyderabad residents would hold the Congress government accountable in the upcoming municipal elections. Describing Hyderabad as Telangana's economic backbone, he urged the government to prioritise civic infrastructure, drainage systems, and public services to avoid similar disruptions during the monsoon season.



MP Funds Provide Relief for Drinking Water Crisis in Quthbullapur 2BHK Colony

Quthbullapur, June 10 | TPN Bureau

The persistent drinking water shortage in the Dundigal Double Bedroom Housing Colony under Quthbullapur has once again brought attention to the lack of basic civic infrastructure in government housing schemes. In a key development, borewell works were launched using MP funds to address the urgent needs of residents.

The initiative was taken up near Block 32 of the 2BHK colony with financial support from Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etela Rajender under MPLADS funds. The works were formally launched by Dr. S. Mallareddy, Medchal District BJP President, in the presence of local leaders and colony residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Mallareddy strongly criticized the condition of double bedroom housing colonies, stating that residents are struggling even for basic necessities such as drinking water and drainage facilities. He alleged that the dependence on MP funds for essential services reflects administrative negligence and poor planning.

He demanded that the state government take immediate and long-term measures to permanently resolve infrastructure gaps in such colonies instead of relying on temporary or ad-hoc arrangements. He remarked that citizens should not be forced to depend on elected representatives' discretionary funds for basic survival needs like drinking water.

Residents of the colony expressed relief over the commencement of borewell works and thanked MP Etela Rajender for sanctioning funds to mitigate their long-standing drinking water problem.

Several local BJP leaders, including D. Vigneshwar Chari, District Council Member Malleth Yadav, Srinivas Yadav, Akula Vijay Sai, Talari Rajkumar, Venkatesh Naik, Akula Yashwanth, Vishnu Yadav, Anil Kumar, Block President Philips, and Kola Shankar, participated in the programme.

Leaders emphasized that the issue highlights the urgent need for strengthening infrastructure in 2BHK housing colonies to ensure sustainable access to drinking water and other essential services for residents.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Slams Rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha Nomination

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday strongly condemned the rejection of the Rajya Sabha nomination of Meenakshi Natarajan in Madhya Pradesh, describing it as a serious setback to democratic values.

Addressing the media, Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that the incident reflected what he termed the BJP's "political conspiracy" aimed at suppressing opposition voices and weakening democratic institutions. He claimed the rejection raised serious concerns about transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

The TPCC chief accused the BJP of attempting to manipulate democratic systems for political gain and criticised alleged irregularities in voter lists, inducement of elected representatives, and political pressure tactics. He claimed such practices had become part of the ruling party's political culture.

Mahesh Kumar Goud questioned whether the Election Commission was functioning independently or operating in favour of the ruling establishment. He alleged that after "stealing votes," the BJP was now attempting to "steal seats" and demanded that the Elec-

tion Commission publicly explain the reasons behind the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination.

He further stated that disqualifying opposition candidates on technical grounds was against the spirit of democracy and alleged that targeting political rivals through conspiracies instead of political debate reflected weakness on the part of the BJP.

Criticising the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that the independence of constitutional institutions was being undermined and warned that misuse of institutions like the Election Commission for political purposes could pose a serious threat to Indian democracy.

The Congress leader reiterated that the party would continue its struggle to protect constitutional values and democratic institutions. He called upon political parties, civil society organisations, intellectuals, and democratic forces across the country to unite in defence of democracy.

Mahesh Kumar Goud also demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the nomination issue and said the Congress party was prepared to pursue legal action and nationwide protests if necessary to safeguard democratic principles and constitutional values.

Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar Slams BJP Over Tummidihetti Project Remarks

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Wednesday strongly criticized BJP Telangana President N. Ramchander Rao for allegedly making "misleading statements" regarding communication between the Telangana government and the Maharashtra government on the proposed Tummidihetti Barrage project.

Addressing the media, Laxman Kumar said Ramchander Rao was repeatedly spreading misinformation by claiming that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had neither sought an appointment with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis nor written any letter regarding the issue.

The Minister asserted that Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy had written to the Maharashtra Chief Minister on May 6, followed by another letter from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on May 26 seeking discussions on the Tummidihetti project. He claimed that acknowledgement of the email communication from the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office was also available and that copies of the letters would be shared with Ramchander Rao.

Laxman Kumar questioned

why the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office had not denied the communication if no letter had been sent. He alleged that the BJP in Telangana was deliberately misleading the public on an issue crucial to the State's irrigation needs.

Emphasising the importance of the Tummidihetti Barrage, the Minister said the project would benefit farmers by providing irrigation support from Adilabad district to Chevella in Rangareddy district. He urged Ramchander Rao to personally speak with the Maharashtra Chief Minister and facilitate discussions if he was genuinely concerned about Telangana's interests.

The Minister said the State government had no objection if BJP leaders helped secure Maharashtra's cooperation for constructing the barrage at a proposed height of 152 metres. However, he warned that denying the existence of official correspondence despite documentary proof could damage the BJP leadership's credibility among Telangana people.

Laxman Kumar alleged that failure to support the project would be viewed by the public as an attempt to obstruct Telangana's irrigation interests and farmer welfare.

Vinod Kumar Targets Congress, BJP Over Tummidihetti Project

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Former MP Boinapally Vinod Kumar on Wednesday criticised both the Congress and BJP over the long-pending Tummidihetti project, accusing them of indulging in political drama instead of resolving Telangana's irrigation concerns.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Vinod Kumar responded to remarks made by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, who had reportedly said he would resign if Vinod Kumar had obstructed the Tummidihetti project.

Vinod Kumar said the Tummidihetti-based Pranahita-Chevella project was originally proposed during the tenure of former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and recalled that the project was planned at a height of 152 metres. He alleged that the Congress governments in Maharashtra and at the Centre had initially opposed granting permission for the project at the proposed level. He claimed that despite repeated efforts by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, including meetings with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, approval for the project could not be secured.

Vinod Kumar stated that he had personally campaigned for the project and alleged that



Maharashtra authorities had remained unwilling to approve it. He also questioned Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over the handling of the issue, asking whom the government intended to convince through its statements.

Criticising both ruling parties, he alleged that BJP leaders had earlier promised approvals within months but failed to deliver results. He further remarked that the Kaleshwaram project remains the only viable option for the state and alleged that the Telangana

government has now resumed repair works at Medigadda after previously criticising the project.

He accused both Congress and BJP of politicising the issue and called on them to stop "political drama" and focus on practical solutions for Telangana's irrigation needs.

Former Minister Jogu Rammanna, former MLA Dr. Methuku Anand, former ZP Chairman Dafedar Raju, and former Corporation Chairman Praveen Kumar were present at the press meet.

BRS Spreading Negativity Against Telangana's Development: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), accusing its leadership of spreading negativity and attempting to obstruct the State's progress out of political frustration and fear of defeat.

Addressing a large public gathering after inaugurating the Future City Development Authority building along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka said certain forces were deliberately trying to hinder Telangana's development for political reasons.

"BRS leaders are spreading venom against the State's development. Some conspirators who do not want Telangana to progress and compete globally are creating obstacles. People should carefully observe and understand such attempts," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister asserted that the Congress government is committed to transforming Telangana into a globally competitive State. He said the government's vision extends beyond competing with other Indian states and aims to position Telangana alongside developed nations.

"Our goal is not merely to

compete within the country. We are laying the foundation for Telangana to compete globally with countries like Japan and South Korea. Future City will play a major role in that transformation," Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Criticising the previous BRS government, he alleged that plans for a Pharma City in nearby areas would have caused severe pollution and environmental damage to Hyderabad. In contrast, he said the present Congress government was implementing pollution-free initiatives such as Green Pharma and Green Energy, in line with promises made to the people.

Bhatti Vikramarka expressed confidence that just as Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad emerged as major urban centres, the upcoming Future City would become Telangana's "crown jewel." He said international companies were showing interest in investments, while plans were underway to establish a Skills University, international schools and colleges to create employment opportunities for local youth.

He added that many local residents and leaders were seeking inclusion of their villages in the Future City Development Authority, and urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to approve the proposal in the first phase.

Minister Defends Nehru's Legacy, Criticises Remarks Against First PM

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Wednesday strongly condemned remarks that, according to him, undermine the contribution of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, stating that diminishing Nehru's role in nation-building amounts to disrespecting history.

Reacting to political comments made in the context of Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 12 years in office, the minister said India had inherited severe challenges at the time of Independence, including food shortages, unemployment, industrial backwardness, and poor infrastructure.

Ponnamp Prabhakar said Nehru played a key role in steering the country towards self-reliance by laying strong foundations in agriculture, industrialisation, education, and

science and technology. He noted that policies introduced under Nehru's leadership, including Five-Year Plans, major irrigation projects, public sector enterprises, and premier educational institutions, continue to contribute significantly to India's development.

The minister highlighted projects such as the Bhakra Nangal Dam and Nagarjuna Sagar Dam, stating that they helped strengthen food security by providing irrigation to millions of farmers.

He also argued that India's global reputation in education and technology, including the rise of Indian professionals to leadership positions in multinational companies, was built on the higher education and scientific institutions established in earlier decades.

Criticising comparisons between Modi and Nehru, Ponnamp Prabhakar said such remarks lacked historical

understanding and asserted that the foundations laid by Nehru continue to support India's growth across sectors.

The minister also criticised leaders who, according to him, overlook historical contributions for political reasons and said attempts to diminish the sacrifices and achievements of leaders associated with India's freedom movement are contrary to democratic values.

He further alleged that over the last 12 years, the Union government had focused more on publicity-driven politics than on addressing key public issues such as employment, education, healthcare, and long-term development planning.

Ponnamp Prabhakar asserted that Nehru's contribution to nation-building would remain permanent in Indian history and said people would not accept attempts to belittle leaders who laid the foundation for the country's progress.

Court Awards Life Imprisonment to 13 in Rajupalem Murder

Markapuram, June 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant judgment, the VI Additional District and Sessions Court, Markapuram, on Wednesday convicted 13 accused and sentenced them to life imprisonment in a long-pending murder case from Podilimandal's Rajupalem village. The case pertains to the murder of KancherlaSrinu (Cr. No:65/2017) of Rajupalem village. After examining evidence and witness testimonies over a prolonged trial, the court found all 13 accused guilty beyond reasonable doubt and awarded life imprisonment along with a fine

of 1,000 each. The court observed that the prosecution successfully established the charges through consistent and corroborative evidence, leading to the conviction of all accused persons. The incident, which occurred in 2017, had remained under judicial scrutiny for several years before the final verdict was delivered. Officials said that further procedural and execution details related to the sentencing are awaited. The verdict is being viewed as a crucial outcome in a decade-long criminal case in the region, bringing closure to a long-standing legal battle.



Medicover Hospitals Launches Centre of Excellence for Neuro Endoscopy

Secunderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

In a major step toward advancing minimally invasive neurosurgical care, Medicover Hospitals inaugurated its "Centre of Excellence for Neuro Endoscopy" at the Sangeeth Unit in Secunderabad on Wednesday. The centre aims to provide advanced and minimally invasive treatment options for complex neurological disorders under one roof.

The facility was inaugurated by G. Sathesh Reddy, a renowned scientist and former Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), who attended the event as the chief guest. Senior medical experts, hospital officials, and distinguished guests were also present during the launch.

The newly established centre will focus on advanced neuro endoscopic treatments for complex neurological conditions, including brain tumours, skull base disorders, hydrocephalus, and ventricular pathologies. Equipped with high-definition neuro endoscopic technology and supported by a multidisciplinary neurosciences team, the centre is expected to significantly improve patient outcomes through minimally invasive surgical procedures.

A major strength of the centre is the expertise of Dr. Ramesh Shigakolli, Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon, who has extensive experience in neuro endoscopy. The technology enables surgeons to perform delicate brain and skull base procedures through smaller surgical pathways, re-

ducing the need for large incisions. This approach is expected to minimise pain, reduce surgical trauma, and enable faster recovery for patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh Shigakolli said neuro endoscopy has transformed the treatment of complex brain disorders by allowing surgeons to safely access deep regions of the brain using high-definition visualisation systems and precision instruments. He added that the hospital's goal is to make world-class neuro endoscopic services accessible to local communities.

Chief guest G. Sathesh Reddy praised the initiative, stating that advancements in imaging, navigation, optics, and precision technologies are revolutionising healthcare. He appreciated Medicover Hospitals for making cutting-edge neurological care accessible to patients and expressed confidence that the centre would improve treatment outcomes in neurosciences.

Experts noted that advanced imaging technologies now allow early diagnosis of conditions such as brain tumours, hydrocephalus, pituitary tumours, and skull base disorders, making minimally invasive neuro endoscopic procedures increasingly effective in improving patients' quality of life.

Senior consultants including Dr. Vikas Agarwal, Dr. Srinivas Rao Doosa, Dr. Sudheer Penchala Puttiboyin, Consultant Neurosurgeon Dr. Rohith Ramesh Vadikhaye, and Centre Head Krishnaveni participated in the programme.



Congress Cadre Must Stay Vigilant to Protect Voters' Rights: MLA Sri Ganesh

Cantonment, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Congress party workers must remain alert to ensure transparency and fairness in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken in Telangana, said Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh on Wednesday.

