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KTR Slams CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on the Congress government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betrayal, corruption, and failing to fulfil election promises. He described the Congress government's performance in Telangana as an "utter flop" and alleged that the administration had failed midway through its term.

KTR made the remarks while addressing the BRS Khairatabad constituency general body meeting, where he attended as the chief guest. During his speech, he strongly criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership and governance.

Alleging political vendetta within the Congress party, KTR claimed that Revanth Reddy had "backstabbed" leaders within his own party and specifically targeted Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan. He alleged that false cases were filed against her after she reportedly informed the Congress high command about alleged irregularities and corruption in Telangana.

KTR claimed that Meenakshi Natarajan, whom he described as an honest leader and trusted associate of Rahul Gandhi, became a victim of political conspiracy. He further alleged that information regarding a case filed against her was shared with the BJP to obstruct her chances of securing a Rajya Sabha position.

Condemning what he called authoritarian tendencies, KTR criticised Revanth Reddy for allegedly referring to Adolf Hitler as an inspiration, call-

ing such remarks "shameful" in a democratic country.

Comparing the Congress government to a failed film, KTR said the administration had become an "utter flop" even before reaching the halfway stage of governance. He alleged that despite making several promises during elections, the Congress government had failed to implement them over the last two-and-a-half years.

Raising unemployment concerns, KTR questioned the Congress government over its promise of providing two lakh jobs within the first year of governance. He alleged that even 4,000 jobs had not been filled so far and criticised the government for failing to implement its promise of 4,000 unemployment allowance.

On welfare commitments to women, KTR challenged Revanth Reddy to prove his promise of making one crore women financially empowered. He claimed that the government owed beneficiaries 1.25 lakh each under unfulfilled welfare schemes.

KTR also criticised the government's demolition drives under HYDRAA, accusing it of demolishing poor people's houses without constructing new homes for them. He praised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for introducing welfare schemes, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water facilities, hospitals, and housing initiatives.

Expressing confidence in BRS's future, KTR said upcoming by-elections would expose public dissatisfaction with Congress governance and asserted that the people would once again support the BRS.

CM Revanth Reddy Directs Officials to Stay Alert During Monsoon

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials and government departments to remain on high alert during the monsoon season and ensure that people do not face inconvenience due to heavy rains or natural calamities. He warned that strict action would be taken against officials found negligent in carrying out their duties.

The Chief Minister issued these instructions while chairing a high-level review meeting on monsoon preparedness at the Bodhi Pavilion in MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad, on Sunday. Rajya Sabha MP V. Narender Reddy, Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand, and senior officials from Irrigation, Municipal Administration, Health, Police, Agriculture, and Meteorology departments attended the meeting.

During the review, Revanth Reddy assessed the situation that emerged in Hyderabad's core urban region following heavy rainfall on June 9 and reviewed the measures taken by officials. He expressed serious concern over traffic congestion in several parts of the city, including Cyberabad, which caused inconvenience to residents.

The Chief Minister criticised municipal, police, and traffic officials for allegedly failing to respond effectively



despite prior weather warnings issued by the Meteorological Department. He reminded officials that a monsoon preparedness review had already been conducted on June 1, during which clear instructions were given, but some departments had shown negligence.

Revanth Reddy observed that poor coordination between municipal authorities and police departments during the June 9 rainfall worsened the situation. He directed Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and DGP C.V. Anand to examine the reasons behind the lapses and initiate action against responsible officials.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to strictly follow weather advisories and take preventive measures in advance. He said municipal administration, HYDRAA, traffic police, water board staff, and civil police personnel must remain on the ground during rainfall situations. He asserted

that officials, from Police Commissioners to field-level staff, should be present on roads during emergencies, adding that he himself was ready to step onto the streets if necessary.

Warning against future traffic disruptions, Revanth Reddy instructed the DGP to immediately fill vacancies in the traffic department. He also stressed the importance of preparing data on waterlogging points, black spots, and traffic-prone areas to avoid repeat situations.

Expressing concern over power disruptions caused by fallen trees during heavy rains, the Chief Minister instructed electricity officials to ensure immediate restoration of supply and deploy mobile transformers where necessary.

For irrigation projects, he directed engineers to strictly follow operational manuals and remain stationed locally during the monsoon season. He warned of strict action against

engineers leaving project sites without permission and instructed Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania to release funds immediately for repairs and maintenance of project gates.

The Chief Minister also directed Agriculture Department officials to be fully prepared for the farming season, with a focus on the distribution of seeds and urea. He suggested distributing urea through Rythu Vedikas and instructed officials to raise awareness among farmers regarding eight seed varieties recommended for fine paddy cultivation.

Revanth Reddy further instructed officials to prevent contamination of drinking water during the rainy season and ordered regular water quality testing. He also asked the Health Department to remain prepared for seasonal diseases and ensure adequate medicine stocks. Sanitation workers were directed to remain alert to prevent unhygienic conditions caused by water stagnation.

The Chief Minister instructed Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan to maintain continuous coordination among Municipal Administration, Water Board, and Health departments, while directing the DGP to regularly review preparedness involving police, traffic, fire services, HYDRAA, and disaster management agencies throughout the monsoon season.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Calls Salar Jung Museum 'Soul of Hyderabad'

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Malu Bhatti Vikramarka described the iconic Salar Jung Museum as the "soul of Hyderabad" and said institutions such as the museum shape the identity and spirit of a city beyond its physical development. He made the remarks while participating in the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Salar Jung Museum and the 137th birth anniversary of Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, popularly known as Salar Jung III, in Hyderabad on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka said Hyderabad is a city that embraces both history and the future with equal pride. "Some institutions are built by cities, while some institutions build the soul of a city. Salar Jung Museum represents the spirit of Hyderabad," he said.

Praising Salar Jung III for



preserving global civilisations through his extraordinary collection, the Deputy Chief Minister said collecting over 43,000 rare artefacts reflected not merely a passion for art but a deep commitment to preserving history for future generations. He noted that Salar Jung III spent personal wealth to gather rare treasures from around the world and transferred them into public assets.

Bhatti said the museum stands as a living symbol of secularism and communal harmony, reflecting Hyderabad's famous Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb. He pointed out that Hindu bronze idols, sacred Quran manuscripts, Christian Madonna sculptures, and Buddhist artefacts coexist under one roof, showcasing India's diversity and shared cultural heritage.

Calling the Musi River "the

flow of Hyderabad's memories," Bhatti Vikramarka said the Telangana government is committed to rejuvenating the neglected river and transforming it into an international-standard riverfront similar to the Thames in London and the Seine in Paris. He said the Salar Jung Museum would become a cultural crown linked to the developed Musi riverfront.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government plans to integrate the museum into a larger heritage tourism circuit connecting Charminar, Golconda Fort, Qutb Shahi Tombs, Chowmahalla Palace, and Falaknuma Palace. He announced plans for improved transport facilities, night tourism, and guided heritage walks in Telugu, Urdu, Hindi, and English to attract more visitors.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised that heritage should not merely be a matter of pride but also a source of livelihood for thousands through tourism, hospitality, transport, and local arts.

He also proposed partnerships with educational institutions, including universities and premier institutes, to ensure students from across Telangana visit the museum and feel a sense of ownership over the state's heritage.

The Deputy Chief Minister urged global investors visiting Hyderabad for IT and business engagements to explore the city's heritage by visiting Salar Jung Museum and experiencing its cultural richness. He said Hyderabad's biryani, haleem, and Irani chai are not just food items but pillars of Telangana's cultural economy.

Concluding his speech, Bhatti thanked curators, conservators, security staff, cleaners, and administrative employees who have preserved the museum for 75 years, calling them the true guardians of Hyderabad's memories.



Governor Shukla Calls Blood Donors True Heroes on World Blood Donor Day

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Sunday described blood donation as one of the noblest forms of humanitarian service, stating that there can be no greater gift than saving a human life through voluntary blood donation. Calling blood donors the "true heroes of society," he urged citizens, especially young people, to make blood donation a regular practice and contribute toward building a healthier and more compassionate society.

The Governor made these remarks after inaugurating a voluntary blood donation camp organised by the Telangana branch of the Indian Red Cross Society at Sanskriti Community Hall in Lok Bhavan on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day. Addressing the gathering, Shukla said blood donation is not merely a medical necessity but a symbol of compassion, humanity, and social responsibility. He stressed that every drop of donated blood gives hope, courage, and a renewed chance of life to patients in need.

"Voluntary blood donors who come forward to save the lives of strangers without expecting anything in return are the true role models of society," the Governor said. Highlighting the significance of charity in Indian culture, he noted that such selfless acts embody the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the belief that the world is one family.

Referring to this year's World Blood Donor Day theme, 'One Drop of Humanity - Give Blood, Save Lives', the Governor said blood donation transcends barriers of caste, religion, language, and region, serving as a reminder that humanity remains above all differences.

Shukla also reiterated his commitment to building a tuberculosis-free and drug-free Telangana. He emphasised that achieving such goals would require coordinated efforts involving the government, educational institutions, voluntary organisations, healthcare professionals, and civil society groups.

Special Chief Secretary to the Governor, M. Dana Kishore, praised Governor Shukla for actively promoting campaigns related to tuberculosis eradication, prevention of drug abuse, and strengthening Red Cross services across Telangana. He stated that recent initiatives had helped bring more than 5,000 new members into Red Cross activities in the state.

On the occasion, Governor Shukla honoured doctors, frequent blood donors, camp organisers, and organisations contributing to Red Cross activities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The awards were presented in recognition of their contribution to humanitarian service and public health.

Earlier in the day, the Governor flagged off a blood donation awareness rally near the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Statue on NTR Marg. Organised with the support of Larven Pharma, the rally witnessed participation from nearly 2,500 NCC cadets and volunteers, who spread awareness across Hyderabad on the importance of voluntary blood donation and saving lives through selfless service.

Free Breakfast, Midday Meals Begin in Telangana Junior Colleges

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

In a major welfare initiative aimed at improving student health and academic performance, the Telangana government on Monday launched free breakfast and midday meal services for day scholars studying in government junior colleges across the state.

For the first time, intermediate students attending government junior colleges will receive both breakfast and lunch, along with a glass of milk, as part of efforts to ensure better nutrition and overall well-being. Though classes for junior colleges began on June 1, the meal programme officially commenced on June 15.

Under the initiative, students will be served nutritious



breakfast items on different days of the week. The weekly

menu includes dosa with chutney on Mondays, millet idlis

with sambar on Tuesdays, poori with vegetable kurma on Wednesdays, bondas with chutney or sambar on Thursdays, idlis with chutney or sambar on Fridays, and upma with chutney or sambar on Saturdays. In addition to breakfast, the government will also provide hot milk to students three times a week. Each student will receive a 150 ml serving of milk to improve nutritional intake. According to officials of the Telangana Board of Intermediate Education, breakfast will be supplied before 8 am in full-day colleges and before 7 am in half-day institutions. Midday meals will be delivered before 12:30 pm in full-day colleges and before 11 am in half-day institutions to ensure timely access for students. The programme will initially cover

33 government junior colleges benefiting around 14,425 students. Of these, 21 colleges with 10,293 students in Hanamkonda, Narayanpet, Vikarabad, and Warangal districts will be served by the Hare Krishna Movement. Meanwhile, 12 colleges covering 4,132 students in Hyderabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts will receive meals through Mana Trust.

Officials said the initiative is expected to improve attendance, reduce hunger among students, and support better concentration in classrooms. The government believes providing nutritious meals at educational institutions will encourage students, especially those from economically weaker sections, to continue their studies without nutritional challenges.

# Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna Urges Door-to-Door Voter Verification

Mancherial, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Peddapalli Member of Parliament Gaddam Vamsi Krishna has called upon Congress party workers and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to remain vigilant during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that every eligible voter's right to vote is protected.

The MP was addressing an awareness and training programme organised for Congress leaders, Booth Level Agents, and key party workers at Padmavathi Gardens in Mancherial town on Sunday.

The event witnessed participation from district Congress leaders, public representatives, mandal-level presidents, Youth Congress members, NSUI, Seva Dal, Mahila Congress representatives, and a large number of booth-level workers.

Speaking at the programme, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna described voting as a sacred democratic right guaranteed by the Constitution of India. He stressed that maintaining accurate and transparent electoral rolls is essential for strengthening democracy and ensuring fair representation.

The MP instructed Booth Level Agents to conduct thorough door-to-door verification of voter lists and ensure that no eligible voter's name is deleted during the revision process. He emphasised the importance of grassroots-level vigilance and urged party workers to work responsibly in protecting citizens' voting rights.

Highlighting the need to include first-time voters, Vamsi Krishna asked BLAs to make special efforts to identify and enroll youngsters who have recently turned 18 years of age. He also instructed them to



promptly report cases involving migration, deaths, and changes in residential addresses to election authorities to maintain updated electoral records. The MP further advised Booth Level Agents to gain a

complete understanding of Forms 6, 7, and 8, which are used for voter enrolment, deletion, correction, and transfer of entries in electoral rolls. He urged them to create awareness among people regarding these forms so that eligible citizens can effectively exercise their electoral rights. Expressing concern over possible irregularities, Gaddam Vamsi Krishna cautioned party cadres to remain alert and immediately identify any attempts to remove names of eligible voters from electoral lists. He stressed that every genuine voter must be safeguarded and

called for coordinated efforts to ensure transparency throughout the SIR process.

Describing booth-level workers as the backbone of both the Congress party and the democratic system, the MP said every party worker should actively work at the grassroots level to strengthen democratic values and support the party's organisational structure.

Leaders at the programme reiterated the importance of voter awareness and expressed confidence that systematic verification would help ensure free, fair, and transparent electoral rolls.



## Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Attends Voter List Revision Camp

Ibrahimpatnam, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A special awareness and training camp on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) was organised by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) at the Ibrahimpatnam Assembly constituency headquarters on Sunday.

The programme, held under the leadership of Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Rangareddy, aimed at creating awareness among Congress party cadre and Booth Level Agents regarding the importance of voter list revision and ensuring accurate electoral records. Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and SIR Telangana State In-charge and Parigi MLA T. Ram Mohan Reddy attended the event as chief guests.

Addressing the gathering, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy highlighted the importance of voting rights in a democratic system and stressed that every eligible citizen must be included in the voter list without fail. He said Booth Level Agents (BLAs) play a key role in identifying eligible voters, correcting mistakes in electoral rolls, and ensuring transparency in the electoral process. The MP urged BLAs to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity to ensure that no deserving voter is deprived of the right to vote. He also appealed to party workers to actively participate in the voter list revision programme and work at the grassroots level to strengthen democracy.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy

said the Special Intensive Revision programme provides an opportunity to identify errors in voter rolls and make necessary corrections. He stressed the need for close coordination between party workers and local representatives to ensure the programme's success across villages and urban areas.

Parigi MLA and Telangana State SIR In-charge T. Ram Mohan Reddy also addressed the participants and explained the significance of systematic voter verification. He encouraged Booth Level Agents to maintain regular contact with residents and update electoral information accurately.

As part of the training programme, BLA trainer Chaitanya Krishna Reddy conducted detailed sessions for agents on technical and field-level procedures related to voter enrolment, deletion of ineligible names, correction of details, and updating electoral data. He provided practical guidance to help agents effectively carry out their duties during the voter list revision exercise.

The training camp witnessed participation from municipal chairpersons, councillors, Congress party presidents from various mandals, sarpanches, MPPTCs, senior Congress leaders, and a large number of Booth Level Agents from across the Ibrahimpatnam constituency.

Leaders expressed confidence that such training programmes would help ensure a fair, transparent, and error-free voter registration process while strengthening democratic participation at the grassroots level.

## Minister Calls for Vigilance on SIR Process During Zoom Meeting

Karimnagar, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A virtual meeting of Congress leaders from the Karimnagar Parliament constituency was held under the leadership of Telangana PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan to review preparedness for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the Zoom meeting and directed party leaders and Booth Level Agents (BLA-2s) to remain alert and ensure that no eligible voter is excluded during the voter revision process.

Addressing the meeting, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said Congress workers and BLA-2s must develop a complete understanding of the SIR process and actively monitor voter registration and corrections at the grassroots level. He stated that training pro-

grammes for BLA-2s had already been conducted in the Husnabad Assembly constituency and that further activities were continuing with the same momentum.

The minister stressed the importance of thoroughly verifying voter lists in every booth to ensure that names of eligible voters are not removed. He instructed party workers to pay special attention to the registration of new voters who have completed 18 years of age and are eligible to vote.

Ponnam Prabhakar also urged leaders to create awareness among the public regarding address changes, name corrections, and photo updates in voter records to avoid discrepancies during elections.

He called upon Booth Level Agents to visit every household within their assigned areas and verify voter details carefully. He emphasized that every draft electoral roll released by the Election Commission should be reviewed thor-

oughly and that objections or corrections must be submitted on time.

The minister further appealed to party leaders at village, ward, and mandal levels to work in close coordination to ensure the successful implementation of the voter registration and verification process.

Highlighting the importance of voting rights in a democracy, he said safeguarding every eligible citizen's vote is a collective responsibility. He also noted that the Congress party should utilize the SIR exercise as an opportunity to strengthen its organizational structure across the Karimnagar Parliament constituency.

Several Congress leaders and party functionaries from the parliamentary segment participated in the online review meeting and discussed strategies for effective implementation of the voter revision process.

## Bandi Sanjay Kumar Says Centre-State Coordination Key to Telangana Development

Rajanna Sircilla, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday emphasized that meaningful development is possible only through strong coordination between the Central and State governments, stating that Telangana is witnessing improved access to Central funds due to better cooperation from the present State administration.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Vemulawada-Sirikonda road widening project at Bollaram village in Vemulawada Assembly constituency, Bandi Sanjay said development should rise above political differences and focus on public welfare.

