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Revanth Reddy Says Hyderabad Metro Loan Talks Progress Positively

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday said that discussions with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw regarding a loan from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) for the Hyderabad Metro Rail project had progressed positively.



Metro were constructive and encouraging. The Chief Minister also met Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday morning to deliberate on the same issue.

SBICAPS as a consultant to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of Hyderabad Metro Rail. The consultancy will assess the valuation of Metro Phase-I and examine proposals for the Phase-II expansion.

CM Extends Greetings on International Olympic Day

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his greetings to sportspersons and sports enthusiasts on the occasion of International Olympic Day, observed globally to commemorate the Olympic movement and promote the values of sportsmanship, unity and peace.



ment symbolizes hard work, perseverance, discipline, unity and peace. He urged athletes to remain committed to their goals and continue striving for excellence through dedication and consistent effort.

N. Ramchander Rao Pays Tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Senior BJP leaders on Tuesday paid rich tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his Balidan Diwas (death anniversary) at the BJP Telangana State Office in Hyderabad.



Mookerjee following a suggestion by veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani. Ramchander Rao said that while Hyderabad was under the rule of the Nizam and Jammu & Kashmir faced challenges in its complete integration with India, leaders such as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee played decisive roles in strengthening national unity.



Second phase of Padma Awards 2026 held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, June 23, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The second phase of the 2026 Padma Awards presentation ceremony was held in a grand manner on Monday at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The awards were presented by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, to distinguished personalities from various fields.

Under the Padma Shri category, former Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma was honoured for Sports, while women's hockey player Savita Punia received recognition for her contribution to Sports.



Bhatti Hails Growing Telangana-US Partnership

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the growing partnership between Telangana and the United States while addressing the 'Freedom 250' celebrations hosted by the U.S. Consulate in Hyderabad to mark 250 years of American independence.

some of the world's largest corporations. He cited the success of Telugu professionals in the global technology sector as a source of pride. The Deputy Chief Minister said the Telangana-US partnership has expanded beyond information technology into sectors such as life sciences, vaccine manufacturing, aerospace and defence.

KTR Alleges Metro Asset Scam, Targets Revanth Reddy and Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Monday alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy were creating a political spectacle around the Hyderabad Metro Rail project while concealing what he described as a major scam involving Metro-linked assets worth nearly Rs 30,000 crore.



move would place an unnecessary financial burden on the people of Telangana. The BRS leader questioned the Centre's commitment to Telangana's development, asking why the Metro Rail expansion proposal from Lakdi kapul to Patancheru, submitted during the previous BRS government, had not received approval.

government at the Centre, KTR claimed that political differences projected by the two parties were misleading and intended to divert public attention from key issues. He also accused the Congress government of discontinuing the Hyderabad Airport Metro Express project initiated by the previous BRS administration.



Modi Meets National Security Officials Of BRICS

New Delhi, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met National Security Advisors and senior security officials of BRICS countries on Monday, highlighting the growing importance of the grouping in addressing contemporary global security challenges.

strengthening cooperation among member countries in a rapidly changing global landscape. He said deeper collaboration is needed to address shared concerns such as terrorism, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.

He reiterated India's commitment to promoting the priorities of the Global South and contributing to a safer, more secure, and inclusive world order. Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that enhanced coordination among BRICS countries can help develop effective responses to evolving security threats and improve collective resilience.

Minister said he was pleased to meet National Security Advisors and senior security officials of BRICS countries and emphasized the need for stronger engagement on key global issues. He added that India's leadership of BRICS will aim to support meaningful cooperation across sectors, particularly in areas of security, technology, and global development priorities.

# Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Attends BLA Training Camp

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A Booth Level Agent (BLA) orientation and training camp was organized on a grand scale in Rajendranagar Assembly constituency on Tuesday, drawing the participation of Congress leaders, public representatives, party workers and grassroots-level functionaries. The programme focused on strengthening the party's booth-level structure and enhancing awareness about the responsibilities of BLAs in the electoral process. Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, who is also the Congress in-charge for Chevella, attended the event as the chief guest along with Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud. Addressing the gathering, the MP emphasized the crucial role played by Booth Level Agents in strengthening the party organization and ensuring effective voter out-



reach at the grassroots level. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said BLAs serve as the backbone of the party during elections and are instrumental in maintaining close contact with voters. He urged party workers and agents to discharge their duties with dedication, responsibility and commitment. He stressed that a strong booth-level network is essential for the success of the party and the effective implementation of organizational programmes. The MP also highlighted the importance of voter aware-

ness, electoral roll verification and regular interaction with people at the grassroots level. He encouraged BLAs to remain active in their respective areas and contribute towards strengthening the democratic process through accurate voter enrollment and coordination. Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud also addressed the gathering and called upon party cadres to work collectively to expand the party's reach among the public. He stressed the need for coordination among elected representa-

tives, local leaders and booth-level workers to achieve organizational goals. The training programme featured sessions led by BLA trainer Amit Kumar Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana State Dairy Development Cooperative Federation. Handloom Development Corporation Vice-Chairperson Anita and senior leader Gnaneshwar Mudiraj also participated and shared insights on organizational strengthening and grassroots mobilization. Several local leaders, including Kishore Reddy, municipal chairpersons, councillors, co-option members, sarpanches, MPTCs and representatives from various wings of the party, attended the event. A large number of BLAs and party workers from across the constituency participated in the camp, making it a significant organizational exercise aimed at preparing the cadre for future electoral activities.

# Minister Seeks Higher Rice Procurement Target for Telangana

New Delhi/Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday led a high-level state delegation to New Delhi, urging the Centre to significantly enhance the state's rice procurement target in view of record-breaking paddy production and procurement during the 2025-26 agricultural season. Accompanied by Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao, Uttam Kumar Reddy met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi and sought an increase in the Rabi 2025-26 rice procurement target from the existing 35 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) to 54.50 LMT. The revised target corresponds to 80.09 LMT of paddy already procured by the state government.