Addressing an awareness seminar on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme held at Classic Garden in the Cantonment constituency, the MLA emphasised the importance of protecting voters' rights and ensuring that the voter list revision process is carried out strictly according to established norms and guidelines. The seminar, organised under the leadership of MLA Sri Ganesh, was attended by Member of Parliament Anil Kumar Yadav, Deepak John, SIR Cantonment Coordinator Kalva Sujatha, and Congress Party in-charge Kailash as chief guests. During the programme, Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and Congress workers were given detailed guidance on SIR schedules, application procedures, technical aspects, and precautions to be followed during the revision process. Leaders explained the impor-

tance of monitoring electoral rolls carefully to prevent irregularities such as unlawful deletions of voter names and unauthorized additions.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sri Ganesh urged party workers to closely supervise every stage of the revision process to ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of their democratic right. Referring to voter list controversies reported in some other states in the past, he called for heightened vigilance and responsible participation by party cadre.

Leaders at the event stressed that public representatives, election officials, and political workers must work in coordination to ensure that every eligible citizen receives voting rights without complications. They noted that maintaining an accurate and transparent voter list is essential for strengthening democratic values. The programme witnessed participation from a large number of Congress leaders and party workers from the Cantonment constituency, who were encouraged to actively assist citizens in completing voter-related procedures and address concerns during the revision process.

Jeedimetla Industrial Area Hosts Awareness Seminar on Green Business Models

Jeedimetla, June 10 | TPN Bureau

An awareness seminar on "Green Business Models" was conducted at the Jeedimetla Industrial Association meeting hall in Jeedimetla Industrial Area on Wednesday, as part of the Telangana government's ongoing 99-day Praja Palana-Progress Plan programme. The initiative was organised by the Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB), Medchal Regional Office, with the objective of encouraging industries to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

The programme was presided over by B. Rajender, Environmental Engineer and Nodal Officer, TGPCB, Medchal region. Representatives from Jeedimetla Industries Association, APIA, BDMA, Plastic Manufacturers Association, along with several industrial unit representatives from the region, participated in the session.

Officials explained that the primary focus of the seminar was to create awareness among industrial stakeholders about cleaner production methods, waste reduction strategies, and the importance of shifting towards green and sustainable business models. Technical presentations were delivered through PowerPoint slides covering key areas such as cleaner technologies, efficient resource utilisation, scientific waste management, and the integration of renewable energy in industrial operations.

Participants were also sensitised on the need to reduce single-use plastic usage and en-



couraged to adopt eco-friendly alternatives in manufacturing and packaging systems. The session further highlighted concepts such as green technology adoption, solar power utilisation, electric mobility solutions, water conservation practices, large-scale plantation activities, and sustainable waste disposal mechanisms. Officials also explained the importance of circular economy principles, where waste is minimised and resources are reused effectively within production cycles.

During the programme, a small exhibition was set up showcasing alternative products to single-use plastics along with colour-coded waste bins designed to promote proper segregation of waste at source. The display drew attention from participants, who interacted with officials and discussed practical methods for implementing these systems in their respective industries.

As part of the environmen-

tal awareness initiative, jute bags were distributed to all attendees to promote the reduction of plastic usage and encourage sustainable habits among industrial units.

Around 60 representatives from various industrial associations and manufacturing units attended the seminar. Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed interest in adopting greener practices in their operations. They also suggested that similar awareness programmes should be conducted regularly to support industries in transitioning towards sustainable production systems.

Officials from TGPCB stated that continuous engagement with industrial clusters like Jeedimetla is essential to ensure environmental compliance and to promote long-term ecological balance while supporting industrial growth in the state.

2BHK Houses to Be Allotted Only to Eligible Residents Within 5 km Radius

Quthbullapur, June 10 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Housing Department has decided to allot Double Bedroom (2BHK) houses only to eligible beneficiaries residing within a five-kilometre radius of the respective housing colonies in Quthbullapur, while also initiating strict action against allottees who have failed to occupy the houses already assigned to them.

The directions were issued by V.P. Gautham, Special Chief Secretary, Housing Department, and Managing Director of the Housing Corporation, during an inspection of 2BHK housing colonies in Bowrampet, Gandimaisamma, and Dundigal areas on Wednesday. He was accompanied by District Collector Manu Choudhary. During the visit, Gautham interacted with beneficiaries at Dundigal Phase-1 colony and reviewed the availability of basic civic amenities and infrastructure. He said the government introduced the housing scheme to provide dignified living conditions to economically weaker sections and stressed that beneficiaries must actively occupy the houses allotted to them.

Officials were directed to issue fresh notices to beneficiaries who had received allotments but were not residing in the colonies. Gautham warned



that allotments of non-resident beneficiaries would be cancelled and reassigned to deserving applicants, pointing out that thousands of eligible families are still waiting for housing assistance.

He further clarified that the government has adopted a policy of allotting 2BHK houses only to eligible persons residing within a five-kilometre radius of the colonies to ensure accessibility and proper utilisation of the housing scheme.

At Dundigal Phase-2 colony, the Housing Department official inspected ongoing construction activities and instructed contractors to expedite pending works. He also directed officials to pay special attention to the development of basic infrastructure

and civic amenities within the colonies.

During the inspection in Gandimaisamma, he reviewed the ongoing beneficiary survey and instructed officials to ensure that all details are accurately uploaded through the designated mobile application. He directed district authorities to complete the beneficiary selection process on a priority basis after the survey.

Senior officials including M. Chaitanya Kumar, Chief Engineer of the Housing Corporation, Superintending Engineer Vijay Kumar, Housing Board Chief Engineer G.V. Ramana Reddy, District Housing Project Director Ramanamurthy, and Engineer P.V. Ravinder also participated in the inspection programme

Ryal Rajender Yadav Responds Swiftly to Civic Issues Raised by Residents

Secunderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Responding promptly to civic grievances raised by local residents, Secunderabad District Congress Committee General Secretary Ryal Rajender Yadav visited the area behind the Mettuguda Mudiraj Association Building on Wednesday to assess infrastructure-related problems affecting residents. The visit was undertaken following instructions from Secunderabad Congress Party in-charge Adam Santosh Kumar. Residents, through local resident Stalin,

brought issues such as poor drainage, lack of proper street lighting, and damaged roads to the attention of party leaders. Acting immediately on the complaints, Ryal Rajender Yadav visited the locality to inspect the conditions firsthand and interacted with residents to understand the extent of the civic issues. He later spoke with concerned officials over the phone and urged them to address the problems on a priority basis. Speaking on the occasion, Ryal Rajender Yadav assured residents that the Congress party would continue to stand by

the people and work actively toward resolving public grievances. He said that civic issues affecting daily life should be addressed without delay and promised to follow up with authorities until solutions are implemented. Residents appreciated the quick response and expressed hope that the long-pending issues related to drainage, roads, and streetlights would soon be resolved. Congress leaders including Pushpamma, Sujatha, Ganga, and Madhavi participated in the visit and interacted with local residents regarding their concerns.



Awareness Key to Ending Child Labour and Child Marriages: L. Venkatesham Raju

Secunderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

An awareness seminar and pledge programme on the eradication of child labour, child abuse, and child marriage was organised at Islamia Girls High School in New Boiguda, Secunderabad, under the aegis of Ashritha Organisation on Wednesday.

The programme focused on strengthening awareness among students about child rights, safety, and legal protections, with speakers emphasising that safeguarding children is a shared responsibility of society.

Addressing the gathering, L. Venkatesham Raju, Division President, stressed the importance of awareness in preventing crimes against children and ensuring a safer future. "Child safety is the pathway to a secure future, and only awareness can help eliminate issues such as child labour, abuse, and child marriages," he said.

The speakers highlighted the growing need for vigilance against child exploitation and urged students, parents, and citizens to report any incidents related to harassment, abuse, child labour, or child marriages immediately to the child protection authorities. Participants were informed

that information regarding child abuse or child marriage can be reported through the Child Helpline 1098 or by contacting the dedicated support number 9154214357 for immediate intervention and assistance.

As part of the programme, students were educated about their legal rights, personal safety measures, and protection mechanisms available for children. A pledge was also administered to the students, encouraging them to raise awareness and stand against child exploitation and harmful social practices.

The event witnessed active participation from students and organisers, who reiterated the importance of educational institutions in promoting awareness on child protection issues.

Prominent participants included L. Venkatesham Raju, senior leader Lanka Raju, Vinay Sunkapaka, Kothuru Venkatesh, Mahesh, Leaves Anthony, Rakesh, and Ramu, among others.

The organisers stated that such awareness drives would continue in schools to educate children and communities about child rights and the importance of eliminating child labour, abuse, and child marriages from society.



Special Prayers Held for PM Modi's Health and Continued Service to Nation

Secunderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Special prayers were conducted at the Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Arun Jyoti Colony under Bansilalpet Division in Secunderabad on Wednesday to mark 12 years of the Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Devotees and party leaders offered prayers seeking good health and long life for Prime Minister Modi, expressing hope that he would continue serving the nation for many more years. Special rituals were also performed for the continued success and progress of the Central government. The programme was organised under the leadership of Bansilalpet Division President Ramancha Mahesh and General Secretary Bandham Kiran. Parliament Convener T.

Rajasekar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest.

Participants offered prayers for the welfare of the country and praised the Centre's governance over the past 12 years, expressing confidence in continued development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Several local leaders and residents took part in the special puja ceremony, including K.M. Krishna, Y. Suresh, S. Raju, Y. Srinivas Mudiraj, A. Srinivas, K. Krishna, R. Satyanarayana, B. Paramesh, Laxman, Salvaraj, K. Andalu, T. Surekha, Sharath Chandra, T. Lavanya, and Venkatapathi Raju.

The organisers said the event was held with devotion and patriotism, praying for the Prime Minister's good health and for the continued success of the Union government in serving the country.

CPM Slams Healthcare Conditions at Bhadrachalam Area Hospital



Bhadrachalam, June 10 | TPN Bureau

CPI(M) Telangana State Secretary John Wesley on Wednesday strongly criticised the state government over the condition of healthcare services in tribal areas, questioning what he termed the government's neglect of Adivasi health needs.

Leading a CPI(M) delegation to the Government Area Hospital in Bhadrachalam, John Wesley demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy personally visit the hospital and

assess the healthcare facilities available to tribal communities.

Along with CPI(M) State Secretariat member Bandaru Ravikumar and other party leaders, John Wesley interacted with patients undergoing treatment and enquired about the medical services and availability of medicines. The delegation also held discussions with in-charge hospital superintendent Dr. Rajasekhara Reddy regarding staff shortages and infrastructure issues.

Addressing the media, John Wesley said nearly 400 to 600

patients visit the hospital every day, of whom around 80 to 90 percent are tribal residents from surrounding agency areas. However, he alleged that only 19 doctors are currently serving despite the need for a much larger workforce.

He claimed that while the hospital requires around 212 medical staff, fewer than 100 personnel are currently available, severely affecting healthcare delivery. Wesley further criticised authorities for failing to repair an ambulance that has reportedly remained non-functional for nearly two

years, alleging that such negligence had led to incidents where deceased persons had to be carried manually.

The CPI(M) leader also pointed to poor sanitation facilities at the hospital, claiming toilets lacked doors and that despite advanced scanning and X-ray equipment being available, the absence of a radiologist was forcing patients to seek tests at private hospitals.

Bandaru Ravikumar alleged that government neglect of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) had adversely affected public healthcare in tribal regions. He said the Bhadrachalam ITDA governing body had reportedly not met for three years and questioned the lack of intervention by district authorities and ministers.

The CPI(M) leaders said they would soon meet the Chief Minister to discuss the hospital's issues and warned of statewide protests if public healthcare concerns remained unresolved. They also announced plans to conduct a comprehensive survey of government hospitals and organise a major public meeting in Hyderabad in August to highlight deficiencies in public healthcare services.

Telangana Boy Sai Reyanshi Selected for International Modeling Competition

Malkajgiri, June 10 | TPN Bureau

A young talent from Telangana, Arcot Sai Reyanshi from Gautham Nagar in Malkajgiri, has been selected to represent India at an international modeling competition scheduled to be held in Bangkok in August.

Sai Reyanshi, the son of Rajan Nandini couple, is currently studying in Class 1 at Pallavi Model School, a private institution in the locality. Despite his young age, he has shown a keen interest in modeling, which was encouraged by his parents from an early stage.

According to family sources, the child underwent three months of professional training in modeling under the guidance of Kaushal, associated with Bigg Boss fame. His dedication and training recently reflected in his performance at a competition held on June 9 in Kerala, organised by JNJ International, where he secured the runner-up position.

This achievement helped him qualify for the upcoming international-level contest in Bangkok, bringing pride to his family and locality.

Speaking to the media, Sai Reyanshi's parents expressed happiness over their son's achievement but also appealed to the government for financial

assistance to support his participation in the international event. They urged authorities to recognise his talent and extend support for travel and participation expenses, enabling him to compete on a global stage.



Locals in Gautham Nagar have also appreciated the young boy's accomplishment

and extended their encouragement, stating that such talents should be identified early and supported with proper guidance and resources.

