

BUZZ POINTS



UP Rolls Out Electric Bus Network, Boosts Green Mobility PAGE 07



Dalai Lama Discharged After Successful Knee Surgery PAGE 07



SC Rejects Meenakshi Natarajan's Plea Over Rajya Sabha Nomination Rejection PAGE 07



CM Revanth Reddy Accuses BJP of 'Seat Chori'

New Delhi, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday accused the BJP and BRS of spreading misinformation regarding the rejection of AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination papers and alleged that the BJP was attempting to divert attention from what he described as an "undemocratic" development in Madhya Pradesh. Speaking informally with journalists in Delhi, Revanth Reddy alleged that the BJP had deliberately fielded a third Rajya Sabha candidate in Madhya Pradesh despite lacking adequate numbers, accusing the party of engaging in political manipulation. He termed the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination "painful, unfortunate and undemocratic," alleging that the returning officer acted in favour of the BJP. He maintained that no criminal case was pending against Natarajan in Telangana. The Chief Minister criticised the BJP, stating that the party had moved from "vote

chori" to "seat chori," while accusing it of spreading false narratives to shift focus from the controversy. He also alleged that Congress leaders were being falsely portrayed as covert BJP supporters. Responding to allegations linking him to remarks praising Adolf Hitler, Revanth Reddy firmly denied making any such statements and said no person committed to democratic values could consider Hitler an inspiration. On Cabinet expansion, the Chief Minister clarified that there had been no discussions with the Congress high command and dismissed speculation surrounding the issue. Addressing questions about Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, Revanth Reddy said Pawan was free to visit Telangana, hold meetings, and contest elections. However, he explained that permission for a recent public meeting was denied only due to law-and-order concerns. Revanth Reddy also criticised the BJP-led Central government, P3

Are Government Advisors Necessary Amid Financial Strain?

Ravi Podili The Telangana government is facing severe financial pressure, a fact repeatedly acknowledged by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Against this backdrop, a debate has emerged over the necessity of appointing government advisors and whether the system is justified during challenging economic times. The state government has appointed around a dozen advisors across various departments. However, questions are increasingly being raised regarding their actual role and effectiveness. Even within official circles, there appears to be uncertainty about the contributions of many advisors. Traditionally, government advisors are expected to provide policy guidance to departments, monitor the implementation of government schemes, offer strategic counsel to the Chief Minister, and assist in resolving administrative challenges. Critics, however, argue that many advisors are not visibly fulfilling these



responsibilities. One exception often highlighted is Vem Narender Reddy, considered a close associate of Revanth Reddy. Since his appointment as a government advisor, he has reportedly played an active role in government programs and in coordinating between the party and the administration. He was later elected to the Rajya Sabha, though expectations of appointing a replacement advisor have yet to materialize. Similarly, senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao was recently appointed as Advisor to the BC Welfare Department with ministerial status. He has remained visible through meetings, official reviews, and discussions with bureaucrats. However, concerns remain over the activities and contributions of several other advisors, with little clarity on how effectively they are supporting

the government or the Chief Minister. The debate has intensified due to Telangana's strained finances. Delays in salary payments to employees, pending retirement benefits, fee reimbursement dues for students, overseas scholarship releases, and unpaid contractor bills have all become contentious issues. Contractors have even staged protests demanding payment clearances. In such circumstances, attention has also turned to the facilities and privileges extended to government advisors, including salaries, house rent allowance, official vehicles, drivers, office staff, chambers in the Secretariat, and in some cases, cabinet minister rank. Political analysts argue that while governments justify such appointments as a way to utilize the experience of senior leaders, the benefits of that experience must ultimately be visible to the public. Otherwise, critics may view these positions merely as political rehabilitation.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Meets Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Dev Sai

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

In a significant step toward securing approvals for the proposed Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme, Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy held a crucial meeting with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai in Hyderabad on Thursday night and was warmly received by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy at Park Hyatt Hotel. Following the courtesy meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy, accompanied by senior engineering officials from the Telangana Irrigation Department, participated in a detailed review meeting with the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister regarding the proposed irrigation



project being constructed near the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border. During the meeting, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy extensively discussed the strategic

importance of the Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme and submitted an official representation on behalf of the Telangana government requesting the Chhattisgarh government to grant the required NOC for the project. The Telangana government views the Sammakka-Sarakka project as a crucial initiative aimed at strengthening irrigation infrastructure and ensuring long-term water security for farmers in North Telangana. Officials stated that the project is expected to provide irrigation facilities to thousands of acres of agricultural land, significantly benefiting the farming community in the region. The meeting also focused on expediting the approval process through better coordination between Telangana and Chhattisgarh governments on inter-state matters related to the project. Telangana officials

highlighted the need for constructive cooperation to resolve pending clearances and ensure the timely execution of the irrigation scheme. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the Chhattisgarh government to respond positively to Telangana's request and support the project in the larger interest of farmers dependent on irrigation. He reiterated that the Telangana government remains committed to securing permanent irrigation solutions and strengthening the agricultural sector through major water infrastructure projects. The Telangana government has intensified efforts to obtain all pending permissions for the Sammakka-Sarakka Lift Irrigation Scheme, underlining its broader goal of ensuring sustainable irrigation benefits and agricultural stability for farmers across the state.



CM Revanth Reddy Condolences Demise of Legendary Shooter Jaspal Rana

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed profound grief over the demise of renowned Indian shooter Jaspal Rana, describing his passing as a significant loss to the nation and the sporting fraternity. In a condolence message, the Chief Minister remembered Jaspal Rana as one of India's most accomplished shooters, an Asian Games gold medalist, and a distinguished coach who devoted his life to the growth and development of Indian sports. Revanth Reddy said Jaspal Rana's remarkable achievements at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games brought immense pride to the country. He also recalled Rana's representation of India at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where he showcased exceptional talent and strengthened India's presence in international shooting competitions. The Chief Minister particularly highlighted Rana's con-

tribution as India's High-Performance Coach for pistol events, noting that he played a crucial role in nurturing young talent and strengthening the country's shooting ecosystem. Through his guidance and mentorship, several aspiring shooters received inspiration and professional support to excel in the sport. "With his passing, India has lost not only a legendary sportsman but also an inspiring mentor whose commitment to excellence and service to sports will be remembered for generations," the Chief Minister stated. Revanth Reddy conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, friends, students, and the entire sporting community mourning the loss of the celebrated shooter. He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Jaspal Rana's contributions to Indian shooting and sports development will continue to inspire future generations of athletes and coaches across the country.



Shah Reviews Security Arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

New Delhi, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review security and operational preparedness for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3. The meeting was attended by senior security and administrative officials, including National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief Uday Shankar Dvivedi, and CRPF Director General GP Singh. Officials said extensive security measures are being put in place to ensure the safe conduct of the 57-day pilgrimage to the sacred cave shrine located at an altitude of 3,880 metres in the Himalayas. Security agencies are combining ad-

vanced surveillance systems, intelligence-based monitoring, and coordinated operations to create a secure environment for devotees. Pilgrims will be able to access the shrine through two routes—the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district. Authorities have intensified preparations across multiple sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, communication facilities, transportation, and emergency response mechanisms. Jammu and Kashmir administration officials have been directed to ensure seamless arrangements for pilgrims throughout the yatra period. The Jammu and Kashmir Police has deployed a P3

BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao Says Modi's Leadership Key to Safe, Developed India

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao said that a safe and developed India is possible only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praising the Centre's achievements in national security, governance, and economic development over the last 12 years. He was speaking at an intellectuals' conclave held grandly at Gayatri Gardens in Secunderabad, where Union Defence



Minister Rajnath Singh attended as the chief guest. The event focused on the theme, "12 Years of Good Governance - Development - Public Welfare." In his inaugural address,

Ramchander Rao said the Modi-led government had transformed India in sectors such as national security, infrastructure, economic growth, governance, and public welfare. He stated that decisive leadership and firm governance had made India a stronger and safer nation. Highlighting the country's defence achievements, Ramchander Rao said bold military operations such as surgical strikes and "Operation Sindo

KTR Alleges Congress Conspiracy Behind Meenakshi Natarajan's Defeat

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on the Congress government in Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and the BJP-led Central government during an extensive media interaction, accusing the ruling Congress of governance failures, political hypocrisy, and internal



conspiracies. Addressing the issue of Meenakshi Natarajan's defeat, KTR alleged that the Congress party itself was solely respon-

sible and blamed internal factionalism for the setback. He questioned why Congress leaders were attempting to involve political opponents in what he described as an issue arising from internal betrayals. KTR demanded that the Congress leadership identify those allegedly responsible for leaking information related to cases involving Meenakshi Natarajan and sharing details with BJP leaders. He suggested that if Chief Minister

Women-Led Development Driving India's Growth: PM Narendra Modi

New Delhi, June 12 | TPN Bureau

"Over the last 12 years, our efforts have created an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-building," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, highlighting the transformative impact of women-centric policies under the NDA government. In a series of posts on X, the Prime Minister underscored that the government's focus on dignity, opportunity, and empowerment has significantly expanded the role of women across multiple sectors. He noted that India's "nari shak-



ti" is now actively contributing to areas ranging from financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science, and governance.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao Says Value-Based Farming Is Telangana's Future

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Friday said the future of agriculture in the State lies not merely in increasing crop production but in enhancing the value of agricultural produce through technology, processing, and market-driven approaches.

The minister was speaking at the 62nd Foundation Day celebrations of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU) held at Rajendranagar. A national seminar on the theme, "Outstanding Contributions of Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to India's Green Revolution," was organised at the university auditorium as part of the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, Tummala said the university, established in 1964, has played a significant role in supporting farmers through agricultural research, education, and extension services for over six decades. He noted that the university buildings were inaugurated in 1966 by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, describing it as a proud moment in the institution's history. The minister praised Indira Gandhi's leadership during the food crisis of the 1960s and acknowledged the contributions of agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan in ushering in the Green Revolution, which helped India emerge as one of the world's

leading food grain-producing nations.

Highlighting the university's achievements, Tummala said PJTSAU has developed 525 crop varieties over the last 62 years. He said paddy varieties such as Telangana Sona, BPT-5204, and MTU-1010, along with DHM-series maize hybrids, have gained popularity among farmers across the country.

He stressed the need to bring revolutionary changes in agriculture through artificial intelligence (AI), drones, robotics, and precision farming technologies. Referring to initiatives such as Rythu Nestham, Drone Academy, AgriHub, digital agriculture, and AI-based research, he said the university was becoming a centre for future-ready farming solutions.

Tummala emphasised that agriculture must shift from being production-oriented to value-based and market-driven, with greater focus on food processing, exports, and marketing to improve farmers' incomes. He also highlighted emerging opportunities such as carbon credits, bio-economy, and climate-smart agriculture, stating that environmental conservation could soon become an additional source of income for farmers.

The minister called upon PJTSAU to lead Telangana's transition toward technology-driven, value-based agriculture and position the State as a model for agricultural development in India.



MP Etala Rajender Visits Khammam Minor Assaunt Victim at NIMS, Demands Strict Action

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Member of Parliament Etala Rajender visited the minor girl from Khammam, who was allegedly assaulted, at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad on Friday and enquired about her health condition from doctors. He wished for her speedy recovery and expressed concern over the seriousness of her injuries.

Speaking to the media after meeting the victim and her family, Etala Rajender strongly condemned the incident, stating that a "human monster" had committed a heinous act against a seventh-class student in Khammam. He demanded strict punishment for the accused and urged the government to ensure justice is delivered swiftly.

The MP said the incident had brought shame to society and stressed the need for immediate and serious action by the government to prevent such crimes from recurring. He said strong action against offenders would create fear among criminals and help protect women

and children.

Etala Rajender demanded that the government provide complete protection to the victim and ensure that all medical treatment is provided free of cost. He also called for financial assistance to be extended to the victim's family to support them during the difficult period.

According to the MP, the girl had come to stay at her grandmother's house in Khammam, while her grandfather worked as a watchman. He expressed deep concern over the condition of the child and said the family was going through severe emotional trauma.

Doctors informed him that the girl had suffered serious injuries, including damage to her spine, and that her condition remained critical. Medical experts reportedly said it would take at least another 15 days before a clearer assessment of her recovery could be made.

Etala Rajender urged authorities to act firmly and ensure justice for the victim, stating that such incidents should never be repeated in society.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Orders Early Resumption of Singareni Medical Board

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

In a major relief for Singareni workers and their families, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has directed the Singareni management to resume the long-pending Medical Board process at the earliest and ensure it is conducted in a transparent and dispute-free manner.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the Medical Board, which had remained stalled for some time due to various reasons, should be restarted immediately to safeguard the welfare of workers and secure the future of their families. He stressed that the process must be fair, transparent, and free from irregularities, ensuring that only genuinely eligible employees benefit through compassionate appointments for their dependents.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that concerns regarding the Medical Board were raised by ministers and MLAs from coal belt regions during a recent meeting on Singareni development. "Taking note of workers' concerns, the government has decided to move forward positively to protect labour interests," he said.

The minister instructed Singareni authorities to implement a foolproof system to prevent irregularities, middlemen, or fraudulent practices in the Medical Board process. He urged workers to cooperate with management



and trust the government's efforts toward employee welfare.

In another major announcement, Bhatti Vikramarka revealed that appointment letters would be distributed to 335 eligible dependents under compassionate employment at a programme scheduled in Manacheril on Saturday (June 13). He directed Singareni management to make all necessary arrangements for the event.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said the government was exploring legal solutions to resolve the decades-old issue of alias names in Singareni employment records and had sought legal opinion on the matter.

Highlighting welfare initiatives undertaken after the formation of the Congress government, Bhatti Vikramarka said 2,657 jobs had been filled in Singareni, including 2,102

compassionate appointments and 555 external recruitments. He noted that the age limit for compassionate appointments had been increased from 35 to 40 years, benefiting nearly 200 people.

He further highlighted welfare measures such as 1.25 crore accident insurance for 40,000 Singareni employees, 10 lakh free natural insurance coverage, 40 lakh accident insurance for contract workers, profit-sharing benefits worth 1,500 crore over two years, and bonus payments to contract workers.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Bhatti Vikramarka said efforts would continue to expand Singareni operations, secure new coal blocks, and generate more employment opportunities for workers' families in the future.

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, MLA Beerla Ilaiah Launch 2.60 Crore Kachcha Canal Works

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, June 12 | TPN Bureau

A major step was taken toward resolving the long-pending drainage concerns of Aler town in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district with the launch of construction works for the long-awaited Kachcha Canal project. The initiative is expected to provide a permanent solution to drainage and water stagnation issues that have troubled residents for several years.

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, along with Aler MLA and Telangana Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, visited the municipal office in Aler and held discussions with the municipal chairperson and councillors on various developmental issues concerning the town.

Later, the leaders participated in the foundation-laying ceremony for the construction of the incomplete Kachcha Canal in Aler town. The project, to be undertaken at an estimated cost of 2.60 crore, aims to transform the incomplete canal into a permanent and fully developed drainage system to prevent future civic issues.

The programme was attended by Telangana Women Cooperative Development Corporation Chairperson Shobha Rani, along with local representatives and officials.



Speaking on the occasion, Beerla Ilaiah and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the Telangana government remains committed to the comprehensive development of Aler town and is prioritising infrastructure projects to improve civic amenities for residents. They stated that the incomplete canal had been a longstanding issue, causing severe inconvenience during the rainy season due to water stagnation and inadequate drainage facilities.

The leaders noted that the canal's completion would significantly improve sanitation and drainage infrastructure, ensuring better living conditions for residents and preventing recurring monsoon-related

problems.

They assured that the works would be completed quickly while maintaining quality standards so that the facility could be made available to the public without delay. The leaders expressed confidence that the project would contribute significantly to strengthening urban infrastructure and improving public convenience in Aler.

A large number of local public representatives, officials, party leaders, workers, and residents participated in the programme, expressing optimism that the long-standing civic issue would finally be resolved through the project.

Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu Says Telangana Aims to Become Global Logistics Hub

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Friday said the State government is working with a long-term vision to transform Telangana into a global logistics hub by building a future-ready ecosystem capable of addressing emerging challenges and opportunities in the logistics and shipping sectors. Speaking at the International Conference on Shipping and Logistics 2026, organised by the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) at HICC Novotel in Hyderabad, the minister said logistics would play a crucial role in achieving the objectives

outlined in the State's long-term development roadmap, Telangana Rising-2047. Highlighting Telangana's growing prominence in exports and industrial development, Sridhar Babu said the State currently ranks eighth in India in the Export Preparedness Index and holds the second position among landlocked States. He also noted that Telangana ranks seventh nationally in merchandise exports, reflecting the State's rapid industrial progress and strong economic performance.

The minister said the government is strategically transforming Telangana's landlocked geography into an economic advantage through infrastructure-driven develop-

ment. He explained that under the proposed Logistics Policy 2.0, the government plans to establish mega multimodal logistics parks, dry ports, bonded warehousing facilities, and integrated logistics hubs to strengthen supply chains and improve connectivity. Emphasising the growing need for a highly skilled workforce in logistics, Sridhar Babu said the government is preparing a comprehensive action plan to encourage the adoption of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, data analytics, and machine learning. These innovations, he said, would help improve efficiency, competitiveness, and operational excellence in the logistics sec-



Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Alleges 'Conspiracy' to Remove Votes in Congress Strongholds

Khammam, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Friday accused the BJP-led Central government of attempting to weaken opposition parties through alleged manipulation of voter lists and misuse of central agencies.

Addressing a Booth Level Agents (BLA) awareness and training camp organised by the TPCC on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at PVR Gardens in Nayudupeta Cross Road under Edulapuram Municipality in Paleru constituency, the minister alleged that the Centre was adopting "undemocratic methods" to target opposition parties and governments.