The Telangana delegation also requested permission to supply the entire procured quantity in the form of boiled rice, stating that most of the paddy cultivated during the Rabi season in the state is suitable for parboiled rice milling. Highlighting Telangana's agricultural achievements, Uttam Kumar Reddy informed the Union Minister that the state had recorded its highest-ever paddy procurement. Rabi procurement alone has reached 80.09 LMT and is expected to increase further as arrivals continue



from late-harvesting districts. Combined procurement during Kharif and Rabi in the 2025-26 marketing season has touched a record 152 LMT, the highest in Telangana's history as well as in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. The ministers pointed out that while Telangana had projected around 90 LMT of paddy procurement during the Rabi season, the Centre approved a target equivalent to only 51.47 LMT of paddy. As a result, the state procured nearly 29 LMT more paddy than the quantity covered under the approved target. The delegation emphasized that farmers should not suffer due to lower procurement allocations and noted that the state ensured uninterrupted procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) despite challenges such as heatwaves, labour

shortages, storage constraints, transportation bottlenecks and unseasonal rains. The state also sought an extension of the Custom Milled Rice (CMR) delivery schedule, requesting an additional 60 days for pending Rabi 2024-25 deliveries and 120 days for Kharif 2025-26 deliveries. According to figures presented to the Centre, Telangana incurred an additional financial burden of nearly Rs 16,446 crore over the last three major procurement seasons due to procurement beyond approved targets. The ministers urged the Union Government to recognize Telangana's transformed agricultural landscape and approve the revised procurement target, permit boiled rice deliveries and rationalize future procurement norms to safeguard farmers' interests.

# Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha Guides BLA Training Camp on Voter List Revision

Andole, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A training and awareness programme on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls was organized by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of the Andole Assembly constituency at Lakshmi Devi Garden in Sangupet Crossroads on Tuesday. The programme was attended by Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, Telangana Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant and TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud. The event focused on equipping party workers and BLAs with knowledge about the voter list revision process and their responsibilities in ensuring accurate electoral rolls. Addressing the gathering, Damodar Rajanarasimha emphasized the importance of enrolling every eligible citizen as a voter and ensuring that no deserving individual



is left out of the electoral rolls. He urged Booth Level Agents to actively participate in correcting errors in voter lists and assist citizens in completing the registration process. The minister said voter awareness is crucial for strengthening democracy and called upon BLAs to educate people about the significance of exercising their franchise. He stressed that every voter should be able to

retain and exercise their voting rights without difficulty. Rajanarasimha also highlighted the objectives of the Special Intensive Revision programme and explained the procedures involved in updating and correcting electoral records. He urged public representatives, party leaders and Booth Level Agents to gain a thorough understanding of the SIR process so that it can be implemented effectively at the grassroots level.

Meenakshi Natarajan, Sachin Sawant and Mahesh Kumar Goud also interacted with party workers and discussed strategies for strengthening voter outreach and ensuring transparency in the revision process. They encouraged BLAs to work closely with voters and assist election authorities in maintaining accurate voter data. The meeting was attended by MP Suresh Shetkar, MLA Dr. Chikkudu Sanjeeva Reddy, District Congress Committee President and Telangana Government Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGII) Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy, senior leader Kata Srinivas Goud and other party functionaries. A large number of Congress leaders, public representatives, Booth Level Agents and party workers participated in the programme. The leaders reiterated the importance of an accurate and inclusive electoral roll and called for coordinated efforts to ensure that every eligible voter is enrolled and able to exercise their democratic rights.

# Minister Launches Statewide Seed Fairs for Farmers

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday said that providing farmers with quality certified seeds is the foundation for achieving higher agricultural productivity and ensuring successful crop cultivation. He made the remarks while inaugurating statewide seed fairs under the "Rythu Nestham" programme through a virtual event from Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, along with Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. The seed fairs are being organized across all 2,601 Rythu Vedikas in the state from June 23 to June 30 to facilitate the availability of quality seeds and promote scientific farming practices among farmers. Addressing the programme, Tummala Nageswara Rao said the state government is committed to ensuring timely availability of certified seeds to farmers, enabling them to achieve higher yields and better incomes. He noted that Telangana has emerged as a

model state in the agricultural sector and reiterated that farmer welfare remains one of the government's top priorities. The minister announced that the government has identified seven fine rice varieties with high demand in national and international markets. Following consultations with agricultural scientists and experts, the government decided to promote these varieties by offering a special bonus to farmers cultivating them. He expressed confidence that the initiative would increase farmers' incomes while enhancing the global recognition of Telangana rice. Considering prevailing weather conditions, the government has also made seeds of pulses, oilseeds and vegetables available to encourage crop diversification. According to the minister, diversification can help farmers reduce risks and secure more stable incomes. Officials stated that the seed fairs will provide 1,24,649 quintals of paddy seeds, 6,913 quintals of pulse seeds, 11,815 quintals of

oilseed varieties and 1,339 quintals of vegetable seeds. Nano urea and nano DAP fertilizers have also been made available for farmers. Apart from seed distribution, the programme will include awareness sessions on cultivation techniques, crop management, integrated pest management and methods to improve productivity. Agricultural department officials, scientists from agricultural universities and experts from allied departments will guide farmers on scientific farming practices. Agriculture Director Gopi, Jagtial MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Warangal West MLA D. Madhava Reddy, Palakurthi MLA Yashaswini Reddy, Telangana State Seeds Development Corporation Chairman Anvesh Reddy, district collectors, agricultural scientists, officials and farmers participated in the programme. Tummala urged farmers to make full use of the initiative and adopt scientific cultivation methods for better yields and sustainable agricultural growth.

# TPCC Chief Urges Vigilance on SIR Process, Highlights Key Role of BLAs

Andole, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC B. Mahesh Kumar Goud on Tuesday called upon Congress Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to remain vigilant and well-informed about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, describing their role as crucial in safeguarding the integrity of electoral rolls. Addressing an awareness seminar organized for Congress BLAs of the Andole Assembly constituency at Sri Lakshmi Devi Garden in Sangupet, Mahesh Kumar Goud stressed the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter is included in the electoral rolls. The programme was attended by Telangana Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, Parigi MLA T. Ram Mohan Reddy, DCC President and Corporation Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy, TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy, Doctor's Cell Chairman Rajeev, corporation chairpersons, public representatives, party leaders and workers. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that extensive discussions are taking place across the country regarding



the SIR process and that every Congress worker must thoroughly understand its objectives and procedures. He expressed concern over what he termed attempts to remove secular votes from electoral rolls, contrasting the present situation with the 2002 revision exercise, which he said was primarily aimed at adding eligible voters. The TPCC chief emphasized that the Election Commission should function as an independent constitutional institution and recalled that under former Chief Election

Commissioner T.N. Seshan, the institution commanded both respect and accountability. He urged party leaders and BLAs to work in coordination to ensure that all eligible voters are registered and no genuine voter is excluded from the rolls. Highlighting the significance of every vote in a democracy, Mahesh Kumar Goud said a single vote has the power to bring governments to power or remove them. Therefore, he noted, BLAs play a pivotal role at the grassroots level and must remain alert to prevent errors in voter lists. The Congress leader also claimed that the state government had already fulfilled around 70 percent of the promises made during elections. Criticizing the previous BRS government, he alleged that people had not forgotten its governance record and asserted that the Congress was consistently winning elections in the state. He reiterated that women's empowerment and the welfare of the poor remain key priorities of the Congress government.