The Union Minister, along with Vemulawada MLA and Government Whip Aadi Srinivas, launched the road widening and strengthening works under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). BJP leaders Prathap Ramakrishna, Chennamaneni Vikas Rao, and several public representatives participated in the programme. Bandi Sanjay said Telangana suffered setbacks due to what

he described as the "misguided policies" of the previous government. However, he noted that increased cooperation from the current State government had enabled the Centre to release more funds for infrastructure and development projects. The Minister stated that he had secured nearly 22,000 crore in Central assistance for the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency during the last seven years. Of this, nearly 10,000 crore has reportedly been spent on road infrastructure alone to improve connectivity between villages, mandals, and constituencies.

As part of the latest initiative, the Centre has sanctioned 23 crore for the widening and strengthening of the 18.21-km Vemulawada-Sirikonda road. The project, expected to be completed within six months, includes road widening, cement concrete stretches at critical locations, pipe culverts, village-level CC drains, and enhanced road safety measures.

The upgraded road network is expected to benefit residents of Mamidipalli, Bavusaipeta, Ramannapalli, and Govindrapeta Thanda by improving

transport facilities and reducing travel time.

Highlighting ongoing infrastructure works, Bandi Sanjay said road widening projects on the Medipalli-Govindaram and Malyala-Kacharam stretches had been completed at a cost of 45 crore. He further said nearly 5,000 crore had been mobilized for National Highway projects, while additional funding had been secured through CRIF, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), and MGNREGS for rural road connectivity.

The Minister also announced that the long-pending Karimnagar-Jagtial road widening project had received Central approval with an allocation exceeding 2,003 crore. He credited the cooperation of local MLAs, particularly Aadi Srinivas and Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam, in helping secure approvals for key development projects.

Calling for collective efforts, Bandi Sanjay urged leaders across party lines to work together to transform the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency into a model region through improved infrastructure and public welfare.



## Deputy CM Warns Against Attempts to Undermine Singareni

Mancherial, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday strongly asserted that the Telangana government would not tolerate any attempts to undermine the reputation of Singareni Collieries or hurt the dignity of its workers, warning that exploitative forces would never be allowed to gain a foothold in the organisation.

During his visit to the Srirampur Open Cast Coal Mine in Mancherial district, Bhatti Vikramarka, accompanied by Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, conducted an open-house inspection to review mining operations and address allegations raised by opposition parties regarding the functioning of Singareni.

Speaking to the media after the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister accused BRS leaders of making misleading statements about Singareni for political gains. He alleged that opposition leaders were attempting to damage the institution's credibility and the self-respect of coal workers through false propaganda.

"Any insult to the hard work and dignity of Singareni workers will not be tolerated," Bhatti said, stressing that Singareni is not merely a company but a valuable asset belonging to the people of Telangana.

He said the government organised the open-house inspection to place facts before the public and ensure transparency regarding coal production, storage, transportation, and mining operations. Officials briefed the Deputy CM on computerized and modern moni-

toring systems being used to maintain transparency in operations.

Bhatti stated that the Srirampur Open Cast Mine has sufficient coal reserves to continue production for another 28 years and said Singareni's operations are being carried out in a systematic and transparent manner.

The Deputy CM reaffirmed the government's commitment to workers' welfare, highlighting healthcare, education, and safety measures being implemented for Singareni employees and their families. He said modern healthcare facilities, including a Cath Lab, are being developed to improve medical services for workers.

He also announced that the government is strengthening educational opportunities for workers' children by upgrading schools and supporting students preparing for civil services examinations through financial assistance for prelims, mains, and interviews.

Highlighting worker safety, Bhatti recalled the introduction of a 1.25 crore accident insurance scheme for Singareni workers, describing it as the first of its kind in the country. The Deputy CM further announced plans to introduce cancer screening buses equipped with advanced medical facilities to conduct village-level health screenings and ensure early diagnosis and treatment. Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, local MLA Prem Sagar Rao, Singareni CMD Jyothi Buddha Prakash, Singareni officials, and other leaders participated in the programme.

# Agriculture Minister Outlines Kharif Preparedness Measures

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummalapudi Nageswara Rao on Sunday detailed the Telangana government's preparedness measures for the upcoming Kharif season during a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. The Minister said the government had taken proactive steps to support farmers, particularly in view of possible El Niño conditions and uncertain rainfall patterns.

Speaking at the meeting, Tummalapudi said the Agriculture Department had begun preparations as early as April by conducting reviews with agricultural university scientists,

department officials, and weather experts. He said the government formulated a detailed contingency plan to ensure farmers would not face hardships even if rainfall was delayed or insufficient during the season.

The Minister stated that the government is encouraging crop diversification to reduce dependency on paddy cultivation and promote crops requiring less water. He said awareness programmes are being conducted to motivate farmers to cultivate crops such as red gram, green gram, black gram, jowar, bajra, maize, sesame, and castor, which are more suitable under limited water availability.

Tummalapudi revealed that 87.49



lakh quintals of seeds have been made available for the Kharif season to avoid shortages. He said alternative crop seeds, particularly for pulses, jowar, maize, and millets, had

already been stocked in districts in advance to ensure uninterrupted supply for farmers.

Highlighting measures to improve fertiliser accessibility,

the Minister said the Agriculture Department had introduced several changes to the Fertiliser Booking App based on feedback received from farmers during the previous Rabi season. The updated app now includes dealer stock management at the district level, mandal mapping facilities, and fertiliser booking services through MeeSeva centres.

He also announced that a dedicated helpline would be established to address farmers' concerns related to fertiliser availability and booking. According to the Minister, the digital system would reduce overcrowding at fertiliser centres and make the distribution process more transparent and efficient. Referring to weather

forecasts, Tummalapudi said there is a possibility of El Niño conditions during July and August, prompting the department to prepare crop plans suited to uncertain rainfall and rising temperatures. He said special focus had been placed on ensuring seed and fertiliser availability while also providing farmers with technical guidance on crop planning and cultivation practices. The Minister urged farmers to closely monitor local weather conditions and follow Agriculture Department adviso-

ries for better farm management decisions. He further said the Telangana government's Telangana Weather Advisory Programme has been playing a key role in delivering accurate

and timely weather updates directly to farmers through WhatsApp messages. The programme provides mandal-wise details on rainfall, temperature, and wind conditions, helping farmers make informed decisions on sowing, fertiliser use, irrigation, and crop protection.

Tummalapudi stated that the initiative had received a positive response from farmers, with weather advisory messages already reaching over 28 lakh farmers across 18 districts and recording a 71 per cent delivery rate. He added that the government plans to further expand such technology-driven programmes to reduce crop losses and improve farmers' incomes.



### Sonam Wangchuk Joins Hyderabad Protest Against Pradhan

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A protest demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities drew significant public participation at Dharna Chowk in Hyderabad on Sunday. Organized by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), the protest witnessed the participation of noted educationist and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk, alongside students, activists, and members of the public.

According to organizers, nearly 700 to 800 people attended the gathering, with a large section comprising students affected by CBSE evaluation issues, as well as NEET and UPSC aspirants. Several student organizations and city-based activists also joined the demonstration, highlighting growing concerns over alleged irregularities in the education system.

Addressing the gathering, Wangchuk stressed the importance of safeguarding democratic rights and freedom of expression. He said it was unfortunate if citizens in the world's largest democracy felt afraid to participate in peaceful protests despite such demonstrations being a constitutional right. He remarked that fear of consequences, such as difficulties related to housing or children's school admissions, should not discourage citizens from raising their voices.

CJP national spokesperson Vijeta Dahiya and Telangana coordinators Vijay Mallangi, Ruchith Asha Kamal, and Sonde Ansar also attended the protest. The organization presented a five-point manifesto demanding 10,000 compensa-

tion for students affected by examination-related issues, re-examinations within 72 hours in case of discrepancies, manual evaluation, age relaxation for candidates impacted by delays, and independent audits of computer-based examinations.

During the protest, Telangana coordinator Vijay Mallangi questioned the role of an examination company allegedly linked to the 2019 Telangana Intermediate results controversy. He called for an inquiry into how firms facing allegations continued securing contracts in different states or under different names. Mallangi further alleged that organized groups were involved in selling question papers and sought stricter scrutiny of examination agencies.

The protest drew support from individuals across age groups. Vijay Daniel, speaking at the event, compared ministerial accountability to that of a school principal, arguing that repeated failures affecting students must lead to responsibility and corrective action.

Former Telangana Education Commission chairman Akunuri Murali, who attended in solidarity, criticized both Union and state governments for shortcomings in the education sector. He alleged that students' concerns were being ignored and described the current education system as inadequate in Telangana and across many states. Murali also demanded the resignation of Pradhan, alleging a failure in leadership.

Former IAS officer Harsh Mander, Prof. Nageshwar Rao, and retired IPS officer M. V. Venkat Reddy were also present at the protest in solidarity.

## Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav Criticises Congress Rule

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is a movement-based political party with a rich history that played a decisive role in achieving Telangana statehood. He called upon party leaders and workers to remain united and work collectively to strengthen the party ahead of upcoming elections.

Talasani Srinivas Yadav made the remarks while participating in the BRS Khairatabad constituency meeting held at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday. During his address, he strongly criticised the Congress government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing the administration of poor governance and failure to address public issues.

He questioned the government's development priorities, asking how it could speak about building a "Future City" when it was allegedly unable to provide adequate drinking water to the existing city. He also criticised the language used by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that a person holding such a respected constitutional position should speak responsibly.

Recalling the formation of the BRS under the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in 2001, Talasani said the party was established with the goal of achieving a separate Telangana state. He stated that unlike many political parties that fought for India's inde-



pendence, BRS emerged from a movement against injustice faced by Telangana in the united Andhra Pradesh, particularly over water, funds, and employment opportunities.

Talasani said the BRS is not just a political party but a movement that created a separate state and brought Telangana onto the national map. He credited former Chief Minister KCR with leading Telangana's formation and transforming the state into a national model of development over the last decade.

He remarked that without Telangana statehood under KCR's leadership, Revanth Reddy would never have had the opportunity to become Chief Minister. He also said that most of the development witnessed in the Khairatabad constituency had taken place during the BRS government's tenure.

The former minister assured

party cadres that special focus would be given to strengthening the party in Khairatabad and urged workers not to fear political challenges. He said the primary objective remains to ensure the pink flag flies high in the constituency again.

Calling for unity among leaders and cadre, Talasani said recognition and respect within the party would come to those who enjoy public support and actively work among the people. He urged party workers to stand with citizens against what he described as the government's ineffective administration and fight on public issues.

He also asked leaders and cadre to begin preparations immediately for the upcoming GHMC elections, expressing confidence that public dissatisfaction with the Congress government's two-and-a-half-year rule would benefit the BRS politically.



### Nakirakal MLA Vemula Veeresham Slams KTR Over 'False Allegations'

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham strongly criticised Siricilla MLA K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of spreading misinformation and making baseless allegations against the Congress government in Telangana.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, Vemula Veeresham alleged that KTR was attempting to mislead the public through false propaganda against the Congress administration. He said the BRS leadership had no moral authority to criticise the present government after what he described as a decade of "misrule" during the BRS regime.

The Nakirekal MLA accused the previous BRS government of weakening the state financially through alleged irregularities and mismanagement in the name of development. He claimed that while the BRS projected Telangana as a "Bangaru Telangana" (Golden Telangana), the state treasury had suffered severe damage during its ten-year rule.

Defending the Congress government, Vemula Veeresham said the present administration was implementing welfare programmes under what he described as "people's governance" and building an "Indiramma Rajyam" focused on public welfare. He stated that the government had already provided 67,000 government jobs, bringing relief to unemployed youth across the state.

He also accused the previous BRS government of allowing encroachments on lakes and large-scale land grabbing dur-

ing its tenure. Referring to electoral outcomes, the MLA claimed that people had repeatedly rejected the BRS in elections, including the 2023 Assembly polls and recent municipal elections, but the party had failed to introspect.

Taking a swipe at KTR's tenure as a minister, Vemula Veeresham alleged that KTR was often unavailable to the public during weekends, claiming that he would switch off his phone on Saturdays and Sundays. "A person who was inaccessible to people is now preaching governance to us," he remarked.

The MLA also questioned KTR over what he described as betrayal of party leaders and Telangana movement activists during the BRS government. He accused the party of spreading misleading narratives on social media and conducting "unrealistic surveys" claiming political revival.

Highlighting Congress welfare measures, Vemula Veeresham said the government was providing fine rice to poor families, issuing ration cards to eligible households, constructing Indiramma houses, implementing free bus travel for women, and offering free electricity up to 200 units.

He alleged that the BRS government had failed to implement such measures and accused it of turning Telangana into a centre for drug-related activities, stating that people had not forgotten those issues.

Concluding his remarks, Vemula Veeresham praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying he was leading Telangana towards welfare-oriented governance and working for the development of the state.

## BRS Faces Crucial Test, Says MLC Shравan Dasoju

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

BRS senior leader and MLC Dr. Shравan Dasoju on Sunday said the party is currently facing a crucial phase and called upon every cadre member to work with commitment and responsibility to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Addressing a comprehensive coordination meeting of BRS booth-level workers from six divisions of the Khairatabad constituency at Telangana Bhavan, Shравan Dasoju urged party activists to put aside minor differences and work sincerely to ensure the party's victory in future elections.

The meeting, held under the leadership of Dr. Shравan Dasoju, was attended by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) as chief guest and former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav as special guest. Several senior leaders, former corporators, constituency leaders, student wing representatives, and party workers participated in large numbers.

Speaking on the occasion, Shравan Dasoju assured party workers that no one should feel neglected or insecure if their names were not included in official party or Booth Level Agent (BLA) lists. He clarified that, due to Election Commission and party regulations, only one or two representatives could technically be registered for certain responsibilities.

He said younger and tech-savvy individuals were select-



ed for faster field-level coordination, but stressed that this did not mean others were ignored. "The party values every worker and will move forward as one united team," he said, urging cadres not to lose confidence.

Describing the Telangana movement as one of the greatest democratic struggles in world history, Shравan Dasoju praised BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for leading a peaceful movement that achieved statehood. He said the party had a unique history of fighting against injustice in the united Andhra Pradesh for water, funds, and jobs.

"The Telangana movement itself is the biggest certificate for every BRS worker," he remarked, adding that KCR transformed Telangana into one of the country's leading

states during his decade-long rule.

Emphasising the importance of booth-level strength, Shравan Dasoju said the success of the party depends on grassroots workers. Comparing the party structure to the foundation of a multi-storey building, he said strong booth committees would ultimately strengthen divisions, constituencies, and the state-level organisation.

He encouraged workers to adopt an ownership mindset, saying, "Every worker should think: 'I am the MLA of my booth, I am the corporator of my booth.'"

Concluding his address, the MLC called on party workers to strengthen the organisation with dedication and ensure BRS regains political strength across Telangana.

### Vizag Lions Register First Win, Thrash Vijayawada by 67 Runs

Visakhapatnam, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Simhadri Vizag Lions secured their first victory of the APL 2026 Season 5 with a commanding 67-run win over Vijayawada Sunshiners in the final match held in Visakhapatnam on Day 6. The match also marked the conclusion of league fixtures at the ACA-VDCA Stadium. After winning the toss, Vijayawada Sunshiners opted to field first. However, the decision backfired as the Vizag Lions produced their best batting performance of the season. Openers Himakar and captain Ricky Bhui provided a blazing start, scoring 33 off 19 balls and 39 off 21 balls respectively. Their aggressive approach set the tone early in the innings.

The highlight of the innings was a brilliant knock by K. Haneesh Veera Reddy, who smashed 79 runs off just 40 balls, including eight fours and four sixes. His explosive batting powered the team to a formidable total of 234 for 6 in 20 overs. Among the Vijayawada bowlers, Bharat picked up three wickets while Siddharth claimed two. In reply, Vijayawada Sunshiners got off to a shaky start, losing opener Abhinav early. Senior player Ashwin Hebbar led the fightback with a quickfire 55 off 25 balls, supported by Harshavardhan, who scored 30 off 21 balls. Despite their efforts, the rest of the batting line-up failed to build momentum, with wickets falling at regular intervals.

## KITS Warangal NSS Club Receives Governor Award for Third Consecutive Year

Warangal, June 14 | TPN Bureau

The NSS Club of the Student Activity Centre (SAC) at Kakatiya Institute of Technology and Science (KITS-W), Warangal, has received the prestigious Governor Award for the third consecutive year in the "Institutional Highest Blood Donor Motivator" category for the academic year 2025-26.

The award was conferred in recognition of KITS-W's contribution in motivating and facilitating the highest number of blood donations to the Indian Red Cross Society

(IRCS) for social and medical needs. KITS-W Principal Professor K. Ashok Reddy announced that the institution had once again secured the honour after receiving the same award during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years.

The award presentation ceremony was held at Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad on Saturday as part of the observance of World Blood Donor Day 2026. Telangana Governor and President of the Indian Red Cross Society, Shiv Pratap Shukla, presented the award to KITS-W Principal Professor K. Ashok Reddy and NSS Programme Officer Dr. Chi. Sat-

ish Chandra.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla emphasized the importance of voluntary blood donation, stating that it has the power to save lives. He highlighted the growing need to spread awareness about safe blood and plasma donation and praised KITS Warangal students for actively participating in social service activities alongside their academic pursuits.

Referring to the 2026 message, "One Drop of Humanity, Give Blood, Save Lives," the Governor urged people to actively participate in blood donation drives and contribute

towards saving lives.

Chahat Bajpai attended the programme along with several dignitaries from the Indian Red Cross Society and educational institutions.

Former Rajya Sabha member and KITS Warangal Chairman Captain V. Lakshminikanta Rao, Treasurer P. Narayana Reddy, Additional Secretary and former Husnabad MLA Vodithala Satish Kumar, and Principal Professor K. Ashok Reddy congratulated the NSS and SAC student teams for their outstanding contribution to social welfare.