The family hopes that with adequate support, Sai Reyanshi will perform well and bring recognition to the country at the international modeling competition in Bangkok.

Peddapalli MP Vamshi Krishna Criticises BJP

Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamshi Krishna on Wednesday criticised the BJP's policies and functioning, alleging that the ruling party was creating confusion among people and ignoring public concerns.

Addressing party workers and supporters, Vamshi Krishna said citizens must speak up and stand for their rights, warning that remaining silent on issues affecting democracy and governance could have wider consequences in the fu-

ture. He remarked that people should remain vigilant and actively question decisions that impact their daily lives.

The MP alleged that the BJP government was adopting an attitude of indifference toward public criticism, particularly on issues such as rising fuel prices. Referring to petrol price hikes, he claimed that the Centre was moving ahead with decisions without adequately addressing public concerns.

Gaddam Vamshi Krishna also accused the BJP of creating uncertainty among citizens, especially youth, and al-

leged that misleading narratives were pushing people into confusion. He claimed that public confidence was being affected by policies and statements that, according to him, generated fear and uncertainty.

The MP urged people to think carefully before casting their votes and said electing the "right representatives" was essential to prevent such situations. He stressed the importance of democratic participation and called on citizens to unite in the fight for justice and accountability.

Criticising the BJP's political approach, Vamshi Krishna said the public must reflect on the party's functioning and raise their voices when necessary. He urged people to come together "like a revolution" to defend democratic values and seek justice through collective action.

He reiterated that safeguarding people's rights requires active participation and awareness, adding that democracy functions effectively only when citizens question policies and demand accountability from governments.

TGIIC Employees Sports Meet Begins at LB Stadium



Hyderabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

The annual Sports Meet 2026 of the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) commenced on a grand note at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Wednesday, bringing together employees for two days of sporting activities and team-building events.

Nirmala Jaggareddy inaugurated the sports meet as the chief guest, while TGIIC Managing Director Shashank was also present at the opening ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Nirmala Jaggareddy said such sporting events provide much-needed relaxation and

recreation for employees who remain busy with official responsibilities throughout the year. She emphasised that the objective of sports is not merely winning but encouraging participation, teamwork, and mutual support among colleagues.

The chairperson said the event would help strengthen unity, friendship, and a healthy competitive spirit among employees. She encouraged participants to play with sportsmanship and team spirit, adding that such initiatives contribute positively to employee well-being and workplace morale.

A large number of male and female employees from across

the organisation participated in the inaugural event, creating an energetic atmosphere at the stadium.

The two-day sports meet will feature a variety of competitions, including athletics, cricket, badminton, volleyball, swimming, and fun events such as the lemon-and- spoon race. Indoor games like chess and carroms will also be organised as part of the programme.

Senior officials and staff members of TGIIC participated in the event and extended encouragement to the participants, highlighting the importance of fitness, recreation, and camaraderie within the organisation.

Ponnamp Prabhakar Reviews Development

Husnabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Wednesday directed officials to accelerate land acquisition for the Gouravelli Project canals and speed up development-related land allotments in the Husnabad constituency.

Chairing separate review meetings with mandal and divisional-level officials at the Husnabad MLA camp office, the Minister reviewed constituency development, revenue matters, land acquisition progress, and measures to strengthen government schools.

Ponnamp Prabhakar instructed officials to expedite land acquisition for the Gouravelli Project canal network, stating that funds for the process across three districts had already been released. He stressed that the acquisition should be completed transparently without causing inconvenience to farmers.

The Minister also reviewed

land allotments required for developmental projects, including a TTD temple, an integrated fish market and a women's bazaar. He directed officials to fast-track the process and ensure timely completion. Progress on land acquisition for the Choutapalli Industrial Corridor was also reviewed, with instructions to complete the works within stipulated deadlines.

Later, the Minister held a separate meeting with Mandal Education Officers (MEOs) and District Education Officers (DEOs) from three districts to discuss strengthening government schools and increasing student enrolment.

He instructed officials to intensify the "Badibata" campaign in villages and directly engage with parents to highlight the quality education and infrastructure available in government schools. He also directed authorities to complete painting, repair and infrastructure works before schools reopen.

Emphasising quality education, Ponnamp Prabhakar said schools should provide a



clean, pleasant and student-friendly atmosphere to attract more students. He instructed officials to set mandal-wise enrolment targets and prepare

action plans to improve admissions and educational standards. RDOs, DEOs, MROs, MEOs and other officials attended the meetings.

Minister Ponguleti Says Congress Accelerating Development

Ashwaraopet, June 10 | TPN Bureau

State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said Telangana has witnessed rapid development under the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, claiming that several key initiatives were completed within two-and-a-half years that could not be achieved during the previous decade.

The Minister was speaking after laying the foundation stone for a Young India Integrated Residential School to be

built at a cost of 200 crore and the Komaram Bheem Urban Park project worth 3 crore in Ashwaraopet on Tuesday. He was joined by MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy and MLA Jare Adinarayana.

Ponguleti stated that ration cards, which were allegedly not issued during the previous BRS regime, had now been sanctioned under the Congress government. He said the state government had waived farm loans worth 21,000 crore benefiting around 25 lakh farmers to strengthen the agricultural sector.

Highlighting employment initiatives, the Minister said the government had already provided 72,000 jobs and would soon issue notifications for another 9,000 posts. He also announced that 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses had been sanctioned to support economically weaker sections, with an additional 2.5 lakh houses proposed in the second phase.

The proposed integrated residential school, designed to international standards, will provide education and hostel facilities for nearly 2,300 students at a time, he said. Ponguleti further noted that a 100-bed hospital foundation had been laid in Ashwaraopet after the Congress came to power.

He also announced plans to construct a G+3 residential complex on five acres near the school site to distribute Indiramma houses to poor families.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Raghuram Reddy said the integrated schools would emerge as model institutions with world-class standards. District Collector Ankit and several local leaders participated in the programme.

DGP C.V. Anand Inaugurates 300 CCTV Cameras

Adilabad, June 10 | TPN Bureau

Director General of Police (DGP) C. V. Anand inaugurated 300 newly installed CCTV cameras in Adilabad district to strengthen public safety, improve crime prevention, and enhance criminal investigation mechanisms. The inauguration was held at the local Command and Control Centre on Tuesday.

Prior to the event, the DGP received a ceremonial guard of honour from district armed police personnel at the police guest house. He also planted a sapling, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation and greenery.

Addressing officials, C. V. Anand said the Telangana Police Department remains committed to providing better security services to citizens through the effective use of modern technology. He noted that surveillance systems such



as CCTV cameras play a crucial role in crime detection, prevention, and maintaining law and order.

Senior police officials attended the programme, including Women Safety, CID and ACB Director General Charu Sinha, Multi Zone-1 Inspector General S. Chandrasekhara Reddy, Adilabad Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan,

Additional SP P. Mounika, Utnoor ASP Ruthvik Sai Kotte, Adilabad DSP L. Jeevan Reddy, Town CI B. Sumil Kumar, along with other police officers and staff members.

Officials said the newly installed surveillance network is expected to significantly improve monitoring capabilities and help ensure greater public safety across the district.



Sitting is Killing

The Hidden Danger of a Sedentary Lifestyle

In the era of digital technology, the world has become a global village. Rapid advancements, especially in AI, are bringing both positive and negative changes to human lifestyles. People are increasingly glued to screens, spending long hours seated while working on computers

and mobile devices. Software jobs that demand prolonged sitting are on the rise, and many young professionals are becoming confined to their chairs. Sports fields in schools are gradually emptying due to declining interest among youth. Physical activity is becoming rare, while

conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes are appearing at younger ages. Heart diseases and obesity are also rising. Today's youth often do not exercise even for a few minutes a day, and even sweating has become uncommon. A Sedentary Lifestyle is

Dangerous – Sitting is Killing

Experts warn that sitting for 8-10 hours a day increases the risk of serious diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity-related disorders, and even cancer. This has led to the phrase "Sitting is Killing." Prolonged sitting can slow blood circulation, increase cholesterol levels, and cause back pain, muscle weakness, and weight gain. To counter this, it is advisable to stand up and walk for at least two minutes every 30-45 minutes. Using standing desks, walking while talking on the phone, and choosing stairs over elevators can help reduce these risks.

It is Good to Do Exercise Snacking
"Exercise snacking" refers

to short bursts of physical activity lasting less than five minutes throughout the day. This approach improves heart, muscle, and bone health. For those unable to dedicate long hours to exercise, these small activities can be highly effective. Walking while talking on the phone, taking stairs instead of elevators, standing during television time, and engaging in activities like dancing, hill climbing, or interval walking can reduce body fat, lower blood sugar levels, and control blood pressure.

Mental and Physical Health with Exercise

Recent studies suggest that even five minutes of daily exercise can prevent up to 10 percent of premature deaths. Research published in The Lancet highlights that gradu-

ally increasing physical activity leads to long-term health benefits. Activities like brisk walking, cycling, swimming, and playing sports significantly improve both mental and physical health. Regular exercise reduces stress, fatigue, and the risk of chronic diseases, while improving longevity. Experts recommend at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week for lasting health benefits.

Studies also indicate that increasing daily steps from 2,000 to 2,500 can reduce the risk of heart disease by up to 11 per cent. Everyday activities such as walking to the market, helping with household chores, and stretching regularly contribute to better health. Regular physical movement strengthens the body and enhances mental

well-being, helping individuals lead a longer, healthier, and more active life.



Prof. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

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Hyderabad Flooding Exposes Urban Planning Gaps Need for Long-Term Drainage Reform

Heavy rain has once again submerged parts of Hyderabad, raising serious concerns about the city's urban resilience. Even a short spell of two to three hours was enough to inundate several localities. Roads turned into streams, vehicles were stranded, and traffic came to a complete halt. The episode has once again exposed the fragility of the city's drainage system, even before the peak monsoon season begins.

Motorists and pedestrians faced severe hardship as daily life was thrown out of gear. However, this is not merely the consequence of a single rainfall event. The recurring flooding points to decades of systemic neglect in urban planning, particularly in the

maintenance and protection of natural water bodies and drainage infrastructure.

Hyderabad's flood problem is not caused by rain alone. The primary reason lies in the large-scale encroachment of lakes, canals, and natural drainage channels over several decades. It is estimated that nearly 45 per cent of the city's water bodies, which once functioned as natural flood buffers, have been encroached upon or degraded. Unregulated urban expansion, rapid population growth, accumulation of solid waste in drains, and the absence of timely desilting have together converted normal rainfall into urban flooding.

The impact of this crisis extends beyond inconvenience. It disrupts economic activity, af-

fects transportation networks, damages property, and places immense pressure on emergency services. Repeated flooding incidents also erode public confidence in urban governance and infrastructure planning.

In response to the growing crisis, the Telangana government established a special agency, HYDRA, in 2024 to address urban flooding and encroachment issues. Under the leadership of Commissioner A. V. Ranganath, HYDRA has undertaken large-scale clearance drives, reclaiming encroached land and focusing on lake and canal restoration. The agency has also been tasked with flood management and improving the city's drainage systems.

Authorities have identified 523 waterlogging points across the city and initiated pre-monsoon desilting works. During rainfall events, HYDRA's disaster response teams have been deployed for early warning, water diversion, and rescue operations. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has also conducted regular reviews, directing better coordination among departments such as GHMC, HMWS, and the traffic police.

These measures reflect a more proactive approach compared to earlier years. Early preparedness, removal of encroachments, and coordinated emergency response have helped reduce potential losses in some areas. There are also initial signs of progress in lake restoration and stormwater

management projects.

However, despite these efforts, Hyderabad continues to struggle with recurring waterlogging during moderate rainfall. In several localities, drainage capacity remains inadequate, and long-term structural reforms are still incomplete. Key solutions such as large-scale expansion of stormwater drains, scientific desilting, and complete restoration of lake networks are yet to be fully implemented.

HYDRA alone cannot solve the problem. A comprehensive and coordinated approach involving GHMC, HMDA, Water Board, and police authorities is essential. Equally important is transparency in enforcement and strict action against illegal constructions that ob-

struct natural drainage paths.

Ultimately, a flood-resilient Hyderabad can be achieved only through sustained long-term planning. Protecting water bodies, modernising drainage systems, and ensuring strict regulation of urban expansion must become top priorities. Public participation is also crucial, particularly in preventing waste dumping into drains and supporting environmental protection efforts.

The recent rainfall should serve as a warning signal rather than a routine inconvenience. If Hyderabad aspires to become a truly smart and sustainable city, it must first resolve its basic urban infrastructure challenges. Only then can it move beyond being a city that floods after every

heavy rain to one that is prepared, resilient, and future-ready.



Ravi Podili

Sr Journalist



PM Modi to Chair 11th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting Today



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the 11th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on June 11 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi, bringing together Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors, Union Ministers, and senior policymakers to discuss India's roadmap towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The theme of this year's meeting is "Inclusive Human Development for Viksit Bharat @2047", reflecting the government's focus on ensuring the welfare and development of every citizen irrespective of age, gender, region, or socio-economic background.