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# BRS MLC Warns Against Duplicate Voting, Seeks Strict SIR Implementation

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS senior leader and MLC Dr. Sravan Dasoju on Tuesday asserted that the principle of "one citizen, one vote" must be strictly upheld and warned that duplicate and bogus voting practices would not be tolerated. He said the party was committed to exposing and eliminating what it described as a network of fraudulent voter registrations across Telangana. Ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls scheduled to begin on June 25, a delegation of BRS leaders met Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy and submitted a memorandum containing 15 suggestions aimed at ensuring transparency and accuracy in the voter list revision process. The delegation included former MP Ravula Chandrasekhar Reddy, former MLC Karne Prabhakar, BRS General Secretary Soma Bharat Kumar, former BC Commission member K. Kishore Goud and party leader Ravi Nayak.



Addressing the media after the meeting, Dr. Dasoju cautioned voters against maintaining multiple voter registrations. Citing provisions of the Representation of the People Act, he said possessing more than one voter registration could attract legal action, including imprisonment. He urged citizens to verify their voter details and remove duplicate registrations, if any. The BRS leader also called for a crackdown on inter-state duplicate voter registrations, pointing out that Hyderabad attracts residents from several neighboring states. He urged the Election Commission to coordinate with election authorities in other states and use

advanced digital tools to identify and eliminate duplicate entries. Referring to previous voter list verification exercises, Dr. Dasoju said comprehensive field-level verification should be undertaken across Telangana to ensure the credibility of electoral rolls. He stressed that no genuine voter should be removed without prior notice and due process. Among the key demands submitted by the party were strict implementation of SIR guidelines, protection of legitimate voters, timely sharing of voter list changes with political parties, accountability of officials and the use of technology to identify suspicious registrations.



# KTR Assures Support for Restoration of Accident Insurance for Auto Workers

Nacharam, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao has assured support to the demand for restoring accident insurance coverage for auto-rickshaw workers in Telangana.

A delegation led by Vemula Marayya, State President of the Auto Union, met KTR at his residence in Hyderabad on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum highlighting the issues faced by auto-rickshaw workers.

Speaking on the occasion, Vemula Marayya said the previous accident insurance



scheme providing coverage of Rs. 5 lakh to auto workers had been discontinued by the Congress government. He urged KTR to exert pressure on the state government to reintroduce the welfare measure and ensure financial security for auto-rickshaw workers and their families.

Marayya explained that auto workers often face occupational risks and accidents while earning their livelihood, making accident insurance an essential welfare provision. He requested the BRS leadership to take up the

issue with the government and seek immediate restoration of the scheme.

Responding to the representation, KTR assured the delegation that he would raise the matter with the government and advocate for the reinstatement of the Rs. 5 lakh accident insurance coverage for auto-rickshaw workers.

The Auto Union expressed hope that the government would respond positively to the demand and take steps to revive the welfare scheme benefiting thousands of auto workers across the state.

# N. Ramchander Rao Attend BJYM's 'Namo GenZ Conclave'

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Telangana unit on Tuesday organized the "Namo GenZ Conclave" at RTC Kala Bhavan in Bagh Lingampally, Hyderabad, drawing participation from party leaders, youth representatives, and BJYM workers from across the state.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of BJYM Telangana State President Ganesh Kunde. BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao, Leader of the BJP Legislature Party and MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, Member of Parliament Etala Rajender, MLA Palvai Harish



Babu, and MLC Anji Reddy attended as chief guests and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders highlighted the developmental initiatives undertaken by the Union Government under the leadership of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi over the past 12 years. They emphasized the government's focus on youth empowerment through flagship programmes such as Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, and various employment and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The speakers noted that these programmes have created new opportunities for young people in areas such as innovation, technology, startups, skill development, and self-employment. They encouraged the youth to actively contribute to nation-building and play a key role in realizing the vision of a developed India.

The conclave also featured discussions on the impact of the Modi government's welfare and development policies on the lives of young people.

Participants exchange views on emerging opportunities for the younger generation and the role they can play in shaping the country's

future.

Several BJYM state office-bearers and leaders attended the event, including State General Secretaries G. Harishwar Reddy and Malka Yashasvi, Vice Presidents Praveen Reddy, Sandeep Goud, Nitin Nandakar, Anita Reddy, Sharath Chandra and Sainath, Secretaries Shivac handragiri, Varaprasad Reddy, Aravind Reddy, Hariprasad, Pradeep Rao and Jhansi, along with Treasurer Naren Deshpande.

A large number of BJYM activists and party workers participated in the conclave, making the event a significant youth outreach programme of the BJP in Telangana.

# Harish Rao Condemns House Arrest of Vemula Prashanth Reddy

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao on Tuesday strongly condemned the house arrest of former minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy, alleging that the Telangana government was attempting to suppress democratic protests over issues affecting farmers. In a statement, Harish Rao said Prashanth Reddy was placed under house arrest while leaving Hyderabad to participate in a protest programme in

Yellareddy constituency. The protest was organized to demand the immediate withdrawal of the "Urea App," which the BRS claims has caused significant hardship to farmers in obtaining urea. The former minister accused the Congress-led state government of failing to ensure adequate urea supply to farmers and alleged that instead of addressing the concerns of the agricultural community, it was resorting to authoritarian measures to silence opposition voices. "The Revanth

Reddy government has completely failed in supplying urea to farmers. Rather than resolving the issue, it is trying to stifle dissent through undemocratic actions," Harish Rao said. He further alleged that the government's actions reflected intolerance towards criticism and public protests. According to him, restricting opposition leaders from participating in peaceful demonstrations would not prevent public dissatisfaction from growing. Harish Rao warned that the discontent among farmers could

intensify in the coming days if the government failed to address their concerns. He claimed that the anger of the farming community was steadily building and would eventually translate into a strong public response against the government. The BRS leader reiterated his party's demand for the immediate cancellation of the "Urea App," contending that the new system had created unnecessary hurdles for farmers seeking timely access to fertilizer. He urged the government to restore the previous mechanism of urea distribution

and ensure that farmers receive adequate supplies without restrictions or delays. Stressing that agriculture remains the backbone of the state's economy, Harish Rao said the government should prioritize the needs of farmers and take urgent corrective measures. On behalf of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), he called upon the state government to withdraw the app-based system and guarantee uninterrupted urea availability to all eligible farmers.