Ponguleti described the SIR process as a "major threat" and alleged that efforts were being made to remove votes in areas where the Congress party has strong support. He claimed that nearly 30 to 35 per cent of votes in such regions could be targeted under the pretext of identifying "fake votes."

The minister alleged that minor discrepancies in voter details, including spelling mistakes in names or small age variations, could be used as grounds for deletion of voter names from electoral rolls. He further claimed that similar strategies had earlier been implemented in states such as Bihar and West Bengal and warned Congress workers to remain vigilant in Telangana.

Referring to the recent Rajya

Sabha nomination issue involving Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan, Ponguleti alleged that despite having sufficient support, her nomination was rejected due to political pressure over an old FIR. He accused the BJP of attempting to "steal seats" after allegedly influencing electoral outcomes through voter manipulation.

The minister also criticised the alleged use of central agencies such as the CBI, ED, and Income Tax Department for political purposes, accusing the BJP of targeting opposition leaders and destabilising non-BJP governments across the country.

Calling upon Congress workers to remain alert during the voter verification process scheduled from June 25 to July 24, Ponguleti urged party cadres to ensure eligible voters are not excluded from electoral rolls, particularly those temporarily residing outside their native places for education or employment.

He emphasised that every genuine vote should be protected and asked Congress workers to mobilise voters to participate in the verification process. Ponguleti also urged party cadres to support Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and counter what he termed attempts to weaken democratic institutions.

Several Congress leaders, local representatives, and hundreds of BLAs from 291 booths participated in the programme.

TGSRTC VC & MD Y. Nagi Reddy Calls for Greater Diesel Savings to Reduce Financial Burden

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

TGSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director (VC & MD) Y. Nagi Reddy called upon employees to develop a stronger sense of social responsibility towards diesel conservation, stressing that fuel savings are crucial to reducing the corporation's growing financial burden amid rising diesel prices and the global fuel crisis.

Speaking at the "Diesel Management - Awareness Seminar" organized by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at RTC Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday, Nagi Reddy expressed concern over the sharp increase in fuel prices due to prevailing international conditions, which he said was significantly impacting the transport sector, particularly RTC operations.

The VC & MD stated that regulating diesel consumption, preventing wastage, and ensuring efficient use of every litre of fuel were the most effective ways to overcome mounting operational expenses. He urged officials and technical staff to maximize the use of technolo-

gy at depot levels and continuously adopt best maintenance practices to improve vehicle efficiency.

Nagi Reddy emphasized that fuel conservation should not be viewed merely as an official duty but as a social responsibility for every employee. He said responsible fuel usage would not only help strengthen the financial position of the corporation but also contribute to environmental protection.

He instructed officials to focus on vehicle fitness and proper maintenance systems to improve diesel mileage (KMPL) significantly. He also highlighted the need for timely identification and rectification of technical faults within garages to prevent fuel wastage and operational inefficiencies.

During the awareness seminar, experts provided detailed guidance to staff on improving diesel mileage in RTC buses through technical methods and best maintenance practices. Employees were also educated on precautions required for the proper maintenance of ground fuel tanks at depots.



The minister also extended an invitation to investors to explore opportunities in multimodal logistics, rail-linked infrastructure, air cargo, cold-chain systems, Grade-A warehousing, automation, digital logistics platforms, and environmentally sustainable mobility solutions. He assured industry stakeholders that the Telangana government remains committed to creating a business-friendly environment

and extending full support for investments. The conference brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and logistics experts to discuss the future of shipping and logistics in India. FTCCI President R. Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice-President K.K. Maheshwari, Vice-President Srinivas Garimella, and Shipping and Logistics Committee Chairman Kamal Jain were among those present at the event.

CM Revanth Reddy Accuses BJP of 'Seat Chori'

continued

accusing it of discriminating against Telangana and alleging that Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy had delayed approvals for major infrastructure projects, including the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion and the Regional Ring Road project.

The Chief Minister said he had raised the Tummidihatti barrage issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis during his recent Delhi visit. He expressed hope that a meeting between Telangana and Maharashtra governments on the issue would take place in July.

Women-Led Development Driving India's Growth: PM Narendra Modi

continued

Modi emphasized that the concept of women-led development has moved beyond policy discussions and is now visible on the ground. He pointed out that women are not only beneficiaries of welfare schemes but are also emerging as key drivers of economic and social progress. "From villages to urban centres, women are taking leadership roles and shaping the country's development trajectory," he observed.

The Prime Minister also stressed the role of self-help groups in strengthening financial independence among women. He said the government's continued support to these groups has helped millions of women gain access to credit, build enterprises, and improve their livelihoods.

Sharing a Sanskrit subhashitam, Modi described women as the cornerstone of nation-building. He remarked that mothers, sisters, and daughters are enhancing the pride of the nation through their talent and determination in every field.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Modi said the journey towards women-led development will continue with greater momentum, ensuring that women remain at the centre of India's growth story and contribute meaningfully to building a stronger, more inclusive nation.

Shah Reviews Security Arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

wide range of sophisticated security equipment along the pilgrimage routes. These include explosive detectors, deep-search metal detectors, portable jammers, CCTV surveillance systems, baggage scanners, vehicle inspection systems, handheld metal detectors, and anti-sabotage devices. To strengthen verification procedures, police have launched the QR-based "Pachan App," which will digitally verify workers, vendors, and service providers operating along the pilgrimage routes. Officials said the system will help improve accountability and prevent unauthorized individuals from entering sensitive areas.

gathering operations in the region.

The Central Reserve Police Force has undertaken extensive reviews of security deployment and logistics. CRPF Director General GP Singh recently visited Kashmir to assess preparedness along the Baltal route and instructed commanders to maintain a robust security grid through proactive measures and close inter-agency coordination.

Officials emphasized that seamless cooperation between security forces, intelligence agencies, and civil administration remains critical to ensuring a safe, smooth, and incident-free pilgrimage for thousands of devotees expected to participate in this year's Amarnath Yatra.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Challenges Harish Rao to Prove Corruption in Welfare Departments

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday strongly refuted allegations of corruption in welfare departments and challenged former minister Harish Rao to provide evidence, asserting that the Congress government has maintained transparency in the functioning of welfare schemes. Addressing the media, Ponnam Prabhakar said that ministers representing Backward Classes (BC), Minority, Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) welfare departments have ensured transparent governance and quality implementation of welfare initiatives. The minister pointed out that he is overseeing the BC Welfare Department, while Mohammed Azharuddin is associated with Minority Welfare and Adhuri Laxman Kumar with SC and ST welfare. He criticised Harish Rao for making allegations against departments headed by ministers from socially marginalised communities, describing such remarks as irresponsible.

the government has prioritised transparency, quality, and accountability in welfare administration.

The minister accused leaders of the previous BRS government of projecting allegations based on their own past governance practices. "Harish Rao is making statements without proper understanding and is lowering his own stature through such remarks," he said.

Issuing an open challenge, Ponnam Prabhakar said that if Harish Rao or the opposition could prove corruption in BC, Minority, SC, or ST welfare departments, he and the concerned ministers would be prepared to face any form of inquiry or consequences.

He further stated that the Congress government is committed to ensuring quality education and nutritious food for poor and underprivileged communities. Alleging corruption during the previous decade of governance, he said the current administration is determined to maintain clean governance standards.

The minister reiterated that if any wrongdoing in the welfare departments is proven through a proper investigation, the government would not hesitate to face accountability, reaffirming confidence in the transparency of the departments under the Congress administration.

BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao Says Modi's Leadership Key to Safe, Developed India

or" showcased India's defence strength on the global stage. He said the Modi government had firmly responded to every challenge concerning national security, including terrorism, and gained the confidence of citizens.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for strengthening India's defence capabilities and ensuring stronger national security. Ramchander Rao further said India's rise as the world's fourth-largest economy reflected the vision and leadership of

the Prime Minister.

Speaking about women's empowerment in national defence, he said "Operation Sindoor" stood as an example of courage and leadership by women. He added that greater opportunities for women in the armed forces under the Modi government reflected its commitment to women's empowerment.

Ramchander Rao stated that the Centre had been working with the motto of "Jan Vishwas, Vikas, Jan Kalyan" for the past 12 years, helping India move confidently towards the

goal of a "Viksit Bharat." He expressed confidence that Modi would continue to lead the country and could return as Prime Minister again in 2029 with public support.

Several BJP leaders attended the programme, including Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP National Vice President and MP DK Aruna, MP Raghunandan Rao, BJP Legislative Council Party leader AVN Reddy, MLA Rakesh Reddy, MLCs Anji Reddy and Malka Komuriah, along with intellectuals, former servicemen, and senior party leaders.

KTR Alleges Congress Conspiracy Behind Meenakshi Natarajan's Defeat

Revanth Reddy was keen on setting up Special Investigation Teams (SITs), an inquiry should also be conducted into the matter.

Referring to reports of internal conspiracy, KTR said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should identify the "black sheep" within the party. He also cited remarks made by senior Congress leader Shabbir Ali regarding positions allegedly being secured through money, claiming it reflected broader concerns within the party. Strongly criticising Revanth Reddy, KTR condemned the Chief Minister's remarks related to Adolf Hitler and war-related destruction, calling them disturbing and unacceptable in a democracy. He also expressed disappointment

over Minister Sridhar Babu defying the comments, describing it as unfortunate.

On governance issues, KTR accused the Congress government of poor handling of Hyderabad's urban infrastructure and monsoon preparedness. He claimed that the city's resilience during rains was largely due to projects initiated during the BRS regime, including the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP), flyovers, roads, and drainage systems.

KTR further alleged that HYDRA had become a tool for harassment and blackmail rather than public service, questioning its effectiveness in addressing urban problems.

He accused the state government of neglecting welfare

schemes while allegedly spending excessively on the Chief Minister's residence, helicopters, and other expenditures.

Targeting the BJP-led Centre, KTR claimed several major promises made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including doubling farmers' income and achieving broader economic goals, remained unfulfilled.

Expressing confidence in BRS's political future, KTR said surveys indicated growing dissatisfaction with the Congress government and asserted that the party would return to power independently in the next elections. He also announced that BRS was intensifying its membership drive and organisational strengthening across Telangana.

Harish Rao Criticizes Congress Government at Jammikunta BRS Meeting

Jammikunta, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had failed farmers, students, women, and pensioners. He was addressing a BRS party workers' meeting held at MPR Gardens in Jammikunta of Huzurabad constituency on Friday.

Harish Rao recalled the political significance of Huzurabad, stating that except for one by-election since 2004, the constituency had consistently supported the BRS party. He said flagship welfare schemes such as Rythu Bandhu and Dalit Bandhu had originated in Huzurabad and highlighted the constituency's role during the Telangana agitation, particularly the rail roko protest at Uppal railway station.

He announced that the BRS party would soon launch training programmes for party workers in every constituency to expose what he termed as "Congress failures and false promises" at the village level.

Criticizing the Congress government, Harish Rao alleged that the Rythu Bandhu scheme had been weakened after Revanth Reddy assumed office.



He claimed that the previous BRS government had deposited 74,000 crore into farmers' accounts through 11 installments, even during the COVID-19 crisis, whereas the Congress government had reduced support and failed to implement promises fully.

He further alleged that Telangana was witnessing power cuts, water shortages, and irrigation problems under the current administration, affecting farmers severely. According to him, delays in paddy and maize procurement and ferti-

lizer shortages had increased hardships for agricultural communities. Harish Rao accused the Congress government of discontinuing the Rythu Bima insurance scheme by failing to pay premiums to LIC. He also criticized the government over pending fee reimbursement for students and alleged unfulfilled promises regarding pensions and financial support for women.

Targeting Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao alleged excessive spending on camp offices, helicopters, and events while ignoring public welfare. He asserted that public dissatisfaction with the Congress government was growing and predicted the return of BRS to power in Telangana.

Praising Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, Harish Rao said the legislator had been actively raising public issues, including the dumping yard issue, despite facing legal cases. He assured that the BRS would raise the matter strongly in the upcoming Assembly sessions.

Harish Rao also defended the Kaeshwaram project and said its value was gradually becoming evident to the Congress government.



Heavy Rain Batters Several Parts of Hyderabad, Traffic Movement Affected

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Several parts of Hyderabad witnessed heavy rainfall on Friday evening, bringing relief from the summer heat but also causing traffic disruptions across the city.

Rain lashed multiple areas including Chandanagar, Miyapur, JNTU, KPHB, Jeedimetla, Sanathnagar, Ameerpet, Borabanda, Jubilee Hills, Punjagutta, Nampally, Abids, Koti, Basheerbagh, Narayana-

guda, Langer Houz, Karwan, Golconda, Attapur, Hyderguda, Rajendranagar, and Mehdipatnam along with surrounding localities. Strong gusty winds were reported in several areas, while heavy rainwater accumulated on major roads, leading to traffic slowdowns and inconvenience to commuters. Waterlogging at a few locations

affected the smooth movement of vehicles during peak hours.

According to the weather forecast for Saturday, June 13, the city is likely to experience a partly cloudy sky with chances of light rain or thunder-showers accompanied by gusty winds ranging between 30-40 kmph during the evening or night in some parts of Hyderabad.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to hover around 37°C and 27°C respectively, while surface winds are likely to blow from the west and southwest at speeds of 8-10 kmph. Humidity levels are expected to remain around 50 percent.

Authorities have advised commuters to remain cautious during sudden spells of rain and possible waterlogging in low-lying areas.

Former Minister Srinivas Goud Alleges Delay in Health Cards for Employees, Pensioners

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Former minister Srinivas Goud on Friday criticised the Telangana government over the alleged delay in issuing health cards to employees and pensioners, claiming that lakhs of families were facing uncertainty over healthcare access and pending benefits.

Addressing a media conference at Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas Goud said nearly 10 to 15 lakh families of government employees and pensioners were under stress due to the delay in implementing the health card system. He alleged that despite the Congress government completing over two-and-a-half years in office, health cards had not yet been issued to employees and pensioners.

The BRS leader questioned the government for constituting committees on the issue without taking concrete action. "It is unclear whether the committee is not listening to the Chief Minister or whether the Chief Minister's directions are not being implemented," he remarked.

Srinivas Goud also raised concerns about delays in salaries for contract employees and retirement benefits for pensioners. He alleged that hospitals were increasingly reluctant to honour the Employee Health Scheme (EHS), causing

difficulties for government staff seeking treatment. He demanded strict action against hospitals refusing treatment under EHS and Aarogyasri.

The former minister accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil promises regarding the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), claiming that assurances to clear it within six months remained unfulfilled even after over two years. He also questioned salary deductions ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 from employees without adequate clarity or consent.

He warned that continued neglect of employee welfare could trigger strong protests and stressed that employees who played a vital role in the Telangana movement should not be ignored.

Speaking at the same press conference, former corporation chairman G. Devi Prasad alleged confusion in the implementation of health cards and objected to salary deductions without employee consent. Referring to a Supreme Court position on wage deductions, he demanded immediate formation of a trust and clear guidelines for employee health schemes. He also urged the government to resolve long-pending employee issues, including regularisation and outsourcing-related concerns.

Vakiti Srihari Calls for Greater Awareness on SC/ST Cases in Narayanpet

Narayanpet, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Sports and Youth Services, Dr Vakiti Srihari, directed officials to create widespread awareness among people regarding Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) cases to prevent caste-based discrimination and legal violations in society. The Minister was speaking at the District-Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meeting organized by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department at the Narayanpet District Collectorate on Friday. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Collector Priyanka. Addressing officials and committee members, Minister Va-

kiti Srihari stressed the need to eradicate caste-based hatred from society and urged authorities to spread awareness about SC/ST laws extensively across the district. He said educating people about legal provisions would help reduce incidents and prevent cases from arising. The Minister emphasized that providing confidence and support to families during difficult times was more valuable than compensation received after tragic incidents. He instructed officials to ensure complete awareness among citizens about legal protections available under the law. Sharing his personal experience, Vakiti Srihari said he had himself faced humiliation based on caste and therefore strongly opposed caste discrimination in any form.



Illegal Fifth Floor Construction Sparks Concern in Pragathi Nagar

Quthbullapur, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Allegations of illegal construction have once again triggered concern in Pragathi Nagar under the Nizam Circle limits, with residents accusing builders of violating approved building norms while authorities allegedly remain silent.

The controversy revolves around an apartment building located at Flat No. 45 in the Prashanthi Golden Hills Colony, where construction activity is reportedly continuing beyond the approved limits. According to local residents, the property had earlier received permission from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) only for a stilt plus four-floor structure. However, an additional fifth floor is allegedly being constructed without obtaining any official approvals.

Residents claim that the owners of the building are misleading both HMDA and Nizam Circle officials and continuing the construction in violation of prescribed regulations. Despite the construction work reportedly taking place openly, locals allege that the concerned authorities have failed to intervene or take corrective action.

The issue has raised serious questions among colony residents, who are demanding clar-

ity on how an additional floor is being built when official permissions were granted only for four floors.

Locals fear that unauthorized construction could create multiple civic and safety concerns, including risks to structural stability, parking shortages, drainage complications, and increased traffic congestion in the residential area.

"Such illegal constructions not only violate urban planning norms but also affect the quality of life and safety of residents in the locality," a resident said, expressing concern over the lack of official response.

Residents of Prashanthi Golden Hills Colony have urged the HMDA and Nizam Circle municipal authorities to immediately conduct an inquiry into the matter and take strict action if violations are found. They have demanded that officials halt the alleged illegal fifth-floor construction and ensure compliance with building regulations.

The incident has once again brought focus on the issue of unauthorized constructions in rapidly developing residential areas, with locals questioning whether enforcement agencies are turning a blind eye to violations despite visible evidence on the ground.



Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav Launches 40 Lakh Manjeera Pipeline Works

Secunderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Friday inaugurated Manjeera water pipeline works worth 40 lakh in Padmarao Nagar, reaffirming his commitment to improving civic infrastructure and addressing public needs in the constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani Srinivas Yadav said development works are being undertaken after carefully identifying the needs of the people and prioritizing essential civic amenities. He emphasized that ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply remains a key focus of development efforts in the Sanath Nagar constituency.

The MLA recalled that several major development projects worth crores of rupees were executed in the constituency after 2014 during the tenure of the BRS government. He stated that many areas earlier lacked proper roads and suffered from poor drainage systems, resulting in sewage water flowing on roads and causing inconvenience to residents.

"After becoming MLA, we focused on improving all roads and restoring the drainage system to provide better living conditions for people," he said.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav further explained that multiple new water pipelines and reservoirs had been established in several localities to meet the

increasing drinking water demands of residents. He noted that the newly launched Manjeera water pipeline project in Padmarao Nagar would significantly improve water accessibility in the area.

He also said that he remains in constant touch with the public to understand their concerns and work towards timely solutions. Highlighting past efforts, the MLA stated that the Sanath Nagar constituency had witnessed substantial growth and development with the support of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and former Municipal Administration Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR).

"Our aim has always been to make Sanath Nagar a model constituency in terms of development and civic infrastructure," he added.

Several officials and local leaders attended the programme, including Water Works DGM Venkat Reddy, Padmarao Nagar BRS Party In-charge Gurrum Pawan Kumar Goud, Bansilalpet Division President Venkatesan Raju, Water Works Manager Srinivas, GHMC Assistant Engineer Murali, Electricity AE Raju, Horticulture Officer Satyanarayana, and local leaders Lakshmi Prasad, Esuri Mahesh, Ambulance Suresh, Bal Reddy, Prem, Srikanth Reddy, Sudhakar Reddy, Mahender Goud, Pushyanth Reddy, Kushal, and Nagalakshmi, among others.

OU VC Prof. Kumar: HCDC Training Centre Secures Jobs for 243 Students

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

The Human Capital Development Centre (HCDC) of Osmania University has successfully facilitated employment opportunities for 243 students through campus placements, reflecting the institution's growing focus on skill development and career readiness.

Speaking at the Placement Success Meet held on Friday at the CFRD Building on the Osmania University campus, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar said the university's Human Capital Development Centre has been playing a vital role in preparing students for employment and connecting them with career opportunities.

Prof. Kumar attended the event as the chief guest and distributed appointment letters to students who secured jobs through the HCDC campus placement drive. Congratulating the selected candidates, he praised the efforts of the centre in equipping students with industry-relevant skills.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-Chancellor stated that

since last year, the HCDC has been functioning effectively under the leadership of Director Prof. Vijay Charan and the joint directors. He said the centre had designed several training programmes and conducted week-long sessions on various subjects to enhance students' employability.

"These training programmes have greatly benefited students and improved their confidence and professional readiness," Prof. Kumar said.

Students from multiple departments, including Physics, Chemistry, Arithmetic, Commerce, and Business Management, participated in the training programmes and placement process. According to university officials, around 243 students secured placements in nearly 20 companies with salary packages averaging around 4 lakh per annum.

Prof. Kumar highlighted that students from science and commerce streams at Osmania University are equally talented and capable, apart from those enrolled in engineering and other professional courses.

"Osmania University is com-

mitted to creating employment opportunities for all deserving students. Our primary objective is to provide quality training and ensure students are well-prepared for the job market," he said.

He further expressed hope that the placement cell would continue to create more employment opportunities for students in the coming years. The Vice-Chancellor also extended special appreciation to HCDC Director Prof. Vijay Charan and his team for their efforts in successfully implementing training programmes and placement initiatives.

The Placement Success Meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from HCDC staff members, faculty representatives, and students who benefitted from the programme.

The achievement marks another milestone for Osmania University's placement initiatives, reinforcing its commitment to student development and career advancement through structured training and industry partnerships.



Dr. B.V. Naga Mohan Assumes Charge as Head of Forensic Medicine Department at Gandhi Medical College

Secunderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Dr. B.V. Naga Mohan Rao, who recently assumed charge as the Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at Gandhi Medical College, paid a courtesy visit to Gandhi Hospital Superintendent Dr. Vani on Friday.

During the meeting, the two discussed key priorities related to the development of the Forensic Medicine Department, enhancement of medico-legal services, and the delivery of quality education to medical students. They also deliberated on the department's future course of action and measures required to strengthen its academic and service capabilities.

Sources said the discussions focused on modernizing the department in line with evolving medical and forensic requirements, ensuring improved teaching standards, and ex-



panding facilities to better serve both students and medico-legal needs.

Dr. Naga Mohan Rao emphasized the importance of strengthening forensic educa-

tion and maintaining high standards in medico-legal practices, which play a crucial role in medical investigations and legal procedures.

Officials expressed optimism that under the leadership of Dr. Naga Mohan Rao, the department would witness significant progress in both academic excellence and public service delivery.

The appointment is expected to further strengthen the institution's efforts in advancing forensic medical education, improving training opportunities for students, and enhancing medico-legal support services at Gandhi Medical College and Hospital.

Medical fraternity members and hospital staff have welcomed the development, expressing confidence that the department will continue to evolve in accordance with modern medical standards and institutional goals



ABVP Lays Siege to Medchal Collectorate Over Education Issues

Quthbullapur, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged a protest and laid siege to the District Education Officer (DEO) office in the Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Friday, demanding the immediate resolution of pressing issues affecting the school education system.

Raising slogans against the government, ABVP members alleged that the condition of government schools in the state has been deteriorating steadily and warned of intensified protests if authorities fail to address students' concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, ABVP State Joint Secretary Shyam Kiran criticized the government over the current state of public education. He alleged that several schools were being shut down in the name of rationalisation, while thousands of institutions were functioning as single-teacher schools, affecting the quality of education. He further claimed that the lack of basic infrastructure in government schools was causing hardships for students and negatively impacting their learning environment.

"With the new academic year approaching, students are yet to receive uniforms and textbooks," Shyam Kiran said, expressing concern over de-

lays in educational support measures.

The student leader also alleged that private schools were burdening parents with excessive fee structures, making quality education increasingly unaffordable for many families.

Highlighting safety concerns, he said several Gurukul and Kasturba schools were functioning in rented buildings without proper permissions, putting students' safety at risk. He accused the government of failing to focus on the welfare and security of students in educational institutions.

The ABVP leaders demanded immediate intervention to resolve issues in the school education system and warned that the organisation would launch large-scale agitations if the government failed to act promptly. Several student leaders and activists participated in the protest, including Kukatpally Vibhag Convener Nagesh, SWC member Akhil, district convener Mrutunjaya, Balu, and Bharat, among others.

The protest drew attention to long-standing concerns related to school infrastructure, staffing shortages, student welfare, and fee regulation, with student organisations pressing the government to prioritise reforms in the education sector.

AE Nagaraj Announces Three-Hour Power Disruption in Nacharam Division

Nacharam, June 12 | TPN Bureau

TGSPDCL Assistant Engineer (AE) Nagaraj has issued an important notice to residents of the Nacharam Division regarding a scheduled power interruption on Saturday.

According to a statement released on Friday, power supply will remain disrupted in parts of the division due to maintenance works being undertaken in view of the monsoon season. The department will be replac-

ing old electricity poles and repairing power line infrastructure to prevent disruptions during heavy rains.

The power outage will affect areas including Kakatiya Nagar, Annapurana Colony, and Raghavendra Nagar from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

AE Nagaraj appealed to residents to cooperate with the electricity department and make necessary arrangements in advance to avoid inconvenience during the scheduled maintenance period.

BRS General Secretary R.S. Praveen Kumar Raises Concerns Over Law and Order

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau

BRS General Secretary R.S. Praveen Kumar on Friday expressed concern over the rising number of POC SO cases in Telangana and criticised the state government over law and order, alleging inadequate response in certain criminal investigations.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Praveen Kumar alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Home portfolio, had failed to effectively maintain law and order in the state. He said Telangana was increasingly witnessing POC SO-related cases, expressing concern over the safety of children.

Referring to a recent incident in Khammam, the BRS leader appreciated the police for registering a case despite alleged attempts by Congress leaders to influence a settlement. He commended the Khammam police for arresting an accused swiftly but questioned the pace of investigation in the Pet Basheerabad case, asking why further inquiries had allegedly not pro-

gressed despite a month passing.

Praveen Kumar also criticised what he described as selective action in investigations and questioned why certain political figures had allegedly not been questioned in connection with specific cases. He further questioned the response of the Women and Child Welfare Department in reaching out to victims in sensitive incidents. Amid his political criticism, the BRS leader urged parents to remain highly vigilant regarding child safety, noting that in many POC SO cases, perpetrators are often known to the victims. He advised parents not to leave children unattended and to closely monitor behavioural changes, friendships, and social interactions.

He cautioned that offenders often use "grooming techniques" to target emotionally vulnerable children and stressed the need for awareness among families and schools. Praveen Kumar called for broader public awareness programmes on child protection, including education on "good touch" and "bad touch" in schools.

AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant Stresses Protection of Voting Rights at TPCC Training Camp

Siddipet, June 12 | TPN Bureau
AICC In-Charge Secretary Sachin Sawant underscored the importance of safeguarding democratic values and voting rights while addressing a voter awareness and training camp for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) organised by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) in Husnabad constituency of Siddipet district.
Speaking at the programme held at Shubham Gardens, Sawant highlighted the historical contributions of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, stating that Nehru played a defining role in nation-building and the country's development. He said comparisons between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jawaharlal Nehru were inappropriate, emphasising Nehru's immense contribution to shaping modern India.
Sawant remarked that people always remember leaders who ensure justice, welfare, and development. He stressed the need to preserve constitutional values, democracy, and the right to vote, describing the vote as the most powerful weapon in a democracy. According to him, the authority to shape the nation's future ul-

timately rests with the people.
The Congress leader also called for the protection of democratic institutions and constitutional bodies in the country. Raising concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists, he alleged that eligible voters' names were being removed and urged party workers and BLAs to remain alert to ensure that no eligible voter misses the opportunity to vote.
Referring to Telangana Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Sawant claimed that after being declared a Rajya Sabha candidate from Madhya Pradesh, her nomination was allegedly rejected due to a case registered in Telangana without her knowledge. He alleged a political conspiracy behind the issue and said the Congress party would continue its legal fight in the Supreme Court.
Sawant further expressed concerns over complaints regarding voter lists and election management in some regions, stressing the need for transparency, fairness, and constitutional procedures in elections. He urged citizens to stay alert to political strategies aimed at influencing voters and emphasised that every citizen has an important role in strengthening democracy.

Interior Designer Syed Ghouse Uddin Receives NTR Legendary National Award 2026

Hyderabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau



Prominent interior designer Syed Ghouse Uddin was honoured with the NTR Legendary National Award 2026 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of interior design at a grand ceremony held in Hyderabad.
The award was presented by noted film director V. Samudra during the NTR Legendary National Awards 2026, organised by the Film and Television Promotion Council of India (FTPC India) to commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary actor, former Chief Minister, and Telugu icon Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR).
The event witnessed participation from personalities belonging to cinema, politics, business, and social service sectors. Telangana Agriculture Minister Thummala Nagawara Rao attended the programme as the chief guest and praised NTR's immense contribution to Telugu society and Indian politics. He described NTR as a visionary leader who brought global recognition and pride to the Telugu community and said his legacy would continue to inspire future generations.
Syed Ghouse Uddin, a Hyderabad-based entrepreneur, currently serves as the Manag-

ing Director of Shah Designer Glasses and Moon Interior Designer. Organisers stated that the award recognises his dedication, creativity, and achievements in transforming the interior design sector through innovative ideas and professional excellence.
Receiving the honour, Syed Ghouse Uddin expressed happiness and gratitude, stating that the recognition was a proud and memorable moment in his professional journey.
"Receiving the NTR Legendary National Award is a great honour and responsibility. This recognition motivates me to continue striving for excellence in my profession," he said.
He also thanked FTPC India President Chaitanya Janga and Secretary PVS Varma for organising the prestigious event. Additionally, he acknowledged the support of his colleagues, staff members, and family, crediting them for encouraging him throughout his journey.
Several eminent personalities attended the event, including former Member of Parliament Munmun Sen, World Book of Records Chairman Dr. Jitendra Matlani, Kamma Corporation Chairman Bandi Ramesh, BJP leader Pathuri Nagabhushanam, and other distinguished guests.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Attends TPCC Training Camp on Voter List Revision

Siddipet, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Expressing concern over the current revision process, the minister alleged that there were attempts to remove votes of those opposed to the BJP, claiming that such measures could politically benefit the ruling party. He emphasised that every eligible voter must be protected and no genuine vote should be removed under any circumstances.
Ponnam Prabhakar said BLAs have a crucial responsibility in ensuring that no eligible voter is left out in their respective booths. Describing voting rights as the foundation of democracy, he underlined the need for every eligible citizen to have their name included in the electoral rolls.
He further explained that BLAs must play a transparent and responsible role by verifying new voter registrations, deletion of deceased persons' names, address changes, and other corrections at the grassroots level. The minister also encouraged party workers to conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns to educate citizens about voter registration and correction procedures.
Highlighting the importance of accurate voter rolls, he said strengthening democracy begins with ensuring voting rights for every eligible citizen and called upon BLAs to discharge their duties responsibly.

A voter awareness and training programme for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was organised under the aegis of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) at Shubham Gardens in Husnabad constituency of Siddipet district.
The programme witnessed the participation of senior Congress leaders and grassroots representatives, with AICC In-Charge Secretary Sachin Sawant and Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attending as chief guests. Several local leaders, including PCC Insurance Department Chairman Pawan Malladi, municipal chairman and vice-chairman, presidents of seven mandals, market committee chairpersons and vice-chairpersons, councillors, and other prominent leaders, also took part in the event.
Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stressed the importance of safeguarding the voting rights of eligible citizens and urged BLAs to remain vigilant during the voter list revision process. He recalled that during the 2002 voter revision exercise, governments and the Election Commission worked to ensure that no eligible voter was excluded from the rolls.



Former Minister Kopula Eshwar Alleges Irregularities in Singareni Coal Stocks

Ramagundam, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Former minister Kopula Eshwar on Friday alleged that attempts were being made to weaken and damage the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), accusing the Congress government of allowing irregularities and scams in the organisation's functioning.
Speaking after inspecting coal stockyards at RG-1 and OCP-5 in Ramagundam along with former MLA Putta Madhu and TGBKS president Miriyala Rajireddy, Eshwar questioned the authenticity of the coal stock figures being projected by the government and Singareni management.
The former minister alleged that after the Congress government came to power, multiple irregularities had surfaced in sectors linked to Singareni, including overburden (OB) contracts, solar power projects, detonator contracts, and power-related activities. He claimed that these developments raised concerns about transparency in the functioning of the coal company.
Referring to official figures published on the Singareni website, Eshwar said the government claims nearly 40 lakh metric tonnes of coal stock are available across various mines. However, he alleged that ground-level realities differ significantly from official claims.
He stated that authorities had claimed around six lakh

metric tonnes of coal stock at RG-1 OCP-5, later revising the figure to about 3.6 lakh metric tonnes. However, after visiting the site, he alleged that the stockyards mainly contained soil, stones, and unusable material being shown as coal. According to him, even 50,000 metric tonnes of usable coal did not appear to be present at the site.
Eshwar accused the state government of endangering both the future of Singareni and the livelihoods of workers. He alleged that several irregularities were taking place under the leadership of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister and demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the matter.
Calling for a CBI investigation, the former minister questioned how non-existent coal stocks were allegedly being reflected in official records and said the government must explain the discrepancies.
He also referred to a recent visit by former minister T. Harish Rao to Godavarikhani, stating that issues relating to dependent jobs and unfit workers were highlighted. Eshwar alleged that after concerns over nearly 400 workers came to light, authorities had accelerated the process of issuing appointment letters to dependents. He demanded a thorough investigation into all alleged irregularities in Singareni and urged the government to protect what he described as a valuable public asset.

Government Whip & Nakkrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham Participates in Jute Cultivation Awareness Programme

Nakkrekal, June 12 | TPN Bureau



Government Whip and Nakkrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham participated in a jute cultivation awareness programme and seed distribution event organised at Vinayaka Banquet Hall in Nakkrekal town, encouraging farmers to adopt crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices.
The programme focused on creating awareness among farmers about the benefits of jute cultivation and promoting profitable crop alternatives. Farmers from surrounding areas attended the event and received information on cultivation methods, market opportunities, and government support for alternative farming. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vemula Veeresham urged farmers to adopt crop rotation methods to improve agricultural productivity and long-term soil health. He said the government is encouraging farmers to shift toward profitable crops and providing support to ensure better returns from agriculture.
The MLA highlighted that excessive use of chemical fertilisers over the years has reduced soil fertility, stressing the need to encourage organic farming

practices and sustainable agriculture. He advised farmers to choose crops based on the nature and suitability of their land to maximise productivity and profitability.
Veeresham also informed farmers that Anydha Fruit Private Limited is not only supplying jute seeds but would also procure the produce cultivated by farmers, ensuring market support and reducing marketing concerns for growers. He said crop diversification can help farmers increase income while reducing risks associated with dependence on a single crop. Encouraging farmers to explore new agricultural opportunities, the MLA emphasised that proper crop planning according to land conditions would help achieve better yields and economic stability.
The awareness programme also included seed distribution to farmers as part of efforts to encourage jute cultivation in the region. Local agriculture representatives, farmers, and officials attended the event and discussed ways to strengthen sustainable farming practices and improve agricultural outcomes in the constituency.