The Governing Council will deliberate on an Inclusive Human Development Framework built around four key pillars:

foundational human capital and future-ready skills, productive employment and entrepreneurship, health and nutrition, and equity and dignity for all. Discussions will also focus on strengthening entrepreneurship, enhancing skill development, and generating sustainable employment opportunities across the country.

A major objective of the meeting is to align state-level development visions with the national goal of achieving a developed India by 2047. Participants are expected to discuss an implementation roadmap supported by governance reforms, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), partnerships, convergence of schemes, and data-driven systems to ensure measurable outcomes and

accountability.

The Council will also review recommendations emerging from the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in December 2025. Key areas identified during that conference include early childhood education, school education, skilling for future jobs, higher education reforms, and the promotion of sports and extra-curricular activities.

The meeting is expected to provide a platform for cooperative federalism, enabling states and the Centre to work together in shaping policies that promote equitable and sustainable development. Chief Ministers of states and Union Territories, Lieutenant Governors, administrators of Union Territories, ex-officio members, special invitees, and senior NITI Aayog officials, including the Vice Chairman and CEO, will participate in the deliberations.

The Governing Council, the apex body of NITI Aayog, plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration between the Centre and states and in formulating strategies aimed at accelerating India's socio-economic transformation and achieving the vision of a developed nation by 2047.

Union Cabinet Hails Modi's Record-Breaking Tenure as Prime Minister

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday adopted a special resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister in consecutive terms, describing June 10, 2026, as a historic day in the nation's democratic journey.

According to the resolution, Modi completed 4,399 consecutive days as an elected Prime Minister, surpassing the previous record of 4,398 continuous days held by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The Cabinet stated that the achievement reflects the trust reposed in Modi by the people of India and symbolizes the strength of democratic participation.

The resolution noted that the milestone coincides with the completion of 12 years of the NDA government under Modi's leadership and highlighted his nearly 25 years of continuous service as a head of government, including his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat and Prime Minister of India.

Praising Modi's governance philosophy, the Cabinet emphasized initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, social justice, women's empowerment, youth development, and farmer welfare. It cited programs providing housing, electricity,



clean drinking water, direct benefit transfers, free food grains, and healthcare support to millions of citizens. The resolution also acknowledged government claims that more than 25 crore people have risen above poverty during this period.

The Cabinet highlighted achievements in areas such as the startup ecosystem, digital transformation, women's reservation, agricultural support schemes, and infrastructure development. It further commended reforms including the implementation of GST, One

Rank One Pension (OROP), the abrogation of Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and the introduction of new criminal laws.

National security measures, including surgical strikes, cross-border military operations, anti-terror initiatives, and efforts to curb Naxalism, were also praised. The resolution noted India's growing international stature through initiatives such as the G20 Presidency, International Yoga Day, the International Solar Alliance, and Mission LiFE.

The Cabinet formally conveyed its gratitude for Modi's leadership, commitment to inclusive development, and efforts to strengthen national security. It also expressed full support for his vision of building a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by 2047.

Concluding the resolution, the Cabinet extended wishes for the Prime Minister's good health and long life, expressing confidence that under his leadership India would continue progressing as a self-reliant, secure, prosperous, and globally influential nation.

Kerala to Launch Free KSRTC Bus Travel for Women from June 15

In a major welfare initiative aimed at enhancing women's mobility and reducing household transportation expenses, the Kerala government has announced free travel for women on ordinary services operated by the state-run transport corporation from June 15.

Chief Minister V. D. Sathesnan said the scheme would be implemented through the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and would cover all women passengers irrespective of age. The benefit will initially be available only on ordinary KSRTC bus services as part of the first phase of the programme.

The Chief Minister stated that the initiative is expected to cost the state government around 70 crore every month, translating to nearly 800 crore annually. The entire expenditure will be reimbursed to KSRTC by the government. He noted that Kerala already provides approximately 1,500 crore every year to support the transport corporation and assured that the additional subsidy burden would also be borne by the state.

According to the government, the scheme is intended to improve women's access to edu-



cation, employment, healthcare and other essential services while easing transportation costs for families. Officials believe increased ridership could help improve KSRTC's revenue position over time, with the Chief Minister expressing confidence that positive financial results would become visible within six months.

The announcement fulfills one of the key welfare promises made by the ruling coalition during the Assembly election campaign.

However, the initiative has also drawn criticism from some quarters. Critics argue that women living in regions where ordinary KSRTC services are limited may not benefit significantly from the programme.

Concerns have also been raised about the long-term fiscal impact of an additional 800-crore annual subsidy at a time when the state faces substantial financial obligations and revenue challenges.

Responding to these concerns, the Chief Minister said the government is examining service availability issues and described the rollout as the first phase of a broader plan. He added that the scheme would be reviewed and expanded based on public response and field-level assessments.

The free travel initiative is expected to benefit millions of women across Kerala and is being viewed as one of the state's most significant social welfare measures in recent years.

Sushmita Dev Quits TMC; Assam CM Himanta Sarma Seen as Key Influence

In a significant political development, former Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Sushmita Dev has resigned from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), triggering speculation about her imminent entry into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Political circles are closely watching the move, especially after photographs surfaced showing Dev alongside Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shortly after her resignation became public.

Speaking to reporters, Dev dismissed speculation about external pressure and asserted that her political decisions were entirely her own. "I have the right, in a free country and democracy, to decide which party I support and what kind of politics I wish to pursue," she said.

However, sources familiar with the developments indicated that Sarma played a crucial role in shaping her deci-

sion to leave the TMC. Dev herself acknowledged seeking guidance from the Assam Chief Minister, referring to him as her "guide" and confirming that she had consulted him before making her move.

According to political sources, Sarma has been involved in discussions regarding Dev's future role in Assam politics, particularly in the Bengal-dominated Barak Valley region, where she retains considerable influence. Insiders suggest that her formal induction into the BJP could take place within the next few days.

The political relationship between Dev and Sarma dates back more than a decade. During the Congress era in Assam, Dev was among the leaders who supported Sarma's push for a change in leadership under the then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. Sources also claim that Sarma had earlier encouraged Dev to join



the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, an offer she reportedly declined at the time. Dev left the Congress in 2021 and joined the TMC under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee. Even during that transition, reports suggest she remained in communication with Sarma. Political observers view her exit from the TMC as another indication of shifting political equations in

Assam. If she joins the BJP, Dev would join several former Congress leaders from Barak Valley who have already moved to the saffron party in recent years.

Her potential entry is expected to strengthen the BJP's organizational presence in southern Assam and further consolidate Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's influence in the region.

Meenakshi Natarajan: Congress' Low-Profile Leader of Principles Faces New Political Test



Senior Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan has once again found herself at the center of political discussion following the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination, a development that has brought renewed attention to one of the party's most understated yet influential leaders.

Known for her simplicity, integrity, and organizational skills, Natarajan's political journey began during her student days at Indore University through the National Students' Union of India (NSUI). Her leadership qualities reportedly caught the attention of Congress leadership in the late

1990s, leading to her appointment as National President of the NSUI in 1999.

Originally from a Tamil family settled in Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh, Natarajan steadily rose through the Congress ranks. She later served as Madhya Pradesh Youth Congress President and Congress National Secretary before becoming a key member of Rahul Gandhi's organizational team. She played important roles in both the NSUI and Youth Congress during the party's restructuring efforts.

Her biggest electoral success came in 2009 when she defeated veteran BJP leader Laxmi Narayan Pandey in the Mandla Lok Sabha constituency. Within Congress circles, she earned a reputation for honesty after reportedly returning a significant portion of unspent election funds to the party treasury following her victory.

Though she lost subsequent elections in 2014 and 2019 and did not contest in 2024, Natarajan remained active behind the scenes. She returned to prominence after being inducted into the Congress Working Committee in 2022 and later appointed

the party's in-charge for Telangana.

Her Rajya Sabha bid, however, suffered a setback after her nomination was rejected over the alleged non-disclosure of a legal case linked to Telangana. Sources close to Natarajan maintain that the matter arose from her role as a party observer during the Telangana Assembly elections and insist there was no deliberate omission in her affidavit.

Despite the controversy, associates describe Natarajan as unfazed. They note that she has often expressed a preference for working among people rather than pursuing parliamentary positions. Her modest lifestyle—including traveling by train instead of air and managing personal expenses through her former MP pension and book royalties—has further reinforced her image as a leader guided by principles rather than power.

As Congress evaluates its next political move, Meenakshi Natarajan remains a respected yet enigmatic figure whose commitment to public life continues to distinguish her in contemporary Indian politics.

Abhishek Banerjee Meets Rahul Gandhi Amid Trinamool Turmoil

Amid growing political turbulence within the Trinamool Congress (TMC), the party's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee met Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss coordination within the INDIA bloc and the evolving political situation in West Bengal.

The meeting came a day after TMC chief Mamata Banerjee held discussions with Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, signaling increased engagement between the two opposition parties.

According to sources in both parties, the discussions focused on strengthening cooperation within the INDIA alliance and exploring ways for the TMC and Congress to work together more effectively in West Bengal. Leaders reportedly reviewed the current political landscape in the state and discussed long-term strategies to counter the BJP ahead of the 2029 general elections.

The high-level interaction comes at a challenging time for the Trinamool Congress. The party is currently facing an internal crisis following reports of dissent among several of its Members of Parliament. Rebel leaders have claimed that a significant section of TMC MPs is considering forming a separate bloc and aligning with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), although the party leadership has not officially responded to these claims.

The situation has been further complicated by recent investigative actions. On Tuesday, the West Bengal CID conducted searches at the TMC's central office in Kolkata's Kalighat area and at Abhishek Banerjee's office on Camac Street in connection with an alleged Assembly signature forgery case.

Political observers note that the recent developments have prompted closer coordination between the Congress and Trinamool Congress within the



INDIA bloc. During a recent alliance meeting, Mamata Banerjee reportedly defended the Congress against criticism from some alliance partners, reflecting a renewed effort to maintain opposition unity.

While neither party has disclosed details of the discussions, the meetings between senior leaders over two consecutive days have fueled specula-

tion about a stronger Congress-TMC partnership as opposition parties prepare for future political battles at both the state and national levels.

The developments are being closely watched, particularly in West Bengal, where shifting political equations could have a significant impact on the opposition's strategy in the years ahead.

US House Approves \$70 Billion Border Security Package

The United States House of Representatives has approved a massive \$70 billion immigration enforcement package, handing President Donald Trump a significant legislative victory and paving the way for expanded border security and deportation operations through the remainder of his term.

The legislation, titled the Secure America Act, was passed by a narrow 214-212 vote on Wednesday, largely along party lines. Having already secured approval in the Senate last week, the bill now awaits President Trump's signature to become law.

The package provides substantial funding for federal immigration and border enforcement agencies through September 2029. Under the bill, \$38 billion has been allocated to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency, which is responsible for immigration enforcement and deportation operations. Another \$26 billion has been earmarked for Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the agency tasked with securing the nation's borders and ports of entry. Approximately \$5 billion will be directed to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to support broader security initiatives.

Supporters of the legislation argued that the measure is necessary to strengthen border security, address illegal immigration, and provide law enforcement agencies with the resources required to manage growing operational demands. Republican lawmakers described the bill as a critical step toward fulfilling the administration's immigration agenda and enhancing national security.

President Donald Trump welcomed the passage of the bill, which has been one of the



administration's key policy priorities. The legislation is expected to finance the recruitment of additional border agents, expansion of detention facilities, modernization of surveillance technology, and increased deportation efforts over the next several years.

Democrats, however, strongly opposed the measure, arguing that it places excessive emphasis on enforcement while failing to address broader immigration reforms. Critics also expressed concerns about the scale of funding allocated to deportation operations and detention infrastructure.

The vote follows months of intense debate and partisan divisions in Congress over immigration policy. The passage of the Secure America Act signals a major shift toward increased enforcement measures at a time when immigration remains one of the most contentious issues in American politics.

With presidential approval expected shortly, federal agencies are preparing to implement the expanded funding package, which is likely to shape US immigration enforcement policies for years to come.

The bill's enactment is expected to become a central issue in the ongoing national debate over border security, immigration reform, and the role of federal enforcement agencies.

Indian-Origin Family Dies After Fall From London High-Rise

A tragic incident in London has claimed the lives of an Indian-origin family of three after they fell from a high-rise residential building in the British capital. Authorities have identified the deceased as Aditi Vijay Paralkar (46), her husband Rakesh Narayan Pai (47), and their nine-year-old son, Sid Pai Paralkar.

According to the Metropolitan Police, emergency services were called to Churchyard Row in the Elephant and Castle area of south London on the morning of May 27 following reports that several people had fallen from a significant height.

Investigators said the family fell approximately 400 feet from the balcony of their apartment located on the 36th floor of the 45-storey Highpoint residential tower. All three were pronounced dead following the incident.

British media reports indicated that the couple's young son had been suffering from a terminal illness. However, police officials have not confirmed whether this was connected to the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

The Metropolitan Police stated that a full investigation is underway and that officers are examining all possible lines of inquiry. Authorities have not disclosed any preliminary conclusions regarding the cause of the incident. Acting Detective Superintendent Dan Whitten said investigators are working to establish the facts surrounding the tragedy.