# TRICOR Chairman Bellayya Naik Targets BRS Leaders at Gandhi Bhavan

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

TRICOR Chairman Bellayya Naik on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on BRS leaders, alleging large-scale irregularities during the previous government's tenure and defending the Congress government's initiatives for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Bellayya Naik accused BRS leaders of misusing public funds through contracts and development projects. He alleged that several leaders of the previous regime amassed

substantial wealth while holding public office and questioned the source of their assets. Referring to senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, Bellayya Naik raised questions about his financial growth and alleged irregularities in land transactions and project-related works. He also criticized the BRS leadership over the handling of issues concerning Dalit communities, claiming that the previous government failed to adequately respond to incidents affecting marginalized sections. The TRICOR Chairman further alleged that irregularities had taken

place in major irrigation projects executed during the BRS regime and claimed that details regarding several development works were available for scrutiny.

Targ eting former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), Bellayya Naik questioned the wealth accumulated by BRS leaders and accused them of misleading the public through political criticism of the Congress government. He also criticized BRS leaders Koppula Eshwar and R.S. Praveen Kumar, alleging that they had failed to effectively represent the interests of SC and

ST communities. According to Bellayya Naik, the Congress government under Chief Minister A.

Revanth Reddy is working towards providing world-class educational opportunities and greater social empowerment for disadvantaged communities. Defending recent government initiatives aimed at students from SC and ST backgrounds, he said such measures were intended to enhance dignity, confidence and self-respect among marginalized sections.

He maintained that the Congress government

was committed to improving educational standards and expanding opportunities for underprivileged communities across Telangana. Bellayya Naik also referred to the ongoing political debate over alleged irregularities in residential educational institutions and reiterated the Congress party's position that accountability should be ensured wherever lapses are established. He urged the public to assess political allegations critically and support initiatives aimed at social justice, education and inclusive development.

# TPCC General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar Hits Back at KTR

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of making irresponsible remarks against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress government. Addressing the media, Dayakar questioned KTR's recent comments and alleged that the BRS leader was using inappropriate language in public discourse. He said

political leaders should exercise restraint and responsibility while speaking about constitutional positions, particularly the office of the Chief Minister.

Defending Revanth Reddy, Dayakar described him as a strong and decisive leader who has been steering the state government effectively. He claimed that the Congress government in Telangana was providing model governance and implementing welfare and development initiatives for various sections of society. The TPCC leader asserted that Congress work-

ers remained committed to strengthening the party across the state and warned against making provocative statements that could create unnecessary political tensions. He urged KTR to maintain decorum in political debates and refrain from making personal attacks. Dayakar alleged that KTR's political focus was centered on retaining his position within the party rather than addressing public concerns. He further claimed that the BRS leadership was struggling to regain political relevance following its defeat in

the Assembly elections. Expressing confidence in the Congress party's future prospects, Dayakar said the party would continue to enjoy the support of the people of Telangana. He asserted that the Congress government was delivering on its promises and working towards the welfare of farmers, youth, women and other sections of society. The Congress leader also claimed that the BRS would not be able to regain power in the state and predicted that voters would once again place their trust in the

Congress in the next Assembly elections. He expressed confidence that the party would secure victory in the 2028 elections and continue its governance in Telangana.

Reiterating his criticism of KTR, Dayakar said Congress leaders and workers would strongly counter what he termed as baseless allegations against the government. He called upon political parties to engage in constructive debate on public issues rather than resorting to personal criticism and confrontational rhetoric.

# KTR Alleges Metro Asset Scam, Targets Revanth Reddy and Kishan Reddy

continued

compared Revanth Reddy's style of governance to historical rulers known for controversial decisions, alleging that several welfare and development initiatives introduced during the BRS regime had been halted without adequate alternatives.

The former minister also criticized Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi for joining the Congress party and challenged him to disclose development funds brought to the constituency over the past two years.

Calling upon party workers to strengthen the organization, KTR urged cadres to intensify membership drives and actively participate in voter list revision programmes. He expressed confidence that the BRS would regain power in the future under the leadership of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

# N. Ramchander Rao Pays Tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee

continued

political positions, he added. Ramchander Rao further said Mookerjee resigned from the cabinet of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru due to differences over policies affecting national interests. Calling his life an inspiration for BJP workers, he urged party cadres in Telangana to draw motivation from the BJP's growth in West Bengal and work towards establishing a BJP government in Telangana in the future. Senior party leaders and workers attended the programme in large numbers.

# Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud Warns of Threat to Palamuru Water Interests



Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS leader and former minister V. Srinivas Goud on Tuesday alleged that the interests of Telangana, particularly the Palamuru region, were under serious threat due to water-related projects being undertaken by the Karnataka government on the Krishna river and its tributaries. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he accused both the Centre and the state government of failing to safeguard Telangana's water rights.

Srinivas Goud said that during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era, the backwardness and poverty of Palamuru (Mahabubnagar) district were cited to secure loans from international agencies, but the benefits were diverted elsewhere. He recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had launched a padayatra from the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) area to highlight irrigation issues faced by the region.

Expressing concern over Karnataka's plans, he alleged that reservoirs and barrages were being proposed upstream without obtaining clearances from the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). He claimed Karnataka was also moving ahead with plans to construct three additional barrages on the Krishna River and increase the height of the Almatti Dam.

According to Srinivas Goud, water inflows to projects such as Jurala have already reduced significantly, and any increase in the height of the Almatti Dam could further affect water availability in Telangana during crucial months. He warned that Palamuru could face severe drought conditions if the projects proceed unchecked. The former minister demanded that the Centre intervene immediately and stop Karnataka from taking up projects that could adversely affect Telangana's irrigation interests. He also announced that the BRS would undertake another padayatra focusing on the Rajolibanda issue and called upon people of Palamuru to remain vigilant.

Former MLA Jaipal Yadav, who also addressed the media, alleged that the Congress government in Telangana had failed to protect the region's interests. He claimed that projects proposed near the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme could drastically reduce water availability to ayacut areas dependent on Tungabhadra waters.

Former MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy was also present at the press conference. BRS leaders reiterated their demand for the completion of the remaining works of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme and called for urgent measures to safeguard Telangana's share of river waters.

# Congress Leader Gajjela Kantham Targets KTR, Harish Rao Over BRS Governance

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Congress leader Gajjela Kantham on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and T. Harish Rao, alleging that the party was losing public support and attempting to align itself with the BJP for political survival.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan, Kantham criticized recent statements made by KTR and Harish Rao regarding the BRS returning to power. He questioned the party's claims and accused its leaders of misleading the public about their political prospects.

Kantham alleged that during the BRS regime, several major projects were mismanaged and claimed that allegations of irregularities surrounding projects such as the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and Hyderabad Metro had damaged the party's credibility. He further accused the previous government of failing to address the needs of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and economically

weaker sections despite being in power for a decade.