Mallu Ravi Stresses Key Role of BLAs in Strengthening Congress Party

Kollapur, June 12 | TPN Bureau

Nagarkurnool Member of Parliament Dr Mallu Ravi emphasized the crucial role of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in strengthening the Congress party and ensuring accurate voter enrollment during a training programme held on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process at the Kollapur MLA camp office on Friday.
Dr Mallu Ravi participated in the programme along with State Minister Jupally Krishna Rao. The training session was organized for BLAs to educate them on their responsibilities in the voter list revision process and party-building activities at the grassroots level.
Addressing the gathering, Dr Mallu Ravi stated that BLAs play a vital role in the preparation and correction of voter lists. He stressed that every eligible voter's name must be included in the electoral rolls without any discrepancies and urged BLAs to carry out their duties responsibly and efficiently.
He said that ensuring error-free voter lists was essential to strengthening democratic processes and called upon BLAs to remain vigilant during the voter verification and registration exercise.
The MP further highlighted the importance of BLAs in reinforcing the Congress party from the village level. He said BLAs serve as a bridge between the government, the party, and the people by spreading awareness about welfare schemes and communicating party ideology among the public.
Dr Mallu Ravi urged party workers and BLAs to work with dedication and commitment for the growth of the Congress party. He encouraged them to actively engage with people and help expand the party's reach across villages.
State Minister Jupally Krishna Rao also addressed the participants and provided several suggestions to BLAs regarding the successful implementation of the Special Intensive Revision programme. He emphasized the need for coordination and proper execution to ensure the programme's success.
Several Nagarkurnool District Congress Committee President Chikkudu Vamsi Krishna, Mandal-level party presidents, village-level BLAs, party leaders, and workers participated in the training session.
The programme focused on improving awareness among BLAs about electoral responsibilities while also strengthening the organizational structure of the Congress party at the grassroots level.

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Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Announces 25 Lakh for School Development

Husnabad, June 12 | TPN Bureau



Union Minister and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar participated in a "Tiffin Baitak" with local residents at Rekonda village in Husnabad constituency on Friday, where he shared a meal with villagers and discussed local development issues.
Interacting with residents, Bandi Sanjay said that since becoming a Member of Parliament, he has been giving greater priority to social service and public welfare initiatives. He emphasized the importance of directly engaging with people to understand their concerns and address local needs effectively.
During the visit, the Union Minister reviewed the ongoing school cleanliness programme, "Mana Badi Mana Badhyatha," at Rekonda School. He appealed to villagers to actively participate in the initiative and stressed that the programme should be carried out collectively, rising above political differences. He

urged residents to work together to improve school surroundings before the reopening of classes.
Teachers and villagers raised several concerns before the Minister, including the absence of dining facilities for students and the shortage of classrooms in the village primary school. Responding positively, Bandi Sanjay assured the community that necessary support would be extended to address the infrastructure shortcomings.
He announced financial assistance of 5 lakh for the construction of dining facilities for students at the high school and 20 lakh for building additional classrooms in the primary school. He further stated that 10 lakh would be released in the first phase to begin the works without delay.
The Union Minister also congratulated students who secured top marks in the Class 10 examinations and encouraged them to continue striving for academic excellence. He announced that free bicycles would once again be distributed to all Class 10 students this year.
Bandi Sanjay urged local residents to spread awareness about the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12 years in office. As part of the outreach, he handed over booklets detailing the accomplishments of the Central government to the school headmaster.
Local leaders, teachers, villagers, and students participated in the programme and welcomed the development assurances made during the visit.

Historic Tenure, Transformative Leadership

On 10 June 2026, Bharat scripted a new chapter in its democratic history as Shriman Narendra Modi Ji completed 4,399 days of uninterrupted service as Prime Minister, becoming the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of India to hold the office continuously. This historic milestone reflects not only his unwavering commitment to nation-building but also the enduring confidence and faith that the people of Bharat have placed in his visionary leadership. It stands as a reflection of his visionary leadership, tireless commitment to national development, and steadfast devotion to the welfare and aspirations of the people of Bharat.

Transformative Leadership: 4,399 days and counting

As the Pradhan Sevak of the Nation, Shriman Narendra Modiji has ushered in an era of unprecedented transformation in Bharat, guided by the principles of good governance and Rashtra Pratham (Nation First). Just as history reveres Abraham Lincoln for his steadfast leadership in ending the scourge of human enslavement and restoring dignity to millions, future generations will remember him for uplifting more than 25 crore poor people out of absolute poverty. Through his vision, tireless efforts, and transformative governance, countless families have been empowered with opportunity, dignity, and hope, enabling them to embrace the promise of economic freedom and a better future. His contribution will remain etched in the annals of history as a landmark achievement in the service of humankind.

Moreover, his transformative initiatives have ensured dignity and social security for millions through education, housing, sanitation, healthcare, and food security. More than 44 crore citizens have been provided the assurance of quality healthcare through the Ayushman Bharat scheme, one of the world's largest public health programmes. Over 12 crore rural households have

gained access to safe and reliable drinking water through the Jal Jeevan Mission, bringing dignity and improved quality of life to countless families. Since 2020, the continued provision of free food grains has safeguarded the food security of nearly 80 crore people, ensuring that no vulnerable citizen is left behind. Furthermore, more than 4 crore families have realized the dream of owning a safe and permanent home, strengthening their sense of security, dignity, and hope for the future. Together, these initiatives stand as enduring symbols of compassionate governance and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of every Indian.

PM Modiji's vision has empowered every section of society—be it women, youth, farmers, and the underprivileged. The emergence of more than 3 crore LakhpatiDidis stands as a powerful testament to his vision of women-led development, while initiatives under Nari Shakti have enabled women to play an increasingly significant role in nation-building. India's educational and healthcare landscape has expanded dramatically through the establishment of new IITs, AIIMS, medical colleges, and institutions of higher learning, creating unprecedented opportunities for the nation's youth.

Simultaneously, Bharat has witnessed a remarkable infrastructure revolution. From the rapid expansion of Vande Bharat trains, airports, highways, and railway stations to transformative connectivity projects reaching the remotest regions, his leadership has laid the foundations of a modern, connected, and aspirational Bharat. These achievements have not only accelerated economic growth but also enhanced the quality of life for



millions of citizens across the country.

Bharat has emerged as a global leader in digital innovation, semi-conductor space technology, vaccine development, and mobile manufacturing, enhancing its global stature in the field of emerging technologies.

Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi: Honoring Tamil Heritage, Advancing Tamil Nadu

What makes Prime Minister Shriman Narendra Modi Ji truly unique among contemporary leaders is his steadfast belief that progress and tradition are not competing ideals but complementary forces. Through his visionary philosophy of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi", he has demonstrated that a Nation can pursue rapid modernization while remaining deeply rooted in its civilizational heritage.

Under his leadership, Bharat

has witnessed transformative development in infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, and social welfare, while simultaneously experiencing a renewed pride in its ancient culture, languages, spiritual traditions and historical legacy. Whether it is the restoration of sacred sites, the revival of cultural symbols, the celebration of classical languages, or the preservation of priceless artefacts, his governance reflects a rare synthesis of modern aspirations and timeless values.

Prime Minister Modi Ji's approach has redefined nation-building by proving that true development is not merely measured by economic growth, but also by a nation's ability to preserve, cherish, and transmit its heritage to future generations. His philosophy of "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" has become a guiding principle for a confident and resurgent

Bharat—one that strides boldly into the future while remaining firmly anchored in its glorious past.

Among the greatest beneficiaries of this philosophy have been Tamil Nadu and the global Tamil community, whose rich linguistic, cultural, and civilizational heritage has received unprecedented recognition, celebration, and support under Prime Minister Modi Ji's leadership. Tamil Nadu has greatly benefited from the transformative initiatives under PM Modiji, including the Chennai Metro Rail expansion, Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway, Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor, modernization of ports and airports, expansion of national highways, redevelopment of railway stations, and the new Pamban Rail Bridge. The inauguration of the new Pamban Rail Bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge, stands as a

landmark achievement, enhancing connectivity to Rameswaram and symbolizing India's engineering excellence. Tamil Nadu, which has also emerged as a leading hub for electronics, mobile phones, and iPhone manufacturing due to the steadfast pursuit of the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

No previous Prime Minister has championed Tamil language, culture, and heritage with the same consistency, visibility, and global outreach as Shriman Narendra Modi Ji, bringing renewed national and international recognition to Tamil civilization. His consistent celebration of Tamil's antiquity and literary richness, both in India and abroad, has resonated deeply with Tamils worldwide. His invocation of the immortal words of the great Tamil sage Kaniyan Poongunranar—"YaathumOore, Yaavarum Kellir" at the United Nations was a moment of immense pride for Tamil civilization and for India. By bringing this profound message to the global stage, he showcased to the world the timeless humanistic values embedded in Tamil culture and its rich civilizational heritage. Humanity came to realize that Tamils championed the noble concept of "One Humanity" centuries before Karl Marx. The initiative of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is also rooted in this very same philosophy.

Initiatives such as the Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam have strengthened cultural bonds and highlighted the enduring civilizational links that unite our nation. The installation of the Sengol in our new Parliament building is a fitting recognition of Tamil Nadu's contribution to India's democratic and civilizational heritage. PM



C.P. Radhakrishnan
Vice President of Bharat

Modi ji's visit to Gangaikonda-Cholapuram, highlights the legacy of the Cholas, and initiatives to repatriate invaluable artefacts and antiquities from abroad, including the recent Anaimangalam Chola-era copper plates, have been widely appreciated. Together with his support for the preservation of temples, heritage sites, classical literature, and cultural traditions, these efforts have elevated the global stature of Tamil civilization and reflected his enduring reverence for the Tamil language and culture.

In every era, history witnesses the emergence of leaders whose vision and actions transcend the boundaries of their time. Such individuals are remembered as 'Yug Purush' for they shape the destiny of a nation and inspire generations. Through his transformative leadership, commitment to national development, and tireless service to the people, he has emerged as a true 'Yug Purush' of contemporary Bharat.

I am confident that his able leadership will steer the Nation towards a Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Beyond Rescue: A System Needed to End Child Labour

Child labour remains one of India's most pressing human rights challenges, denying millions of children their rights to education, health, safety, and a dignified childhood. According to Census-based estimates, nearly 4.35 million children aged 5-14 years are engaged in labour across the country. However, experts and child rights organizations believe that the actual number could be considerably higher due to underreporting and the hidden nature of many forms of child labour.

The problem is closely intertwined with child trafficking. Vulnerable children are often trafficked for forced labour, domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation, or other forms of abuse, trapping them in cycles of exploitation that rob them of their future. Poverty, migration, family distress, lack of educational opportunities, and social exclusion continue to push children into hazardous work despite legal safeguards.

Although India has enacted several laws to eliminate child labour, implementation challenges remain. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act together provide a strong legal framework for child protection. Yet inconsistencies in definitions, enforcement practices, and rehabilitation mechanisms often limit their effectiveness.

Children continue to work in agriculture, brick kilns, mining, garment production, domestic service, roadside eateries, waste collection, and numerous informal occupations, where they are exposed to unsafe conditions and deprived of education and healthy development. The consequences are lifelong, affecting their physical health, emotional well-being, and economic prospects.

While rescue operations have intensified over the years, an important question remains unanswered: What happens to children after they are rescued? Rescue alone cannot break the cycle unless it is followed by sustained rehabilitation, education, and family support.

Available statistics illustrate this concern. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 751 cases were registered under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act across India in 2024, while Andhra Pradesh recorded only 15 registered cases. However, these figures represent criminal cases and not the number of children rescued.



By contrast, Andhra Pradesh government data indicates that 2,245 children were rescued from child labour in 2024, while 7,069 children were rescued between 2020 and 2024 through enforcement drives. Historical data further shows that 778 children were rescued in 2018, 1,049 in 2019, 622 in 2020, 2,090 in 2021, and 441 in 2022 under available rehabilitation programmes.

The disparity between rescue figures and registered criminal cases raises important policy questions. If thousands of children are being rescued each year, are all responsible employers and exploiters being investigated and prosecuted under applicable laws? Equally concerning is the variation in statistics reported by different agencies. NCRB records focus on criminal cases, Labour Departments report rescue operations, while civil society organizations maintain field-based records. Since these datasets measure different indicators, they often produce differing figures, making it difficult to assess the true magnitude of child labour and evaluate policy outcomes.

Field practitioners and child rights organizations in Andhra Pradesh have also expressed concerns that some rescued children are later found again in exploitative work, suggesting gaps in follow-up and rehabilitation. This underscores the need for stronger coordination among Labour Departments, Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), police, schools, and social welfare agencies.

A major missing element is a unified national child rehabilitation tracking mechanism. Such a system should securely document every rescued child's rehabilitation journey, including production before the appropriate child protection authori-

ties, educational reintegration, health care, counselling, family assessments, financial assistance, livelihood support for parents or guardians, follow-up visits by DCPUs, and legal action taken against employers or traffickers. An integrated platform would improve accountability, strengthen inter-departmental coordination, reduce duplication, and enable evidence-based policymaking while protecting children's privacy.

The success of anti-child labour efforts should not be measured solely by the number of rescue operations conducted. The real indicator of progress is whether rescued children remain in school, receive comprehensive rehabilitation, and are protected from returning to exploitative labour. India possesses the legal framework, institutional structures, and expertise needed to eradicate child labour. The next crucial step is to ensure that every rescued child is tracked, rehabilitated, supported, and empowered to build a safe and dignified future. Rescue should mark the beginning of lasting protection—not the start of another cycle of exploitation.



Ram Mohan Nimmaraju
Former Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, Prakasam District

Red Cross "Cheyutha"... Breaking barriers, building futures

In a significant humanitarian initiative aimed at transforming the lives of persons with limb disabilities, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Andhra Pradesh State Branch, in collaboration with Rotary International and with support from Tangeance Foundation, USA, has launched the "Cheyutha" Project to provide free LNI4 prosthetic hands to eligible beneficiaries across Andhra Pradesh.

Disability resulting from the loss of a hand or forearm is a major challenge faced by thousands of individuals in India. Such disabilities may arise from congenital conditions, road traffic accidents, occupational injuries, infections, electrical burns, natural calamities, or other unforeseen circumstances. The loss of a limb not only affects physical functioning but also impacts an individual's self-confidence, education, employment opportunities, social participation, and overall quality of life.

For many economically weaker families, access to advanced prosthetic devices remains unaffordable. As a result, a large number of people continue to live with avoidable hardships and dependence on others for routine daily activities. The situation is particularly severe in rural, tribal, coastal, and industrial regions where awareness about rehabilitation services is limited and specialized prosthetic facilities are not easily accessible.

Recognizing this pressing need, the Andhra Pradesh Red Cross has initiated the Cheyutha Project in line with the Red Cross Fundamental Principles of Humanity and Impartiality. The project seeks to restore dignity, independence, and hope to individuals who have lost their hands by providing them with high-quality LNI4 prosthetic hands at free of cost, which are imported from USA.

The LNI4 prosthetic hand is an innovative, lightweight, durable, and functional device



designed to help beneficiaries perform a wide range of daily tasks independently. Unlike conventional prosthetic devices that are often expensive and difficult to access, the LNI4 hand offers a practical and cost-effective solution that can significantly improve the lives of persons with upper-limb disabilities.

The primary objectives of the Cheyutha Project include identifying persons with hand disabilities throughout Andhra Pradesh, providing them with suitable prosthetic hands free of cost, enabling them to perform daily activities independently, and enhancing their opportunities for education, employment, and social inclusion. Cheyutha empowers them to live a decent life with sustainable incomes. To achieve these objectives, AP Red Cross plans to conduct a statewide campaign to identify eligible beneficiaries. District-level screening, assessment, fitting, and training camps will be organized in various parts of the state. Beneficiaries will not only receive the prosthetic devices

but will also be trained in their effective use to maximize functional independence. A key component of the initiative is the proposed collaboration with the Department of Welfare of Differently Abled, Senior Citizens and Transgender Persons. Through this partnership, the project aims to utilize existing databases and district-level networks to identify eligible persons and ensure that the benefits reach the most deserving individuals. The involvement of district administrations, rehabilitation professionals, hospitals, and community organizations will further strengthen outreach efforts.

The awareness posters will be circulated across all districts of Andhra Pradesh to educate the public about the project, eligibility criteria, registration procedures, and schedules of screening and fitting camps proposed to be conducted in major cities and district headquarters. The campaign is expected to help identify hundreds of eligible beneficiaries who may other-

wise remain unaware of such opportunities. By restoring functional ability and self-reliance, the Cheyutha Project seeks to empower individuals to participate fully in society and pursue educational and livelihood opportunities with renewed confidence. The Andhra Pradesh Red Cross has appealed to voluntary organizations, hospitals, educational institutions, rehabilitation centers, local bodies, and the general public to actively support the initiative by identifying and referring persons who may benefit from the program. Community participation, they noted, will be crucial to ensuring that no deserving individual is left behind. The Cheyutha Project represents a remarkable example of collaboration between humanitarian organizations and international partners working towards a common goal of inclusion and empowerment. By placing advanced prosthetic technology within the reach of the most vulnerable sections of society, AP Red Cross and Rotary International are extending a helping hand that promises to transform lives, restore hope, and create a more inclusive future for persons with disabilities across Andhra Pradesh.



B.V.S. Kumar
State Coordinator AP Red Cross



Two Soldiers Injured in Accidental Grenade Blast Near LoC in Poonch

Two Indian Army personnel sustained serious injuries after an accidental grenade explosion during a routine training exercise near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday.

The incident occurred at around 12:30 p.m. near an Army forward post in the Malti sector, close to the LoC. Army personnel were engaged in regular training and weapon-handling drills when a grenade accidentally detonated, injuring two soldiers on duty.

The injured soldiers were identified as Lance Naik Ravinder Bhera of the Bihar Battalion and Agniveer Shakti Prasad. Fellow personnel immediately rushed them to the 425 Field Hospital in Poonch, where they received emergency medical treatment.