The event was also attended

by IRCS Hanumakonda Chairman Dr. P. Vijayachander Reddy, IRCS State Managing Committee member E. Srinivasa Rao, and NSS Programme Officer Dr. Chi. Satish Chandra.

KITS-W Registrar Professor M. Konal Reddy, Administrative Officer Professor P. Ramesh Reddy, Dean of Academic Affairs Professor S. Narasimha Reddy, Dean of Student Affairs Professor K. Sridhar, faculty members, and PRO Dr. D. Prabhakarachari congratulated the NSS team, student coordinators, and SAC members for bringing recognition to the institution.



## Bongunoori Kishore Reddy Inaugurates 46th Free Medical Camp



Quthbullapur, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Telangana State Protocol and Coordination Vice Chairman Bongunoori Kishore Reddy inaugurated the 46th free medical camp organised near Pochamma Temple in Mallampet under Dundigal Circle on Saturday.

Addressing the gathering, Kishore Reddy said that free medical camps play an important role in making healthcare services accessible to the public. He noted that such initiatives help residents receive timely medical consultations and basic health check-ups without financial burden.

He encouraged residents of Mallampet Colony to make the best use of the opportunity and

undergo health screenings to ensure early detection and prevention of illnesses.

During the camp, medical professionals conducted health examinations for patients and distributed necessary medicines based on their medical needs. A large number of local residents participated in the programme and availed themselves of the healthcare services offered.

The organisers said the camp was aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and improving medical awareness among local communities.

Congress leaders including Kavali Ganesh, Padma Rao, Manoj Reddy, Revanth Reddy, Gurava Reddy, Hari, Srinidhi, Vani, and others participated in the event.

## Nakirakal MLA Vemula Veeresham Greets Chalakani Venkat Yadav



Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Nakirakal MLA Vemula Veeresham attended the victory celebration programme of Chalakani Venkat Yadav, who was elected for a second consecutive term as a member of the Telangana State Bar Council.

On the occasion, the MLA congratulated Chalakani Venkat Yadav on his re-election and extended his best wishes for his continued service to the legal community.

Speaking at the event, Vemula Veeresham expressed hope that Chalakani Venkat Yadav would continue working for the protection of lawyers' rights and contribute towards strengthening the

judicial system in Telangana.

He said the legal fraternity plays an important role in safeguarding justice and constitutional values, and representatives of advocates should work for the welfare and interests of lawyers.

The MLA noted that being elected for a second consecutive term reflected the confidence and trust reposed in Chalakani Venkat Yadav by members of the legal profession. He wished him success in fulfilling his responsibilities as a Telangana State Bar Council member.

Several advocates, supporters, and leaders participated in the celebration programme and congratulated Chalakani Venkat Yadav on his victory.

## MLA Assures Resolution of Vishwakarma Colony Civic Issues



Quthbullapur, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Residents and BRS leaders from Vishwakarma Colony in Suraram Division 293 met the local MLA on Saturday, seeking immediate resolution of several long-pending civic issues in the area.

During the meeting, colony representatives submitted a memorandum highlighting key infrastructure concerns, including drainage problems, damaged internal roads, and the need for a dedicated women's community hall.

Residents explained that the drainage issue has become severe in the colony, par-

ticularly during the rainy season, causing inconvenience to local families. They also pointed out that damaged roads in several stretches are creating difficulties for both motorists and pedestrians.

The delegation urged the MLA to take immediate steps to improve internal road infrastructure and address sanitation-related concerns to ease hardships faced by residents.

They also requested the construction of a Mahila Bhavan (Women's Hall) to support social and community activities for women in the locality. BRS leaders and colony representatives who par-

ticipated in the meeting included division senior leaders, colony president K. Srinivas Reddy, BRS president S. Jeevan Reddy, E. Narasimha, Mallesh Sammireddy, Krishna, Khurshed, and several local residents.

After listening to the concerns raised by the delegation, the MLA reportedly responded positively and assured that pending development works in the colony would be taken up in a phased manner. Local leaders expressed hope that the assurance would soon translate into concrete action to improve living conditions in the colony.

## Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Attends Salar Jung Museum Golden Jubilee

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar participated in the 75th Golden Jubilee celebrations of the iconic Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad and described the institution as a proud symbol of India's rich history, culture, and artistic heritage.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said it was a matter of great joy to be part of the milestone celebrations of one of the most distinguished museums in the world. He noted that the Salar Jung Museum occupies a unique place globally for housing one of the rarest collections of art and antiquities assembled by a single individual.

Ponnamp Prabhakar credited Nawab Mir Yousuf Ali Khan, popularly known as Salar Jung III, for preserving an extraordinary collection of artistic and historical treasures. He said the Nawab's foresight and passion for art ensured that generations today continue to benefit from access to invaluable artefacts and cultural treasures.

Describing the museum as more than just a repository of ancient objects, the Minister said the Salar Jung Museum stands as a living testimony to India's diverse culture and the histories of global civilizations.

"Every artefact here tells a story, and every gallery takes visitors on a journey through history," he remarked.

The Minister said that over the past 75 years, the museum has served as a cultural university, introducing millions of visitors to history, knowledge, and artistic excellence. He highlighted Hyderabad's unique "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb," describing the city as a symbol of communal harmony and a meeting point of multiple faiths and traditions.

Ponnamp Prabhakar said the Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is giving special priority to preserving the state's heritage and promoting tourism. He said the

government remains committed to transforming Hyderabad into a world-class cultural and tourism destination and assured complete support to historical institutions like the Salar Jung Museum.

He noted that a Golden Jubilee celebration is not merely an occasion to celebrate past achievements but also a reminder of the responsibility to safeguard heritage for future generations using modern technology and better preservation methods.

The Minister extended special congratulations to former and current officials, museum staff, art researchers, and cultural enthusiasts who contributed to the growth and preservation of the Salar Jung Museum over the decades.

Expressing hope for the institution's continued success, Ponnamp Prabhakar wished that the Salar Jung Museum would continue to remain at the forefront of preserving art and cultural heritage for centuries to come and conveyed his warm greetings on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

## BJP to Hold Special SIR Action Meeting in Uppal Constituency on June 16



Nacharam, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A special action meeting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process will be held in the Uppal constituency on June 16 at Swagath Convention Hall, Mallapur, under the leadership of Uppal Constituency BLA-1 Potagani Gopal Goud.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM and will focus on strengthening booth-level coordination and voter list verification as part of the ongoing SIR process.

Senior BJP leader and former Uppal MLA N. V. S. S. Prabhakar will attend the programme as the chief speaker. Medchal Urban district BJP President S. Malla Reddy, former MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy, former MLC Katepally Jandhan Reddy, SIR district co-convenor Gorige Krishna, and constituency-level SIR team members are also expected to participate.

Organisers have urged all BLA-2 members from 407 polling booths and 140 Shakti Kendra in-charges in the constituency to attend the meeting without fail.

According to organisers, the objective of the programme is to ensure that every eligible voter is able to exercise their franchise freely and fairly. Discussions will focus on identifying duplicate or bogus votes, removing multiple voter entries, correcting errors in electoral rolls, and facilitating the registration of eligible new voters.

Potagani Gopal Goud appealed to all booth-level representatives and party workers to actively participate in the meeting and prepare for effective implementation of the SIR exercise in the constituency. He said the programme is intended to ensure transparency in the electoral process and strengthen voter awareness at the grassroots level.

## Sewage Overflow Troubles Suraram Colony



Quthbullapur, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Suraram Colony under Kompally Circle are facing severe inconvenience as drainage water has reportedly been overflowing onto the main road for the past five days, causing sanitation and health concerns.

Locals said sewage water has flooded the road, creating foul smell and making movement difficult for pedestrians and motorists. With the monsoon season beginning, residents allege that the drainage system has completely failed.

According to colony residents, several complaints were lodged with Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) officials, but no action has been taken so far. They expressed



anger over the continued negligence despite the issue persisting for days.

The situation has become more worrying as a government school is located beside the affected road. With schools reopening, parents fear that children may be exposed to viral fevers, skin infections, and mosquito-borne diseases due to stagnant sewage water.

Residents demanded immediate intervention from authorities to clear the drainage blockage and restore sanitation in the area. They warned that if the issue is not resolved soon, they may stage protests to press for action.

Locals also stressed the need for preventive maintenance of drainage systems to avoid such recurring civic problems and urged officials to respond immediately.

## TGSPDCL Launches Monsoon Safety Drive to Prevent Power Disruptions

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

The Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) has launched a comprehensive monsoon preparedness programme aimed at strengthening power infrastructure, reducing outages, and improving service reliability during the rainy season.

As part of the initiative, TGSPDCL introduced a new "Walk Along the Line" programme alongside a large-scale "Poles & Lines Special Drive" to enhance field inspections and maintenance of the electricity distribution network across its operational areas.

TGSPDCL Chairman and

Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil announced the initiative during a teleconference with senior officials on Sunday. Stressing the importance of uninterrupted power supply during monsoon conditions, Patil directed employees at all levels, from artisans to senior staff, to actively participate in field inspections between the 10th and 20th of every month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Under the "Walk Along the Line" programme, electricity staff will physically inspect power lines within their jurisdictions, identify defects, and initiate immediate corrective measures while strictly following safety protocols. Officials have also been instructed to interact with consumers during inspections and ad-

dress concerns related to power supply and safety.

Simultaneously, the "Poles & Lines Special Drive" will focus on inspecting and maintaining 33 kV substations, 33 kV and 11 kV feeders, distribution transformers, and low-tension (LT) electricity networks, particularly across the Core Urban Region.

According to TGSPDCL officials, the maintenance programme will include repairing or replacing damaged and bent poles, tightening loose conductors, rectifying sagging power lines, replacing damaged insulators, and inspecting transformers and related electrical infrastructure.

To ensure better monitoring and accountability, all re-

pair and maintenance works will be documented with GIS coordinates and supported by before-and-after photographs.

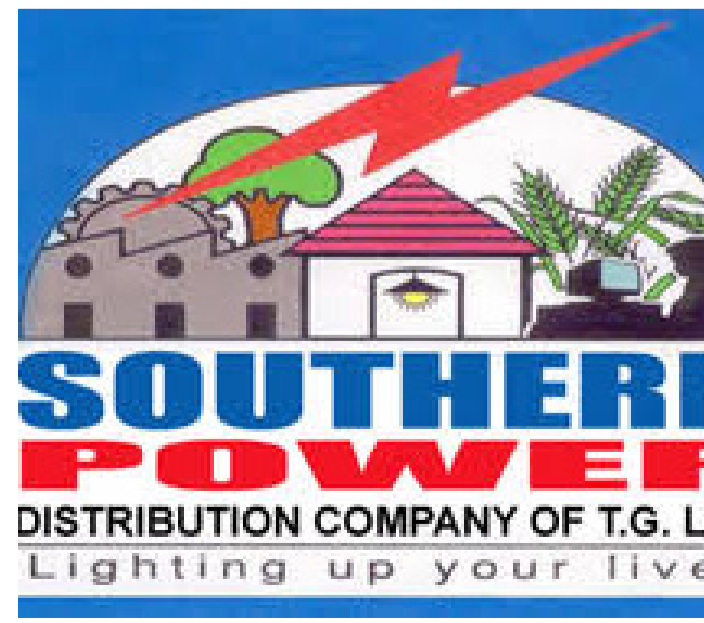
The discom will also undertake a two-week intensive feeder maintenance and tree-trimming drive, prioritising power feeders that have recorded frequent interruptions in the past. The programme will be implemented in coordination with civic authorities to facilitate branch cutting and safe disposal of debris near electricity lines.

As part of efforts to improve worker safety and operational efficiency, TGSPDCL is procuring advanced field equipment, including bucket-lift cranes, chain saws, pole pruners, helmets, torch-

lights, voltage detectors, rain-coats, and specialised field uniforms for employees working under difficult weather conditions.

The power utility will also roll out consumer awareness campaigns focused on electrical safety and available service channels. Citizens will be informed about complaint and emergency services through helpline 1912, TGSPDCL's WhatsApp service, mobile application, and circle and section-level control rooms.

Additionally, safety stickers and public information boards will be installed at schools, parks, and other public places to spread awareness about electrical safety during the monsoon season.





## Ponnam Prabhakar Encourages Youth for Govt Jobs

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana government is committed to supporting youth aspiring for government jobs by providing free coaching, guidance, and study materials for competitive examinations.

He said the state government is working towards building a "Medho Telangana" (Intellectual Telangana) by helping young aspirants achieve success in various recruitment exams. As part of this effort, several books related to competitive examinations are being made available to students through the BC Study Circle.

Highlighting the importance of current affairs in competitive exams, the Minister said nearly 20 to 25 percent of questions are based on contemporary events and news. To help aspirants prepare better, the BC Study Circle has released Varshika 2025, a book compiling important national, international, and regional events, personalities, and developments from the year 2025.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the publication also contains a special section titled Bharatiya Vaidika Haindava Vignanam to assist candidates preparing for Endowments Department recruitment examinations. Besides current affairs, the book

covers subjects such as general knowledge, the Indian Constitution, science and technology, geography, Indian history, Telangana history, and the Telangana movement.

The Minister appreciated BC Study Circle Director Mamidi Harikrishna for editing and publishing the book, stating that such initiatives help empower youth preparing for competitive examinations.

He said government jobs provide educated youth with an opportunity to serve society and contribute to nation-building. The Telangana government is offering coaching for Civil Services, Group exams, banking, Staff Selection Commission (SSC), police, railway, and teaching jobs through 12 BC Study Circles across the state.

Ponnam Prabhakar further said the government aims to help more Telangana youth secure prestigious services such as IAS, IPS, and IFS. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, financial assistance is also being extended to Civil Services aspirants through the Rajiv Abhaya Hastham initiative.

He urged youth to focus on competitive examinations with confidence, dedication, and determination to achieve success in state and national-level recruitment tests.



## BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao Calls for Campaign Against Congress Failures

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Sunday called upon party workers to intensify grassroots outreach and expose what he described as the failures of the Congress government ahead of the upcoming municipal corporation elections. He asserted that a strong performance in municipal polls would lay the foundation for the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the next Assembly elections in Telangana.

Addressing BJP activists at a party meeting held in Amberpet, Ramchander Rao urged cadres to launch extensive door-to-door campaigns to connect with people and explain what he termed the shortcomings of the Congress administration.

He claimed that anti-incumbency sentiment was steadily growing across Telangana, alleging dissatisfaction among youth, farmers, women, pensioners, and government employees. According to him, the Congress government had failed to fulfill several promises made before coming to power, leading to public disappointment.

Ramchander Rao accused the state government of mishandling paddy procurement and alleged that pressure from the Central government and BJP leaders had forced the state administration to begin procurement drives. He claimed that several farmers had suffered losses as paddy was reportedly procured below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in some areas.

The BJP leader further alleged irregularities in procurement operations and accused officials of colluding with rice millers. He said BJP representatives had observed paddy ly-

ing on roads and farmers facing hardships despite government claims of record procurement.

Responding to criticism made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy against the Central government, Ramchander Rao rejected allegations that the Centre had neglected Telangana. He stated that the Narendra Modi-led government had extended significant support to the state through major projects and financial assistance. According to him, projects and assistance worth over 13 lakh crore had been sanctioned for Telangana under the BJP-led Centre.

Ramchander Rao also criticized the state government's response to recent heavy rains and alleged inadequate preparedness by municipal authorities. Referring to rain-related incidents in Alwal, he questioned the administration over reported fatalities and demanded accountability.

On the Musi River rejuvenation project, the BJP leader clarified that his party supported efforts to restore the river but opposed the displacement of poor and middle-class families under the proposed Gandhi Sarovar project.

Alleging a tacit understanding among Congress, BRS, and AIMIM, Ramchander Rao said the BJP remained committed to offering an alternative model of governance in Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that electing a BJP mayor in the municipal elections would ensure "real development" for the city.

## Tummala Yugandhar Appreciates New Harsha Rice & Spice Restaurant

Khammam, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Tummala Yugandhar lauded the newly inaugurated Harsha Rice & Spice Restaurant at Rotary Nagar in Khammam city during his visit on Sunday. He appreciated the restaurant's ambiance, quality of food, and the efforts of its management in bringing a fresh dining experience to the city.

During his visit, Yugandhar sampled a variety of dishes served at the restaurant and expressed satisfaction with their taste and presentation. He congratulated the management for maintaining high standards in both cuisine and hospitality. He also interacted with the restaurant's owner, Kotte Soman Babu, and discussed the restaurant's vision and commitment to offering quality food to customers.

Speaking on the occasion, Yugandhar particularly praised the restaurant's elegant interior design and welcoming atmosphere. He noted that the thoughtfully designed décor and comfortable dining environment would make it a preferred destination for food lovers in Khammam. He appreciated the efforts taken by the management to create a modern and customer-friendly restaurant that caters to diverse tastes.

Encouraging local residents to visit the establishment, Yugandhar said that the people of Khammam should make the most of the new dining destination and enjoy the wide range of food items available on the menu. He expressed confidence that Harsha Rice & Spice would emerge as one of the city's popular restaurants in the coming days.

Restaurant owner Kotte Soman Babu thanked Yugandhar



for his visit and valuable encouragement. On the occasion, Yugandhar conveyed his best wishes to Soman Babu and his family members, including his wife Shravani, son Harsha, and daughter Siri. He wished them success in their new venture and hoped the restaurant would earn the trust and appreciation of food enthusiasts across the city.

The visit added to the enthusiasm surrounding the restaurant's launch, with patrons expressing optimism about its contribution to Khammam's growing food and hospitality sector.

Restaurant owner Kotte Soman Babu thanked Yugandhar

## Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Attends BJP Workers' Meeting

Hyderabad, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A large-scale meeting of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers of the Amberpet Assembly constituency commenced on Sunday with the participation of senior party leaders, public representatives, and a large number of grassroots workers.

The meeting, described as an important organisational exercise by party leaders, was attended by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao, and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. K. Laxman, who serves as the National President of the BJP OBC Morcha.