The Congress leader said the people of Telangana had rejected what he described as a feudal style of politics represented by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, KTR and Harish Rao. He alleged that the BRS leadership had concentrated power within a few individuals while neglecting the aspirations of marginalized communities.

Kantham also criticized BRS remarks made by BRS leaders against government officials and warned against attempts to intimidate members of the civil services. He stated that officers should be allowed to perform their duties without political pressure or interference. Defending the Congress government, Kantham said the current administration was focused on implementing welfare measures and fulfilling promises made to the people.

He maintained that the state government was committed to inclusive development and social justice.

# Gold Talk Leads to Theft: Co-Worker Arrested Within 12 Hours in Bolarum Burglary Case



**Quthbullapur, June 23 | TPN Bureau**  
Police cracked a major gold theft case in Bolarum within just 12 hours of the crime and arrested the accused, who allegedly exploited confidential information shared by his co-worker to execute the theft.

Addressing a media conference at the Pet Basheerabad Police Station on Monday, Quthbullapur DCP Koti Reddy disclosed details of the case and lauded the swift investigation carried out by the Dundigal police.

According to police, Sunila, a resident of Tripura Landmark in Bolarum under

the Dundigal Police Station limits, reported the theft of a large quantity of gold ornaments from her residence. During the investigation, police found that Sunila had on several occasions spoken about the gold stored in her house to her colleague, Lakshminarayan, 36.

Both were employed at a pharmaceutical company in Gaddapotharam. Investigators said Lakshminarayan, who was reportedly facing financial difficulties and debt-related issues, used the information to plan the theft. Taking advantage of an opportunity, he allegedly entered the house and stole

around 40 tolas of gold jewellery. The case initially posed a challenge to investigators as there were no visible signs of forced entry. The locks of the house and the cupboard remained intact, making it difficult to determine how the theft had been carried out. However, police meticulously examined CCTV footage from the area and identified the suspect. Based on the evidence collected, Lakshminarayan was taken into custody and questioned. Police subsequently recovered the stolen gold ornaments from his possession. DCP Koti Reddy said the

accused was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. He commended the Dundigal police team for solving the case in a remarkably short span of time through coordinated efforts and effective use of surveillance footage.

Among those present at the media conference were Quthbullapur Zone Additional DCP Purushottam, Medchal Division ACP Shankar Reddy, Dundigal CI Satish, DI Bal Reddy, CCS CI Dal Naidu, SI Shankar, personnel of the Quthbullapur CCS unit, Dundigal crime staff, and other police officials.

# Additional DCP Purushottam Urges Students to Stay Away from Drugs

**Quthbullapur, June 23 | TPN Bureau**

In an effort to create awareness about the dangers of substance abuse among youth, a drug prevention awareness programme was conducted at Seetharamaiah Nursing College in Suraram Colony on Monday. The programme focused on educating students about the harmful effects of narcotic substances and encouraging them to play an active role in preventing drug abuse in society.

Quthbullapur Additional DCP Purushottam attended the event as the chief guest and addressed the students on the growing threat posed by drug addiction. He stressed that young people must remain vigilant and avoid falling prey to narcotic substances, which can have serious consequences on their education, health, and future prospects.

Speaking on the occasion, Purushottam said drug abuse not only affects an individual's physical and mental well-being but also causes significant social and economic damage. He warned that students who become addicted to drugs often face difficulties



in their academic pursuits, relationships, and careers. He urged them to focus on their goals and adopt healthy lifestyles.

The Additional DCP also highlighted the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, stating that strict action would be taken against those involved in the consumption, transportation, distribution, or sale of narcotic substances. He said law enforcement agencies are committed to curbing the drug menace and ensuring a safe environment for students and the public.

Encouraging students to become responsible citizens, Purushottam advised them to stay away from harmful

habits and remain alert to suspicious activities in their surroundings. He appealed to them to immediately inform the police if they come across individuals involved in drug consumption or trafficking so that timely action can be taken.

The awareness programme witnessed active participation from students and faculty members. Suraram CI Sudheer Krishna, SIs Raju and Kishan, college correspondent Drakshayani, and other staff members were present. The speakers emphasized the importance of collective efforts by educational institutions, parents, students, and law enforcement agencies in building a drug-free society.

# Woman Employee Alleges Harassment by Jeedimetla Deputy Commissioner, Seeks Justice at Praja Bhavan

**Quthbullapur, June 23 | TPN Bureau**

A woman employee working as a Sanitation Field Assistant (SFA) in the Jeedimetla Circle has alleged that she has been subjected to mental harassment by the Circle Deputy Commissioner and has sought intervention from higher authorities. The employee approached Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday, seeking justice and protection. According to the complaint submitted by the employee, she has been serving in the sanitation wing for the past 25 years and was allegedly targeted by the Deputy Commissioner soon after the officer assumed charge. The employee claimed that she was repeatedly humiliated and subjected to verbal abuse during official inspections and field visits. The complainant alleged that the officer used derogatory language in the presence of sanitation workers and colleagues, causing her mental distress and humiliation. She further stated that the Deputy Commissioner allegedly



made remarks intended to demean her and frequently adopted an intimidating attitude while interacting with her. The woman employee also alleged that her official login was suspended without justification, preventing her

from carrying out her duties. As a result, she said, her salary payments were affected, placing her family under severe financial strain. Expressing her plight, the employee stated that she is a single woman responsible for

supporting her two children. The loss of income due to the suspension of her login has made it difficult for her to meet household expenses and provide for her family, she said.

The complainant noted that she had earlier submitted representations to the Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner on two occasions, as well as to the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner and the State Women's Commission. However, she alleged that no action had been taken on her complaints, prompting her to approach Praja Bhavan as a final resort. Seeking immediate relief, the employee urged authorities to restore her login credentials and allow her to perform her duties with dignity. She also requested a fair and impartial inquiry into the allegations and sought appropriate protection against further harassment. The allegations have brought attention to workplace grievance redressal mechanisms and the need to ensure a safe and respectful environment for employees in public institutions.

# Woman Stages Protest Outside In-Laws' House

**Quthbullapur, June 23 | TPN Bureau**

A case highlighting alleged dowry harassment and domestic abuse has come to light in the Jagadgirigutta Police Station limits, where a young woman staged a protest outside her in-laws' residence in Kailas Hills, accusing her husband and his family of subjecting her to physical, mental, and financial harassment.