Military officials stated that both soldiers suffered serious injuries in the blast. Considering the nature of their wounds and the need for specialized care, the Army arranged an air evacuation later in the day. The injured personnel were subsequently shifted to the Northern Command Hospital in Udhampur for advanced treatment and close medical monitoring.

Army authorities have initiated a Court of Inquiry to determine the exact circum-

stances that led to the accidental explosion. The investigation will examine whether the incident was caused by a technical malfunction, handling error, or any other operational factor.

The Army regularly conducts training exercises and weapon-handling drills in forward areas to maintain operational preparedness and ensure personnel remain combat-ready. Safety protocols are generally followed during such exercises, and accidental incidents of this nature are relatively rare.

Officials said a detailed inquiry report will help identify the cause of the blast and recommend measures, if necessary, to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The condition of both injured soldiers continues to be monitored by military doctors at the Northern Command Hospital. Army authorities have also informed their families and are extending all necessary support during the treatment process.

The incident has drawn attention to the risks associated with handling live explosives even during controlled training activities, highlighting the challenges faced by security personnel deployed in sensitive border regions.



India lodges fresh protest with US over attacks on vessels near Oman

New Delhi, June 12 | TPN Bureau

India has once again summoned US Charge d'Affaires Jason Meeks to register a strong protest over continuing attacks on commercial vessels in the Arabian Sea region, particularly near the coast of Oman. The move comes in the wake of a recent incident that resulted in the deaths of three Indian seafarers.

The Ministry of External Affairs conveyed its deep concern over repeated targeting of merchant ships and maritime personnel, stressing that such incidents pose a serious threat to international shipping and civilian safety. The attack on the commercial vessel Settebello off the Oman coast has drawn sharp reaction from New Delhi, which described the developments as alarming.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, addressing a media briefing, said India had earlier raised the issue and reiterated its expectation that such attacks should cease immediately. He underlined concerns over the safety of seafarers, commercial vessels, and critical maritime infrastructure, adding that India has formally communicated its position to the US authorities. In response, the United States maintained that it remains in close communication with India on the matter. A US State Department official confirmed that Washing-

ton is directly engaged with the Indian government and is monitoring the situation.

Officials pointed out that the vessels involved in the recent incidents were not Indian-owned but were operating under foreign flags. According to the MEA, two of the ships were registered under the Palau flag, while another vessel targeted in a separate incident was flagged in Guinea. Some of these ships were also reported to fall under sanction categories or compliance concerns.

India has consistently emphasized the importance of ensuring safe and uninterrupted navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy corridor that handles a significant share of the world's oil and gas shipments. The region has witnessed heightened tensions in recent times, raising concerns over maritime security.

With a large number of Indian seafarers employed on international vessels, the government has reiterated its commitment to safeguarding their lives and interests. New Delhi has been closely monitoring developments and has called for collective international efforts to maintain stability and security in key shipping routes. The latest diplomatic engagement reflects India's continued push for accountability and stronger measures to prevent attacks on commercial shipping in sensitive maritime zones.

UP Rolls Out Electric Bus Network, Boosts Green Mobility

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday flagged off 45 electric buses and inaugurated the newly developed Noida Electric Bus Depot, marking a significant step toward strengthening sustainable public transportation in the state.

The newly launched electric buses will operate on key routes connecting Lucknow, Noida, Greater Noida, and the Noida International Airport at Jewar. The initiative is aimed at enhancing last-mile connectivity, reducing dependence on conventional fuels, and promoting environmentally friendly transportation.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the state government is committed to expanding electric mobility infrastructure and providing citizens with safe, affordable, and eco-friendly travel options. He announced that Uttar Pradesh plans to deploy a total of 110 electric buses by June 15, of which 10 will be double-decker buses.

Yogi Adityanath highlighted that Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a major hub for electric vehicle manufacturing, noting that leading automobile companies Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland have established electric bus manufacturing facilities in the state.

Two-Tier Security Cover Planned for NEET-UG Retest Across India

The Central Government has put in place extensive security arrangements for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination scheduled on June 21, with a special two-layer security system involving the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to safeguard question papers and answer sheets.

The enhanced security measures come after the cancellation of the original NEET-UG examination held on May 3, following allegations of a question paper leak. The National Testing Agency (NTA) later announced a nationwide re-test, while the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched a probe into the leak and arrested several individuals allegedly linked to the case.

According to officials, confidential examination materials, including question papers and OMR answer sheets, will be transported through a large-scale hub-and-spoke network connecting Hyderabad and Ahmedabad with approximately 551 hub cities across the country. Both air and road transport systems will be utilized to ensure timely delivery



across various regions. The CRPF and CISF have been instructed to appoint nodal officers for coordination with the NTA and the Department of Posts. State-level coordination teams are also being established to facilitate smooth movement and monitoring of examination materials.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently assured students and parents that the re-examination would be conducted in a transparent and error-free manner. He stated that multiple ministries, including the Home, Defence, Health, and Finance Ministries, are closely monitoring preparations to ensure the smooth conduct of the examination and the timely declaration of results.

More than 22 lakh candidates are expected to appear for the re-test, making it one of the largest competitive examinations in the country. Authorities have expressed confidence that the strengthened security framework will help restore public trust in the examination process and ensure a fair assessment for all candidates.



Security deployment for the movement of question papers has already commenced and will continue until June 19. Separate arrangements have also been made for the safe return of answer sheets and examination materials after the test on June 21.

Officials stated that the Ministry of Home Affairs directed the implementation of a two-tier security mechanism to ensure maximum protection during transportation and handling of confidential materials. CRPF and CISF personnel will provide additional security at airports, helipads, distribution hubs, and other sensitive locations. Security personnel will also accompany consignments being transported by aircraft and helicopters

Centre Reviews NEET Re-Exam Preparedness Warns of Strict Action Against Malpractice

Cabinet Secretary Dr. T. V. Somanathan on Friday conducted a high-level review of preparedness for the upcoming NEET re-examination, scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026. The review meeting was held with the Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), focusing on ensuring a smooth, secure, and transparent conduct of the examination.

During the meeting, Dr. Somanathan stressed the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholders, including Central ministries, State governments, and district administrations. He underscored that maintaining the integrity and credibility of the examination process remains the top priority.

India Launches Varya AI Model to Make Video Creation Faster and Affordable

In a significant push to indigenize artificial intelligence capabilities, the IndiaAI Mission has supported the launch of "Varya," a video story-generating AI model developed by Avataar. The model aims to make high-quality video generation affordable, accessible, and relevant for India's diverse user base.

Unveiled at a press event in New Delhi in the presence of S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Varya represents a major step in India's effort to build homegrown AI technologies. Developed using subsidized national AI compute infrastructure, the model reflects the government's focus on fostering innovation through public digital resources.

Varya stands out for its efficiency, reducing the video generation process from nearly 50 steps to just four through a tech-

nique known as model distillation. This significantly cuts time and computational cost while maintaining quality. According to the company, the model can generate video at approximately 0.48 per second, making it up to ten times more cost-efficient than several global alternatives.

Designed with India's cultural diversity in mind, Varya can generate context-rich visuals across regions, languages, and everyday scenarios. It is expected to benefit a wide range of users—from teachers creating visual lessons and small businesses producing advertisements to citizens accessing public information through video formats.

The platform follows a simple "Idea to Video to Story" approach, allowing users to convert text prompts or images into engaging video content and extend narratives seamlessly. Speaking at the launch, S.



lowed by another review meeting on June 4 with Chief Secretaries of State governments to assess ground-level readiness and coordination. These continuous engagements are aimed at strengthening logistical arrangements, tightening security measures, and ensuring effective communication across agencies. The government is taking comprehensive steps to prevent any irregularities and to reassure candidates about the transparency of the examination process. The NEET re-examination is being closely monitored to uphold its credibility and ensure a fair opportunity for all aspirants across the country.

Krishnan highlighted that Varya reflects India's growing AI ambitions and commitment to building scalable, inclusive technologies. Avataar CEO Sravanth Aluru emphasized that affordability is central to India's AI growth, noting that efficient models like Varya can democratize access to advanced AI tools.

The launch underscores India's focus on developing cost-effective, population-scale AI solutions that can compete globally while addressing local needs. During the hearing, the bench noted that once a Returning Officer rejects a nomination, the affected candidate is required to seek relief through the established electoral framework rather than approaching constitutional courts directly. The judges remarked that accepting such petitions would amount to creating exceptions not contemplated under the



Dalai Lama Discharged After Successful Knee Surgery

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama was discharged from a New Delhi hospital on Friday after successfully undergoing left knee replacement surgery earlier this week.

According to an official medical update, the surgery was performed on June 8 at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals. Doctors reported that the procedure was successful and that the 90-year-old spiritual leader remained stable throughout his treatment and recovery period.

Senior Consultant Dr. Rajesh Malhotra, who supervised the medical care, stated that the Dalai Lama is in stable condition and is expected to make a full recovery. Following several days of post-operative observation and treatment, he was discharged on Friday morning.

Hospital authorities noted that the Dalai Lama's personal medical team worked closely with specialists and administrative staff to ensure comprehensive care during his stay. The coordinated effort helped facilitate a smooth surgical procedure and recovery process.

The knee replacement surgery was undertaken to address age-related mobility issues and improve his overall

comfort and movement. Medical experts indicated that such procedures are increasingly common and can significantly enhance quality of life for elderly patients.

The Dalai Lama, one of the world's most respected spiritual figures, continues to inspire millions through his teachings on compassion, peace, and non-violence. News of his successful surgery and recovery has been welcomed by followers and well-wishers across the globe.

Messages wishing him a speedy recovery poured in from religious leaders, public figures, and supporters from various countries following the announcement of his discharge.

Doctors have advised a period of rest and rehabilitation as part of the recovery process. With regular physiotherapy and medical supervision, the Dalai Lama is expected to gradually resume his routine activities and public engagements in the coming weeks.

The successful surgery marks a positive step in maintaining the spiritual leader's health as he continues his global mission of promoting peace, harmony, and humanitarian values.



SC Rejects Meenakshi Natarajan's Plea Over Rajya Sabha Nomination Rejection

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a petition filed by Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan challenging the rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh, holding that courts cannot interfere in such electoral matters at this stage.

A bench comprising Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S. Chandurkar ruled that the Constitution provides a specific mechanism for resolving election-related disputes and that judicial intervention before the completion of the electoral process is generally barred.

The court clarified that it had not examined the merits of the allegations surrounding the rejection of Natarajan's nomination and had only addressed the maintainability of the petition. It observed that Article 329 of the Constitution restricts judicial interference in electoral matters during the election process and that disputes arising from nomination rejections must be pursued through the remedies available under election law.

During the hearing, the bench noted that once a Returning Officer rejects a nomination, the affected candidate is required to seek relief through the established electoral framework rather than approaching constitutional courts directly. The judges remarked that accepting such petitions would amount to creating exceptions not contemplated under the

Constitution. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Natarajan, argued that her nomination had been rejected on incorrect grounds. He contended that the alleged criminal case referred to by election authorities did not warrant disclosure in the manner claimed, as it involved only the issuance of summons and did not meet the statutory threshold requiring disclosure of serious criminal proceedings.

The controversy arose after Returning Officer Arvind Sharma rejected Natarajan's nomination, citing alleged non-disclosure of a pending case in the affidavit accompanying her nomination papers. Election authorities stated that the omission rendered the affidavit incomplete.

The issue was reportedly raised following a complaint by BJP candidate Mahesh Kewat, who alleged that Natarajan had failed to mention a case registered against her in Telangana.

While dismissing the plea, the Supreme Court reiterated the importance of maintaining the constitutional framework governing elections and emphasized that challenges to electoral decisions must be addressed through the remedies specifically provided under election laws.

The ruling effectively closes the door on immediate judicial intervention in the matter, leaving any further challenge to be pursued through the election dispute resolution process prescribed by law.

Experts Question Timeline of SpaceX's Ambitious Future Plans



SpaceX has transformed the global space industry with a series of groundbreaking achievements, but several experts believe some of the company's most ambitious future goals may be far more difficult to achieve than projected.

Founded by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, SpaceX has become a dominant force in space transportation through its reusable rocket technology, dramatically reducing launch costs and increasing mission frequency. However, plans ranging from large-scale colonies on Mars to orbital artificial intelligence

data centers are drawing skepticism from scientists and industry analysts.

Experts acknowledge that SpaceX has repeatedly accomplished feats once considered impossible. Yet they point out that many of Musk's projected timelines have often been delayed. While some researchers believe human missions to Mars could become a reality within coming decades, they argue that establishing a self-sustaining colony on the Red Planet remains a distant challenge.

One of the key obstacles is SpaceX's Starship rocket system, which is still under development. Specialists note that long-duration missions to Mars would require advanced life-support technologies, reliable recycling systems for water and oxygen, and solutions to numerous biological and engineering challenges that remain unresolved.

Another major hurdle is SpaceX's plan to refuel spacecraft in orbit, a capability considered essential for deep-space travel. Although the concept is technically feasible, experts emphasize that it has never been successfully imple-

mented on the required scale.

The company's proposal to build AI data centers in space has also been met with widespread skepticism. Analysts argue that despite potential technological advantages, the economic costs of constructing and maintaining such facilities in orbit would be enormous and difficult to justify with current technology.

Despite these concerns, SpaceX remains one of the most influential and well-funded aerospace companies in the world, particularly following its highly anticipated public market debut. Industry observers believe the company's engineering expertise gives it a strong chance of overcoming many technical barriers, though perhaps not within the timelines envisioned by its founder.

As SpaceX continues to push the boundaries of innovation, experts say its long-term success will depend not only on technological breakthroughs but also on realistic planning, sustained investment, and the ability to overcome challenges that have never before been faced in human space exploration.

Trump's Iran Deal Move Surprises Netanyahu

A fresh diplomatic twist in the ongoing Middle East crisis has reportedly created unexpected tensions between two of the region's closest allies, after US President Donald Trump announced the cancellation of planned military strikes on Iran, leaving Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly caught off guard.

According to reports, Trump halted the proposed attacks after receiving indications that Iran's leadership had approved a draft framework aimed at reducing hostilities and opening the door for broader regional negotiations. The move marked a significant shift from recent weeks of escalating military tensions and was seen as an effort by Washington to prevent a wider regional conflict.

In a statement, Trump said discussions involving multiple regional stakeholders had reached an advanced stage and that diplomatic efforts had created an opportunity to avoid further military escalation. The US President maintained



that a negotiated settlement could achieve long-term stability while safeguarding regional security interests.

The development reportedly surprised Netanyahu, who had been expecting continued pressure on Tehran. Sources familiar with the matter indicated that Israeli officials were not fully informed about the final stages of the diplomatic initiative. Reports suggested that Netanyahu had been seeking clarity regarding ongoing US-Iran contacts through various channels before Trump's announcement. Following the development, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office clarified that

Israel was not a party to any memorandum of understanding between Washington and Tehran. However, it welcomed assurances that any final agreement would address concerns related to Iran's nuclear activities, missile development programmes, and support for regional armed groups. The episode has highlighted growing differences in strategic priorities between Washington and Tel Aviv. While the Trump administration appears focused on preventing a prolonged conflict that could disrupt global energy markets and impact economic stability, Israel contin-

ues to stress the need for stronger measures against Iran and its regional influence.

Political observers note that both leaders are also navigating domestic pressures. Trump faces growing concerns in the United States over inflation and energy prices, while Netanyahu is under pressure from sections of the Israeli public seeking stronger security outcomes amid continuing regional tensions.

Despite the apparent differences, both governments have reiterated their commitment to close cooperation on security matters. Diplomatic efforts are expected to continue in the coming days as regional and international stakeholders work toward a framework aimed at reducing hostilities and preventing further escalation in the Middle East. The latest developments underscore the complex balance between diplomacy and military strategy as world leaders seek a path toward stability in one of the globe's most volatile regions.

Trump Allies Explore New Route to Compensate 'Weaponisation' Victims

Efforts to compensate supporters of US President Donald Trump who claim they were targeted by a "weaponised" federal government have taken a new turn after plans for a proposed \$1.8 billion compensation fund were effectively shelved. Trump allies are now exploring alternative legal avenues, with the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) emerging as the most likely mechanism for pursuing payouts.

The FTCA, enacted in 1946, allows individuals to seek compensation from the federal government for alleged wrongdoing by government agencies or officials. Legal experts and Trump supporters believe the law could provide a practical path for financial settlements without the need for a separate government-backed compensation fund.

The original "anti-weaponisation" fund, which was intended to compensate individuals allegedly harmed by investigations and prosecutions during the Biden administration, faced significant political opposition and was eventually put on hold. Critics argued that the proposal would effectively use taxpayer money



to reward political allies.

Despite the setback, supporters of the initiative say efforts to secure compensation are continuing. Hundreds of individuals connected to the January 6 Capitol riot prosecutions have reportedly filed claims or lawsuits seeking damages, arguing that they were unfairly targeted by federal authorities.

Trump has repeatedly maintained that many of his supporters were victims of politically motivated investigations and has publicly stated that those affected deserve compensation. Several prominent allies have also backed the idea of pursuing claims through existing legal frameworks rather than creating a new fund.

Under the FTCA process,

claimants first submit administrative complaints to the federal government. If settlements are not reached, they may proceed with lawsuits in federal court. Legal observers note that while the path is available, success is far from guaranteed and would depend on the merits of individual claims.

The debate has reignited political controversy in Washington, with supporters framing the effort as a matter of justice and accountability, while critics warn against using public funds to settle politically sensitive disputes. The issue is expected to remain a contentious topic as the Trump administration continues to address allegations of government "weaponisation" and its broader political implications.