The gathering witnessed enthusiastic participation from local party leaders, senior functionaries, and BJP workers from different parts of the constituency. The event is expected to play a significant role in shaping the party's future political strategies at the constituency level.

According to party leaders, detailed discussions are being held on strengthening the BJP at the grassroots level, expanding the party's organisational structure, and enhancing coordination among workers to improve outreach among the



public. Leaders are also expected to focus on strategies to effectively communicate and promote Central government welfare schemes and development programmes among people in the constituency. Party workers have been encouraged to actively engage with residents and strengthen the BJP's presence at the booth level.

Addressing party members, senior leaders are likely to emphasize discipline, coordination, and increased public engagement as key priorities in preparation for future political challenges and elections.

The meeting also serves as a platform for reviewing organi-

sational activities, mobilising cadre, and discussing constituency-specific issues that require political attention. Leaders are expected to provide direction to party workers on strengthening public connect and increasing awareness about BJP initiatives.

The presence of top leadership at the meeting is being viewed as a significant boost for party workers in Amberpet, with BJP leaders expressing confidence that such interactions will further energize cadre and strengthen the party's organisational network in the constituency.

## Jagadish Reddy Alleges Irregularities in HAM Road Projects

Nalgonda, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy on Sunday alleged large-scale irregularities in Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) road projects and said the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would order an inquiry into the works if the party returns to power in Telangana.

Addressing a meeting of booth-level agents in Bhongir, Jagadish Reddy accused the Congress government led by A. Revanth Reddy of collecting commissions from contractors involved in HAM road works. He alleged that project costs were being repeatedly increased to facilitate commissions and claimed there was a possibility of toll plazas being introduced in rural areas under the HAM model.

The MLA also criticised ministers from the erstwhile Nalgonda district, including N. Utam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, alleging that they had neglected district development and focused on personal priorities.



He claimed that no significant development had taken place in the district over the last two-and-a-half years.

Raising concerns over agriculture, Jagadish Reddy alleged delays in paddy procurement in several centres across Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, stating that farmers were fac-

ing hardships due to incomplete purchases.

He also urged BRS booth-level agents to stay alert during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that no genuine voter names are removed. Several BRS leaders participated in the meeting.



## KTR Says Congress Will Face Rejection in Mahabubnagar

Mahabubnagar, June 14 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Sunday alleged that the Congress party has neglected the interests of the undivided Mahabubnagar district and claimed that people would reject both the Congress party and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the next elections.

Addressing a review meeting with BRS leaders from the undivided Mahabubnagar district, KTR accused the Congress government of sidelining the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, which he said was nearing completion under the previous BRS administration. He alleged that the delay in completing the project was depriving lakhs of acres of farmland from irrigation benefits.

KTR criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betraying the interests of Palamuru despite repeatedly claiming to represent the district. He alleged that the Congress government had failed to prioritise key irrigation projects and warned that voters in Kodangal constituency would not forgive what he termed as "betrayal" of local interests.

"The people of Mahabubnagar clearly understand the injustice being done to the district since Congress came to power. In the coming elections, they will reject Congress and teach Revanth Reddy a lesson in Kodangal," KTR said.

Recalling the condition of Mahabubnagar before Telangana's formation, KTR said the district was once known for drought and migration. He credited former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and the BRS government for transforming the district through irrigation projects, welfare measures, and development initiatives.

He admitted that the party had failed to effectively communicate its achievements to the public during the previous elections but said the current Congress government's performance was making people realise the extent of development undertaken during the BRS tenure.

KTR urged party leaders to expose what he described as the failures of the Congress government while simultaneously taking BRS development initiatives back to the people. He particularly stressed the need to highlight alleged injustices in irrigation and development works in Palamuru region.

The BRS leader held an extensive review meeting with district leaders at the residence of former minister Lakshma Reddy. Former ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and senior party leaders participated in the discussions, where KTR reviewed grassroots political conditions, constituency-level meetings, and organisational activities.

He also discussed preparations for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists and the party's membership drive. KTR directed leaders to strengthen the party booth-wise in every village and move forward with a systematic strategy to reinforce the organisation ahead of future elections.

Party leaders reportedly informed KTR that public support for BRS was increasing at the grassroots level and that dissatisfaction with the Congress government was growing among various sections of society.

Expressing confidence, KTR said BRS would "clean sweep" the undivided Mahabubnagar district in the next elections and urged party workers to convert growing public support into electoral success.



## Teachers Honoured at Handwriting Training Programme

Vijayawada, June 14 | TPN Bureau

A handwriting and calligraphy training programme concluded on a celebratory note, with teachers being honoured for their outstanding performance during the sessions. Chief guest Sanjeeva Reddy distributed handwriting workbooks to all participating teachers and appreciated their enthusiasm for improving handwriting and teaching skills.

On the occasion, he congratulated teachers who excelled during the training programme and presented them with prizes in recognition of their achievements. He highlighted the importance of neat handwriting in education and

encouraged teachers to pass on these skills to students.

Members of the calligraphy team played a key role in conducting the programme and guiding participants throughout the training. Those present included G. Satyanarayana, D. Adinarayana, Ch. Ramesh, Sk. Shajir, Prasad, Chennakeshavarao, T. Mahalakshmi, A. Nagalakshmi, Shirisha, Pushpa, Annapurna, Sharada, Jayalakshmi and others.

The event concluded with participants expressing gratitude to the organisers and resource persons for conducting a useful and inspiring programme aimed at promoting better handwriting and creative learning practices in schools.

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

The major political headline today is the rejection of Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh. There may be many political calculations, intrigues, and conspiracies behind the development. Yet, beyond the immediate political controversy lies another significant dimension of her personality—her deep engagement with literature, history, and ideas.

Meenakshi Natarajan possesses an intellectual and creative identity that extends far beyond the realm of politics. Politics may grant individuals temporary recognition, but it is scholarship, reflection, and writing that secure a lasting place in history. Election nominations may be rejected, offices may come and go, but a good book travels across generations.

Just as Jawaharlal Nehru's *The Discovery of India* continues to inspire readers, intellectuals like Meenakshi Natarajan—who revisits history through new questions and interpret literature through fresh perspectives—represent the true strength of democracy. Long after the noise of political news fades away, the resonance of their ideas continues to endure.

Most people in politics chase positions and power. Only a few, like Meenakshi Natarajan, undertake a journey in pursuit of ideas. She is

a politician who converses more with books than with political rhetoric. Electoral victories and defeats may be part of her public journey, but it is her historical vision, her desire to understand society, and her faith in democracy that make her distinctive. She remains one of those rare figures who remind us that intellect still has a place in politics.

Educated in Biochemistry and Law, Meenakshi Natarajan has integrated study and writing into her public life alongside active political engagement. Her fascination with history led her to examine the past through alternative perspectives. The result was the publication of her two-volume work, *"1857: Bhartiya Paripekshay"* (1857: An Indian Perspective).

In this work, she argues that the events of 1857 should not be viewed merely as a rebellion but understood within the broader context of Indian society, collective memory, and traditions of resistance. Challenging entrenched historical narratives is never easy, yet Meenakshi demonstrates precisely that intellectual courage through her writing.

Her novel *"Apne Apne Kurukshetra"* occupies a significant place in contemporary Hindi literature. Reinterpreting the Mahabharata, she explores the epic through the inner conflicts and moral dilemmas of its characters. Figures such as Satyawati, Gandhari, Kunti, Shikhandi,



Draupadi, and Bhishma emerge not merely as mythological personalities but as living human beings struggling with their times, choices, and sufferings. The novel encourages read-

ers to move beyond conventional interpretations of the Mahabharata and engage with it from new perspectives. It was awarded the prestigious Vagishwari Puraskar and is regarded as one of the

notable novels of modern Hindi literature.

One of Meenakshi Natarajan's defining qualities is her willingness to view history and literature through unconventional lenses. Her writings contain more questions than answers. While grounded in ideological commitment, they are animated even more strongly by intellectual curiosity.

Another remarkable aspect of her personality is her absence of pretension. Literary scholar Sadanand Shahi recalls an incident from the international conference *"Godan Ko Phir Se Padhte Hue"* held in 2005. When invited to sit on the dais, Meenakshi politely declined, saying that it would be inappropriate for her to sit among distinguished academics. Instead, she sat among the audience and, when her turn came, delivered a thoughtful and profound lecture on Premchand's perspective on women. Such humility and self-restraint are rare qualities in contemporary public life.

Political success and failure are temporary. Elections come and go, results change, and positions shift. Ideas, writings, and intellectual contributions, however, acquire enduring value. Meenakshi Natarajan is not merely a political activist; she is also a thinker who reads history through new questions and offers fresh meanings to literature. To understand her solely

through the lens of contemporary political news would be inadequate. She should instead be seen as a representative of a rare tradition where politics, scholarship, literature, and public ethics converge.

Her work *"1857: Bhartiya Paripekshay"* differs significantly from conventional historical narratives. It seeks to reinterpret the Revolt of 1857 through Indian perspectives, Indian experiences, and Indian consciousness.

According to Meenakshi Natarajan, the uprising of 1857 played a crucial role in binding diverse regions of India into a common national thread. Through various historical examples, she illustrates how Indian society gradually moved closer to the idea of a nation-state.

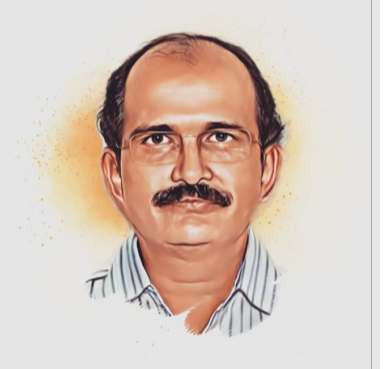
The first volume discusses the foreign powers' race to reach India, the Battle of Plassey, the administrative excesses of Warren Hastings, British expansion in the Deccan, the struggles of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, the policies of British Governor-Generals, the Maratha wars, the foreign policy of the East India Company, the end of Peshwa rule, the Charter Acts, and the annexation of Sindh.

The second volume begins with the Sikh Wars and examines the circumstances that culminated in the Revolt of 1857. It analyzes the uprising in Delhi, the roles of Nana Sahib and Azimullah Khan, the heroic resistance of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi, the

campaigns of Kunwar Singh, the courage of Tatyia Tope, and the political, social, and economic consequences that followed the revolt.

In Meenakshi Natarajan's view, the Revolt of 1857 united vast regions of India under a shared ideological consciousness. British repression and Indian resistance left a profound imprint on the national psyche and inspired future generations to seek new paths toward freedom.

For this reason, Meenakshi Natarajan deserves to be viewed not merely as a politician, but perhaps even more significantly as a literary and intellectual figure whose engagement with history, literature, and democratic values transcends the fleeting cycles of political fortune.



Varala Anand

Recipient of the Central Sahitya Akademi Translation Award 9440501281

# A Language Between Worlds

## Yerukala as a Living Bridge of Dravidian Heritage

Languages are not merely tools of communication; they are living archives of history, culture, and identity. Among the many linguistic treasures of India, the Yerukala dialect stands as a remarkable yet underappreciated link connecting ancient Dravidian roots with evolving regional identities. Often confined to the margins of mainstream discourse, Yerukala deserves recognition not just as a tribal tongue but as a vital cultural bridge within the Dravidian language family.

The Dravidian languages—among the oldest linguistic traditions in the Indian subcontinent—include Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and several tribal languages such as Gondi, Kurukh, and Yerukala. Among these, Tamil occupies a distinctive place with its unbroken literary history of over two millennia, including the celebrated Sangam literature. Its preservation of ancient vocabulary and structures makes it an essential reference point for understanding the evolution of other Dravidian languages.

In this broader linguistic landscape, Yerukala emerges as a fascinating case. Spoken by the Yerukala community spread across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, the language reflects a layered history of migration, adaptation, and cultural exchange. Known also as Erukula or associated with Korava/Kuravar dialects, Yerukala carries echoes of Tamil while simultaneously absorbing influences from Telugu and Kannada.

The lexical parallels between Tamil and Yerukala are particularly striking. Words like " (amm) in Tamil and " (amm) in Yerukala for "mother," or " (ta i) and " (tanni) for "water," suggest a shared ancestral vocabulary. Similarly, " (v du) and " (vedu) for "house," and



" (v) and " (v) for "come," reinforce the argument of a deep-rooted Dravidian connection. These are not mere coincidences; they point to a common linguistic ancestry shaped by centuries of cultural interaction.

The classification of Yerukala within the South-Central Dravidian subgroup alongside Telugu, Gondi, and Koya further highlights its hybrid nature. Linguists often refer to such languages as "Post-Dravidian" in an informal sense—languages that evolved from Proto-Dravidian roots while undergoing regional transformations. Yerukala fits this description well, embodying a blend of ancient structures and modern influences.

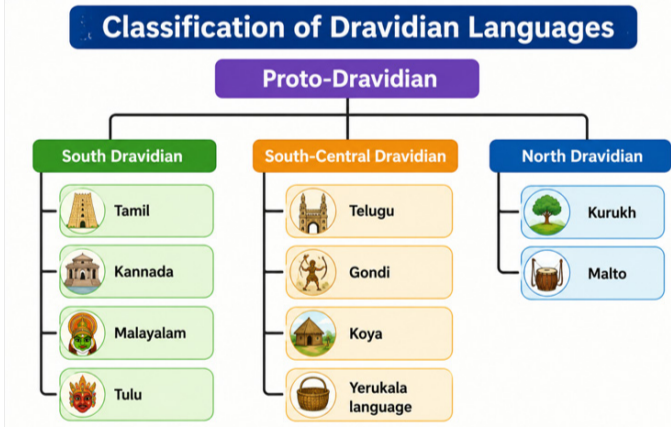
Equally compelling is the cultural parallel between the Yerukala community and the Kuravar or Korava tribes of the Tamil regions. Shared traditions such as nomadic lifestyles, fortune-telling practices, basket weaving, and deep ecological knowledge suggest not just linguistic but also anthropological continuity. The Tamil term "Kurathi," referring to a nomadic tribal woman, resonates with the identity and social roles observed among Yerukala women.

Migration narratives further strengthen this connection. Whether the Yerukala people moved from Tamil regions into Telugu-speaking areas or vice versa, their language today

bears the imprint of this journey. It is a linguistic mosaic—Tamil vocabulary layered with Telugu grammar and occasional Kannada influences. This phenomenon exemplifies what linguists call "language shift," where communities adapt to dominant languages for public interaction while preserving elements of their mother tongue in private spaces.

Structurally, Yerukala aligns closely with core Dravidian features. Its agglutinative nature—where words are formed by combining root words with suffixes indicating tense, gender, and number—is shared with both Tamil and Telugu. The typical sentence structure of Subject + Object + Verb, as seen in "Nenu annam tintanu," reflects a common grammatical foundation. Moreover, the prominence of retroflex sounds such as (a), (a), and (a) further underscores its Dravidian identity.

Yet, despite its rich heritage, the Yerukala language faces significant challenges. The dominance of Telugu in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has led to reduced usage of Yerukala among younger generations. Urbanization, lack of a written script, and limited institutional support have accelerated this decline. Today, many Yerukala speakers navigate a dual linguistic existence—using Telugu in public domains while retaining fragments of their native dialect



within households.

This gradual erosion raises critical questions about linguistic preservation and cultural continuity. When a language fades, it takes with it unique ways of understanding the world—oral histories, ecological knowledge, and social practices that cannot be easily translated or replaced. In this context, efforts by tribal researchers, universities, and social organizations to document and revitalize Yerukala are not just academic exercises; they are acts of cultural preservation.

Tamil's role in this discourse becomes particularly significant. As a language that has retained many ancient Dravidian features, it serves as a key to decoding the linguistic DNA of tribal dialects like Yerukala. For researchers, Tamil is not merely a classical language; it is a living repository of Dravidian civilization. Understanding its structures and vocabulary can illuminate the origins and evolution of lesser-studied languages.

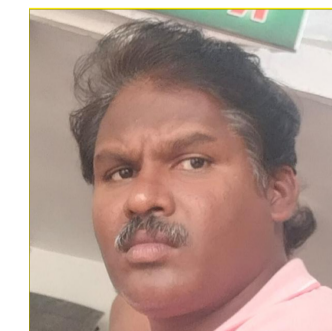
The Yerukala language, therefore, must be viewed beyond the confines of tribal identity. It is a testament to historical migrations, cultural exchanges, and linguistic resilience. It embodies the continuity of Dravidian heritage across regions and generations.

Recognizing and preserving Yerukala is not just about sav-

ing a language—it is about acknowledging a shared past and safeguarding a cultural bridge that connects diverse communities. In its sounds, words, and structures, Yerukala tells a story that is both ancient and ongoing—a story of survival, adaptation, and identity.

In an era of rapid globalization, where linguistic homogenization poses a real threat, the survival of languages like Yerukala becomes a measure of our commitment to cultural diversity. It reminds us that every dialect, no matter how small, carries within it the echoes of history and the promise of continuity.

Yerukala is not just a dialect. It is, indeed, a living testament to ancient Dravidian heritage.



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# A Global Voice for Peace and Literature

Dr. Perugu Ramakrishna is an internationally acclaimed poet, translator, editor, and humanitarian dedicated to promoting universal peace, brotherhood, and ethical values through literature. He has participated in peace-oriented international conferences across 15 countries, and his poetry has been translated into 30 languages and published in more than 50 countries worldwide.