According to the complainant, Jayashree, 25, married a software engineer employed with Accenture in 2023. Her family claimed that substantial dowry, including gold and silver ornaments and cash amounting to nearly Rs.10 lakh, was provided at the time of the marriage. Jayashree alleged that while the initial months of married life were peaceful, her husband's behaviour changed significantly within two months of the wedding. She claimed that he first pressured her to take up employment and later demanded that her entire salary be handed over to him. She further alleged that he repeatedly sought additional dowry and more gold ornaments from her family.

The woman stated that she



was subjected to both physical and mental harassment whenever these demands were not met. According to her, frequent arguments escalated into physical assaults and humiliation, causing severe emotional distress. In a particularly serious allegation, Jayashree claimed that she was assaulted by her husband and father-in-law when she sought permission to visit her brother, who had reportedly been hospitalised following an accident. She alleged that she was physically attacked, forcibly pushed out of the house, and threatened with further violence if she attempted to return.

The complainant further alleged that despite a case being registered under Section 498A relating to cru-

elty by a husband or his relatives, efforts were being made to weaken the case. She accused her husband of using his financial resources to influence proceedings and claimed that false cases were being filed against her, adding to her mental anguish.

Seeking immediate intervention, Jayashree appealed to the police and women's organisations for protection, alleging a threat to her safety. She demanded strict action against those responsible for the alleged harassment and sought compensation of Rs.50 lakh as part of a settlement to secure her future.

Police officials have not yet issued a detailed response to the allegations. The matter is under legal consideration.

# Gandhinagar SI Caught by ACB While Accepting Rs.50,000 Bribe

**Secunderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau**

A Sub-Inspector attached to Sector-3 of Gandhinagar Police Station was caught red-handed by officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs.50,000. The officer had allegedly demanded Rs.1 lakh from a complainant in exchange for facilitating station bail and ensuring that there would be no further police harassment in a case.

According to ACB officials, SI Narsimhulu allegedly sought the bribe from Thakur, who was involved in a dispute with his brothers and against whom a police case had been registered. The complainant alleged that the officer demanded Rs.1 lakh to secure station bail and to ensure that no future complications or harassment would arise in connection with the case.

Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau and lodged a formal complaint. Acting on the information, ACB officials devised a trap and monitored the transaction.

The operation was carried out in the Kavadiguda area



near Parameshwari Temple. During the trap, SI Narsimhulu was allegedly caught while accepting Rs.50,000 as part of the

demanding bribe amount. ACB officials immediately apprehended him and seized the tainted money. Hyderabad Range-1 ACB DSP

Majid Ali Khan confirmed the arrest and stated that the accused officer had been taken into custody for further investigation. Following the trap, ACB teams conducted searches at the Gandhinagar Police Station and at the residence of the accused officer as part of the ongoing inquiry.

Officials said a case has been registered and further investigation is underway to ascertain whether any additional irregularities were involved. The ACB is expected to submit its findings after completing the inquiry and collecting all relevant evidence.

Meanwhile, ACB officials appealed to the public to report any instances of bribery or corruption involving government officials and employees. They urged citizens to contact the Anti-Corruption Bureau through its toll-free helpline, 1064, whenever a public servant demands or accepts a bribe. The agency assured that the identity of complainants would be kept strictly confidential and that appropriate legal action would be taken against those found involved in corrupt practices.

# Helmets Distributed to Journalists at Uppal Press Club Event



**Uppal, June 23 | TPN Bureau**

In a move aimed at promoting road safety among media professionals, the Uppal Press Club distributed helmets to journalists during a special programme held at Little Flower Degree College in Uppal on Tuesday.

The event was attended by several police officials, educational institution representatives, and members of the journalist community. Uppal Zone DCP K. Suresh Kumar, Additional DCP Venkataramana, ACP Venkat Reddy, Uppal Inspector Ramalinga Reddy, and SIs Madhusudan, Vinay, and Samata participated in the programme and appreciated the initiative taken by the press club.

Representatives of Little Flower Degree College, including Correspondent Brother Arun Prakash,

Director Brother John Kalirickal, and Principal Dr. Jayanthi, were also present on the occasion.

During the programme, helmets were distributed to around 30 journalists as part of an effort to encourage the use of protective gear and enhance awareness about road safety among media personnel who frequently travel for reporting assignments.

Speaking on the occasion, the participants highlighted the important role played by journalists in society and stressed the need to ensure their safety while discharging their professional responsibilities. They noted that road accidents remain a major concern and that the use of helmets can significantly reduce the risk of serious injuries. TUWJ Medchal District General Secretary Donthula Venkata

Ramireddy, Uppal Press Club President Vemula Tirupati Reddy, General Secretary Gyarampalli Shivaji, and TUWJ Uppal Constituency President Palla Mahender Reddy also attended the event. The speakers commended the services rendered by the Uppal Press Club over the past 25 years in supporting journalists and addressing their welfare needs. Addressing the gathering, Vemula Tirupati Reddy said the organisation would continue to work for the welfare of media professionals and announced that insurance coverage for journalists would also be introduced in the near future.

A large number of journalists participated in the programme, which concluded with a renewed commitment towards journalist welfare and road safety awareness.

# TPCC President Attends SIR Awareness Seminar

Jogipet, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A special awareness seminar on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process was organized for Congress Party Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of the Andole Assembly constituency at Sri Lakshmi Devi Garden in Sangupet on Tuesday. The programme aimed to educate party workers and BLAs about the importance of the electoral roll revision process and their role in ensuring accurate voter registration. The seminar was attended by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC N. Mahesh Kumar Goud, Telangana Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant.

The leaders interacted with party functionaries and provided guidance on effectively carrying out responsibilities related to the voter list revision exercise. Addressing the gathering, the leaders emphasized the significance of the Special Intensive Revision process in strengthening the democratic system. They urged Booth Level Agents to actively participate in identifying eligible voters, updating electoral records, and ensuring that no genuine voter is left out of the rolls. The speakers highlighted the crucial role played by BLAs in maintaining transparency and accuracy in the electoral process. They also stressed the need for party workers to remain vigilant during the