US Plans Major Reduction in Military Support for NATO Operations



The United States is reportedly preparing a significant reduction in the military assets it makes available for NATO operations in Europe, a move that could reshape the alliance's defence posture and place greater responsibility on European member nations.

According to reports, the proposed changes include a substantial cut in the number of combat aircraft, surveillance platforms, and naval assets assigned to NATO missions. The move is part of a broader effort by the United States to reassess its global military commitments and encourage allies to strengthen their own defence capabilities.

Under the reported plan, the number of F-16 and F-15E fighter aircraft available for NATO operations could be reduced from approximately 150 to around 100. Maritime reconnaissance aircraft assigned to European missions may also be cut from 26 to 15. In addition, all eight aerial refuelling tanker aircraft currently supporting operations in Europe are expected to be withdrawn.

The restructuring could extend to naval deployments as well. Reports indicate that a missile-equipped submarine, an aircraft carrier, several accompanying warships, and numerous carrier-based aircraft may be reassigned to other strategic regions. One of the

bomber groups currently dedicated to European defense responsibilities could also be redeployed.

Military analysts suggest that such reductions could affect NATO's ability to conduct long-range strike missions, intelligence gathering, surveillance operations, and rapid-response deployments during times of crisis. While NATO remains one of the world's strongest military alliances, the proposed changes could require European members to assume a larger share of operational responsibilities.

The reported move aligns with longstanding calls from the administration of President Donald Trump for NATO allies to increase defense spending and reduce dependence on American military resources. Washington has repeatedly argued that many European countries have failed to invest adequately in their own defense sectors while relying heavily on US military support.

Earlier this year, US officials indicated plans to review and

adjust military contributions to alliance operations, emphasizing a strategy of "right-sizing" commitments in line with evolving global security priorities. The focus has increasingly shifted toward challenges in other regions, including the Indo-Pacific.

European officials are closely monitoring the developments, as any reduction in American military participation could have significant implications for regional security planning and NATO's overall operational readiness.

Although neither NATO nor the US Department of Defense has officially confirmed the reported details, the prospect of reduced American involvement has already sparked discussions among alliance members regarding future defense spending, force modernization, and burden-sharing arrangements.

If implemented, the changes would mark one of the most significant adjustments to US military support for NATO operations in recent years.

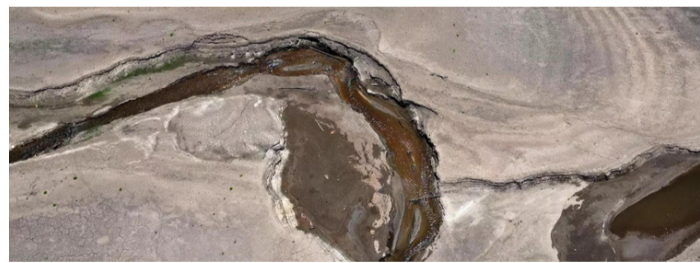
Powerful El Niño Raises Global Extreme Weather Concerns

Meteorologists have confirmed the formation of a powerful El Niño climate pattern in the Pacific Ocean, warning that it could intensify global temperatures and trigger extreme weather events across several regions of the world. Experts believe the current El Niño has the potential to rival some of the strongest events recorded in modern history.

El Niño occurs when surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean become unusually warm, influencing weather systems worldwide. Scientists say the phenomenon is developing rapidly and is expected to strengthen further during the latter half of the year. Forecasts indicate a strong possibility that it could rank among the most significant El Niño events observed since records began in the mid-20th century.

Climate experts warn that the event is likely to add extra heat to a planet already experiencing rising temperatures due to climate change. The additional warming could contribute to more frequent and intense heat waves, floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires across various continents.

The impacts of El Niño differ from region to region. South



American countries along the Pacific coast may experience heavy rainfall and flooding, while Australia faces heightened risks of drought, extreme heat, and bushfires. India could see more severe heat waves, and parts of Africa may experience a shift from prolonged drought conditions to intense rainfall and flooding.

The phenomenon may also alter hurricane activity. While Atlantic hurricane activity often decreases during strong El Niño years, storm activity in the Pacific basin tends to increase. This could reduce risks for some regions while raising concerns for Pacific island nations and coastal communities.

Scientists note that the current event is showing unusually strong early signals, with warm ocean waters already rising toward the surface across large areas of the Pacific. Some

researchers believe the peak may arrive earlier than usual and could persist for an extended period.

Economic impacts are also expected. Agricultural production could benefit in some regions due to improved rainfall, while others may face crop losses from drought or flooding. Higher temperatures may also affect energy demand, public health, and economic growth.

Climate specialists emphasize that while El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon, its effects are likely to be amplified by ongoing global warming. Experts are urging governments and communities to prepare for potential disruptions and extreme weather events in the months ahead, stressing that preparedness will be crucial in reducing risks and safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha Passes Away at 47

Thailand is mourning the death of Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, the eldest daughter of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who passed away at the age of 47 after a prolonged illness. The Royal Household announced that the princess died peacefully on Thursday evening following a deterioration in her health condition.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha had been hospitalized since December 2022 after suffering a sudden medical emergency linked to an abdominal infection. Despite extensive treatment and continuous medical care over the past three years, her condition gradually worsened. In recent months, she reportedly depended on advanced medical equipment to support vital organ functions, including her lungs and kidneys.

Widely known as "Princess Bha," she was one of the most respected members of the Thai royal family and was regarded as a prominent public figure due to her extensive work in law, diplomacy, and social welfare. The princess was the only child from King Vajiralongkorn's first marriage to Princess Soamsawali.

A highly accomplished academic, Bajrakitiyabha studied in Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, earning a law degree from



Cornell University. She built a distinguished career as a prosecutor, diplomat, and advocate for justice. Her professional achievements included serving as Thailand's ambassador to Austria and holding various roles associated with international organizations, including the United Nations.

Throughout her career, she championed legal reform, women's rights, and humanitarian causes. She became particularly recognized for her efforts to improve conditions for women in prisons and to promote equal access to justice. Her work earned widespread admiration both within Thailand and internationally.

Within the royal family, Princess Bajrakitiyabha was considered especially close to her father. She also held important ceremonial and military responsibilities, including a senior position within the royal bodyguard command. Her public engagements and charitable initiatives made her one of the most visible royal figures in modern Thailand.

The Royal Household announced that her body will lie in state at Bangkok's Grand Palace, where members of the public and dignitaries will have an opportunity to pay their respects. Funeral ceremonies will be conducted with

the highest royal honors in accordance with long-standing Thai traditions.

Her passing has prompted an outpouring of condolences across Thailand, where the monarchy continues to hold deep cultural and symbolic significance. Government officials, foreign leaders, and members of the public have paid tribute to her lifelong dedication to public service, social justice, and the welfare of the Thai people. The death of Princess Bajrakitiyabha marks the end of a remarkable career dedicated to law, diplomacy, and humanitarian service, leaving behind a lasting legacy in Thailand and beyond.

Markets Soar as Middle East Tensions Ease; Sensex Surges 1,695 Points



Indian equity markets staged a powerful rally on Friday, with benchmark indices posting sharp gains amid improving global sentiment, easing crude oil prices, and optimism over a possible diplomatic breakthrough in the Middle East.

The BSE Sensex surged 1,695.40 points, or 2.30 percent, to close at 75,527.95, while the NSE Nifty gained 461.30 points, or 1.99 percent, to settle at 23,622.90, comfortably crossing the 23,600 mark. The rally was driven by reports indicating progress toward a po-

tential agreement between the United States and Iran, which helped reduce concerns over energy supply disruptions and pushed crude oil prices lower.

The Indian rupee also strengthened significantly, ending 64 paise higher at 95.11 against the US dollar compared with the previous close of 95.75. Investor sentiment received an additional boost from the sharp rise in the total market capitalization of BSE-listed companies, which increased by nearly 10 lakh crore to 162.02 lakh crore.

Among the top gainers in the Nifty pack were Shriram Finance, Larsen & Toubro, InterGlobe Aviation, Bajaj Finance, and Titan Company. On the downside, Nestle India, ONGC, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consumer Products, and SBI Life Insurance emerged as the major laggards.

Sector-wise, all major indices ended in the green. Consumer durables, realty, telecom, banking, automobile, media, oil and gas, and metal stocks registered gains ranging from one to two percent. Broader markets outper-

formed benchmark indices, with both the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices advancing more than two percent.

Nearly 100 stocks touched their 52-week highs on the BSE. Notable names included IFCI, Apar Industries, Aegis Logistics, Sai Life Sciences, Bank of Maharashtra, Caplin Point Laboratories, Federal Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, JB Chemicals, and Aster DM Healthcare.

Among individual stocks, ESAF Small Finance Bank jumped seven percent after crossing the 50,000 crore business milestone. AVG Logistics gained five percent following the award of a three-year fleet management contract from Haldiram Nagpur. Bosch India rose four percent after a brokerage upgrade, while NLC India added two percent after emerging as the preferred bidder for a strategic mineral block.

In the primary market, Hexagon Nutrition ended its debut session at 50, nearly 12 percent above its issue price, capping a strong market day marked by broad-based buying and renewed investor confidence.

SEBI Plans Longer-Term F&O Contracts to Strengthen Market Depth



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering the introduction of longer-term futures and options (F&O) contracts as part of its broader strategy to deepen the country's derivatives market and strengthen the linkage between cash and derivative segments.

Speaking at the ET NOW Markets Summit 2026, SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said that expanding the availability of longer-duration derivative products would help broaden investor participation and improve risk management capabilities across the market.

Pandey emphasized that deepening India's capital markets remains a key priority for the regulator. He noted that longer-term F&O contracts in the equity segment could provide investors with more flexibility in hedging risks and planning investment strategies over extended periods.

"The development of longer-term futures and options contracts will play an important role in broadening market participation and enhancing risk management capabilities," Pandey said.

As part of the initiative, SEBI is also undertaking a comprehensive review of the securities lending and borrowing (SLB) mechanism and the short-selling framework. The objective is to improve liquidity and create stronger integration between the cash and derivatives markets. "The securities lending and borrowing and short-selling frameworks are being comprehensively reviewed to facilitate interlinkage between the cash and derivatives market and enhance liquidity," he stated.

The SEBI chief highlighted that the regulator has already implemented a series of calibrated measures aimed at strengthening the derivatives segment. These include improvements in risk management systems, enhanced market monitoring, and stronger surveillance mechanisms to ensure orderly market functioning.

In addition to equity derivatives, SEBI is reportedly exploring opportunities to expand the range of financial products available to investors. In coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), discussions are underway regard-

ing the introduction of derivatives linked to the bond market, a move that could further diversify investment and hedging options.

Market experts believe that the introduction of longer-term derivative contracts could attract institutional investors, pension funds, and long-term market participants seeking better risk-management tools.

The proposed reforms are part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to modernize India's capital markets, improve liquidity, and position the country as a more mature and globally competitive financial market. If implemented, the measures are expected to enhance market efficiency while offering investors a wider range of investment and hedging opportunities.

IFCI Soars 20% as NSE IPO Filing Buzz Sparks Buying Frenzy



Shares of Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IFCI) witnessed a sharp rally on Friday, hitting the 20 percent upper circuit and touching a fresh 52-week high amid reports that the National Stock Exchange (NSE) is likely to file its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) for its much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) next week.

The stock surged to 84.57 per share on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), extending investor enthusiasm and emerg-

ing as one of the top gainers of the session. IFCI had opened the day with a gain of 2.58 percent before attracting strong buying interest throughout the trading session.

Market participants linked the rally to growing expectations surrounding NSE's IPO plans. IFCI is among the significant shareholders in the country's largest stock exchange, and any progress toward NSE's public listing is generally viewed as a positive development for companies

holding stakes in the exchange.

The surge comes after IFCI shares had witnessed profit-taking and declined for two consecutive trading sessions. Friday's sharp rebound reflected renewed optimism among investors, who anticipate that NSE's listing could unlock value for its institutional shareholders.

The proposed IPO of NSE has been one of the most closely watched developments in India's capital markets. Market observers believe that the filing of the DRHP could mark a significant step toward the eventual listing of the exchange, which has remained privately held despite years of speculation regarding its public debut.

Investor sentiment toward IFCI has also been supported by improving market conditions and increased interest in financial-sector stocks. The broader market remained firm during the session, encourag-

ing buying in companies perceived to benefit from developments in the capital markets ecosystem.

Analysts noted that the stock's breakout to a new 52-week high indicates strong momentum, although they cautioned that volatility could remain elevated given the sharp gains recorded in a short period.

The rally in IFCI highlights how developments related to major financial institutions can influence the valuations of companies with strategic holdings in those entities. With investors closely monitoring the progress of NSE's IPO process, IFCI is likely to remain in focus in the coming sessions.

Market participants will now watch for official announcements regarding the DRHP filing, as well as any further details related to the proposed IPO, which could continue to drive sentiment in IFCI and other NSE shareholder stocks.

Bank Nifty Surges 3% as Banking Stocks Lead Market Rally



boosted confidence in financial stocks.

The rally was broad-based, reflecting strength across both private and public sector lenders. The Nifty Private Bank index advanced 2.8 percent, while the Nifty PSU Bank index climbed 2.7 percent, making banking one of the best-performing sectors of the day.

Among the major gainers, AU Small Finance Bank topped the Bank Nifty chart with a sharp 5.7 percent rise, closing at 1,018. IDFC First Bank followed closely, gaining 5.6 percent. Punjab National Bank advanced 3.8 percent, while HDFC Bank surged 3.7 percent and emerged as one of the largest contributors to the gains in the benchmark indices.

Yes Bank gained 3.6 percent, Canara Bank rose 3.4 percent, and Union Bank of India added 3.3 percent. IndusInd Bank climbed 3.1 percent, while Axis Bank advanced 2.7 percent and featured among the top gainers in the Nifty 50 index.

Other banking majors also posted solid gains. Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 2.7 percent, Bank of Baroda gained 2.6 per-

cent, ICICI Bank added 1.8 percent, Federal Bank advanced 1.7 percent, and State Bank of India ended 1.6 percent higher.

Market experts attributed the rally to improving risk appetite among investors following reports of potential progress in diplomatic efforts related to the US-Iran situation. The decline in crude oil prices also eased concerns about inflation and economic growth, creating a favorable environment for banking and financial stocks.

Analysts believe that lower energy prices can help strengthen economic activity, improve credit demand, and reduce pressure on borrowers, all of which are positive factors for the banking sector.

With strong participation across private, public sector, and small finance banks, Friday's rally highlighted renewed investor confidence in the financial sector. Market participants will now closely monitor global developments and domestic economic indicators for further direction in banking stocks.

Cognizant Set to Exit Nasdaq-100 After More Than Two Decades



Information technology major Cognizant is set to be removed from the prestigious Nasdaq-100 Index later this month, marking the end of its more than two-decade presence in one of the world's most closely tracked technology benchmarks.

The move comes as the Nasdaq-100 undergoes its quarterly rebalancing process, reflecting the rapidly changing dynamics of the global technology sector. Cognizant, once regarded as a dominant force in the IT services industry, will make way for a new generation of companies that have benefited significantly

from the growing artificial intelligence revolution.

The Nasdaq-100 comprises the 100 largest non-financial companies listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange and serves as a key benchmark for global technology and growth-oriented investments. Its composition is closely watched by investors because hundreds of exchange-traded funds and investment products replicate the index, collectively managing assets worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

Cognizant's removal highlights the shifting priorities of investors as artificial intelligence continues to reshape

the technology landscape. In recent years, companies directly involved in AI development, cloud computing, semiconductor manufacturing, and advanced digital technologies have witnessed substantial growth in market value, pushing traditional IT services firms lower in rankings.

The IT services sector globally has faced mounting challenges amid rapid advancements in generative AI and automation tools. Industry observers believe these technologies could significantly alter the traditional outsourcing and consulting business models that have long been the foundation of companies such as Cognizant.

Shares of IT services firms worldwide have remained under pressure as businesses increasingly explore AI-powered solutions capable of automating tasks previously handled by large teams of technology professionals. Investors have therefore shifted their attention toward companies positioned to benefit directly from AI adoption rather than those potentially disrupted by it.

Despite the setback, Cogni-

zant remains one of the world's leading IT services and consulting companies, serving clients across industries including healthcare, banking, manufacturing, retail, and technology. The company continues to invest heavily in digital transformation, cloud services, cybersecurity, and AI-related capabilities to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

Market analysts note that removal from a major index does not necessarily reflect a company's operational performance but often results from relative changes in market capitalization and investor sentiment. However, such changes can influence stock demand because index-tracking funds are required to adjust their portfolios accordingly.

As artificial intelligence continues to drive investment flows and reshape technology markets, Cognizant's exit from the Nasdaq-100 symbolizes a broader transition underway across the global IT industry, where innovation and AI leadership are increasingly determining market prominence.

Nestle India Shares Slip After FSSAI Notice Over Maggi Complaint



Shares of Nestle India declined more than 3 percent on Friday after the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a notice to the company regarding an alleged complaint involving the detection of insect larvae in a packet of Maggi noodles. The development triggered investor concerns, leading to selling pressure in the stock despite the company's firm denial of the allegations.

Nestle India's stock fell sharply during intraday trading before ending the session lower, making it one of the notable losers in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. Market participants reacted cautiously as the food regulator sought detailed information from the company concerning the complaint and the quality-control procedures associated with the product batch in question.

The regulatory action follows increased scrutiny of consumer complaints circulating on social media platforms. Authorities have reportedly sought detailed action-taken reports from several companies in connection with various consumer grievances, with Nestle India being among those receiving notices.

In the case of Maggi noodles, FSSAI has requested compre-

hensive details regarding the source and vendor of the product, internal quality inspection records, batch-specific testing information, and any corrective measures undertaken by the company. The regulator has also sought information on steps being implemented to ensure that similar incidents do not recur in the future.