"Our thoughts remain with Aditi, Rakesh and Sid's family and loved ones while we work at pace to establish the facts surrounding these tragic deaths," he said.

Whitten added that police are maintaining an open mind regarding the circumstances of the case and urged both the public and media to avoid speculation while inquiries continue. The deaths have shocked residents of the Highpoint tower and the wider Elephant and Castle community. Neighbours described the incident as deeply distressing and expressed sympathy for the family's relatives and friends.

The Highpoint tower is one of the tallest residential buildings in the area and houses hundreds of residents. Following the incident, police officers and forensic teams conducted extensive examinations at the scene as part of their investigation.

Authorities have not announced any arrests, nor have they indicated that other individuals were involved. A formal inquest and further investigative proceedings are expected in the coming weeks. The Metropolitan Police reiterated that the investigation remains ongoing and appealed for anyone with relevant information to come forward and assist officers in establishing the full circumstances behind the deaths. The tragedy has sparked an outpouring of condolences from members of the Indian-origin community in the United Kingdom and beyond.



12 Killed in Mass Shooting Near Johannesburg

At least 12 people were killed and nine others injured in a late-night mass shooting at an informal settlement in Johannesburg, South Africa, police said on Wednesday. Authorities have launched a manhunt for the attackers, while the motive behind the massacre remains unknown.

According to police, a group of more than 10 armed suspects arrived in a minivan at the settlement in Cleveland, a suburb of Johannesburg, late on Tuesday night. The assailants reportedly moved through the area and opened fire at multiple locations before fleeing in the same vehicle.

Among the victims were nine men and three women. Eleven people died at the scene, while another victim later succumbed to injuries in hospital. Nine injured individuals are currently receiving medical treatment.

Police officials said no arrests had been made as of Wednesday and investigations

are ongoing. Search operations have been intensified to trace the suspects and determine the circumstances that led to the attack.

The shooting occurred in an informal settlement, a densely populated residential area typically consisting of makeshift homes and limited public infrastructure. Such communities are often vulnerable to crime and gang-related violence.

South Africa continues to grapple with high levels of violent crime, including frequent incidents involving firearms. The latest tragedy follows a series of deadly mass shootings reported across the country in recent months. In December alone, two separate shooting incidents claimed more than 20 lives.

Law enforcement agencies have appealed to members of the public to come forward with any information that could assist the investigation. Authorities are also examining possible links to criminal

groups and local disputes,



though no official motive has yet been established.

The incident has once again raised concerns about gun violence and public safety in South Africa, where mass shootings have become an increasingly alarming challenge for security agencies.

Police have assured residents that every effort is being made to identify and apprehend those responsible for the attack. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses.

Ukraine, Latvia Sign Landmark Drone Technology Pact

Ukraine has taken a significant step toward strengthening defence cooperation with its European partners by signing a drone technology-sharing agreement with Latvia during a high-level summit of Nordic and Baltic nations in Estonia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Latvian Prime Minister Andris Kucinskis signed the agreement on Tuesday on the sidelines of the Ukraine-Nordic-Baltic summit held in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia.

The agreement marks an important expansion of Ukraine's defence diplomacy efforts, with Kyiv agreeing to share expertise and technological advancements gained through extensive battlefield experience in drone warfare. Since the start of the conflict with Russia, Ukraine has emerged as one of the world's leading innovators in military drone development and deployment.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, President Zelenskyy described the pact as a mutually beneficial initiative that would enhance the defence capabilities of both nations. In a message posted on social media platform X, he said the cooperation would contribute to strengthening security and improving technological capabilities in the region.



The agreement comes at a time when European countries are increasingly investing in unmanned aerial systems and advanced defence technologies amid ongoing security concerns. Latvia, a member of both NATO and the European Union, has been among Ukraine's strong supporters since the outbreak of the war.

The summit brought together leaders from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. Zelenskyy attended the gathering shortly after returning from London, where he held discussions with leaders of Britain, France, and Germany regarding military support and diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the conflict.

According to reports, European leaders expressed their willingness to support ceasefire negotiations between Ukraine and Russia while continuing as-

sistance to Kyiv. The drone technology agreement is viewed as part of broader efforts to deepen defence cooperation among European allies and improve collective security capabilities.

Analysts believe Ukraine's decision to share its expertise reflects the growing recognition of its drone industry as a key component of modern warfare. Ukrainian-developed unmanned systems have played a critical role in reconnaissance, surveillance, logistics, and combat operations throughout the conflict.

The new partnership with Latvia is expected to pave the way for similar agreements with other European nations, further integrating Ukraine into regional defence networks while strengthening Europe's technological preparedness in an increasingly complex security environment.

One Lakh Devotees Pay Homage as Buddha Relics Exposition Concludes in Mongolia

A historic 10-day exposition of the sacred relics of Lord Buddha's chief disciples, Arhant Sariputra and Arhant Maudgalyayana, concluded successfully in Mongolia, drawing nearly one lakh devotees and further strengthening the centuries-old spiritual and cultural ties between India and Mongolia.

The holy relics returned to India on Tuesday after being displayed at the Gandan Tegchening Monastery in Ulaanbaatar from May 31 to June 9. The exposition was organized by the National Museum of India under the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka, and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

The exhibition was inaugurated on the auspicious occasion of Mongolian Buddha Purnima and provided devotees across Mongolia with a rare opportunity to offer prayers and pay homage to the revered relics. Despite Mongolia's population of just 3.4 million, nearly one lakh people visited the monastery during the 10-day event, reflecting the deep reverence for Buddhism in the country.

The exposition was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the state visit of Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa to India in October 2025. The initiative was seen as a significant



gesture highlighting the shared Buddhist heritage of the two nations.

The relics were ceremonially handed over on May 30 by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya to Mongolian Education Minister Enkh-Amgalan and the spiritual head of Gandan Tegchening Monastery, Khamba Nomun Khan Geshe Lharampa D. Javzandorj. They were transported to Mongolia aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft and accorded the status of a Head of State, reflecting their immense religious significance.

Alongside the exposition, special exhibitions on Buddhist history, teachings, and cultural exchanges between India and Mongolia were organized by the International Buddhist Confederation and the National Museum of India. These exhibitions attracted

scholars, monks, and visitors from across the country.

The closing ceremony was attended by Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, Mongolian officials, Buddhist leaders, and representatives of the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka and the International Buddhist Confederation. Speakers expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for facilitating the exposition.

Before the relics departed for India, Mongolian authorities presented a sapling to the Indian delegation as a symbol of enduring friendship and spiritual bonds between the two countries. The sapling will be planted in Ladakh, commemorating another milestone in India-Mongolia relations rooted in the teachings of Lord Buddha.

Belfast Erupts in Violence After Knife Attack, Authorities Appeal for Calm



A violent wave of anti-immigrant unrest swept across Belfast and parts of Northern Ireland after a brutal knife attack allegedly carried out by a Sudanese refugee left a man seriously injured, triggering protests, arson attacks and clashes with police.

The unrest began after a video circulated on social media showing a man allegedly attacking another individual with a knife in north Belfast on Monday night. The victim, a man in his 40s, suffered severe injuries to his face, eyes and back and was admitted to hospital. Police arrested a 30-year-old Sudanese national and charged him with attempted murder, possession of a knife in a public place and making threats to kill.

As news of the attack spread, hundreds of demonstrators gathered across Belfast, with some protests escalating into violence. Masked individuals reportedly set houses, vehicles and bins on fire, blocked roads and hurled petrol bombs. Several families were evacuated from burning homes as emergency services battled the blazes.

Local residents described scenes of chaos and fear. Witnesses reported heavy police deployment, sirens throughout the night and thick smoke engulfing residential areas. Many of the homes targeted were reportedly occupied by Black and immigrant families.

Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O'Neill strongly condemned the violence, describing the attacks as "disgusting cowardice." She urged residents to reject racism and violence and appealed for calm across the region.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer had earlier described the knife attack as "sickening," while authorities stressed that the subsequent violence could not be justified.

Police confirmed that the suspect had arrived in the United Kingdom in 2023 and held a valid residence permit until 2028. Officials stated that he was not previously known to law enforcement agencies.

The unrest has reignited debate over immigration and asylum policies in the United Kingdom. The incident also drew attention online after comments from Elon Musk regarding public protests and immigration policy.

Northern Ireland Justice Minister Naomi Long warned against allowing fear and anger to be exploited by individuals seeking to inflame racial tensions. Opposition leaders also condemned the violence, urging communities not to blame entire groups for the actions of a single individual.

Police remain on high alert as investigations into both the knife attack and the subsequent disturbances continue.

Indian-Origin Engineer Behind Drone Boat Used in Historic US Navy Rescue



An Indian-origin technology leader has come into the spotlight after a US Navy autonomous drone boat played a crucial role in a groundbreaking rescue mission near the Strait of Hormuz.

The unmanned vessel, named Corsair, was used to rescue the pilot and co-pilot of a US Army Apache helicopter that had been shot down by Iranian forces during heightened regional tensions.

The operation marked a historic first for the US military, which employed an autonomous surface vessel remotely operated by a human controller to recover personnel at sea.

The Corsair was developed by Saronic Technologies, a Texas-based defence technology company co-founded by Indian-American engineer Vibhav Altekar. The company specializes in advanced autonomous maritime systems designed for military and security applications.

The 24-foot-long drone boat is powered by diesel fuel and can reach speeds of up to 35 knots. With an operational range exceeding 1,000 nautical miles and a payload capacity of approximately 1,000 pounds, the vessel is equipped with artificial intelligence-driven navigation and mission systems. The Corsair is part of the US Navy's Task Force 59 initiative, which focuses on integrating autonomous vessels and AI-powered technologies into maritime operations. Founded in September 2022 and headquartered in Austin, Texas, Saronic Technologies has rapidly emerged as a significant player

in the defence technology sector. The company reportedly holds a production contract worth approximately \$392 million with the US Navy for autonomous surface vessels. Alongside Altekar, the company was founded by former Navy SEAL Dino Mavrookas and partners Doug Lambert and Rob Lehman.

As Chief Technology Officer, Altekar oversees the development of the company's autonomous systems, software architecture, and advanced engineering programmes. His work spans critical areas including machine learning, navigation, perception systems, command and control technologies, and systems integration.

Altekar studied electrical engineering at the University of California and has built a distinguished career in autonomous systems and defence technology. Before co-founding Saronic Technologies, he worked as one of the early engineers at Anduril Industries, where he led engineering efforts on several major defence projects, including the Royal Australian Navy's Ghost Shark autonomous submarine programme. The successful rescue mission has highlighted the growing role of artificial intelligence and autonomous platforms in modern military operations. It has also brought international attention to the contributions of Indian-origin innovators such as Vibhav Altekar, whose technological expertise is helping shape the future of maritime defence and rescue missions.

Markets End Flat as Late Selling Erases Early Gains



Indian equity benchmark indices ended nearly flat on Wednesday as a late bout of

selling wiped out most of the gains accumulated during the trading session. Investor sen-

timent remained cautious amid weak global cues and rising geopolitical tensions, re-

sulting in profit-booking across several sectors during the final hour of trade.

The market opened on a subdued note but gradually gained strength during the day. The Nifty briefly crossed the 23,400 mark, supported by buying in FMCG and private banking stocks. However, broad-based selling pressure in the latter half of the session dragged the benchmarks close to their intraday lows.

At the close, the BSE Sensex gained 64.42 points, or 0.09 percent, to settle at 73,983.18. The NSE Nifty 50 slipped 27.15 points, or 0.12 percent, to close at 23,214.95.

The Indian rupee also surrendered a major portion of its intraday gains but managed to end higher by 8 paise

at 95.27 against the US dollar, compared to the previous close of 95.35.

Broader markets underperformed the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap index declined around 1.5 percent, while the Nifty Smallcap index fell nearly 1.3 percent, indicating weakness in the broader market despite stability in frontline stocks.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were Nestle India, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan Unilever, and ICICI Bank. On the losing side, Coal India, Hindalco Industries, Infosys, ONGC, and Eternal were among the biggest laggards.

Sector-wise, FMCG and private banking stocks emerged as the key outperformers.

Most other sectoral indices ended in negative territory, with media, realty, energy, metal, oil & gas, and PSU bank indices declining between 1 and 2 percent. Metal stocks led the losses amid concerns over global demand and commodity price volatility.

Despite the weak market breadth, more than 100 stocks touched their 52-week highs on the BSE. Notable names included Caplin Labs, Chennai Petroleum, Aster DM Healthcare, Apollo Hospitals, Zydus Life, RBL Bank, Federal Bank, Data Patterns, and Syrma SGS Technology.

Among individual stocks, Hinduja Global Solutions surged 11 percent after launching Project GANGA, while AF-

cons Infrastructure gained 4 percent after securing a 5,301-crore breakwater project for Vadhvan Port. Clean Max Enviro Energy jumped 10 percent following a renewable energy partnership with Meta Platforms. Concord Biotech advanced 4 percent after receiving USFDA approval for Tofacitinib tablets.