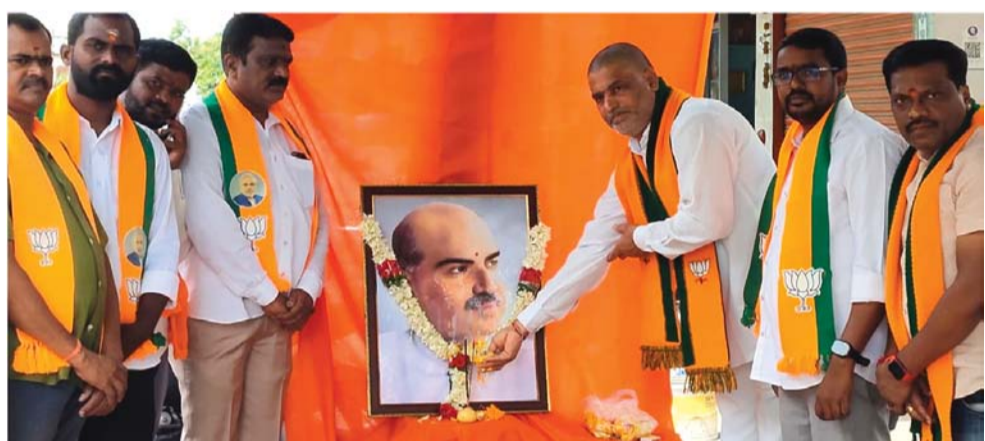
revision exercise and extend assistance to voters in completing necessary documentation and verification procedures. The event witnessed the participation of several senior Congress leaders, including Telangana Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, Parigi MLA T. Ram Mohan Reddy, District Congress Committee President and Corporation Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy, and TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy. They encouraged grassroots-level workers to strengthen the party's organizational network and ensure effective coordination during the electoral roll revision programme. Corporation chairpersons, representatives of various

party wings, and Dr. Rajeev, Chairman of the Congress Doctor's Cell, also attended the seminar. The leaders discussed strategies for voter outreach and emphasized the importance of maintaining regular contact with people at the booth level. A large number of public representatives, party leaders, BLAs, and Congress workers from across the constituency participated in the programme. The seminar concluded with a call for coordinated efforts to ensure a comprehensive and error-free voter registration process ahead of future elections, while reinforcing the Congress Party's commitment to safeguarding democratic values and electoral integrity.

## BJP District President Pays Tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Huzurabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BJP Karimnagar District President Gangadi Krishna Reddy on Tuesday said that the services and sacrifices made by Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee for the nation would always remain unforgettable. Speaking at the Balidan Diwas (death anniversary) programme organized by the BJP Huzurabad Town Unit, Krishna Reddy paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Mookerjee and recalled his contribution to national unity and integrity. Addressing party workers and leaders, Krishna Reddy described Dr. Mookerjee as a great patriot who tirelessly fought for the principle of "One Nation, One Flag and One Constitution." He said Mookerjee's struggle and sacrifice to safeguard the unity of India occupy a prominent place in the country's political history. The BJP leader stated that the Narendra Modi-led Central Government has been working in line with the ideals and vision of Dr.



Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He recalled that Mookerjee launched a movement against the existence of separate constitutional provisions in Jammu and Kashmir under the slogan, "Ek Desh Mein Do Nishan, Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan Nahi Chalenge" (One Nation cannot have two flags, two constitutions and two prime ministers). Krishna Reddy noted that Dr. Mookerjee sacrificed his life while in custody on June 23, 1953, during his campaign for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with

India. He said the Modi government fulfilled Mookerjee's long-cherished vision by abrogating Article 370, thereby paying a fitting tribute to the Jana Sangh founder. He further stated that Dr. Mookerjee's ideals continue to inspire BJP workers across the country and serve as a guiding force in the party's efforts to strengthen national unity and development. The programme was attended by BJP Huzurabad Town President Turpati Raju, for-

mer Town President and district programme co-convenor Gangishetty Raju, district council member Ravula Venu, Central Film Board member Sabbani Ramesh, district executive members Gangishetty Prabhakar and Thumula Srinivas, along with several senior leaders and party workers. A large number of BJP functionaries, activists and supporters participated in the event and paid homage to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the occasion of his Balidan Diwas.

## GHMC Conducts Workshop on SWM Rules 2026, C&D Waste Management and NCAP

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Tuesday organized a workshop at its headquarters to review the implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules-2026, Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Management Rules, and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The workshop was chaired by the Additional Commissioner (Sanitation) and attended by Deputy Executive Engineers (SWM) from all circles, Project Manager (SBM), DEs (SWM), NCAP officials, representatives from the Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI), and officials from Ramky, C&D Waste Management, McLean and IXORA organizations. During the meeting, officials reviewed the progress of the ongoing 99-Day Action Plan on a circle-wise basis. The sanitation staff were appreciated for their commitment and services, including their work during government holidays to ensure cleanliness and effective waste management across the city. The workshop discussed the



implementation of SWM Rules-2026 and C&D Waste Management Rules in light of Supreme Court directions and government orders. Officials were briefed on compliance requirements and penalty provisions under the new regulations. Progress of works being undertaken under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was also reviewed, with instructions issued to complete all pending activities within the stipulated timelines. The meeting further examined the disposal of public grievances received through online platforms and WhatsApp, emphasizing the

need for prompt resolution. Officials were directed to improve the attendance registration percentage of sanitation workers through the Facial Recognition System (FRS). Discussions were also held on e-waste collection, disposal of large household appliances and scientific waste management practices. The GHMC instructed field officials to identify and register bulk garbage generators in institutional, commercial and residential buildings and strengthen collaboration with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) for better waste segregation and management.

Under the Swachh Vayu Survekshan initiative, officials reviewed air quality improvement measures. It was noted that the current pollution level stands at 81 micrograms per cubic metre, higher than the prescribed standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre. Authorities were directed to intensify efforts to improve air quality across Hyderabad. The workshop concluded with directions to field-level officials to further strengthen waste collection, transportation and scientific disposal systems for efficient urban sanitation management.

## TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy to Launch Rs 5.40 Crore Development Works

Sangareddy, June 23 | TPN Bureau

A foundation stone-laying ceremony for development works worth Rs 5.40 crore under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds will be held at 11 a.m. on June 24 at the Government Women's Degree College opposite Ambedkar Stadium in Sangareddy. The programme will be inaugurated by TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy. The proposed works aim to strengthen educational infra-



structure and improve facilities for students in the town. The projects include the construction of a hostel building at the Government Women's Degree College, a dining hall for children at a Government Primary School, an auditorium at the Girls Junior College, and a

compound wall at Tara Degree College. The initiative is expected to enhance educational facilities and provide a better learning environment for students across various institutions in Sangareddy. Congress leaders, party workers, public representatives and local residents have been invited to attend the programme in large numbers and contribute to its success. The event is being organized under the aegis of the Congress Party, Sangareddy.