Responding to the notice, Nestle India rejected the allegations and maintained confidence in its manufacturing and quality assurance processes. The company stated that it believes the available facts and evidence will ultimately establish the true circumstances surrounding the complaint. Nestle emphasized that product quality and consumer safety remain its highest priorities.

Maggi is one of India's most popular packaged food brands and contributes significantly to Nestle India's revenue. Any concerns regarding product quality often attract considerable public and investor attention due to the brand's extensive consumer base across the country.

The incident has once again brought food safety standards and quality monitoring practices into focus. Industry experts note that regulatory

scrutiny has increased in recent years as authorities seek to strengthen consumer protection and ensure greater accountability among food manufacturers.

While the notice does not imply any finding of wrongdoing at this stage, investors remain watchful of further developments and the company's response to the regulator. Market analysts believe the impact on the stock may remain sentiment-driven until the matter is examined and clarified by the concerned authorities.

The episode highlights the growing influence of consumer complaints and social media reports in prompting regulatory reviews, reinforcing the importance of stringent quality control and transparency in the food and beverage industry.

Economist's Formula Picks Netherlands For Historic World Cup Triumph

Can mathematics predict the outcome of the world's most popular sporting event? While football has long been considered a game of passion, unpredictability and last-minute drama, a German economist is once again making headlines for using data and statistics to forecast the FIFA World Cup winner.

Joachim Klement, an economist who successfully predicted the champions of the last three FIFA World Cups, has now named the Netherlands as his pick to win the 2026 edition of the tournament. His prediction has sparked curiosity among football fans worldwide,

especially given his remarkable record of correctly forecasting Germany's triumph in 2014, France's title-winning campaign in 2018, and Argentina's success in 2022.

Interestingly, Klement's journey into football forecasting began as an academic exercise. His original intention was to demonstrate that predicting a World Cup winner was nearly impossible due to the countless variables involved in football. However, when his model accurately identified Germany as the 2014 champion, even he was surprised by the outcome.

Over the years, his statisti-

cal model has attracted considerable attention. Rather than relying on instinct, football knowledge or emotional attachment to teams, Klement's approach focuses on measurable factors such as population size, team rankings and other performance-related indicators. By combining these variables into a mathematical framework, he attempts to identify which nation has the strongest probability of lifting the trophy.

Despite his success, Klement remains cautious about the predictive power of his model. He frequently emphasizes that football remains highly unpre-

dictable and that luck continues to play a major role in determining outcomes. According to him, statistics can explain only a portion of what happens on the field, while unexpected moments, injuries, referee decisions and individual brilliance often shape the final result.

What makes his latest prediction particularly noteworthy is that the Netherlands has never won a FIFA World Cup despite reaching multiple finals in the tournament's history. Dutch football has produced some of the game's greatest players and most influential tactical innovations,

yet the coveted trophy has remained elusive.

Klement himself admitted that choosing the Netherlands was not an emotional decision but one generated by the data. As preparations continue for the FIFA World Cup 2026, football supporters across the globe will be watching closely to see whether his extraordinary streak continues.

If the prediction proves accurate, the Netherlands could finally celebrate a long-awaited first world title, while Klement's reputation as football's most successful economist-predictor would grow even stronger.



Boss Wins Hearts By Forcing Injured Employee To Rest After Accident

A simple workplace conversation has captured the attention of social media users after a caring employer insisted that an injured employee prioritize his health instead of reporting to work following a motorbike accident.

The heartwarming exchange, shared online by a company founder, has gone viral for highlighting a compassionate side of workplace culture that many people say is rarely seen. At a time when stories about employee burnout and demanding work environments often dominate discussions, the interaction offered a refreshing reminder that empathy still exists in professional settings.

According to the viral post, the employee informed his boss through a message that he had fallen off his motorbike and was experiencing pain. While requesting permission to take leave if the discomfort continued, he also assured his employer that he would try his best to return to work the next day if his condition improved.

Rather than encouraging him to push through the pain, the boss immediately urged the employee to stay home and focus on recovery. Concerned about the possibility of a serious injury, she asked whether he had visited a hospital and warned that symptoms such as dizziness could indicate a concussion.



The employee, however, revealed that he was relying on painkillers and headache medication and hoped to return to work later that day if he felt better. His response only increased his employer's concern.

The founder firmly advised him against returning to work and repeatedly encouraged him to seek medical attention. She reminded the employee that the company provided health insurance specifically for situations like this and stressed that his well-being was far more important than work responsibilities.

The exchange resonated with thousands of social media users, many of whom praised the employer for demonstrating genuine care and responsibility. Several commenters noted that workers often feel pressured to contin-

ue working despite injuries or illness, making the boss's reaction particularly noteworthy.

Others pointed out that the conversation reflected the kind of supportive workplace culture that many employees hope to experience. Some even described the exchange as an example of leadership done right, where people are valued above productivity targets and deadlines.

As the screenshots continued to circulate online, the story became a symbol of workplace compassion. While the conversation itself was brief, it served as a powerful reminder that small acts of kindness and concern can leave a lasting impact, both inside and outside the office.

In a world filled with stories of workplace stress, this viral exchange offered a welcome dose of humanity.

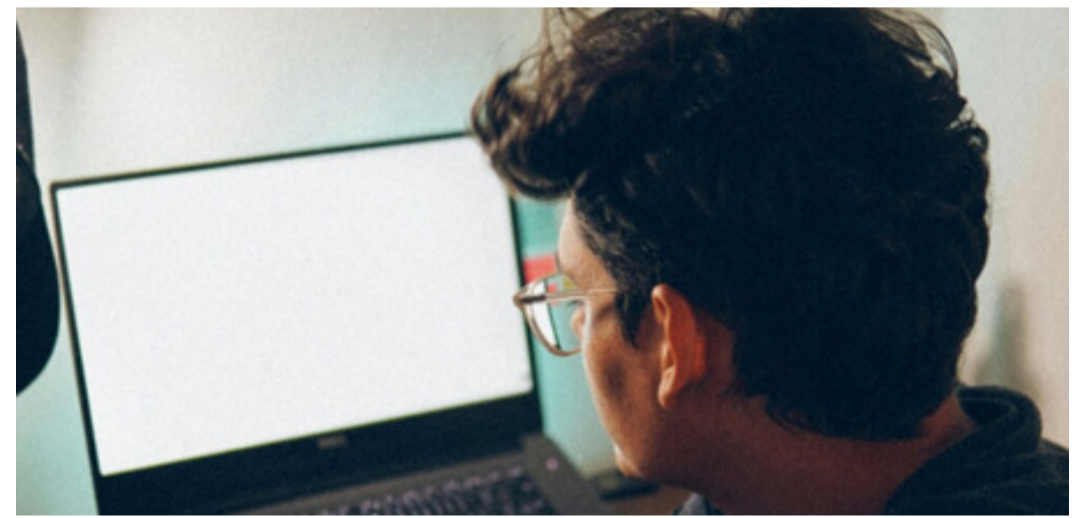
IIT Graduate Rejects Internship Offer Paying Just One-Tenth Of His Salary

A social media post by an IIT Bombay graduate has sparked widespread discussion about hiring practices, salary expectations and the challenges facing job seekers in today's competitive employment market.

Soham Nayak, a graduate of the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, recently shared an experience that resonated with many professionals navigating an uncertain job landscape. According to Nayak, he received a call from a recruiter while actively searching for new employment opportunities. What began as a routine conversation quickly turned into an offer he described as impossible to accept.

The recruiter reportedly started by asking about Nayak's current salary before proposing a three-to-six-month internship period ahead of a permanent role. While internship opportunities are often associated with students or fresh graduates, Nayak said the position involved the same type of work he was already performing professionally.

The most surprising aspect of the offer, however, was the compensation. According to Nayak, the internship salary was just one-tenth of what he was currently earning. The pro-



posal effectively asked him to perform similar responsibilities for approximately 90 percent less pay.

Sharing the incident online, Nayak expressed disappointment over what he viewed as an attempt to significantly undervalue experienced professionals. He pointed out that the role was neither a junior position nor a shift to a different technology stack. Instead, it involved the same skill set and work profile he had already been delivering in his career.

What attracted significant attention was Nayak's response to the offer. Despite being only days away from unemployment

and facing financial pressure, he said he rejected the proposal immediately. He described it as one of the easiest decisions he had made, arguing that accepting such a drastic reduction in compensation would have diminished his professional worth.

His comments quickly gained traction across social media platforms, where many users echoed similar experiences. Several professionals shared stories of receiving offers with significantly reduced salaries despite possessing years of experience and specialized skills.

Others pointed to the growing imbalance between employer

expectations and compensation packages in certain sectors.

The incident has reignited conversations about the state of the job market, particularly in the technology industry, where layoffs, hiring slowdowns and increased competition have created new challenges for job seekers.

While opinions differed on whether candidates should accept lower-paying opportunities during difficult times, many agreed with Nayak's broader message: professional expertise and experience carry value, and preserving that value remains important even during periods of economic uncertainty.

Employee Claims Company Is Tracking Washroom Breaks

An employee from Ahmedabad has sparked a heated discussion online after alleging that their company recently began monitoring and recording the amount of time employees spend on washroom breaks. The worker claimed the new policy has created stress and discomfort, raising concerns about workplace privacy and employee well-being.

The issue came to light through a social media post in which the employee described being questioned by management over the time spent away from their desk. According to the worker, the company calculated the total duration of their washroom visits and informed them that it exceeded the organization's unofficial limit.

The employee, who has been with the company for nearly ten months, said management reported that their washroom breaks added up to 53 minutes on a particular day. The worker was reportedly told that the company allows a maximum of 30 minutes for such breaks and was asked to remain at work for additional time to compensate for the difference.

Expressing frustration, the employee questioned why the issue had suddenly become a concern after months of following the same routine. The worker noted that there had never been any complaints about performance and that all assigned tasks were consistently



completed on time.

According to the post, the employee works at a small firm and feels the strict monitoring is unnecessary. To further demonstrate commitment to work, the worker explained that their mobile phone is always left at the desk while visiting the washroom, eliminating any suggestion that the breaks are being used for personal activities.

The employee also pointed out that the washroom is located only a short distance from the workstation, making it unlikely that significant time is being wasted. Despite this, the detailed tracking of movements and break durations has reportedly left the worker feeling uncomfortable and mentally stressed.

The story quickly gained traction online, drawing strong reactions from social media users. Many commenters criticized the practice, arguing that monitoring basic personal needs creates an unhealthy work environment and un-

dermines trust between employers and employees.

Others expressed concern that such policies could negatively affect employee morale and productivity. Several users shared similar experiences from their own workplaces, while some suggested that organizations should focus on performance and output rather than closely tracking routine breaks.

The incident has reignited discussions about workplace surveillance, employee privacy, and the balance between accountability and personal dignity. As companies increasingly rely on monitoring tools and productivity metrics, the debate continues over where the line should be drawn between effective management and excessive oversight.

For many online observers, the employee's story highlights the growing tension between workplace control and employee well-being in modern offices.

Anupam Kher's Flight Encounter Becomes A Lesson Against Judging By Appearances

Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher has shared a touching personal experience that has resonated widely on social media, reminding people of the dangers of making assumptions about others based solely on appearances.

The actor recounted an incident that took place during a recent flight from Goa to Mumbai. What began as a casual observation about a fellow passenger eventually turned into a powerful lesson in empathy, kindness and self-reflection.

According to Kher, a passenger named David boarded the flight carrying several boxes of chocolates and sweets. David's physical appearance immediately drew attention from some passengers, including the actor himself. Observing the man and the sweets he was carrying, Kher admitted that he instinctively assumed the passenger intended to consume them all, leading him to associate the man's weight with unhealthy eating habits.

Sharing the experience later, Kher acknowledged that he had formed an opinion without knowing anything about the individual's circumstances. The assumption, however, was soon challenged unexpectedly.

During the flight, Kher noticed David collecting the chocolates and handing them



over to members of the cabin crew. Curious about the gesture, he decided to strike up a conversation and openly confessed the assumption he had made about him earlier.

To Kher's surprise, David responded with warmth and humility. He explained that he was living with a medical condition and that his appearance had nothing to do with the chocolates he was carrying. He further revealed that he had previously worked in the airline industry and understood the demanding nature of cabin crew jobs.

As a token of appreciation

for their hard work, David had developed a personal tradition of bringing sweets for flight attendants whenever he travelled. The chocolates were never meant for him but were gifts intended to brighten the day of airline staff members.

The revelation left a deep impression on the actor Kher later described David as an extraordinary human being whose actions highlighted the importance of compassion and understanding.

Reflecting on the encounter, the actor said the experience reminded him how easily people create narratives about

others without knowing the realities of their lives. He noted that genuine kindness is often hidden behind appearances and that people frequently fail to see the stories that lie beneath the surface.

The incident has since struck a chord with social media users, many of whom praised David's thoughtful gesture and appreciated Kher's willingness to publicly admit his mistake. For many, the story serves as a timely reminder that first impressions can be misleading and that empathy often begins with withholding judgment.

ODI World Cup 2027 Dates Finalised, Kohli-Rohit Era Nears Its Final Chapter



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reportedly finalised the schedule for the 2027 ICC Men's ODI World Cup, setting the stage for one of the most anticipated tournaments in recent cricket history. The event is expected to be held across South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, with the tournament scheduled to begin on October 4 and conclude with the final on November 21, 2027.

According to reports, a total of 54 matches will be

played during the tournament. South Africa will host the majority of the fixtures, with 41 matches slated to be played across its venues. Zimbabwe is expected to host eight matches, while Namibia will stage three games, marking a significant milestone for cricket development in the region.

The 2027 edition will be South Africa's first men's ODI World Cup hosting responsibility since 2003. The country has previously hosted major

ICC tournaments, including the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, the Champions Trophy in 2009, and the Women's T20 World Cup in 2023.

The tournament will also serve as the opening ICC event under the 2027-2031 Future Tours Programme (FTP), which governs the international cricket calendar. Discussions regarding the final FTP structure and the future expansion of the World Test Championship are expected to continue during upcoming ICC meetings.

For Indian cricket fans, the tournament carries added significance. It is widely expected to be the final World Cup appearance for modern-day legends Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Having already retired from Test cricket, both stars are currently focused on the ODI format and are likely to target one final global campaign in Indian colours.

As preparations begin for the mega event, attention will remain firmly on whether Kohli and Rohit can extend their illustrious careers and lead India in what could be their farewell appearance on cricket's biggest stage.

Red Cards, Drama and Comebacks Mark Thrilling Opening Day of FIFA World Cup 2026



The FIFA World Cup 2026 got off to a dramatic and action-packed start as co-hosts Mexico secured a convincing victory over South Africa, while South Korea staged a spirited comeback to defeat Czechia on an entertaining opening day of the tournament.

The opening match between Mexico and South Africa delivered plenty of talking points. While Mexico claimed a comfortable 2-0 victory, the contest will be remembered as much for its disciplinary issues as for the football itself. Brazilian referee Wilton Sampaio found himself at the center of attention after issuing three straight red cards in a fiery encounter.

Mexico struck early through Julian Quinones, who etched his name into the history books by scoring the first goal of the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the ninth minute. The forward capitalized on a cross and beat South African goalkeeper Ronwen Williams to put the hosts ahead. Mexico doubled their advantage midway through the second half when veteran striker Raul Jimenez powered home a header to seal the victory.

The match became increas-

ingly heated as South Africa's Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane, along with Mexico defender Cesar Montes, were all shown straight red cards, reducing both teams and adding further drama to the tournament opener.

In the second match of the day, South Korea produced an impressive comeback to defeat Czechia 2-1 in Guadalajara.

Czechia captain Ladislav Krejci opened the scoring in the 59th minute, putting his side in control. However, South Korea responded strongly and equalized eight minutes later.

Midfielder Hwang In-beom emerged as the star of the match, scoring the equalizer before providing a precise cross for Oh Hyeon-gyu's winning goal in the 80th minute.

His influential performance earned him Player of the Match honors and guided South Korea to an important opening victory.

With goals, red cards, controversy, and a dramatic comeback, the first day of FIFA World Cup 2026 delivered exactly the kind of excitement football fans around the world were hoping for.

Zee Explains Strategic Bet on FIFA World Cup 2026 Rights

Zee Entertainment Enterprises has revealed that its decision to acquire the Indian broadcasting rights for the FIFA World Cup 2026 was driven by a long-term vision to build a diversified sports ecosystem rather than seeking short-term gains.

In an exclusive interaction, Bavesh Janavlekar, Chief Business Officer of Unite8 Sports, said the FIFA World Cup is one of the most influential sporting properties globally and offers significant opportunities for audience engagement, advertiser interest and long-term fan development across television and digital platforms.

According to Janavlekar, the company identified a growing demand among younger and digitally connected viewers who are increasingly consuming a wider range of global sports content beyond cricket. He said the acquisition is aimed at establishing a strong foundation in international sports while creating immersive and accessible experiences for fans across India.

Speaking about the Indian sports entertainment market, Janavlekar noted that while cricket continues to dominate, other sports are witnessing increasing popularity across different regions. He highlighted



football's strong fan bases in West Bengal, Kerala, Goa and the North-East, adding that collaborations involving local football competitions have demonstrated substantial audience interest in region-specific sporting content.

The executive also stressed that the FIFA World Cup possesses a unique ability to overcome time-zone challenges. Despite matches being played at late hours for Indian audiences, football fans have consistently shown strong engagement with the tournament. He said the company plans to enhance accessibility through multilingual coverage, digital-first offerings and affordable pricing models.

Janavlekar further stated that the acquisition forms part of a broader and long-term sports strategy. Beyond the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the deal

includes several FIFA events that will help maintain year-round engagement with football fans and strengthen connections with emerging football communities across the country.