A Fellow of the International Academy of Ethics, Dr. Ramakrishna has received several prestigious global honours, including the Naji Naaman Literary Prize, Franz Kafka Award,

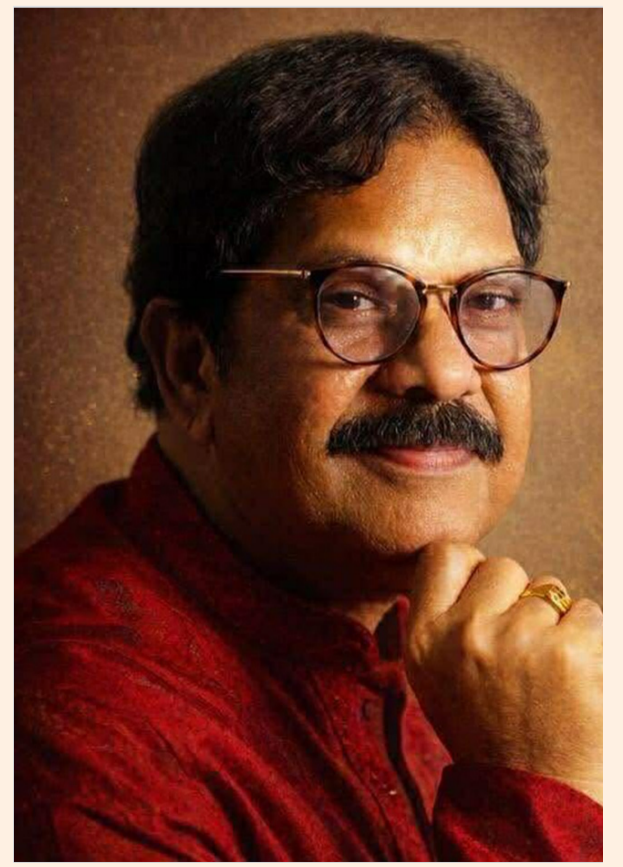
Maxim Gorky Award, Shakespeare Award, and the 2025 SAARC Literature Award.

He has been conferred with four honorary doctorates. As a poet, writer, translator, and editor, he has authored 12 poetry collections and contributed to nearly 30 published works through translation and editing.

Recipient of numerous international awards, medals, and fellowships, he has also received commendations and citations from UNESCO, the United Nations, and several eminent global institutions and universities.

**Dr. Ramakrishna**

serves as Lifetime Vice President of the Korean Association o



# Yogi Condemns Trolling of Akhilesh's Daughter

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath strongly condemned the social media trolling of the daughter of Akhilesh Yadav and directed police to register an FIR against those responsible for spreading defamatory content online.

Addressing a public gathering in Azamgarh during the launch of development projects worth over 955 crore, Yogi said that objectionable and malicious comments targeting daughters are unacceptable and against Indian values. He stated that "a daughter is a daughter," irrespective of political affiliations, and stressed that women should never become subjects of abusive public discourse.

The remarks came after an FIR was registered by the cyber cell of the Kanpur Police Commissionerate against



three individuals accused of circulating a morphed photograph and making false and offensive comments about Akhilesh Yadav's daughter on social media platform X. Samajwadi Party leaders had approached police alleging a deliberate attempt to defame the family.

While condemning the trolling, Yogi also advised Akhilesh Yadav to ensure that his party workers maintain restraint in public discourse and avoid abusive lan-

guage against women, senior citizens, and political opponents. Taking a veiled swipe at the Samajwadi Party, he said that if party workers fail to follow decorum, the government knows how to deal with them. The incident has triggered political reactions across Uttar Pradesh, with leaders cutting across party lines calling for responsible use of social media and stricter action against online harassment and misinformation targeting women.

# CAG Flags Major Gaps in Assam Social Audit Unit Functioning



The Social Audit Unit (SAU) of Assam, established to promote transparency and accountability in rural development programmes, has come under scrutiny after the Comptroller and Auditor General of India highlighted serious operational and governance deficiencies in its latest report on local bodies for the period ending March 2024. According to the report, the SAU's registration under the Societies Act remained invalid for nearly five years after expiring in December 2019. The audit attributed this lapse to the failure to hold governing body meetings regularly, which affected approval of budgets and certification of annual accounts. The CAG observed that inadequate meetings reflected weak monitoring at the government level. The report also pointed to a severe manpower

shortage, with overall vacancies touching 43 per cent. Key field positions remained unfilled, affecting the unit's ability to conduct timely social audits and achieve audit targets. Although a manpower policy was proposed in 2017 and reviewed by the Finance Department, it has yet to be finalised.

The CAG further noted that the SAU had not introduced a mandatory Code of Ethics for social audit facilitators as required under auditing standards. It recommended the immediate implementation of ethical guidelines and the recruitment of adequate personnel.

The audit revealed shortcomings in monitoring mechanisms as well. The State Employment Guarantee Council failed to adequately review action taken on social audit findings, while

quarterly reports were not submitted in the prescribed format to audit authorities.

A weak follow-up system has also diluted the impact of social audits. Public hearings at block and district levels were found insufficient, and recovery of misappropriated funds remained extremely poor, with less than four per cent of the identified amounts recovered. Several village panchayats reportedly failed to provide records to audit teams, indicating inadequate awareness about the importance of social audits.

The CAG recommended strengthening governance, ensuring regular governing body meetings, finalising manpower policies, improving public awareness, and enhancing follow-up action on audit observations.

The SAU, first registered in 2016 to oversee social audits under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), is headed by an independent director and governed by a body chaired by the Chief Secretary of Assam. The report has raised concerns about the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms designed to safeguard public funds and ensure accountability in rural development programmes.

# 3-Year-Old Cancer Patient Dies After Alleged Formalin Injection Error

A three-year-old boy undergoing treatment for blood cancer at AIIMS Bhopal died after a nurse allegedly administered formalin, a toxic chemical used for preserving biopsy samples, instead of a saline IV flush, police said on Saturday. The incident has triggered a criminal case and an internal inquiry at the premier medical institute.



According to the FIR registered at Bagsewana police station, the child, identified as Sarthak Yadav from Sagar district, was admitted to the paediatric ward on December 15, 2025, for treatment of B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL). He was undergoing preparatory care for a scheduled bone marrow biopsy.

Police said the chemical formalin had been brought in a syringe by Nursing Officer Anuka Gujarati for the procedure on December 16. However, when the biopsy was postponed, the syringe containing the hazardous chemical was allegedly left unattended on a bedside locker instead of being properly disposed of or secured.

On December 17 morning, when the child's intravenous line became blocked, Nursing Officer Madhubala Sharma al-

legedly picked up the same syringe from the bedside and used it for flushing the IV line, without verifying its contents or label, despite repeated warnings from the child's father, who was present at the bedside.

An internal AIIMS Bhopal inquiry reportedly concluded that the death was directly linked to the accidental administration of formalin and cited gross negligence in handling and storage of hazardous material. The report also held that the chemical should have been either destroyed or securely stored after the procedure was deferred.

Police have booked the two nursing officers under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita related to causing death by negligence and improper handling of hazardous substances. Officials said both staff members have been suspended and efforts are underway to trace them.

Further investigation is ongoing, and statements of hospital staff and witnesses are being recorded.

# Mamata Cracks Down on Rebels Amid Deepening TMC Crisis

In a significant organisational reshuffle amid growing internal turmoil, Mamata Banerjee has removed Saayoni Ghosh from the post of Trinamool Congress youth wing president and replaced her with youth leader Arnab Banerjee. The party also replaced Mala Roy as president of the Trinamool Mahila Congress, appointing Alifa Ahmed in her place.

The development comes amid an escalating rebellion within the All India Trinamool Congress following its disappointing performance in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Both Ghosh and Roy are believed to be part of a dissident group of TMC MPs seeking recognition as the "real TMC" in Parliament.

According to party sources, around 20 of the party's 28 Lok Sabha members have reportedly signed a letter to be submitted to Om Birla on Monday. The dissident faction is said to include senior leaders and MPs who have openly questioned the party leadership after the electoral setback.



Adding to the political drama, rebel MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar announced that the breakaway group would support the BJP-led NDA in Parliament if granted recognition.

The latest changes follow Banerjee's decision earlier this month to dissolve all existing party committees and reorganise the party structure. Despite initially reappointing Saayoni Ghosh and

Mala Roy to key positions during the June 5 restructuring, the leadership has now moved swiftly to replace them as the rebellion gained momentum.

Meanwhile, Abhishek Banerjee continues as the party's national general secretary. Party spokesperson and MP Kunal Ghosh has been appointed president of the North Kolkata organisational district, replacing veteran parliamentarian Sudip

Bandyopadhyay.

In another key appointment, senior MP Saugata Roy has been named chief adviser to the party's Lok Sabha wing, which currently consists of eight MPs still loyal to Mamata Banerjee. The developments signal one of the most serious internal challenges faced by the TMC in recent years, with the party leadership moving aggressively to contain dissent and consolidate control.

# Mystery Woman Seen on CCTV Before Fatal Delhi Blaze

A CCTV video linked to a deadly fire incident in South-east Delhi has sparked widespread attention after it captured a mysterious woman entering a residential building moments before the blaze erupted, killing three people.

The fire broke out in the early hours of Friday at a six-storey residential building in the Govindpuri area of New Delhi, causing panic among residents and resulting in three fatalities.

According to police sources, the CCTV footage shows a young woman, believed to be in her twenties, entering the ground-floor parking area of the building. Her face was partially covered, and a cloth was wrapped around her head, making identification difficult. Less than a minute after she entered, the footage reportedly captured a sudden flash resembling an explosion.

Seconds later, the woman was seen hurriedly leaving

the premises as flames began spreading through the parking area. The sequence of events has raised questions about whether the woman had any connection to the incident or was merely present at the location before the fire started.

The video has since gone viral on social media, prompting intense speculation. However, investigators have urged the public not to jump to conclusions until a thorough probe is completed.

In an official statement, Delhi Police confirmed that they had taken cognisance of the circulating footage and were examining all possible angles. "We have taken cognisance of a video being circulated in connection with the Govindpuri fire incident. The matter is being investigated from all possible angles," police said.

Forensic experts and fire department officials are also assisting in the investigation to determine the exact cause of



the blaze. Authorities are analysing CCTV recordings from nearby locations and attempting to identify and trace the woman seen in the footage.

The tragic incident has once again highlighted concerns over fire safety in residential buildings, particularly those with crowded parking areas and limited emergency access. Residents in the locality have demanded a comprehensive

investigation and stricter enforcement of fire safety regulations.

Police officials stated that no conclusions have been reached so far and that all evidence, including CCTV footage, witness statements, and forensic findings, will be carefully examined before determining whether foul play was involved. The investigation remains ongoing.

# RaGa Questions PM Modi Over US Strike That Killed Indian Seafarers

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence over the killing of three Indian seafarers in a reported US military strike in the Gulf region on June 10, triggering a sharp political exchange over India's foreign policy response.

The incident pertains to the commercial vessel MT Settebello, which was struck after US forces alleged it had violated a naval blockade imposed on Iranian ports. Of the 24 Indian crew members on board, 21 were rescued, while three were later confirmed dead, according to reports.

Following the incident, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held discussions with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. A subsequent US State Department readout stated that commercial vessels must comply with instructions issued by American forces and warned that violations of the blockade would not be tolerated.

Reacting to the development, Rahul Gandhi took to social media platform X, questioning the government's response. He said that in a "free country,"



such language would not be acceptable and criticised what he termed as the Prime Minister's "silence" on the issue. He alleged that India's leadership was failing to assert its position strongly in the face of foreign pressure.

Gandhi also appealed for the immediate repatriation of the mortal remains of the deceased Indian sailors and extended support to the affected families. In his remarks, he claimed that India's citizens were being left vulnerable while the government remained subdued in

its diplomatic response.

The Congress leader further stated that the incident raised serious concerns about the treatment of Indian nationals working in international waters and called for stronger protection mechanisms for seafarers.

His comments come at a time when Prime Minister Modi is attending the G7 summit in France, where high-level bilateral meetings and trade discussions with global leaders, including US President Joe Biden, are expected to take

place. Meanwhile, the government has not issued a detailed public statement on the political allegations but has maintained that diplomatic engagements are underway regarding the incident and the welfare of the affected families.

The issue has now become a point of political confrontation between the ruling establishment and the opposition, with further developments expected as investigations and diplomatic communications continue.

# 26-Year-Old Indian-Origin Man Stabbed to Death in London's Southall

A 26-year-old Indian-origin man has been killed in a knife attack in Southall, west London, the Metropolitan Police confirmed on Saturday, in an incident that has shocked the local community and triggered a homicide investigation.

The victim has been identified as Gurbhej Singh, who was fatally stabbed on North Road near its junction with Dormers Wells Lane. Police said the attack took place shortly after midnight on Wednesday, at around 00:30 hrs, outside a shop in the

busy residential area.

Emergency services, including officers from the Metropolitan Police and paramedics from the London Ambulance Service, were called to the scene following reports of a stabbing. Upon arrival, they found two injured men at the location. Despite immediate medical intervention, Singh was pronounced dead at the scene due to a fatal knife wound.

A second man, believed to be in his 30s, also sustained injuries during the incident. He was transported to the

hospital for treatment and has since been discharged, police said.

Following the attack, seven men aged between their early 20s and late 30s were arrested on suspicion of murder. However, after initial investigation and questioning, six individuals were released without further action. One man has been granted bail and is due to return for further questioning at a later date.

Detectives from the Met's Specialist Crime Command are leading the investigation. Detective Chief Inspector Ali-

son Foxwell said homicide teams are continuing to examine all available evidence, including CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts, to establish the sequence of events and identify the motive behind the attack. She appealed to members of the public who may have been in the area or who possess relevant CCTV or mobile footage to come forward and assist investigators.

Singh's family is currently being supported by specialist officers as they come to terms with the sudden loss.

In the aftermath of the incident, a GoFundMe campaign has been launched to assist with repatriation of the body, funeral arrangements, and associated expenses. The fundraiser has already received strong public support, raising over 11,000 Euros from more than 700 donors, against a target of 16,000 Euros.

Authorities have reiterated that the investigation remains ongoing and further arrests have not been ruled out as forensic and digital evidence continues to be analysed.



# Epstein's Modelling Industry Links Allegedly Used to Lure Young Women

Newly released court documents and investigative reports have revealed disturbing allegations about convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's connections with the fashion and modelling industry, suggesting he allegedly used industry networks to approach and recruit young women and girls.

According to testimonies, emails, and investigative findings cited by CNN and other media outlets, Epstein allegedly relied on modelling scouts, agents, and recruiters to introduce young women under the guise of career opportunities. Former associates and accusers have claimed that promises of modelling jobs, travel, and exposure in the fashion industry were frequently used as tools to gain access to potential victims.

The documents include messages referring to young women in highly inappropriate terms. In one instance, a recruiter allegedly described a "cute French girl" who would be "happy to meet you," while another referred to a group of Scandinavian teenagers aged 16 and 17 who would be "ready for next year." Other communications reportedly included references to a "19-year-old Russian model" described as "ready to travel," and one individual was even labelled as "a gift" being arranged for Epstein.

Investigators found that Ep-



stein maintained close relationships with multiple figures in the modelling world, including agency executives and talent scouts. Around 2005, he reportedly provided a \$1 million credit line to French modelling agent Jean-Luc Brunel to help establish MC2 Model Management, according to BBC reports. Brunel later faced multiple allegations of sexual abuse and died by suicide in prison in 2022 while awaiting trial.

Several women have since alleged that they were misled

with false promises of modelling careers, only to later experience abuse. One 1997 California police report cited an incident in which Epstein allegedly groped a woman under the pretext of evaluating her for modelling opportunities. No charges were filed in that case at the time.

Other individuals connected to Epstein told investigators they believed he was a legitimate businessman due to his ties with influential figures in the fashion industry. However, accusers and prose-

cutors have described a pattern in which professional introductions were allegedly used to facilitate exploitation.

Epstein, who was arrested on federal sex trafficking charges involving minors, died in August 2019 while in custody at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in New York, awaiting trial. The latest revelations continue to intensify scrutiny over the extent of his alleged network and the systems that enabled his actions for years.

# White House Moves Against Anthropic AI Model

The White House has reportedly imposed sweeping export controls on AI company Anthropic following an intense 24-hour round of discussions involving senior US officials, intelligence-linked advisors and the company's leadership over concerns about the safety of its newly released AI model, Fable.

According to reports cited by Politico, the move followed internal assessments that the model's safety safeguards may not be strong enough, despite Anthropic's claims that it had been designed with advanced protections. Concerns escalated rapidly after its release, prompting high-level consultations within the US government.

The urgency increased further when Amazon CEO Andy Jassy, an investor in Anthropic, reportedly raised concerns with the White House about the model's potential vulnerability to being bypassed or "jailbroken," allowing users to override its safeguards.

Within hours, senior White House officials began discussions aimed at persuading Anthropic to voluntarily withdraw the model. These conversations reportedly involved Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, White House Cyber Director Sean Cairncross, and other senior aides including policy and security officials.

Officials argued that the model could pose national security risks if exploited, lead-



ing to a fast-moving intervention. According to sources, Anthropic was given a strict 90-minute deadline at one stage to take down the model while negotiations were ongoing.

However, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei reportedly pushed back on the severity of the concerns, stating that the vulnerability was limited and not equivalent to a full system "jailbreak." He argued that the risk had been overstated and did not compromise the model's core safety architecture.

In a blog post released later, Anthropic defended its system, Fable, stating that no user had been able to discover a "universal jailbreak" capable of fully bypassing its safeguards. The company acknowledged, however, that no AI system is entirely immune to manipulation and that par-

tial vulnerabilities can still exist despite strong protections.

The White House ultimately proceeded with export control measures after what officials described as an extended effort to reach voluntary compliance. A senior official quoted in reports said the government had "begged for hours" for cooperation before resorting to regulatory action, calling it a last-resort decision driven by security concerns.

The episode highlights growing tensions between rapid AI development and regulatory oversight, with governments increasingly stepping in to assess potential risks from advanced models. It also underscores the intensifying global debate over how frontier AI systems should be governed, tested, and deployed in sensitive environments.

# California Air Turns Toxic as Massive Warehouse Fire Enters Third Day



Air quality in parts of Northern California deteriorated to unhealthy levels as firefighters continued for a third consecutive day to battle a large fire at a medical equipment warehouse in Tracy, officials said on Saturday.