However, Welspun Corp declined 3.2 percent after its subsidiary sold a 4.5 percent stake in Saudi Arabia-based East Pipes Integrated Company.

Market experts said investors remain watchful of global developments and geopolitical risks, which continue to influence trading sentiment and trigger intermittent profit-booking across sectors.

Oil India Tumbles 10%, ONGC Slides as Crude Prices Retreat

Shares of state-run upstream oil producers Oil India and ONGC came under intense selling pressure on Wednesday after global crude oil prices retreated from recent highs, dampening investor sentiment toward energy stocks.

Oil India emerged as one of the biggest losers on the market, plunging 9.99 percent to 428.40 on the NSE. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) also witnessed significant selling, falling 2.70 percent to 252 per share.

The sharp decline in the stocks followed weakness in international crude oil markets. Brent crude, the global benchmark, traded at around \$91.72 per barrel during afternoon trade after surrendering earlier gains. Meanwhile, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude hovered near \$88 per barrel.

Market participants attributed the fall in crude prices to easing geopolitical concerns and renewed hopes of diplomatic engagement in the Middle East. According to reports, traders are closely monitoring prospects for fresh peace negotiations involving Iran after a brief period of military confrontation involving the United States and the Islamic Republic. Expectations that tensions may cool reduced fears of supply disruptions, leading to a pullback in oil prices.



Adding to the pressure on crude markets, recent economic data pointed to weakening demand from China, the world's largest crude oil importer. Slower industrial activity and softer consumption trends in China have raised concerns about global oil demand growth, prompting investors to reassess their outlook for energy prices.

The decline in crude prices had an immediate impact on upstream oil companies, whose revenues and profitability are closely linked to international oil price movements. As crude prices weaken, expectations of lower realizations and reduced earnings growth often weigh on valuations of exploration and production firms.

Analysts noted that while crude remains at relatively elevated levels compared to historical averages, the recent correction has triggered prof-

it-booking in oil-linked stocks after a strong rally over the past several weeks. Investors are now awaiting further developments in global geopolitics, OPEC+ production decisions, and economic indicators from major consuming nations for direction.

The broader energy sector also witnessed weakness, contributing to the decline in key market indices. Market experts believe volatility in crude prices is likely to persist in the near term as traders balance geopolitical risks against concerns over slowing global demand.

Despite Wednesday's sharp fall, analysts maintain that long-term prospects for major upstream companies such as ONGC and Oil India will continue to depend on crude price trends, production growth, and government policy measures affecting the energy sector.

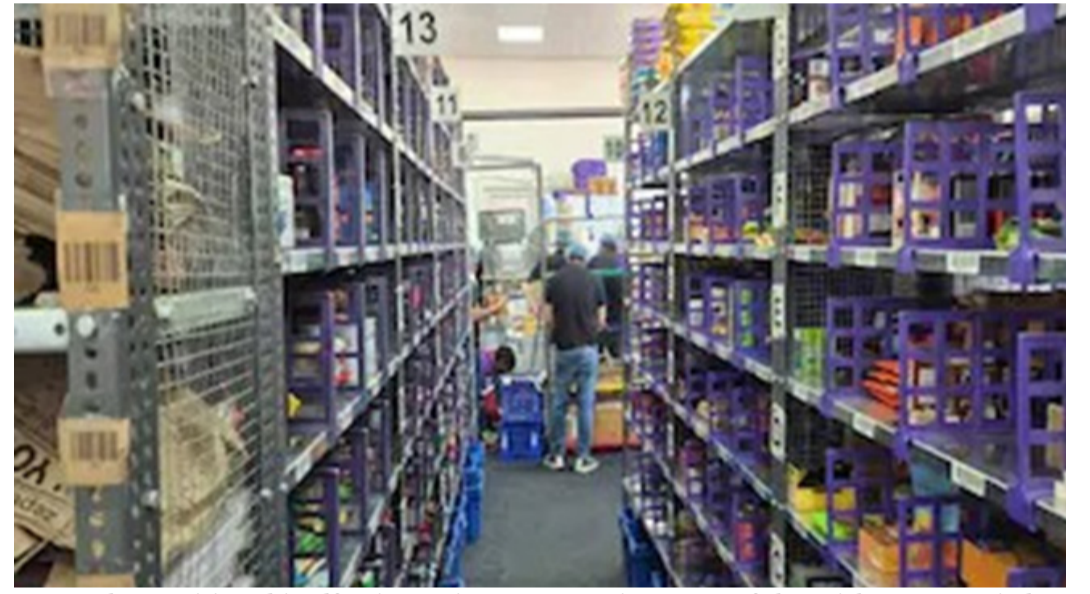
Zepto Sees First-Ever Drop in User Base Amid Rising Marketing Spend

Quick commerce major Zepto has reported its first decline in user numbers, raising questions about growth sustainability in India's fiercely competitive rapid-delivery market despite a sharp increase in marketing expenditure.

According to the company's updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP), Zepto's Annual Transacting Users (ATU) fell during the March 2026 quarter. The metric, which measures the number of unique users who placed at least one order in the preceding 12 months, declined from 49.54 million in December 2025 to 47.97 million in March 2026.

The decline of approximately 1.57 million users marks the first time Zepto has reported a contraction in its transacting user base since it began disclosing the metric. The development has attracted attention from investors and industry observers, particularly as the company continues preparations for its public market debut.

The drop comes despite increased spending on customer acquisition and brand promotion. Industry analysts note that quick commerce companies have been investing heavily in discounts, advertising campaigns, and delivery infrastructure to retain customers and defend market share amid intensifying competition.



Zepto has positioned itself as one of India's fastest-growing quick commerce platforms, competing with rivals such as Blinkit, Instamart, and other emerging players. However, the latest figures suggest that maintaining rapid user growth is becoming increasingly challenging as the sector matures and customer acquisition costs continue to rise.

Market experts believe the decline may indicate growing competition for consumers' attention and spending. As multiple platforms offer similar delivery speeds, product assortments, and promotional

incentives, companies are finding it more difficult to attract new users while retaining existing customers.

The fall in ATU does not necessarily indicate a decline in overall business performance, as factors such as order frequency, average order value, and revenue growth also play crucial roles in assessing operational health. Nevertheless, investors typically view user growth as a key indicator of future scalability and market penetration. The latest disclosure has sparked discussions among market participants regarding the long-term economics

of the quick commerce industry, where companies continue to prioritize expansion and customer acquisition while working toward profitability.

With competition intensifying and marketing expenses rising across the sector, industry watchers will closely monitor whether Zepto can reverse the decline in user numbers in the coming quarters. The company's upcoming financial disclosures and growth strategy are expected to provide further insights into its ability to sustain momentum in India's rapidly evolving quick commerce landscape.

CMR Green Tech Hits Lower Circuit After Strong IPO Debut

Shares of CMR Green Technologies witnessed sharp profit booking on their market debut day, hitting the 10 percent lower circuit after an initially strong listing on the stock exchanges.

The stock was trading at 241.20 on the NSE during afternoon trade on Wednesday, down 10 percent from its listing price and locked at the lower circuit limit. Despite the decline, the stock remained significantly above its issue price of 192, delivering gains of over 25 percent to IPO investors.

CMR Green Technologies, a leading non-ferrous metal recycling company, had made an impressive debut earlier in the day. On the BSE, the stock opened at 275.40, representing a premium of 43.43 percent over the issue price. On the NSE, it listed at 268, marking a gain of 39.58 percent.

The strong listing reflected robust investor interest in the company, which operates in the growing metal recycling sector. However, the enthusiasm was short-lived as investors rushed to book profits following the sharp listing gains.

Market analysts said such volatility is common in newly listed stocks, particularly those that debut at substantial



premiums. Investors who received allotments in the IPO often choose to lock in gains on the first day of trading, leading to increased selling pressure.

The correction in CMR Green Tech's share price highlights the cautious approach being adopted by market participants amid broader market uncertainty. While the stock remains well above its issue price, analysts believe valuation concerns and profit booking contributed to the decline.

Experts advise investors to focus on the company's long-

term fundamentals rather than short-term price movements. CMR Green Technologies operates in the non-ferrous metal recycling segment, which is expected to benefit from increasing demand for sustainable industrial practices and resource efficiency.

Analysts have also cautioned fresh investors against chasing the stock at elevated levels immediately after listing. They suggest waiting for price consolidation and greater clarity on valuations before considering new investments. The company's strong list-

ing performance nevertheless underscores investor confidence in businesses linked to sustainability and circular economy themes. Going forward, market participants will closely track CMR Green Tech's financial performance, expansion plans, and ability to capitalize on opportunities in the growing recycling industry.

The stock's movement over the next few sessions is expected to provide a clearer indication of investor sentiment and the market's assessment of its long-term growth prospects.

Mutual Fund Flows Slow in May; Gold ETFs See Outflows, Debt Funds Witness Heavy Redemptions

Investor sentiment turned cautious in May as global uncertainties and heightened market volatility weighed on mutual fund inflows. According to the latest data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), equity inflows moderated, Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) recorded net outflows, and debt funds witnessed massive redemptions nearing 1 lakh crore.

Despite the cautious mood, Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) contributions remained strong, staying above the 30,000-crore mark and reflecting continued confidence among retail investors in long-term wealth creation.

The mutual fund industry's overall assets under management (AUM) remained largely stable at 81.58 lakh crore during May. However, the industry recorded a marginal month-on-month decline of 0.42 percent, mainly due to significant outflows from debt-oriented schemes.

Debt mutual funds faced heavy redemption pressure, with investors withdrawing close to 1 lakh crore during the month. Market participants attributed the outflows to liquidity requirements and changing interest rate expectations.

Gold ETFs, which had witnessed sustained investor interest in recent months amid global uncertainty, snapped their inflow streak and regis-



tered net outflows in May. The reversal came as investors booked profits following the sharp rally in gold prices and shifted funds toward other investment avenues.

Equity mutual fund inflows also cooled during the month as stock markets experienced increased volatility. The moderation coincided with a weak performance in benchmark indices. During May, the BSE Sensex declined 2.8 percent, while the Nifty 50 fell 1.9 percent.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in Indian equities, withdrawing 32,953 crore during the month. However, strong domestic institutional buying of 82,165 crore helped cushion the impact of foreign outflows and supported market stability.

Despite the challenging mar-

ket environment, the mutual fund industry's retail participation continued to expand. Total mutual fund folios increased by 12.56 lakh during May, reaching 27.66 crore. Retail folios across equity, hybrid and solution-oriented schemes also rose to 21.10 crore from 21 crore in April.

Industry experts believe the resilience in SIP investments and growing retail participation indicate that investors remain committed to long-term investment strategies despite short-term market fluctuations. They expect mutual fund inflows to improve once global uncertainties ease and market conditions stabilize.

The latest AMFI data underscores the evolving investment landscape, where investors are balancing caution with long-term confidence amid volatile market conditions.

Techie Shares Smart Spending Habits Despite ₹2 Crore Salary

An Indian-origin technology professional working in the United States has gained attention on social media after revealing how he manages a salary exceeding 2 crore annually. His practical approach to spending and investing has impressed many viewers, highlighting the importance of financial discipline regardless of income level.



The tech professional, who works as a product manager in the wireless industry, shared insights into his career and lifestyle during a street interview in New York. With more than 12 years of experience in the sector and over six years in product management, he currently earns between \$200,000 and \$300,000 annually, placing him among the higher-income professionals in the technology field.

Despite earning a substantial salary, the techie said he focuses on simple priorities rather than extravagant spending. He explained that a significant portion of his income goes toward spending quality time

with his children, investing in stocks, purchasing properties, and securing his family's future. He also enjoys traveling to various destinations across the United States and exploring new places with his family.

The professional revealed that both his bachelor's and master's degrees were completed in New York, where he built

the foundation for his successful career. He credited continuous learning and industry experience as key factors behind his professional growth and financial success.

The interview quickly gained popularity online, attracting thousands of views and positive comments. Many social media users praised his

balanced outlook on money, noting that financial success is not just about earning a high salary but also about managing it wisely. Others appreciated his emphasis on family, investments, and personal experiences rather than luxury spending.

His story also reflects a broader trend among Indian professionals working abroad. While many earn attractive salaries, they often prioritize long-term investments, retirement planning, and family well-being over lavish lifestyles. Rising living costs in major American cities have further encouraged professionals to focus on savings and wealth creation.

When asked what advice he would offer aspiring professionals hoping to achieve similar success, the techie delivered a simple message: pursue work that you genuinely enjoy. According to him, passion, consistent learning, and dedication remain the most important ingredients for a rewarding and successful career.

"Fear of Judgment, Not Failure, Held Me Back": NRI's Emotional Return Story

After spending 11 years in the United States, pursuing higher education and building a career, an Indian expatriate has captured widespread attention online by sharing the emotional journey behind a long-delayed decision to return home. The individual revealed that the biggest obstacle was not financial concerns or relocation challenges, but the fear of being judged by relatives, friends, and society.