Discussing future plans, he said Unite8 Sports aims to develop a balanced portfolio featuring global sporting properties, cricket and regional competitions. The company's existing and planned offerings include the International League T20, Bengal Super League, UP Kabaddi League and India's cricket tour of Zimbabwe.

The acquisition of FIFA World Cup 2026 rights marks Zee's significant return to major sports broadcasting and underscores its ambition to become a key player in India's evolving sports media landscape.

India's Young Yogasana Stars Signal Bright Future After World Championship Triumph

India's remarkable performance in the inaugural World Yogasana Championships in Ahmedabad has highlighted not only the country's dominance in the sport but also the strength of its grassroots development system. The host nation finished with an extraordinary haul of 102 gold medals, with nearly half of them coming from junior and sub-junior athletes, showcasing a promising future for Indian yogasana.

Among the standout performers were 14-year-old Ishika Guchhait from Delhi and 12-year-old Sanwita Banerjee from Durgapur, West Bengal. The talented duo captured gold in the sub-junior girls' rhythmic pair category, impressing spectators and judges alike with their precision, synchronization, and composure against competitors from 79 countries.

Their achievement has become a symbol of India's growing talent pipeline in yogasana. While the medal was a major success for the pair, it also reflected years of investment in coaching, training, and grassroots participation across the country.

Ishika's journey began at

home, inspired by her mother, a yoga instructor. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she dedicated herself to rigorous practice, steadily improving her flexibility and mastering advanced postures. Her commitment eventually transformed a childhood interest into a world championship dream.

Sanwita's introduction to yogasana came through her involvement in various physical activities. Encouraged by her family's interest in sports, she discovered a natural talent for yoga and developed her skills through consistent training. Today, she successfully balances academics, yogasana, and badminton.

According to Jaideep Arya, Secretary General of World Yogasana and Yogasana Bharat, the performances of young athletes were among the most significant outcomes of the championship. He noted that India's junior and sub-junior competitors contributed 46 gold medals, demonstrating the effectiveness of the country's grassroots development programs.

The championship also underscored the rapid global



growth of yogasana, with participation from athletes across 79 nations. However, India's young champions proved that the country remains the benchmark in the discipline.

As yogasana continues its push for greater international

recognition and inclusion in major multi-sport events, athletes like Ishika and Sanwita represent the future of the sport. Their success offers strong evidence that Indian yogasana is well-positioned to maintain its global leadership for years to come.

Canada, USA Set for FIFA World Cup 2026 Campaign Openers

The FIFA World Cup 2026 gathers momentum as Day 2 promises another thrilling round of group-stage encounters, with co-hosts Canada and the United States stepping onto the global stage to begin their campaigns.

The tournament kicked off in style on Day 1, delivering early drama and excitement. Mexico secured a confident 2-0 victory over South Africa, while South Korea staged an impressive comeback to defeat Czechia 2-1. With momentum building, attention now shifts to Groups B and D, where two host nations look to make strong opening statements.

Canada will begin their journey in Group B against Bosnia and Herzegovina at Toronto's BMO Field. Playing in front of a home crowd, Canada will aim to capitalize on familiar conditions and crowd support. However, Bosnia and Herzegovina may not feel entirely out of place, with a significant Bosnian diaspora across North



America expected to create a lively atmosphere. The match presents an intriguing clash, with both teams eager to secure crucial early points.

Meanwhile, in Group D, the United States will take on Paraguay in what promises to be a high-energy contest. The Americans will rely heavily on their attacking strength, led by Christian Pulisic, who recently found form in a friendly win. Supported by a talented lineup including Polarin Balogun, Timothy Weah, Weston McKennie, Malik Tillman, and Tyler

Adams, the USA looks well-equipped to make a strong start.

Paraguay, on the other hand, will depend on the experience of Miguel Almirón and the creativity of young midfielder Julio Enciso. Their blend of youth and experience could pose a serious challenge to the hosts.

With two host nations in action and valuable points at stake, Day 2 is set to deliver excitement, intensity, and memorable moments as the World Cup journey continues to unfold.

Indian Shooting Loses a Legendary Marksman and Mentor

Indian shooting suffered a massive loss on Friday with the passing of Jaspal Rana, one of the country's most celebrated marksmen and a respected national coach. He was 49. According to reports, Rana had recently undergone a heart-related medical procedure in New Delhi after returning from the Shooting World Cup in Munich. His sudden demise has left the sporting fraternity in deep shock.

Rana's journey in shooting was nothing short of extraordinary. Born in Uttarkashi, he rose to prominence at a young age, quickly establishing himself as a prodigious talent. His breakthrough came in 1994, a landmark year when he clinched gold at the Asian Games and set a junior world record at the World Shooting Championships. From there, he went on to become one of India's most consistent and dominant performers in pistol shooting through the 1990s and early 2000s.

Over his illustrious career, Rana amassed an impressive



collection of medals, particularly at the Commonwealth Games, where he remains India's most successful athlete with 15 medals, including nine

golds. His achievements at the 2006 Asian Games in Doha stand out, where he secured three gold medals and one silver, while also equalling a

world record in the 25m Centre Fire Pistol event.

In recognition of his remarkable contributions, Rana was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1994 and the Padma Shri in 1997. After stepping away from competitive shooting, he seamlessly transitioned into coaching, where he continued to shape Indian shooting. His efforts were acknowledged with the prestigious Dronacharya Award in 2020.

As a coach, Rana played a vital role in nurturing young talent, most notably Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker. He was widely credited with helping her regain form ahead of the Paris Olympics, where she went on to win two bronze medals.

Beyond medals and accolades, Rana's legacy lies in his dedication to the sport and his ability to inspire future generations. His passing marks the end of an era in Indian shooting, but his impact will continue to resonate through the athletes he mentored and the milestones he achieved.



Mrunal Thakur Turns Heads with Elegant Ethnic Look Amid Busy Film Year

Actor Mrunal Thakur continues to stay in the spotlight in 2026, not just for her consistent film appearances but also for her evolving fashion choices. Despite a mixed box office response to her recent releases, the actor has maintained strong visibility across both Bollywood and Telugu cinema.

This year, Mrunal featured in three films—“Do Deewane Seher Mein,” “Dacoit: A Love Story,” and “Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai.” While none of the projects emerged as major commercial successes, they reinforced her position as a versatile performer willing to explore diverse roles across industries.

Alongside her on-screen presence, Mrunal has been drawing attention for her sartorial elegance. In her latest appearance, she impressed fashion enthusiasts with a striking ethnic ensemble that blended tradition with contemporary flair. She wore a vibrant mustard yellow anarkali kurta, paired with contrasting deep purple bottoms, creating a visually rich combination.

The highlight of the outfit was its intricate silver thread embroidery, featuring detailed floral motifs arranged in vertical patterns along the front. The hemline carried a matching ornate border, adding to the overall sophistication of the attire. Complementing the look was an olive green dupatta adorned with fine silver work along its edges, tying the entire ensemble together with understated grace.



Her styling reflected a careful balance between bold colour choices and delicate craftsmanship, making the outfit stand out without appearing excessive. The look has since garnered appreciation on social media, with many praising her ability to carry traditional wear with effortless charm.

As she navigates a busy yet transitional phase in her career, Mrunal Thakur continues to make her mark both on-screen and off it. Whether through her film choices or fashion statements, she remains a prominent and evolving presence in the entertainment industry.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day to Hit Indian Screens Early on July 30

Sony Pictures Entertainment India has announced exciting news for Marvel fans, confirming that the much-awaited Spider-Man: Brand New Day will release in Indian cinemas on July 30, 2026, a day ahead of its previously scheduled launch. The decision has further heightened excitement surrounding one of the biggest global cinematic events of the year.

The announcement coincided with the opening of advance ticket bookings worldwide, including India. The film will be screened across all premium large-format theatres, offering audiences an immersive viewing experience in both 2D and 3D formats.

Anticipation for the film has been steadily growing since its official announcement, especially as it marks the return of Tom Holland as Spider-Man after nearly five years. The recently released trailer generated unprecedented buzz among fans and offered a glimpse into Peter Parker's life following the dramatic events of Spider-Man: No Way Home.

Set four years after those events, the story follows Peter Parker as an adult living in complete isolation after choosing to erase himself from the memories of those closest to him. With New York unaware of his identity, Peter dedicates himself tirelessly to protecting the city as a



full-time Spider-Man. However, the increasing demands of his superhero life trigger a mysterious physical transformation that threatens his very existence. At the same time, a disturbing pattern of crimes emerges, leading him into conflict with one of the most formidable adversaries he has ever faced.

Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, the film features an impressive cast led by Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man. He is joined by Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Jon Bernthal, and Sadie Sink in key roles. Sony Pictures Entertainment India will release Spider-Man: Brand New Day in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam, ensuring that audiences across the country can experience the latest chapter in Spider-Man's journey on the big screen.

TOPCOS Formed as Unified Platform for South Indian Television and OTT Producers

In a significant milestone for the South Indian television and OTT industry, producer associations from the Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam sectors have joined hands to establish the Television and OTT Producers Council of South (TOPCOS). The new body was officially launched after nearly two years of discussions, consultations, and collaborative efforts among producer organizations from the four southern states.

The decision to create TOPCOS was finalized at a joint meeting held in Chennai in January 2026. Following months of work involving registration formalities and the formulation of bylaws, the council has now been formally constituted with representatives from all four industries. Speaking at the launch event, TOPCOS President A. Prasad Rao described the formation of the council as a historic achievement. He noted that this was the first time producer bodies from all four South Indian television industries had come together under a common platform. According to him, the suc-



cess and organizational strength of the Telugu Television and OTT Producers Council, established in 2011, served as a model and inspiration for the initiative. Prasad Rao said the rapid growth of inter-state productions, along with the increasing exchange of artists, technicians, and producers across languages, created a need for a unified platform. He emphasized that TOPCOS would work to protect the welfare, rights, and dignity of producers while fostering cooperation and coordination among the television and OTT industries of South India. TOPCOS Vice President Uday Shankar welcomed the collaboration and expressed confidence that the council would help address sev-

eral long-standing industry challenges. Karnataka representative Sunil Kumar J.K. praised the Telugu Producers Council for its disciplined and effective functioning, while Kerala representative Krishnan Sethukumar and Organising Secretary Raja Velu highlighted the importance of collective efforts in strengthening the industry. The office-bearers of TOPCOS include A. Prasad Rao as President, Uday Shankar, Aravind, and G. Jayakumar as Vice Presidents, Raja Velu as General Secretary, and D.Y. Choudari as Treasurer. The council also aims to establish a national-level body in the future to unite television and OTT producers from all Indian languages under one umbrella.

Vishal Impresses in Triple Avatars in Action-Packed ‘Makutam’ Teaser

After the success of Mark Antony and Madha Gaja Raja, actor Vishal is gearing up for one of the most ambitious projects of his career with Makutam. The film, which marks Vishal's directorial debut, is being produced on a grand scale by Super Good Films and holds special significance as the banner's 99th production under veteran producer RB Choudary.

Adding emotional weight to the project is the recent demise of RB Choudary, making the film even more special for the team. Written by Ravi Arasu, Makutam has already generated curiosity through its posters and promotional material. The makers have now unveiled the film's teaser, offering audiences a glimpse into its intriguing world.

The teaser showcases Vishal in three distinct avatars, immediately capturing attention. It opens with a powerful sequence featuring an aged gangster, portrayed by Vishal, calmly lighting a cigarette after setting a man on fire.



As the teaser unfolds, two more versions of the actor are introduced, hinting at a complex and engaging narrative.

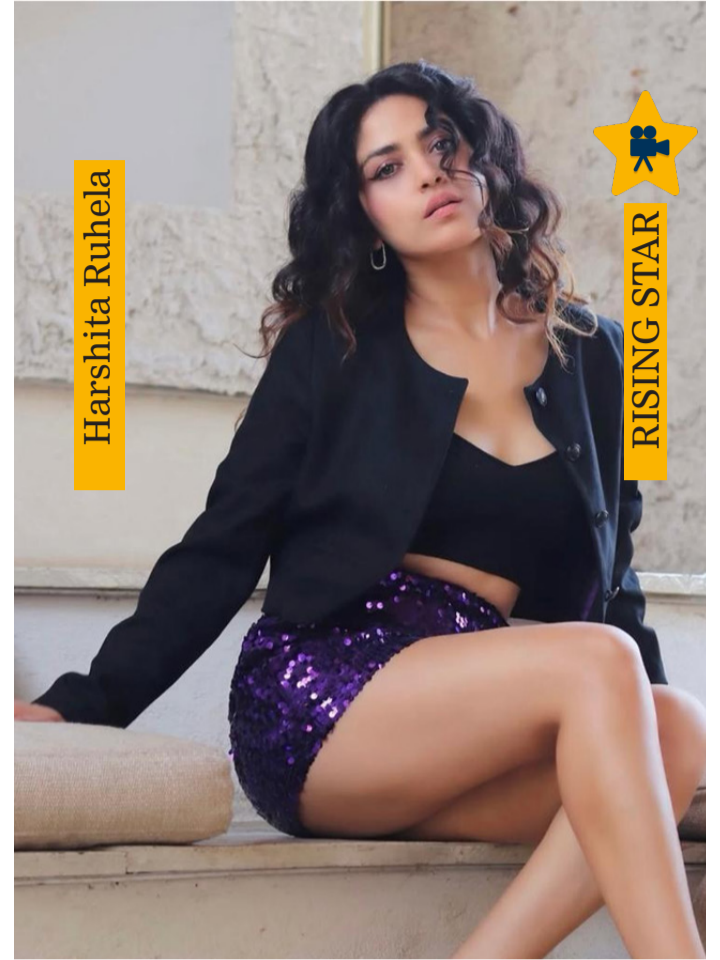
One of the biggest highlights is Vishal's transformation across the three characters. The older gangster sports grey hair and a rugged beard, projecting menace and mystery. Another avatar appears flamboyant and stylish, dressed in retro costumes and sporting trendy sunglasses. The teaser also hints at a younger and

more grounded character, leaving audiences curious about the connection between the three roles.

Actress Anjali makes a strong impression with her fierce screen presence. A striking shot of her holding a knife in her mouth suggests she will play a powerful role in the story. Dushara Vijayan and several other key characters also make brief but impactful appearances.

As a director, Vishal appears confident in handling the film's scale and visual style. Richard M Nathan's cinematography, GV Prakash Kumar's energetic background score, and NB Srikanth's sharp editing significantly enhance the teaser's impact. The action sequences and production design further add to the film's grand appeal.

With its intriguing premise, stylish presentation, and Vishal's triple-role performance, Makutam has emerged as one of the most anticipated releases of the year. The film is slated to hit theatres in July.



Harshita Ruhela

RISING STAR

Singa Title Glimpse Unveiled, Gopichand Stuns in Fierce New Avatar

The makers of actor Gopichand's upcoming film, tentatively titled #Gopichand34, have officially revealed its title “Singa” with a striking glimpse on the occasion of the actor's birthday. The teaser sets the tone for a high-energy action entertainer, delivering a powerful first impression.

The glimpse cleverly builds suspense rather than revealing too much at once. It opens with dense darkness and immersive forest sounds, creating the feel of a predator silently tracking its prey. As the tension builds, the visual reveal surprises viewers with Gopichand himself, replacing the anticipated wild beast. Sporting a dramatic transformation, Gopichand appears in a rugged and intense look, wielding an axe and exuding raw aggression. His makeover and screen presence signal a character rooted in strength and ferocity, designed to appeal to mass audiences. Each frame is crafted to emphasize his commanding persona, making the title reveal both gripping and memorable.

The film marks the directorial debut of Vvenkat, known for his work in action choreography.



His experience reflects in the way the hero is presented, with carefully staged elevation moments and a strong sense of build-up.

Cinematographer Shamdat enhances the visual depth, while music composer Sam CS adds impact with a powerful background score that elevates the overall mood of the teaser. Actress Anarkali Nazar plays the female lead in this ambitious project, which is being mounted on a grand scale. With its intense glimpse, “Singa” has already generated curiosity among fans and promises a full-fledged action spectacle.

Mersal Returns to Theatres Ahead of Vijay's Birthday Celebration



Fans of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and actor Vijay have another reason to celebrate as his blockbuster film Mersal is set for a grand theatrical re-release ahead of his 52nd birthday. Originally released in 2017, the Atlee-directed entertainer will return to cinemas on June 19, three days before Vijay's birthday on June 22, allowing fans to enjoy the film during the weekend celebrations.

The re-release is being organized by KP Priyanka Production and is expected to screen in nearly 100 theatres across Chennai, Chengalpet, Kanchipuram, and Tiruvallur districts. The move comes amid growing demand for the re-release of Vijay's classic films, many of which continue to enjoy immense popularity among audiences.

Produced by Thenandal Studios as its landmark 100th production, Mersal remains one of the most talked-about films in Vijay's career. Directed by Atlee, the action-packed drama featured Vijay in a challenging triple role, portraying a magician, a doctor, and the doctor's father. The film combined ac-

tion, emotion, comedy, and social commentary, particularly addressing issues related to corruption in the healthcare sector.

One of the major highlights of Mersal was Vijay's performance across the three characters. His ability to differentiate each role through body language, expressions, and voice modulation earned widespread appreciation from fans. The film also starred Samantha, Kajal Aggarwal, and Nithya Menen in leading roles.

Director Atlee's understanding of Vijay's mass appeal played a key role in the film's success. The filmmaker crafted memorable hero-introduction sequences, powerful dialogues, emotional moments, and high-energy action scenes that resonated strongly with audiences.

Featuring music by AR Rahman, cinematography by GK Vishnu, and editing by Ruben, Mersal remains a fan favourite. With its return to the big screen, the film is expected to once again draw large crowds and celebrate Vijay's enduring popularity.

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