The blaze, which broke out on Thursday at the Medline warehouse—a 1 million-square-foot facility located about 55 miles east of San Francisco—has continued to burn intensely, sending thick smoke and embers across surrounding areas. Authorities have urged residents, especially those sensitive to smoke and respiratory conditions, to remain indoors until conditions improve.

According to air quality monitors, pollution levels on the southern side of Tracy, a

city of nearly 100,000 residents, have reached the "unhealthy" category. Officials warned that smoky conditions are likely to persist over the next several days as firefighters work to fully extinguish the fire inside the massive structure.

South San Joaquin County Fire Authority Fire Chief Randall Bradley said in a statement that containment efforts remain challenging due to the scale and nature of the fire. "We expect smoky conditions to continue for the next few days as crews work through a prolonged suppression and cleanup operation," he said.

Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the fire, with the local fire marshal coordinating with company representatives, structural engineers and safety officials to

assess damage and safety risks at the site. Fire officials have also begun planning for employees to safely retrieve vehicles left inside or near the facility.

The Medline warehouse is a key distribution hub for medical and surgical supplies, including latex gloves, masks and surgical instruments. Officials have expressed concern about potential hazardous smoke exposure given the nature of the stored materials.

Firefighters reported that embers from the blaze were carried several miles away due to strong heat and wind conditions. However, efforts to control the fire have been complicated by internal fire-suppression failures. Officials noted that poorly functioning sprinklers and hy-

drants with little to no water flow hindered firefighting operations.

Preliminary findings suggest the issue was linked to the facility's internal fire-suppression system rather than the municipal water supply. Fire officials added that an external inspection conducted in January had not indicated any problems with the sprinkler system at the time.

As investigations continue, authorities have urged the public to avoid the affected area and warned against touching or moving debris from the site due to safety risks.

The situation remains under close monitoring as crews work around the clock to bring the fire under control and assess environmental impact.

# How Government Support Helped Build Elon Musk's Tesla and SpaceX Empire

## Government Support Played Key Role in Rise of Musk's Firms

Elon Musk, widely regarded as the world's richest individual and recently linked to a trillion-dollar valuation milestone on paper, built his business empire through companies like Tesla and SpaceX. However, reports and industry analysis suggest that early government backing played a crucial role in the growth and survival of both firms.

SpaceX, in its early years, secured substantial public funding through grants and contracts. It reportedly received over \$500 million in government support during its formative phase. A major turning point came in 2006 when NASA awarded the company a \$278 million contract to develop Falcon rockets and the Dragon spacecraft. This was followed by a \$1.6 billion cargo resupply agreement in 2008, at a time when the company was facing financial strain. These deals not only provided financial stability but also boosted investor confidence.

Musk himself acknowledged in 2012 that SpaceX's progress would not have been possible without NASA's early involvement.

Tesla's journey also reflects similar dependence on government assistance. In 2010, the US Department of Energy extended a \$465 million low-interest loan that enabled the development of the Model S, which



later became a major commercial success. At that stage, Tesla had limited sales and was struggling to expand production capacity.

Policy incentives further supported Tesla's growth. Federal tax credits offered to electric vehicle buyers significantly boosted demand, contributing billions in consumer benefits. Additionally,

Tesla earned substantial revenue by selling emission credits to traditional automakers that failed to meet environmental standards.

While innovation remains central to Musk's success, analysts emphasize that government funding and supportive policies were instrumental during the early stages of both companies' expansion.

# US-Iran Peace Deal Hopes Shake Commodity Markets



Global commodity and financial markets witnessed sharp volatility during the past week as hopes of a breakthrough peace agreement between the United States and Iran gained momentum, while investors also closely monitored signals from the U.S. Federal Reserve on future interest rate decisions.

Market sentiment improved significantly after reports indicated that a formal US-Iran agreement is nearing completion, with final approval from Iran's Supreme Leader believed to be the last major hurdle. The prospect of easing geopolitical tensions triggered a broad repricing across commodities, currencies, and equity markets.

The U.S. Dollar Index fluctu-

ated between 99.58 and 100.31 during the week before ending about 0.3 percent lower. Meanwhile, U.S. inflation accelerated to 4.2 percent year-on-year in May, marking its highest level since April 2023. Rising energy costs linked to the Middle East conflict were identified as the primary driver of inflationary pressure.

The stronger inflation data, combined with resilient labor market conditions, increased expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates by 25 basis points before the end of the year. Market estimates now place the probability of a rate hike above 60 percent.

Precious metals faced heavy selling pressure initially. Spot gold fell nearly 3 percent during

the week, while silver declined around 2 percent. Gold briefly touched multi-month lows before recovering sharply as optimism surrounding a potential peace deal reduced fears of prolonged geopolitical instability. By the end of the week, gold rebounded above \$4,200 per ounce, while silver climbed back above \$68 per ounce.

Investors are now focused on the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting and the Federal Reserve's updated economic projections. Analysts expect markets to react strongly to any indication of whether policymakers remain concerned about inflation or are prepared to adopt a more accommodative stance if geopolitical risks con-

tinue to ease.

In industrial metals, performance was mixed. Copper and zinc gained more than 1 percent, supported by tightening inventories and ongoing supply constraints. Copper prices settled near \$13,700 per tonne amid continued concerns over production disruptions in Chile and strong U.S. demand ahead of potential tariff changes. Aluminum also remained supported by limited supplies and historically low inventories, while zinc continued to benefit from shortages in concentrate availability. Analysts believe the outcome of the US-Iran negotiations and the Federal Reserve's policy outlook will remain the key drivers of commodity markets in the coming weeks.

## Mega IPO Wave Tests Investor Patience Amid SpaceX, OpenAI Buzz

A new wave of high-profile public offerings led by technology giants such as SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic is generating intense excitement among investors, but market experts caution that these listings may reward patience more than speculation.

The recent stock market debut of SpaceX has amplified enthusiasm. Shares were listed at \$135 and closed at \$160 on the first day, delivering a gain of nearly 19 per cent. The strong debut has fueled expectations that other major technology firms could soon follow, potentially creating one of the largest cycles of marquee IPOs in market history.

However, analysts warn that investors should focus on long-term business fundamentals rather than short-term listing gains. While SpaceX has established itself as a leader in commercial space launches and satellite infrastructure, questions remain regarding future revenue generation from businesses such as Starlink and the sustainability of its lofty valuation.

Similarly, OpenAI and Anthropic are competing in the rapidly expanding artificial intelligence sector, but both companies face enormous operational costs. Industry observers note that AI development requires massive



spending on computing infrastructure, advanced chips, data centers, and highly skilled talent, making profitability a longer-term challenge.

Experts believe the upcoming IPO cycle could attract unprecedented participation from retail investors eager to gain exposure to transformative technologies. Yet history suggests that not every highly anticipated listing delivers immediate wealth creation. Many successful companies have experienced significant volatility after listing before eventually rewarding long-term shareholders.

Market strategists say the real test for investors will be resisting the temptation to chase short-term momentum. Companies operating in cutting-edge sectors often command premium valuations, leaving little room for disap-

pointment if growth expectations are not met.

The anticipated IPO pipeline reflects growing investor interest in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, space exploration, and digital infrastructure. While these sectors offer significant growth potential, analysts advise investors to carefully evaluate valuations, business models, and long-term earnings prospects before committing capital.

As the super-cycle of mega IPOs gathers momentum, experts suggest that disciplined investing and patience may prove more valuable than the pursuit of quick gains. The coming listings could reshape global markets, but they are also likely to test whether investors can look beyond opening-day excitement and focus on sustainable long-term returns.

## India Expands Portfolio Investment Access for Overseas Individuals

In a significant move aimed at attracting greater foreign participation in Indian capital markets, the Central Government has expanded the Portfolio Investment Route (PIR) to include a broader category of individuals residing outside India.

The change comes through an amendment to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2026, notified by the Finance Ministry on Friday. Under the revised framework, the earlier restriction limiting investments primarily to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) has been replaced with the wider category of "individual person resident outside India."

The amendment enables a larger pool of overseas investors to participate in India's stock markets by investing in listed Indian companies through the portfolio investment route. Market experts believe the move could increase foreign capital inflows and enhance liquidity in domestic equity markets. According to the notification, eligible individuals living abroad can purchase, sell, or transfer equity instruments of listed Indian companies on a repatriation basis through recognized stock exchanges and authorized banking channels. The revised rules also permit transfers through sale



or gift, subject to regulatory conditions and compliance requirements.

The government stated that the reforms are intended to broaden international participation in Indian markets while ensuring adequate regulatory safeguards remain in place. Authorities emphasized that ownership limits, anti-money laundering provisions, know-your-customer (KYC) norms, and other compliance mechanisms will continue to apply to protect the integrity of the financial system. The move is expected to benefit Indian capital markets by attracting a wider range of

global retail investors, particularly individuals of Indian origin and foreign residents interested in India's growth story. Analysts believe the policy could strengthen investor confidence and support the government's efforts to position India as a preferred global investment destination. Financial market observers noted that India has witnessed increasing interest from overseas investors due to its strong economic growth prospects, expanding corporate sector, and ongoing market reforms. The latest amendment is viewed as another

step toward integrating Indian financial markets more closely with global investment flows.

Industry experts expect brokerage firms, investment platforms, and financial institutions to witness increased demand from overseas investors seeking exposure to Indian equities under the simplified framework. The revised rules are expected to come into effect immediately, providing eligible overseas individuals with greater access to investment opportunities in India while maintaining necessary regulatory oversight.

## India Can Withstand \$90 Oil, But Higher Prices May Hurt Growth: Aventus

India's economy is strong enough to absorb crude oil prices of around \$90 per barrel during FY27, but a sustained rise beyond that level could create significant challenges for economic growth, inflation, and external balances, according to a report by Aventus Wealth.

In its latest note, Aventus stated that India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain resilient despite ongoing global uncertainties. However, the report cautioned that a prolonged increase in oil prices above \$90 per barrel could place pressure on the country's economic stability.

The report highlighted India's continued dependence on energy imports routed through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz. Nearly 47 per cent of India's crude oil imports, 61 per cent of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports, and 29 per cent of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports pass through the region, making the country vulnerable to disruptions in global energy supply chains.

According to Aventus, higher crude prices pose a direct risk to India's current account balance. Citing estimates from institutional research firms, the report noted that every \$10-per-barrel increase in crude oil prices could widen India's current account deficit by approximately \$18 billion, equivalent to about 0.41 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).



The wealth management firm observed that rising energy costs could temporarily affect corporate profitability by increasing input and transportation expenses. However, it emphasized that Indian companies are currently in a stronger financial position compared to previous economic cycles.

Aventus said healthier corporate balance sheets and improved cash flows would help businesses continue planned capital expenditure programmes despite short-term pressure on margins. The report added that once commodity prices stabilise, companies are likely to re-sume growth

initiatives and investment plans.

The analysis comes amid concerns over geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and their potential impact on global oil markets. Economists have warned that sustained spikes in crude prices could lead to higher inflation, increased import bills, and pressure on the rupee.

Despite these risks, Aventus remains optimistic about India's ability to navigate moderate oil price shocks, citing strong domestic demand, robust financial institutions, and improved fiscal management as key strengths supporting the economy.

## South Korea's Stock Market Rally Fuels Hopes of MSCI Upgrade

South Korea's stock market has emerged as one of the strongest performers globally in 2026, raising hopes that the country could move a step closer to gaining developed-market status from global index provider MSCI. Investors are now closely watching MSCI's annual market-classification review scheduled for June 23. The benchmark Kospi index has surged more than 90 percent this year, driven largely by strong investor enthusiasm for artificial intelligence-related companies and technology stocks. The rally has transformed South Korea into one of the world's best-performing major equity markets, attracting both domestic and foreign investors.

However, the rapid rise has also brought heightened volatility. In recent weeks, the Korean stock exchange has repeatedly activated market safeguards to control excessive price fluctuations. Analysts note that market swings have reached levels rarely seen among major global indices.

Despite the remarkable performance, most market experts believe South Korea is unlikely to receive an immediate upgrade from emerging-market status. According to several investors and strate-



gists surveyed by international financial agencies, recent reforms introduced by Korean authorities may require more time to demonstrate long-term effectiveness and stability before MSCI considers a change in classification.

An upgrade to developed-market status would be a major milestone for South Korea, potentially attracting billions of dollars in additional global investment from funds that track developed-market indices. It would also enhance the country's standing among international investors and

strengthen confidence in its financial markets.

Market participants, however, remain optimistic about the country's prospects. Many believe South Korea is moving steadily in the right direction through regulatory reforms, improved market accessibility, and efforts to align its financial system with global standards.

The current market rally has been fueled by growing confidence in Korean technology firms, particularly those linked to artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and

advanced manufacturing. Strong corporate earnings and improving investor sentiment have further supported the surge.

While an immediate MSCI upgrade may remain uncertain, analysts agree that South Korea's growing market strength and reform agenda have significantly improved its chances of eventually joining the ranks of developed markets. The outcome of the June 23 review is expected to provide important clues about the next phase of the country's financial-market evolution.

# Tourists' Reckless Car Stunt in Kasol Sparks Outrage

A viral video showing a group of tourists performing dangerous stunts on a moving car in Himachal Pradesh's popular hill destination of Kasol has triggered widespread criticism on social media and renewed concerns over tourist behaviour in sensitive tourist zones.

The 21-second video, which has been widely circulated online, shows several young men hanging out of a moving vehicle through its windows and sunroof while travelling on a hilly road. Some individuals appear shirtless, while two others can be seen standing or dancing on top of the moving car. Another person is reportedly seen sitting partially outside the vehicle as it remains in motion.

The incident has drawn sharp reactions from netizens, many describing the behaviour as irresponsible and hazardous. Social media users pointed out that Kasol's roads are narrow, winding and often crowded with pedestrians and vehicles, making such actions extremely risky.

Several people expressed concern that the stunt could have resulted in a serious accident, endangering not only



those involved but also other tourists, local residents and motorists. Others noted that such acts create a negative impression of tourist destinations and place an additional burden on local authorities responsible for maintaining public safety.

The video was accompanied by a caption criticizing the group's conduct, particularly in a public space frequented by families and local residents. Many users echoed the sentiment, arguing that reckless displays for social media attention

are becoming increasingly common at tourist hotspots.

The incident has also reignited discussions about the need for stricter enforcement of traffic and public safety regulations in popular hill stations. Residents and tourism stakeholders have repeatedly urged visitors to respect local culture, follow road safety norms and avoid behaviour that could jeopardize public safety.

Kasol, located in the scenic Parvati Valley, attracts thousands of domestic and interna-

tional tourists each year. Known for its natural beauty and peaceful environment, the destination has occasionally witnessed incidents involving unruly tourist behaviour.

As of now, authorities have not issued an official statement regarding the viral video or whether any action will be taken against those involved. However, the incident has once again highlighted the importance of responsible tourism and adherence to safety norms while visiting hill destinations.

# Garbage Bag Welcome Kit Sparks Sustainability Conversation Online

A unique workplace welcome gift has captured the attention of social media users after a Bengaluru-based professional revealed that her new employer greeted her first day at work with a garbage bag instead of the usual corporate merchandise.

Manisha Dubey shared the experience in a LinkedIn post that quickly went viral, generating widespread discussion about sustainability, practical gifting and corporate culture. Having recently joined a new company, Dubey said she arrived expecting a standard welcome kit containing items such as coffee mugs, vouchers or wellness gifts. Instead, she found a garbage bag placed on her desk.

While initially surprised, she soon appreciated the thought behind the gesture. Having recently relocated to a new city and still settling into her daily routine, Dubey realized the item was far more useful than many traditional

corporate gifts that often end up unused.

In her post, she praised her employer, Bambrew, for aligning its onboarding practices with its sustainability values. She pointed out that many organizations promote environmental responsibility while continuing to distribute products wrapped in excessive plastic packaging. In contrast, the garbage bag she received was durable, leak-proof and plastic-free, making it both practical and environmentally friendly.

Dubey humorously described the gift as the beginning of her "environmentally responsible era," adding that it reflected genuine commitment to sustainability rather than symbolic gestures. She also noted that practical items often create a stronger impact than decorative corporate merchandise.

The post resonated with professionals across social media platforms, with many



applauding the company's unconventional approach. Several users commented that thoughtful and useful gifts leave a more lasting impression than expensive welcome hampers. Others highlighted how the gesture demonstrated an authentic effort to integrate sustainability into everyday workplace practices.

The discussion has also sparked broader conversations about corporate onboarding and employee engagement. Many users argued that organizations should focus on meaningful and func-

tional welcome gifts that address real needs while reducing waste.

Dubey concluded her post on a light-hearted note, jokingly requesting a monthly supply of garbage bags from her employer, saying that one can never have too many when trying to live sustainably.

What began as an unexpected onboarding surprise has now become a viral example of how simple, practical ideas can generate meaningful conversations about sustainability and work-place culture.

# British Traveller Defends India, Slams Social Media Stereotypes

A British traveller has gone viral on social media after strongly defending India against what he described as misleading online narratives and "anti-India propaganda" videos that discourage foreigners from visiting the country.

In a widely shared Instagram video, British content creator Rory Porter urged travellers not to judge India based on a handful of viral clips showing unhygienic street food or isolated negative incidents. Having visited India multiple times, Porter described the country as one of the most fascinating and rewarding destinations he has ever experienced.

"How could you not go to a country just because you've seen a few videos online?" he asked, expressing frustration at comments from people who claim they would never visit India due to content circulating on social media.

Porter said India offered far more than the stereotypes often portrayed online. He praised the country's rich cul-



tural heritage, diverse traditions, welcoming people and remarkable food. According to him, some of the kindest, most intelligent and hospitable individuals he has met were in India.