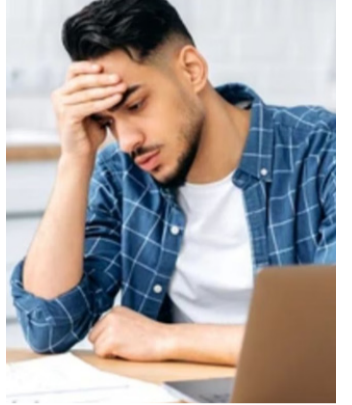
In a heartfelt social media post, the NRI reflected on how years of worrying about others' opinions prevented them from making an important life decision. Despite earning two master's degrees and spending more than a decade abroad, the individual felt trapped by concerns about how their return to India would be perceived, especially after experiencing career setbacks.

The post explained that these fears gradually led to isolation. The NRI admitted to distancing themselves from friends and avoiding social interactions because they as-

sumed people were constantly evaluating their achievements and failures. However, a recent conversation with an old friend changed that perspective entirely. Instead of criticism, the friend simply expressed sadness over the lost connection and years of silence.

This interaction helped the NRI realize that the harsh judgment they feared existed mostly in their own mind. They came to understand that most people are focused on their own lives rather than closely monitoring someone else's career path. The realization brought a sense of freedom and encouraged them to finally make the move back to India.

The story has resonated with many other NRIs and professionals who have faced similar struggles. Several individuals shared their own experiences of returning home after long periods abroad, admitting that they too had worried about societal expectations and perceived failure. Many said that once they returned, they dis-



covered that family and friends were simply happy to have them back.

The viral post highlights an important lesson about self-imposed pressure and the fear of social judgment. It serves as a reminder that personal happiness and well-being often matter far more than public perception. As the NRI prepares to begin a new chapter in India, their story has inspired many others to rethink the fears that may be holding them back from important life decisions.

Polish Traveller Praises Luxury Bus Journey in India

A Polish traveller's positive experience on her first long-distance bus journey in India has won appreciation on social media, with many users applauding her for highlighting a lesser-known side of Indian travel. Dominika Patalas-Kalra, who has been living in India for some time, shared details of her comfortable 11-hour bus ride to Delhi, describing it as far better than she had expected.

Before the journey, Dominika admitted she was concerned about spending such a long time on a bus. However, her worries quickly disappeared after boarding the vehicle. She emphasized that the bus was clean, spacious, well-maintained and operated on schedule, making the entire journey smooth and enjoyable.

She said passengers were welcomed with a gift bag containing travel essentials such as wet tissues, a dental kit, snacks and juice. The thoughtful amenities surprised her

and added to the overall comfort of the trip. She also appreciated the comfortable seating and the availability of blankets, which allowed her to rest during the overnight journey.

One of the highlights of the trip was a dinner stop at a restaurant where passengers were served a variety of dishes. Dominika described the meal as a five-course dinner that included several delicious items and a gulab jamun dessert. The next morning, passengers were provided with a breakfast box, ensuring they remained well-fed throughout the journey.

The traveller noted that she never felt hungry during the trip and was particularly impressed by the punctuality of the service. She emphasized that the bus arrived at its destination on time, something she considered an important aspect of quality travel.

After sharing her experience online, the post attracted widespread attention. Many



social media users welcomed her positive review and thanked her for showcasing a different perspective of India. Several commenters appreciated her balanced observations and said such experiences reflect the improvements being made in the country's transportation sector.

The viral post has sparked

conversations about the growing quality of intercity bus services in India. With modern amenities, improved infrastructure and customer-focused services, premium bus operators are increasingly providing travellers with a comfortable alternative to rail and air transport for long-distance journeys.

Shillong Teer Results Draw Thousands of Daily Participants

The Shillong Teer results for June 10, 2026, were announced on Wednesday, with the winning numbers for both the First Round and Second Round released to eager participants across Meghalaya. The daily archery-based lottery game continues to enjoy immense popularity, attracting thousands of players who closely follow the results and place their bets based on various prediction methods and numerical charts.

Shillong Teer is a unique game that combines traditional archery with a lottery-style format. Conducted under the supervision of the Khasi Hills Archery Sports Association, the game stands apart from conventional lotteries as its winning numbers are determined by the total number of arrows hitting a target during two separate rounds of archery. The last two digits of the total arrow count become the official winning numbers for each round.

The game has become an integral part of daily life for many residents of Meghalaya and neighbouring regions. Every day, participants eagerly await the announcement of results, hoping their chosen numbers will match the winning combination. The excitement



surrounding the draws has helped Shillong Teer maintain a loyal following for decades.

Beyond its entertainment value, Shillong Teer is deeply connected to local culture and tradition. The game supports archery, a sport with historical significance in the region, while also providing a source of engagement for communities. Many enthusiasts spend time studying previous results and analysing number patterns in an attempt to improve their chances, although the outcomes remain unpredictable.

Officials advise participants to check results only through authorised platforms and ensure they follow the rules and guidelines estab-

lished by the organisers. Prize winners can claim their rewards according to the prescribed procedures after verification of tickets and winning numbers.

As digital platforms make result updates more accessible, interest in Shillong Teer continues to grow among both regular players and newcomers. Daily result announcements consistently rank among the most searched topics in Meghalaya, reflecting the game's enduring appeal.

Authorities and organisers continue to encourage responsible participation, reminding players that Shillong Teer should be enjoyed as a recreational activity and not viewed as a guaranteed source of income.

Mosquito Swarm Turns Russian Tourist Spot Into Nightmare



A massive swarm of mosquitoes at a popular tourist destination in Russia has stunned social media users after dramatic videos showed visitors rushing into their vehicles to escape the insects. The incident occurred near Lake Shchuchye in Russia's Buryatia region, where tourists had gathered to enjoy the scenic landscape but instead found themselves trapped by an overwhelming cloud of mosquitoes.

Videos circulating online captured thousands of mosquitoes filling the air and covering surfaces around the lake. The

insects appeared so dense that many visitors abandoned their outdoor plans and sought refuge inside their cars. Some tourists reportedly remained inside their vehicles, unable to step out without being immediately surrounded by the swarm.

Social media users described the scene as resembling a horror movie. Several commenters expressed shock at the scale of the infestation, with some saying they had never witnessed such an enormous concentration of mosquitoes before. Others compared the insects to locust swarms due to

the sheer number visible in the footage.

According to local reports, mosquito activity has increased significantly across several parts of Russia this year. However, residents familiar with seasonal insect populations noted that the situation near Lake Shchuchye appeared unusually severe. Entomologists believe the swarms are linked to favourable breeding conditions created by seasonal weather patterns and the presence of nearby water bodies.

Experts have indicated that the heightened mosquito activity could continue for several

more days before gradually subsiding. Mosquito populations often surge during warmer months, particularly in areas with wetlands, lakes and standing water, which provide ideal breeding grounds.

This is not the first time Russia has experienced such a phenomenon. Similar scenes were reported in 2021 when enormous mosquito swarms descended on parts of the Kamchatka Peninsula, drawing international attention and widespread discussion online.

The viral videos have once again highlighted the challenges posed by seasonal insect outbreaks in certain regions. While the swarms are generally considered a natural occurrence, their intensity can significantly disrupt tourism and outdoor activities.

The incident has also renewed conversations about mosquito control measures and scientific efforts worldwide to reduce mosquito populations, particularly species that spread diseases. For the tourists at Lake Shchuchye, however, the visit became memorable for all the wrong reasons, transforming a peaceful getaway into an unexpected battle against nature.

Auto Driver's Son from Chandigarh Earns India Call-Up

Chandigarh: In a story that beautifully blends grit, sacrifice and determination, Dilraj Singh, the son of an auto-rickshaw driver, has earned a place in the Indian Handball Team and is set to represent the country at the International Handball Tournament in Dhaka, Bangladesh, scheduled from June 10 to 14.

For 19-year-old Dilraj, this moment is not just a sporting achievement but the culmination of years of relentless effort, early morning training sessions and unwavering belief in a dream that once seemed distant. Coming from a modest household in Chandigarh, his journey reflects how talent, when supported by perseverance and family commitment, can break through even the toughest barriers.

His father, Sukhwinder Singh, who works long hours as an auto driver, has been the backbone of his sporting journey. Despite limited financial means, he never discouraged his son's passion for handball. "I always believed he had something special. My income may be small, but my dream for him was always big," he said.

Dilraj's mother, Gurmeet

Kaur, played an equally important role in ensuring discipline and stability at home. From maintaining his nutrition to encouraging him during setbacks, she made sure his focus remained on training. The family often sacrificed personal comforts to support his sporting ambitions.

Dilraj began playing handball just four years ago, almost by chance, but quickly developed a deep passion for the sport. "There were moments I thought of quitting, especially during difficult times. But my parents and coach kept me going," he said. His daily routine of intense practice, fitness training and mental preparation gradually helped him rise through the ranks.

His coach, Nandlal, describes him as a disciplined and hardworking athlete with exceptional commitment. "His success is proof that financial background does not define potential. Dedication does," he said.

Beyond representing India, Dilraj carries a personal dream—to build a permanent home for his parents who have spent their lives struggling for stability. "Wearing the India jersey is an honour, but giving



my parents a better life is my biggest goal," he said.

Dilraj's selection has been celebrated across Chandigarh's sporting community, with many calling it an inspiring example for young athletes. His journey stands as a reminder that determination, when combined with sacrifice and support, can turn even the most modest beginnings into national pride.

Seniors Seek Clarity as India's ODI Plans Come Under Focus



As Team India begins preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup, reports suggest that uncertainty surrounding the future of some senior players has led to discussions directly with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), bypassing the team management headed by coach Gautam Gambhir.

According to reports, several experienced members of the Indian squad have sought clarity from top BCCI officials regarding their roles and future in the ODI setup. The development comes at a crucial stage as India starts building its roadmap for the next World Cup, scheduled to be held next year.

Gautam Gambhir, who has been India's head coach for the past two years, is believed to have established strong authority in the Test and T20I teams. However, reports indicate that a simi-

lar level of influence has not yet been seen in the ODI format, where discussions about team composition and long-term planning continue.

A major point of debate revolves around the futures of former captain Rohit Sharma and batting stalwart Virat Kohli. Ever since the duo stepped away from T20 internationals, speculation has persisted regarding their participation in the 2027 ODI World Cup. Both players remain among India's most experienced cricketers, but age and team transition plans have sparked discussions about their roles moving forward.

Reports suggest that the Indian team management, selectors and senior players are yet to reach complete alignment regarding the long-term strategy. With Shubman Gill expected to play a leadership role in the coming years, the team

management is likely to focus on establishing a clear direction and defining responsibilities within the squad.

Cricket observers believe that effective communication between the management and senior players will be crucial over the next 16 months. The experience of players like Rohit and Kohli could remain valuable, but clarity regarding expectations and team objectives will be essential for maintaining harmony within the dressing room.

As India gears up for important ODI assignments, including the upcoming series against Afghanistan, attention will remain on how the management handles the transition phase. The decisions taken during this period could significantly influence India's chances of mounting a strong challenge for the 2027 ODI World Cup title.

Sachin's Advice Helped Jemimah Stay Grounded Before World Cup Final

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has revealed how a timely message from cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar helped her stay focused ahead of the Women's ODI World Cup final after her match-winning performance in the semifinal against Australia.

Rodrigues played one of the finest innings of her career in the semifinal, scoring an unbeaten 127 runs to guide India to a historic victory over Australia. The win ended Australia's dominance and paved the way for India to reach the final, where they eventually clinched their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title in Navi Mumbai.

Speaking about the period between the semifinal and final, Rodrigues admitted that the emotions surrounding the memorable knock could have distracted her. However, a message from Tendulkar, delivered through her coach Prashant Shetty, helped her regain focus.

According to Rodrigues, Tendulkar acknowledged the significance of her semifinal performance but reminded her that the tournament was not over. He advised her to put the achievement behind her and begin again with a fresh mindset for the final. The message emphasized that success in one match does not guarantee success in the next



and that every game should be approached as a new challenge.

Rodrigues said the advice provided valuable clarity and helped her mentally reset before the title clash. Receiving guidance from one of cricket's greatest players made the message even more impactful and strengthened her determination to contribute to the team's success.

Meanwhile, opening batter Shafali Verma also spoke about the motivation she received ahead of the final. She revealed that her father sent her a voice message during the two-day break before the championship match. In the message, he encouraged her

to work hard and ensure that her contribution played a decisive role in India's World Cup triumph.

The words inspired Shafali to give her best on the field. She responded with an outstanding all-round performance, scoring 87 runs and claiming two wickets, which proved crucial in India's victory over South Africa in the final.

As the reigning ODI world champions prepare for their opening match of the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan in Birmingham, the stories behind their historic triumph continue to inspire cricket fans across the country.

Hardik Pandya Ruled Out Of Afghanistan ODI Series

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan after suffering a fresh quadriceps injury. The setback comes just a day after he was declared fit and cleared to participate in the series following fitness assessments at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Pandya was expected to join the Indian squad in Dharamsala ahead of the opening ODI scheduled for June 13. However, the latest injury has forced team management and selectors to reconsider their plans and identify a replacement at short notice.

The development is a major blow for the Indian team, as Pandya remains one of the most valuable players in the country's white-ball setup. His ability to contribute with both bat and ball provides crucial balance to the side. Known for his aggressive batting in the final overs and his capability to deliver important breakthroughs with the ball, Pandya has played a key role in India's limited-overs success over the years.