Acknowledging that India, like every nation, has its own challenges and shortcomings, Porter argued that allowing a few negative videos to define an entire country reflects a closed-minded approach to travel. He went on to say that those unwilling to look beyond

social media stereotypes were missing out on an extraordinary experience.

"If you're literally going to let a few videos define whether or not you're going to go to a country, then that's your loss," he remarked, adding that travellers should be open to discovering places firsthand rather than relying on online perceptions.

The video resonated with thousands of users, many of whom applauded Porter for presenting a balanced perspec-

tive on India. Social media users pointed out that every country has both positive and negative aspects and that India's vast diversity means visitors can encounter a wide range of experiences depending on what they seek.

Several commenters highlighted India's cultural richness, spirituality, cuisine and hospitality, while others encouraged foreign visitors to explore lesser-known regions such as Northeast India. One user noted that India offers everything from ancient traditions and vibrant cities to natural beauty and warm communities.

Porter's remarks have reignited discussions about the influence of social media on travel decisions and the importance of experiencing destinations personally rather than forming opinions solely from viral content. His message struck a chord with many who believe that travel should be guided by curiosity, openness and firsthand experience rather than online stereotypes.

# Young Woman Goes Viral for Managing Life in Gurugram on ₹27,000 a Month

At a time when soaring rents and rising living costs dominate discussions about urban life, a 25-year-old student and content creator has drawn widespread attention by revealing how she manages to live in Gurugram on a monthly budget of just 27,000.

Kangana Rai recently shared a detailed breakdown of her expenses on social media, offering a glimpse into the financial realities faced by many young professionals and students in India's expensive metropolitan cities. Her video quickly went viral, sparking conversations about budgeting, savings, and survival in a high-cost urban environment.

According to Rai, the largest share of her monthly expenditure goes toward rent. She lives in a one-room kitchen (1RK) apartment and pays 13,000 per month. Her electricity bill ranges between 1,000 and 1,300 depending on weather conditions and air-conditioner usage.

Transportation is another major expense. Rai spends approximately 3,500 every month commuting to coaching classes and work, primarily using bike taxis instead of conventional cabs to save money. She also subscribes to Uber One, costing around 150



monthly.

For internet connectivity and entertainment, she allocates nearly 1,400 every month, including broadband charges and subscriptions to platforms such as Netflix, Spotify, and YouTube.

Food expenses are carefully managed through a tiffin service that provides lunch and dinner for about 3,300 per month. Breakfast generally consists of muesli and milk, costing around 700 monthly. Coffee, which she describes as a daily necessity, accounts for nearly 1,500 a month. Being lactose intolerant also adds to her expenses, as she purchases specialized milk products.

Rai keeps grocery spending minimal and reserves around 2,000 for occasional dining out, street food, and small indulgences. Personal care and toiletries add another 1,000 to

her monthly budget.

After covering essential expenses, whatever remains is directed toward savings or loan re-payments. However, she admitted that balancing both is often difficult.

"Some months I'm responsible. Some months Swiggy wins. Trying to save, spend, survive and still enjoy life, she said in her post.

The video received thousands of reactions, with many viewers expressing curiosity about how she found a 13,000 apartment in Gurugram. Others praised her disciplined budgeting and practical approach to managing finances.

Many social media users described her budget as a realistic reflection of the challenges young people face as they build careers while coping with the rising cost of living in major Indian cities.

# Kind Gesture by American Tourist Towards Elderly Vendor Wins Hearts Online

A simple act of kindness by an American content creator towards an elderly pen seller in Delhi's Connaught Place has touched millions of hearts on social media.

American traveller and influencer Steve Yalo shared a video showing his interaction with an elderly woman selling pens on a busy street. Noticing that few people were stopping to buy from her, Yalo approached the vendor and began a friendly conversation despite the language barrier.

The woman told him that each pen cost 50. Yalo initially purchased two pens for 100 and later bought two more after being moved by her warm smile and positive attitude. As they continued talking, he counted the remaining pens and estimated their value at around 900.

When he checked his wallet, however, he found only 550



left. Without hesitation, Yalo handed over the entire amount to the elderly vendor, wishing her well and hoping she would successfully sell the rest of her stock. Despite giving away all the cash he had, he took only a few pens before bidding her farewell.

The video quickly went viral, drawing praise from thousands of viewers. Many social media users said the gesture was about more than financial help, highlighting the respect,

dignity and compassion shown towards the elderly woman.

One user commented that kindness and human connection often matter more than money, while another described Yalo as "a gem of a human being."

The heartwarming interaction has become a reminder that even small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference and inspire others to show empathy in everyday life.

# Young Professional's Home-Buying Plan Sparks Debate Online

A 25-year-old woman earning 1.7 lakh per month has sparked a lively discussion on social media after seeking advice about whether to purchase a 1.25 crore apartment while navigating an impending divorce and a desire for financial independence.

In a Reddit post, the woman explained that she plans to fund the purchase by liquidating 45 lakh worth of gold and taking an 80 lakh home loan for 30 years. The proposed loan would result in a monthly EMI of approximately 55,000.

The woman said the flat is located in a desirable area and is in the same building where her parents recently purchased a property. However, she admitted that her motivation extends beyond real estate investment. According to her, owning a home solely in her name would provide security and independence as she prepares for life after divorce.

Coming from what she described as an orthodox family, she noted that renting an apartment in Chennai may not be socially acceptable to her relatives. Purchasing a home, she believes, could help her maintain autonomy and avoid pressure to move back under family control. Despite her reasons, she questioned whether the decision was financially prudent or primarily driven by emotions during a difficult personal phase. The post quickly attracted widespread attention, with most users advising caution.



Many argued that buying a property under emotional stress could lead to long-term financial challenges.

Several commenters pointed out that real estate prices remain high and suggested waiting a few years before making such a large commitment. Others warned against selling her gold holdings, noting that gold can serve as a valuable financial safety net during uncertain times. Some users also highlighted legal and financial considerations related to divorce proceedings, suggesting that liquidating assets prematurely might not be the best strategy.

One commenter described the proposed purchase as an emo-

tionally driven decision influenced by family expectations and personal circumstances rather than pure financial planning. Another emphasized that committing to a 30-year loan at the age of 25 could significantly limit future flexibility.

The discussion has resonated with many young professionals facing similar questions about balancing financial goals, personal independence, and major life transitions. While opinions differed on the specifics, most agreed that major financial decisions made during emotionally challenging periods should be approached with careful planning and professional advice.

# India Crush Pakistan as Deepti Sharma Claims Five-Wicket Haul

India made a commanding start to their ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign with a thumping 64-run victory over arch-rivals Pakistan at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Sunday. A brilliant all-round display saw India dominate both with the bat and ball, powered by Smriti Mandhana's classy half-century and Deepti Sharma's sensational five-wicket spell.



After winning the toss, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur opted to bat first. Despite losing opener Shafali Verma for just six runs in the opening over, India recovered strongly through an impressive partnership between Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet.

Mandhana anchored the innings with a superb knock of 68 runs off 44 balls, smashing nine boundaries and two sixes. Her elegant stroke play kept the scoreboard moving and laid a solid platform for India. Harmanpreet provided excellent support with a composed 36, as the duo stitched together a crucial 91-run partnership for the third wicket.

In the final overs, wicket-keeper-batter Richa Ghosh played an explosive cameo, scoring 34 runs from just 17 deliveries, including five fours and a six. Her aggressive batting helped India post a formidable total of 170 for six in their allotted 20 overs.

For Pakistan, Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal claimed two wickets each.

Chasing a challenging target of 171, Pakistan started positively and looked competitive in the powerplay. Opener Muneeba Ali played a steady innings, scoring 41 runs and attempting to keep Pakistan in the contest. Pakistan reached 52 for one in the first six overs, raising hopes of a strong chase.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically once Deepti Sharma entered the attack. The Indian all-rounder delivered a match-winning

spell, dismantling Pakistan's batting order with her spin magic. Deepti returned stunning figures of 5 for 10 in four overs, allowing Pakistan no room for recovery.

Apart from Muneeba Ali, Pakistan's batters struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack. Young bowler Shree Charani chipped in with three wickets, while Shafali Verma also picked up one scalp.

Pakistan's innings eventually folded for 106 runs in just 17 overs, handing India a massive 64-run victory and a perfect start to their Women's T20 World Cup journey.

# No Handshake Policy Stays Ahead of Ind vs Pak Women's T20 World Cup Clash

The upcoming Women's T20 World Cup 2026 encounter between India and Pakistan in Birmingham is already drawing attention off the field, with reports confirming that the Indian women's team will maintain its no-handshake stance during the high-voltage fixture scheduled at Edgbaston on Sunday.

According to sources, the decision mirrors a similar precedent set in recent years in men's cricket and is being continued due to what officials described as "no improvement" in broader geopolitical and security-related concerns, including cross-border tensions. The stance is expected to remain in place during all formal interactions between the two sides before and after the match.

The India-Pakistan rivalry, widely regarded as one of the most intense in world cricket, will once again take centre stage as Harmanpreet Kaur's Indian side opens its campaign against Fatima Sana's Pakistan team in what is being billed as a crucial Group-stage clash. While the focus remains on cricketing performance, pre-match discussions have inevitably drifted toward the off-field protocols surrounding the



fixture. India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, however, kept her response strictly cricket-focused when asked about the possibility of a handshake or symbolic exchange between players.

"We are here for cricket. We only think about cricket and playing our best game. Every match is important, and our focus is on performance," she said at the pre-match press conference.

She further acknowledged the pressure that comes with facing Pakistan, noting that such encounters naturally carry heightened expectations. "Whenever we play against Pa-

kistan, pressure is always there. The important thing is to enjoy that pressure and give our best on the field," she added.

Despite the surrounding narrative, both teams are preparing intensely for what promises to be a fiercely competitive match. India, the reigning ODI World Cup champions, enters the tournament with strong momentum and ambitions of securing their first T20 World Cup title. Pakistan, meanwhile, are looking to make a significant impact on the global stage with a relatively young and energetic squad.

The no-handshake protocol, however, has added another layer of scrutiny to the contest, reflecting how political tensions continue to influence sporting traditions between the two neighbouring nations. Cricketing authorities are expected to ensure the smooth conduct of the match, with emphasis on maintaining discipline and focus on the game.

As anticipation builds, fans across the world await a contest that promises intensity both on and off the field, even as diplomatic sensitivities continue to shape its atmosphere.

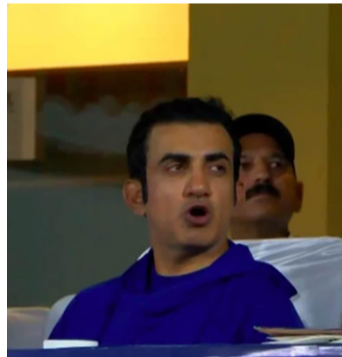
# KL Rahul's 19-Ball Blitz Stuns Afghanistan as Gambhir Watches in Admiration

KL Rahul produced a breathtaking late-order cameo in the rain-curtailed first ODI against Afghanistan, smashing 39 off just 19 deliveries in a knock that left India head coach Gautam Gambhir visibly impressed on Saturday.

The match, reduced to 25 overs per side due to persistent rain, turned into a high-tempo contest where India chased down a target of 195 with more than two overs remaining. Rahul's explosive innings, featuring three towering sixes and four crisp boundaries, shifted momentum firmly in India's favour during the closing phase of the chase.

Rahul's aggressive intent was particularly noteworthy as he adapted seamlessly to the short-ended format, effectively turning the ODI into a T20-style contest. His clean hitting, especially against the spinners, ensured India maintained a strong scoring rate throughout the chase. One of his sixes reportedly drew an animated reaction from head coach Gautam Gambhir, who appeared taken aback by the sheer power and timing of the shot.

Earlier in the day, India skipper Shubman Gill reflected on a match that saw momentum swing between both sides. Af-



ghanistan, powered by a blistering century from Rahmanullah Gurbaz, had earlier posted a challenging total on a good batting surface. However, India's bowlers managed to put things back in the second half of the innings.

Gill praised the efforts of debutant pacer Gurnoor Brar and left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey, both of whom played key roles in restricting Afghanistan. Brar impressed with his pace and swing, while Dubey showed resilience despite early punishment to finish strongly with crucial wickets.

"The way Gurnoor bowled with the new ball and at the death was outstanding. Harpreet also showed great character after a tough first over," Gill said during the post-match presentation. He further em-

phasised the importance of controlling the middle overs, noting that both batting and bowling phases require discipline and pressure-building. Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi admitted his side were at least 30-40 runs short of a competitive total, citing key middle-order collapses after a strong start. He also acknowledged missed opportunities in both batting and bowling departments.

With India executing their chase efficiently, Rahul's late flourish stood out as the defining moment of the match. The innings not only sealed victory but also reinforced his value as a flexible middle-order option capable of accelerating under pressure.

India will now look to carry forward the momentum into the next match of the series.

# India Win Historic Recurve Mixed Team Gold at Archery World Cup Stage 3

India produced a stunning performance at the Archery World Cup Stage 3, clinching the gold medal in the Recurve Mixed Team event after defeating Olympic champions South Korea in a thrilling final. The duo of Dheeraj Bommadevara and Kumkum Mohod delivered a composed and high-quality display to secure India's first gold in this category in four years.

The Indian pair showed remarkable consistency under pressure, dominating the first two sets 37-36 and 37-36 to take an early advantage in the final. South Korea, known for their archery dominance on the global stage, fought back strongly in the third set, forcing a 39-39 tie. However, India maintained their composure in the crucial moments to seal the contest and claim the top podium finish.

This victory marks the first World Cup gold medal in the mixed team recurve event for both Dheeraj Bommadevara and Kumkum Mohod, making it a breakthrough moment in their international careers. The triumph is also significant for Indian archery, as it



ends a four-year wait for gold in this category at the World Cup stage.

The last time India secured gold in the mixed team recurve event was in 2022, when the pair of Riddhi Phor and Tarundeep Rai achieved the feat. The latest win is being seen as a continuation of India's growing strength and depth in international archery competitions.

Earlier in the tournament,

Dheeraj Bommadevara also impressed in the individual recurve category, advancing to the semifinals. He is scheduled to face Germany's Maritz Weiser in a crucial match for a place in the final. A win in that contest would guarantee India another medal, either gold or silver, further boosting the country's tally at the event.

Coaches and officials praised the team's discipline,

focus, and ability to perform under pressure against one of the strongest archery nations in the world. The result is expected to give a major confidence boost to India's archery contingent ahead of upcoming international competitions. With this gold medal, India continues to strengthen its position in global archery, showcasing emerging talent and consistent performances on the world stage.

# Two Men Charged After \$18,000 England World Cup Kit Theft



Two men have been formally charged in connection with the theft of the England World Cup team kit and equipment worth approximately \$18,000, according to US prosecutors in Missouri. The incident involved items stolen from team vehicles during transit between England's training base in Florida and their World Cup headquarters in Kansas City.

Authorities identified the accused as Mustafa Salik and Erfan Kamal, both of whom have been charged with receiving stolen property. The charges were filed by the office of Jackson County Prosecutor Melesa Johnson, who confirmed that the offence under Missouri law

carries a potential prison sentence of up to seven years.

According to officials, the stolen equipment was taken while England's team belongings were being transported across states ahead of the tournament. Law enforcement agencies believe the theft occurred during a logistical handover, though investigations into the exact circumstances are still ongoing.

Prosecutor Johnson said her office acted swiftly following the incident. "Jackson County will not tolerate any criminal activity that targets World Cup visitors, including the international teams that have travelled here to compete," she said, adding that coordination with police ensured rapid progress in the case.

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas also praised the investigation, noting that authorities worked across multiple states to resolve the case and recover stolen property. "This effort helped ensure that victims had their goods returned quickly and safely," he said.

England team members confirmed that most of the stolen

items had been recovered. Reserve goalkeeper Dean Henderson said he had received his boots back and suggested the situation had been resolved without major disruption to the squad's preparations. Defender Dan Burn also downplayed concerns, stating that players were largely unaffected and had all essential equipment restored.

Despite the off-field distraction, Thomas Tuchel's England squad continued their World Cup preparations with a light training session in Kansas City, attended by local fans and media.

England, considered one of the favourites for the tournament, will begin their campaign against Croatia on Wednesday, followed by group-stage matches against Ghana and Panama in Group L.

Officials have assured that additional security measures are being reviewed to prevent similar incidents during the tournament, as thousands of international teams and fans continue to arrive across US host cities for the global football event.

# Scotland Ends 36-Year Wait with Narrow 1-0 Win Over Haiti in FIFA World Cup

Scotland secured a historic 1-0 victory over Haiti in their FIFA World Cup 2026 encounter, marking their first World Cup win in 36 years. The tightly contested Group-stage match saw John McGinn emerge as the decisive factor, scoring the only goal of the game in the 28th minute to seal all three points for his side.

Both teams began the match cautiously, with little separating them in terms of overall strength and possession. Haiti showed early attacking intent and managed to create several opportunities, while Scotland focused on structured defending and quick counter-attacks. Despite Haiti's energetic approach, they struggled to break through Scotland's disciplined defensive line.

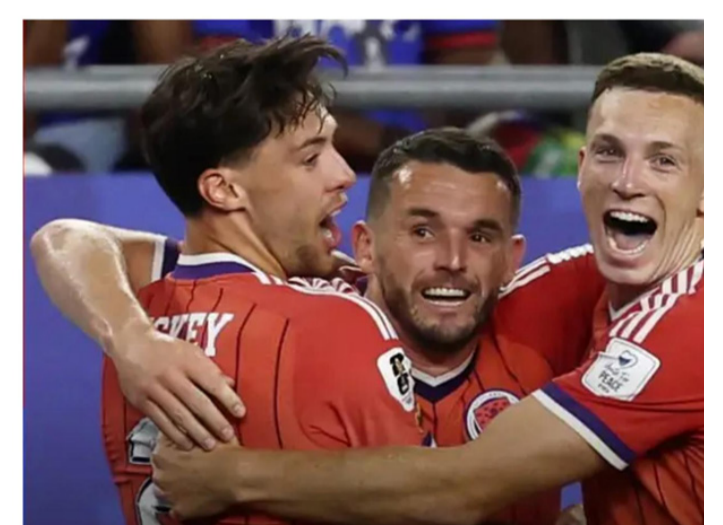
The breakthrough came midway through the first half when McGinn capitalised on a well-built attacking move, finding space inside the box and slotting the ball past the Haitian goalkeeper. The goal proved to be the difference in

an otherwise evenly matched contest.