The all-rounder had already endured an injury-interrupted IPL 2026 season with Mumbai Indians, raising concerns about his long-term fitness. Despite successfully completing training sessions and reportedly bowling a full quota of overs during practice, the fresh injury has once again sidelined him at a crucial stage.

Meanwhile, there was positive news for India regarding former captain Rohit Sharma. Rohit, who was also undergoing fitness assessment due to a hamstring concern, has been declared fit and is available for selection in the Afghanistan series. However, senior batter Virat Kohli remains unavailable as he continues to recover from a hamstring injury.

The three-match ODI series against Afghanistan will be played in Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 13, June 17 and June 20 respectively. The series is considered important for India's preparations toward the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, with the team management looking to finalize combinations and identify key players for



the future.

Pandya's absence leaves a significant gap in the squad, particularly in the all-rounder's role. The team management, led by head coach Gautam Gambhir, will now have to explore alternative options

as India begins another important phase of its ODI planning.

The Indian squad is expected to continue its preparations before travelling to Dharamsala for the opening match of the series.

Boycott Demands Action Against Stokes Over Nightclub Row

Former England batting great Geoffrey Boycott has called on the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to take strict disciplinary action against Test captain Ben Stokes following a nightclub controversy that has dominated headlines ahead of England's second Test against New Zealand.

The incident reportedly involved Stokes and teammate Gus Atkinson breaching the team's curfew after England's victory in the opening Test. Reports suggest the pair became involved in an altercation at a nightclub, an episode that allegedly resulted in an ECB security official sustaining injuries. The matter is currently under investigation, leading to a delay in the announcement of England's squad for the upcoming Test match.

Reacting strongly to the controversy, Boycott argued that the ECB must demonstrate that no player is above the rules, regardless of status or importance to the team. He stressed that a captain should

lead by example and set the standards for discipline both on and off the field.

According to Boycott, merely imposing a financial penalty would not be sufficient. He noted that modern cricketers earn substantial salaries, making fines ineffective as a deterrent. Instead, he advocated for a suspension, saying it would send a stronger message about accountability and professional conduct.

At the same time, Boycott emphasized that any final decision regarding Stokes' future should be based on the findings of a thorough investigation. He urged ECB officials to establish all facts before determining whether additional sanctions are necessary.

The controversy has created an unwelcome distraction for England at a crucial stage of their season. With major assignments ahead, including the much-anticipated Ashes series next year, concerns have been raised about maintaining discipline and team culture within the squad.



Speculation has also surfaced regarding Stokes' future, with some reports suggesting the England captain may even consider his international career options after finding himself at the centre of the controversy. However, no official statement has been made regarding such claims. As the ECB investigation

continues, cricket fans and experts await the outcome, which could have significant implications for England's leadership group and preparations for upcoming international fixtures. The board is expected to announce its findings and any disciplinary measures once the inquiry is completed.

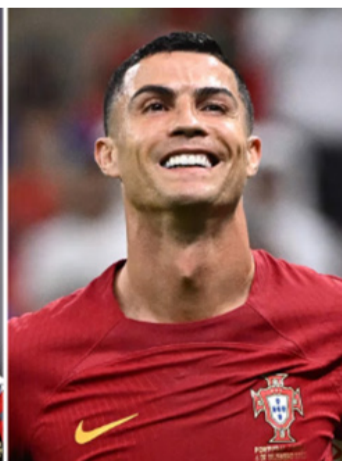
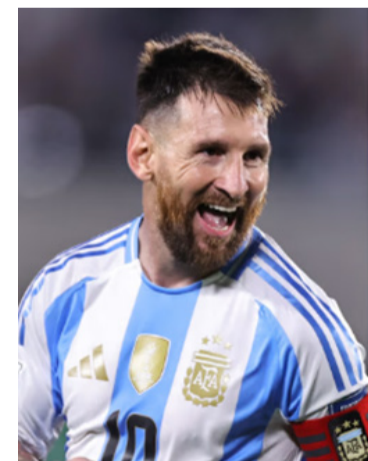
World Cup Could Set Up One Final Messi-Ronaldo Showdown

Football fans around the world may get one last opportunity to witness the sport's greatest rivalry as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo could face each other during the FIFA World Cup 2026. With both legends expected to be playing in their final World Cup, excitement is growing over the possibility of a historic clash between Argentina and Portugal.

The two superstars have not met in a competitive match for nearly six years. Their last encounter came in the UEFA Champions League when Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus defeated Lionel Messi's Barcelona 3-0, with the Portuguese forward scoring twice. Since then, their careers have taken different paths, preventing another meeting on the field.

At the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Argentina have been placed in Group J alongside Algeria, Austria and Jordan, while Portugal are in Group K with DR Congo, Uzbekistan and Colombia. Depending on how both teams perform in the group stage and knockout rounds, three possible scenarios could lead to a Messi-Ronaldo showdown.

The first and most likely scenario involves both Argentina and Portugal finishing as group winners. If they then progress through the Round of 32 and Round of 16,



they would meet in the quarter-finals, creating one of the most anticipated matches in World Cup history.

A second possibility arises if both teams finish as runners-up in their respective groups. Under the tournament format, this would place them on a collision course in the Round of 16. However, given the strength of both squads, many observers consider this outcome less probable.

The third scenario could produce the most dramatic ending. If one team wins its group while the other finishes second, their paths would remain separate throughout the tournament. In that case, Mes-

si and Ronaldo could only meet in the FIFA World Cup Final, setting up a dream finale for football fans worldwide.

For more than a decade, Messi and Ronaldo dominated world football, winning numerous individual and team honours while inspiring millions of supporters. As both icons approach the twilight of their careers, the possibility of one final World Cup battle has generated enormous excitement.

Whether the meeting happens in the Round of 16, quarter-finals or even the final, a Messi versus Ronaldo clash would undoubtedly become one of the defining moments of FIFA World Cup 2026.

Veteran filmmaker Bharathiraja passes away at 84

Indian cinema has lost one of its most influential filmmakers with the passing of veteran director, actor, and screenwriter Bharathiraja at the age of 84. The legendary filmmaker, widely respected as IyakkunarImayam, breathed his last at his residence in Chennai due to age-related health complications. His demise comes shortly after the personal loss of his son, actor-director Manoj Bharathiraja, which had deeply impacted him in recent times.

Bharathiraja redefined South Indian cinema with his groundbreaking debut 16 Vayathinile in 1977, introducing a new wave of realistic storytelling rooted in rural life. At a time when studio-centric films dominated the industry, he shifted focus to natural settings, emotional depth, and authentic characters. Over a career spanning nearly five decades, he delivered several acclaimed films including SigappuRojakkal, MudhalMariyadhai, and VedhamPudhithu, earning multiple National Film Awards, Filmfare Awards South, and the prestigious Padma Shri.



His influence also extended strongly to Telugu cinema with memorable works such as SeethakokaChiluka, Aradhana, KothaJeevithalu, and Jamadagni. Beyond direction, he also made a mark as an actor in later years, continuing to appear in notable roles that were appreciated by audiences.

In his final years, Bharathiraja remained active in cinema, with his last directorial contribution

coming through an anthology segment in Modern Love Chennai. His legacy includes not only his films but also the many filmmakers and actors he introduced and inspired. He is survived by his wife Chandraleela and daughter Janani. The film industry across India continues to pay heartfelt tributes to a visionary whose work reshaped storytelling and left an enduring impact on generations.

Ram Charan's Peddi crosses Rs. 332 crore in 6 days

Ram Charan's latest sports drama Peddi continues its strong box office run, registering impressive collections in its opening week. The film has reportedly grossed Rs 332.1 crore worldwide within six days of release, maintaining steady momentum across major territories despite facing mixed online chatter.

Directed by BuchiBabu Sana, the film has been performing consistently at the ticket windows and added around Rs 17 crore on its sixth day alone. Trade reports suggest that reduced ticket pricing in several regions has helped sustain audience turnout, with expectations that collections may further improve in the coming days.

Peddi features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, while an ensemble cast including Shiva Rajkumar, Divyendu Sharma, and JagapathiBabu plays key supporting roles. The film is backed



by Vriddhi Cinemas and has music composed by AR Rahman, which has been one of its major highlights.

The sports drama blends emotional storytelling with high-intensity sports sequences, contributing to its strong audience

response. Industry observers note that the film's performance in its first week positions it as one of the notable box office successes of the year so far, with further growth dependent on weekday stability and upcoming competition at the box office.



Janhvi Kapoor in talks for creature horror film with Tumbbad director

Actress Janhvi Kapoor is reportedly in advanced discussions for a new high-concept creature horror film directed by Rahi Anil Barve, the filmmaker best known for the cult classic Tumbbad. The project is said to be a large-scale horror-fantasy venture that blends intense storytelling with strong visual world-building.

According to reports, the film is being developed as a creature-based horror thriller and will be backed by Jio Studios. The makers are currently working on finalizing pre-production details, with extensive planning already underway to build the film's unique world and tone.

Janhvi Kapoor is said to be highly interested in the project and is expected to begin preparation work soon, including specialized workshops to get into the demands of the role. If confirmed,

this collaboration would mark a significant shift in her filmography, moving into a darker and more experimental genre compared to her recent commercial outings.

Director Rahi Anil Barve, who gained widespread acclaim for Tumbbad, is known for his atmospheric storytelling and distinctive visual style, which has raised expectations around this proposed collaboration. Industry buzz suggests the film will rely heavily on practical aesthetics, mythological undertones, and psychological horror elements.

While the project has not yet been officially announced, it is already generating curiosity among fans of both the actress and the director. Further details on casting, title, and shooting schedule are expected to be revealed once the film moves into official production.

Alia Bhatt Leads YRF Spy Universe's First Female-Centric Action Film Alpha

The Yash Raj Films Spy Universe has expanded with its first female-led action thriller Alpha, headlined by Alia Bhatt and directed by Shiv Rawail. The makers released an explosive teaser running nearly two minutes, offering a high-octane glimpse into the world of elite espionage, intense action, and emotional conflict.

The teaser opens with a young Alia Bhatt sharing a celebratory moment with her father, played by Bobby Deol, during her 18th birthday dinner. The narrative quickly shifts when she is introduced to a secret mission under a program called Alpha, where she has been rigorously trained to become a covert operative. This marks the beginning of her transformation into a highly skilled and fearless field agent.

What follows is a series of action-packed sequences showcasing her tak-

ing on dangerous missions with precision, intelligence, and aggression. The teaser highlights her evolution into a rogue operative operating in high-risk environments, delivering stylized combat and intense visuals that underline the scale of the Spy Universe expansion.

The glimpse ends with a powerful action moment that reinforces her fierce avatar, while Bobby Deol's brief appearance adds weight to the storyline. Although Sharvari and Anil Kapoor do not appear prominently in the teaser, they are expected to play key roles in the full film.

Produced by Aditya Chopra and backed by YRF, Alpha is written by Uday Chopra with music composed by Rohansh and Abeer. The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on July 3, 2026, and is already generating strong



anticipation as a milestone entry in the expanding spy franchise.

PawanKalyan Picks Two Recent Hindi Films He Liked

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and actor PawanKalyan recently shared his views on contemporary Hindi cinema during an interview with ANI, highlighting two recent films he personally appreciated. Speaking about the rise of nationalistic and content-driven storytelling, he mentioned "Dhurandhar" and "Baramulla" as his notable recent favourites.

PawanKalyan said he liked "Dhurandhar," starring Ranveer Singh and directed by Aditya Dhar, praising its strong storytelling and alignment with modern audience expectations. He also spoke positively about "Baramulla," calling it an impactful film that stood out to him. He recalled his experiences in Srinagar during the late 1980s when he was present for Telugu film shoots, sharing memories of the region's environment and conditions at the time.

He further noted that film shootings often involved interactions with local communities, which included both warm hospitality and occasional tensions. These experiences, he said, helped him better understand the region's cultural complexity.

"Baramulla," written by Aditya Dhar and directed by Aditya Suhas, is a supernatural horror thriller starring ManavKaul and BhashaSum-bli. The film is currently streaming on Netflix and is produced by Jio Studios and B62 Studios.



Venkatesh-Trivikram Film AadarshaKutumbam Eyes Dussehra Release

The much-anticipated film AadarshaKutumbam House No: 47 (AK47), starring Venkatesh and marking his first collaboration with director Trivikram Srinivas, continues to generate strong buzz in Telugu cinema circles. The film features Srinidhi Shetty as the female lead and is being shaped as a family entertainer with strong emotional and dramatic elements.

Although the project was initially planned for a summer release, shooting delays have pushed the timeline further. As per industry reports, the makers are now considering a Dussehra 2026 release window. If schedules go as planned, the film may hit theatres on October 16, 2026, giving it a major festive advantage at the box office.

However, the team has not yet issued an official confirmation, keeping fans waiting for clarity. The film is being produced by S. Radha Krishna under Haarika&Hassine Creations, with music composed by Thaman.

With its strong cast and the combination of Venkatesh's family appeal and Trivikram's storytelling style, the project remains one of the most awaited Telugu films of 2026.



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