Haiti responded with increased pressure, launching multiple attacks throughout the second half. They registered 13 attempts on goal, but none were converted, as Scotland's defence held firm under sustained pressure. The Scottish backline, supported by a composed midfield, ensured that the narrow lead remained intact until the final whistle.

Scotland, meanwhile, created fewer chances in attack, attempting just eight shots during the match. However, their efficiency and defensive organisation proved enough to secure a memorable victory in their opening World Cup fixture.

The win is particularly significant for Scotland, as it marks their first success at the World Cup stage since 1990, when they defeated Sweden 2-1. It also ends a long drought spanning multiple tournaments, including their absence from major winning moments since 1998 in global



competitions.

Players and supporters celebrated the result as a major milestone, with McGinn's goal remembered as one of the defining moments of Scotland's recent football history. The team's disciplined approach and ability to maintain composure under pressure were widely praised. For Haiti, the result was a

disappointing start despite a spirited performance. Their attacking efforts showed promise, but a lack of clinical finishing ultimately cost them the game.

With this victory, Scotland gained an early advantage in their group and will look to build momentum as they progress further in the tournament.

## Parthiban Unveils Title Poster of Pan-India Romantic Entertainer Feel My Love



The title poster of the upcoming romantic emotional entertainer Feel My Love was unveiled by renowned actor-director Radhakrishnan Parthiban, creating excitement among movie lovers and industry circles alike.

Produced by A.N. Balaji under the banner of Sri Lakshmi Jyothi Creations, the film is positioned as a feel-good romantic comedy-drama with a strong emotional core. The project marks another ambitious venture from the producer, who has previously introduced several successful Tamil films to Telugu audiences.

Directed by Hari Prakash M, who has also penned the story and screenplay, Feel My Love revolves around the intriguing theme that miracles can happen at any moment in life. The film blends romance, comedy, emotions, and youth-centric elements to offer what the makers describe as a wholesome cinematic experience for audiences of all age groups.

The movie features Aditya Bhaskar, Aira, Ammu Abhira-

mi, Rajayyappa, Nobel James, and Priyanka in key roles. According to the makers, the narrative focuses on relationships, emotions, and life-changing moments, presented through an engaging and entertaining screenplay.

The title poster, unveiled by Parthiban, has already attracted attention for its warm and emotional design. The visual hints at a heartfelt love story while reflecting the film's feel-good tone and romantic essence. Industry observers believe the poster successfully sets the stage for an emotionally rich entertainer.

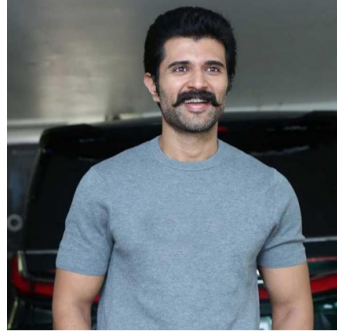
The production team has completed extensive shooting schedules across scenic locations in Chennai and Puducherry. The final phase of filming is scheduled to take place in the picturesque hill station of Munnar, whose lush landscapes are expected to add visual appeal and grandeur to the movie.

The technical team includes cinematographer M.S. Sathesh, who is handling the film's visuals, while music is being composed by the duo Rajaravivarma S and Balasubramanian G. Editing responsibilities are being handled by Ajay Manoj.

The makers have announced plans for a grand Pan-India release in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi languages. Preparations are also underway for an audio launch and trailer launch event, the details of which will be revealed shortly.

With its promising cast, refreshing storyline, scenic locations, and emotional narrative, Feel My Love is expected to emerge as an entertaining romantic drama aimed at both youth and family audiences across the country.

## Vijay Praises 'Deewana' Trailer, Extends Best Wishes to Team



The upcoming romantic entertainer Deewana has received a major boost ahead of its theatrical release, with star actor Vijay Deverakonda praising the film's recently released trailer and extending his best wishes to the entire team.

Starring young actor Harshith Reddy, who earned recognition with the successful film Subham, Deewana is being produced under the banners Aha Media and V Studios by producers Vasudev Koppineneni and Sridevi Karyampudi. The film also marks the debut of actress

Smeha Manimegalai and director Srikanth Sangishetty.

The trailer, released recently, has generated significant interest among movie enthusiasts and has been receiving a positive response on social media platforms. Adding to the excitement, Vijay Deverakonda took to social media to appreciate the trailer, describing it as impressive and engaging.

The actor stated that the passion and dedication of the filmmakers were clearly visible through the trailer itself. He particularly appreciated Harshith Reddy's performance, expressing confidence in the young actor's potential and screen presence. Vijay's encouraging remarks have further increased expectations surrounding the film.

In his message, Vijay Deverakonda conveyed his best wishes to producers Vasudev Koppineneni and Sridevi Karyampudi, as well as debut director Srikanth Sangishetty. He expressed hope that Deewana, scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on June 19, would emerge as a major success at the box

office.

The film is being presented as a youthful and emotional love story that combines romance, drama, and entertainment. According to the makers, Deewana has been crafted to appeal to both younger audiences and family viewers, offering a fresh narrative supported by strong performances and appealing visuals.

The technical team behind the film includes cinematographer Vamsi Pachipulus, music composer Eshwar Chand, editor Hrishikesh Paspal, production designer Jhansi Gojala, and costume designer Manasa. Digital promotions are being handled by Houseful, while publicity activities are coordinated by PRO Suresh of SK Media.

With a positive response to the trailer and support from a leading star like Vijay Deverakonda, anticipation for Deewana continues to grow. The makers are confident that the film's emotional storyline, fresh cast, and youthful appeal will strike a chord with audiences when it arrives in theatres worldwide on June 19.

## Rakul Preet Unveils Natasha Singh's Intense First Look in Hit & Run

The makers of the upcoming crime thriller Hit & Run have intensified excitement around the film with the release of actress Natasha Singh's first-look poster. The poster was unveiled by popular actress Rakul Preet Singh, drawing attention from movie lovers and industry circles alike.

Hit & Run stars Sanjay RRao and Natasha Singh in the lead roles and is being presented by Sri Urukunda Eeranna Swamy. The film is jointly produced by Satish Reddy Allam and K. Shekar under the banners Satish Reddy Allam Entertainment and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Creations. The project is written and directed by Sai Krishna Sagar.

Natasha Singh will be seen portraying the role of reporter Sakshi, a character that appears to play a pivotal role in unravelling the mystery at the heart of the thriller. The newly released poster presents her

with an intense and intriguing expression, looking over her shoulder against a striking red-and-black backdrop that reflects the dark and suspenseful tone of the film.

The poster features several symbolic elements, including a shattered car windshield, a traffic signal, torn-paper graphics, and investigation-board visuals. These details hint at a complex crime narrative involving danger, secrets, and a deeper mystery waiting to be uncovered. The makers suggest that Sakshi's character will be central to exposing the truth behind the events surrounding the Hit and Run case.

Earlier, the first-look poster featuring lead actor Sanjay RRao received a positive response from audiences and generated curiosity about the film's storyline. With Natasha Singh's character now introduced, expectations for the crime

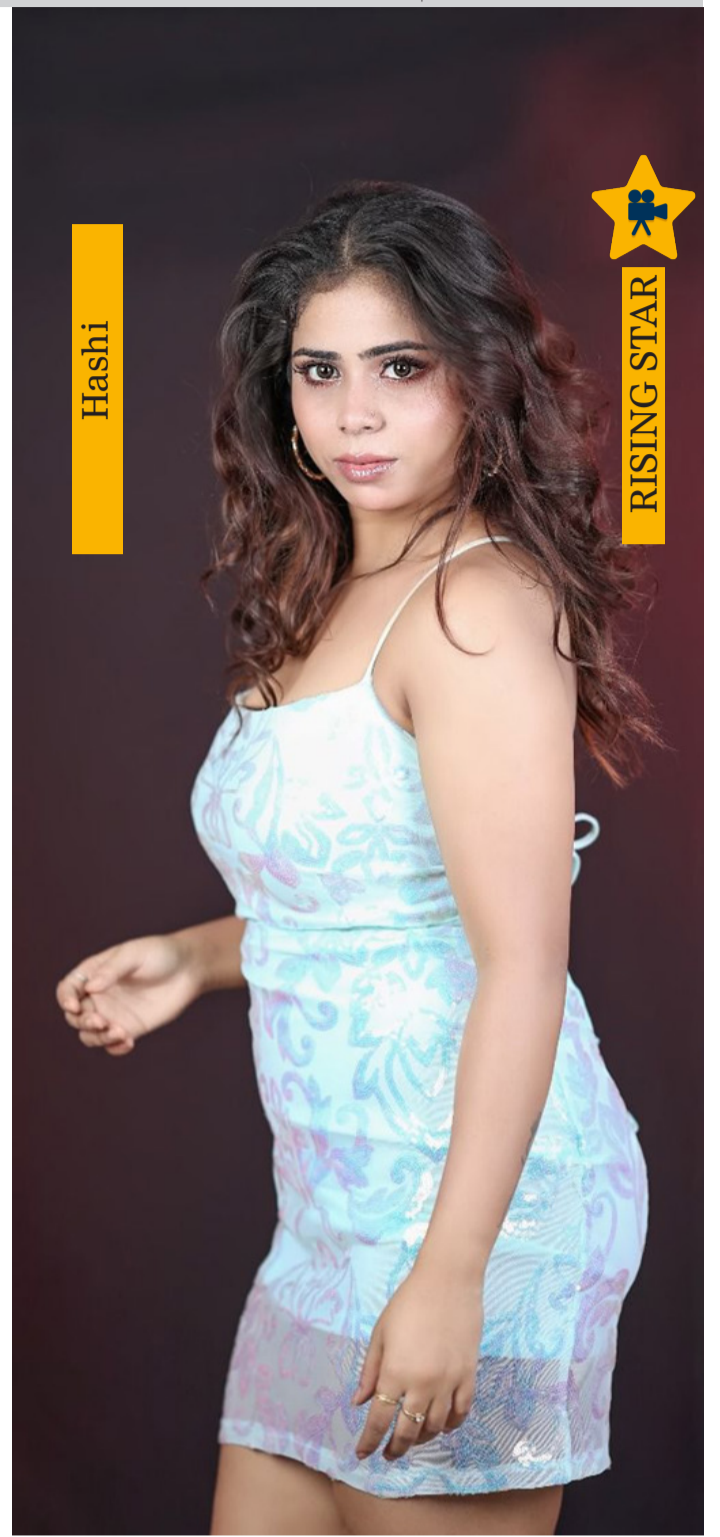
thriller have risen further.

The makers stated that the teaser of Hit & Run will be released soon, offering audiences a closer glimpse into the suspense-filled world of the film.

Apart from the lead pair, the movie features Kireeti, Muralidhar Goud, Lirisha Kunapareddy, Ravi Prakash, and Jabardasth Emmanuel in key roles.

The technical team includes music composer Prince Henry, cinematographers Vijay Bhaskar Suddala and L. Gangadhar, and editor D. Venkata Prabhu. The film's promotional activities are being handled by PRO Sai Satish.

With its intriguing premise, strong visual presentation, and mystery-driven narrative, Hit & Run is shaping up to be an engaging crime thriller that promises suspense, drama, and unexpected twists for audiences.



## Nagabandham Runtime Locked at 3 Hours 15 Minutes

The upcoming pan-India film Nagabandham, starring Virat Karan in the lead alongside veteran actor Jagapathi Babu, has generated fresh buzz after the makers officially finalized the film's runtime at approximately 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Directed by Abhishek Nama, known for mounting large-scale cinematic ventures, the film is being positioned as a high-budget spectacle designed for a wide pan-India release. The team is currently intensifying promotional activities as the release date approaches, with the

film scheduled to hit theatres on July 3, 2026.

According to the latest updates from the production unit, the extended runtime has been carefully planned in alignment with the film's narrative structure and genre requirements. While a 195-minute duration is considered lengthy by contemporary commercial standards, the makers believe it will be justified by the scale, storytelling depth, and visual presentation of the film.

Industry observers note that long-format storytelling has often worked

well for mythological and fantasy-driven films, particularly when supported by strong visuals and engaging screenplay. In this context, the team behind Nagabandham is confident that audiences will remain invested throughout the film's runtime.

The film features a strong ensemble cast including Jagapathi Babu in a prominent role, along with Mahesh Manjrekar, Murali Sharma, Daksha Nagarkar, and Rishabh Sawhney in key supporting characters. The casting has further added to expectations

surrounding the project, which is being developed on a grand scale with high production values.

One of the major highlights of Nagabandham is its extensive use of VFX and large-scale set pieces, which are expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the cinematic experience. The technical team is reportedly focusing on delivering visually rich sequences that align with the film's ambitious narrative.

As part of its promotional strategy, the makers have already begun generating interest among audienc-

es through updates and behind-the-scenes insights. The finalized runtime has now become a talking point among fans, with discussions emerging about how the film will balance storytelling pace with its extended duration. With anticipation steadily building, the film's team is optimistic that Nagabandham will emerge as a strong theatrical experience in the pan-India market. More promotional content, including trailers and songs, is expected to be unveiled in the coming weeks as the release date draws closer.

## Vijay Foundation Awards Scholarships to 180 Government School Students



Actor Vijay Deverakonda, through The Deverakonda Foundation, has launched a major educational support initiative by awarding scholarships to 180 meritorious underprivileged students from government schools in Telangana's Achampet Division. The programme, aimed at encouraging academic excellence among economically weaker sections, was held with the participation of his family members, film actress Rashmika Mandanna, and local education officials.

The scholarships were given to Class 9 and 10 students who secured first and second ranks across 45 government schools in the region. The initiative is part of a promise made by the actor to support talented students from his native area, which he reaffirmed during a previous visit to Thummanpet village in Nagarkurnool district.

The event saw the presence of Achampet MLA Vamsi Krishna, District Educational Officer Ramesh, teachers, students, parents, and several local representatives. Officials appreciated the initiative, stating that it would significantly motivate students from rural backgrounds to pursue education with greater determination.

Speaking at the event, MLA Vamsi Krishna praised Vijay Deverakonda for staying connected to his roots despite

his success in the film industry. He noted that the scholarships would ease the financial burden on families and help students continue their education without hardship.

Actress Rashmika Mandanna also addressed the gathering, encouraging students to remain committed to learning regardless of setbacks. She highlighted the importance of discipline and respect for parents and teachers, adding that success is shaped by continuous effort and resilience.

Vijay Deverakonda, addressing the students, emphasized that dedication and discipline matter more than marks alone. He said the initiative is not only about financial assistance but also about recognising effort and encouraging students to dream bigger. He credited his upbringing and schooling for

shaping his values and said the foundation aims to expand the programme across Telangana in the coming years.

He further expressed his intention to extend the scholarships from Achampet to the entire Nagarkurnool district and eventually to underprivileged students across the state. He urged education officials to ensure transparency in selecting deserving candidates and stressed that the initiative is driven by sincerity and social responsibility.

The actor also congratulated the students for their academic achievements and encouraged them to continue working hard in the new academic year. The programme concluded with a collective commitment from organisers and officials to strengthen educational support systems for rural students in Telangana.

## Oh Sukumari Teaser Promises Electrifying Laugh Riot

The makers of director Bharat Dharshan's upcoming Telugu entertainer Oh Sukumari! have released a vibrant and humour-filled teaser, offering audiences a glimpse into what they describe as an "electrifying entertainment" experience. Starring Aishwarya Rajesh and Thiruveer in lead roles, the film is already generating strong buzz among film enthusiasts for its quirky concept and light-hearted narrative.

Production house Gangaa Entertainments, which is backing the project, shared the teaser on its official X handle with the caption: "You're just hit by the Electrifying Entertainment. #OhSukumari TEASER OUT NOW. Feel the thrilling fun on big screens soon."

The teaser opens on a cheerful note, introducing Thiruveer as a carefree young man eager to get married. He expresses his desire for a bride who is soft, sensitive,



and elegant, even saying she should give him "goosebumps at first sight." His family eventually finds the perfect match in Aishwarya Rajesh's character, leading to a traditional wedding that appears picture-perfect at first glance.

However, the teaser quickly takes a humorous and unexpected turn when it hints at a hidden twist in the bride's character. On the wedding day, a seemingly simple physical interaction between the couple results in an electric shock-like reaction,

sparking confusion, curiosity, and laughter. This unusual element sets the tone for a romantic comedy blended with fantasy and situational humour.

Oh Sukumari! marks the directorial debut of Bharat Dharshan, who has also written the story. The film is produced by Maheswara Reddy Mooli under Gangaa Entertainments, following their earlier critically appreciated production Shivam Bhaje. The banner is aiming to continue its success streak with another content-driven entertainer.

The project features a strong technical team. Cinematography is handled by CH Kushendar, known for his work in Razaak and Polimera. Music is composed by Bharath Manchiraju, an associate of MM Keeravani, while art direction is led by Thirumala M. Thirupathi of Balagam fame. Sree Varaprasad (Ka) serves as the editor, and costumes are designed by Anu Reddy Akkati, who is also working on Swayambhu. Lyricist Purnachary has penned the songs. The film began its shoot on November 19 last year and is currently in production. It is being planned for a multi-language release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. With its unique concept, comedic twists, and strong technical backing, Oh Sukumari! is shaping up to be a promising family entertainer aimed at delivering laughter and light-hearted fun to audiences across languages.

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