## Nalgonda Commissioner Orders Coordinated Action to Prevent Monsoon Diseases

Nalgonda, June 23 | TPN Bureau

The Nalgonda Municipal Commissioner has directed officials of all departments to work in close coordination to safeguard public health and effectively tackle seasonal diseases during the ongoing monsoon season. During a review meeting, the Commissioner stressed the need for implementing a special action plan to prevent the spread of vector-borne and water-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and cholera. Officials were instructed to undertake intensive sanitation drives in every ward and ensure strict monitoring of vulnerable areas. The Commissioner directed field staff to identify and remove stagnant water immediately to prevent mosquito breeding. Daily inspections in colonies and municipal divisions have been mandated to monitor sanitation conditions and address public health concerns at the earliest. Emphasizing the importance of public participation, the Commissioner called for extensive awareness campaigns on personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness. Residents were urged to cooperate with sanitation workers and maintain clean surroundings to minimize health risks during the rainy season. Apart from public health measures, the Commissioner



reviewed several development and welfare initiatives. Officials were instructed to expedite the selection process for beneficiaries under the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme. Directions were also issued to complete pending repairs of double-bedroom houses and initiate their allotment at the earliest. Special focus was placed on the collection of pending property tax dues amounting to Rs 32 crore. Officials were asked to intensify recovery efforts and improve municipal revenue collection. The Commissioner also reviewed infrastructure projects related to roads, drainage systems and drinking water pipelines. Development works being undertaken with funds from the Telangana Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TUFIDC) were ordered to be accelerated. The tender process for the construction of a new filter bed for water supply was also directed to

be completed without delay. Taking a firm stance on urban planning issues, the Commissioner warned that strict action would be taken against unauthorized constructions. The Town Planning Department was instructed to intensify inspections and ensure compliance with building regulations. Pending applications under the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) are to be cleared on a priority basis. The Commissioner further announced that weekly reviews would be conducted to monitor the performance of all municipal departments. Residents were advised to segregate wet, dry and sanitary waste before handing it over to municipal collection vehicles. Stressing that prevention is better than cure, the Commissioner said public health, sanitation and planned urban development remain the primary objectives of the Municipal Corporation.

## KTR Pays Tribute to Telangana Activist Gottimukkala Padma Rao

Hyderabad, June 23 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday visited the residence of late Telangana movement leader Gottimukkala Padma Rao in Kukatapally and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family members. KTR paid floral tributes to Padma Rao by garlanding his portrait and observing a moment of respect in his memory. He was accompanied by MLAs Madhavaram Krishna Rao and Vivekananda, as well as MLC Naveen Rao. Expressing deep sorrow over the untimely demise of Gottimukkala Padma Rao, KTR described his death as a significant loss to the Telangana movement and public life. He recalled Padma Rao's active participation in the struggle for Telangana statehood and his continued commitment to public service. During his visit, KTR met



the family members of the deceased leader and offered his heartfelt sympathies. He consoled them and assured them that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) would stand by the family in their time of grief and provide support whenever needed. Speaking on the occasion, KTR said the services rendered by Gottimukkala Padma Rao to the Telangana movement and society would remain memorable for generations. He noted that Padma Rao's dedication, commit-

ment and contributions to the cause of Telangana earned him the respect and affection of people across the region. Several local leaders and party workers also paid homage to the late leader and remembered his role in advancing the Telangana movement. The visit concluded with KTR reiterating that Padma Rao's legacy of public service and commitment to Telangana's aspirations would continue to inspire future generations.

## Govt Whip Vemula Veeresham Felicitates Paddy Procurement Staff

Nakrekal, June 23 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham on Tuesday felicitated officials and organizers who successfully managed paddy procurement centres across the Nakrekal Assembly constituency, commending their dedication in ensuring smooth and timely procurement for farmers. The felicitation programme was held at Narayana Reddy Function Hall in Nakrekal town and attended by Miryalaguda MLA Battula Lakshma Reddy, DCC President Punna Kailash Netha, District Joint Collector Srinivas, government officials, public representatives and local leaders. During the event, Veeresham honoured procurement centre managers, staff members and officials who played a key role in handling the procurement operations during the season. He appreciated their efforts in overcoming various logistical and operational challenges to ensure that farmers did not face inconvenience while selling their produce. Addressing the gathering, the MLA said the administration and procurement teams worked tirelessly day and night to safeguard the interests of farmers. He noted that special attention was given to protecting harvested



paddy from unexpected weather conditions and ensuring that procurement activities continued without interruption. "Officials and procurement centre staff have worked with commitment and responsibility. Whenever there was a possibility of paddy getting damaged due to rains or other factors, immediate measures were taken to prevent losses to farmers. It is gratifying to see farmers satisfied with the procurement process," Veeresham said. The MLA stated that despite a substantial increase in paddy arrivals this season, the procurement process was completed efficiently through coordinated efforts by officials, procurement agencies and local representatives. He also criticized what he described as misinformation spread by opposition parties regarding procurement operations and maintained that the government had ensured smooth

procurement on a large scale. Veeresham urged agriculture and procurement officials to encourage farmers to diversify cultivation patterns and promote the cultivation of fine varieties of paddy in addition to traditional coarse varieties. He said fine-grain paddy offered better market opportunities and could help improve farmers' incomes in the long run. Miryalaguda MLA Battula Lakshma Reddy and other speakers also praised the contribution of officials and procurement staff in successfully completing the procurement season. They emphasized that the government remains committed to protecting farmers' interests and strengthening procurement mechanisms across the region. The programme concluded with the presentation of mementoes and certificates to officials and organizers in recognition of their services during the procurement season.

## Editorial

### Breaking Caste Equations Requires Balance, Not Rhetoric

Caste and politics in Andhra Pradesh have been intertwined for decades. Whether one likes it or not, electoral politics in the state has largely revolved around caste equations, with different communities traditionally supporting different political parties and leaders. Against this backdrop, the recent remarks made by Pawan Kalyan on linking caste identities to a rowdy-sheeter and a police officer have triggered a wider debate.

At one level, Mr. Pawan Kalyan's criticism of associating every individual with a caste identity is valid. In a modern democratic society, a person's actions should be judged on their own merit rather than through the prism of caste. However, public leaders must also exercise caution while addressing such sensitive issues. His use of the term "Kula Daridram" has been viewed by some as harsh and capable of creating unintended negative perceptions.

The reality of Andhra Pradesh politics cannot be ignored. The rise of leaders and political movements has often been influenced by community support. It is equally true that a significant section of the Kapu community has stood behind the Mega family, first supporting Chiranjeevi during the Praja Rajyam era and later extending support to Janasena under Pawan Kalyan's leadership. Political observers have long acknowledged the role this support played in shaping electoral outcomes.

This does not mean leaders should encourage caste-based politics. On the contrary, if Pawan Kalyan genuinely seeks to weaken caste barriers in public life, he has an opportunity to do so through consistent actions, inclusive leadership, and careful messaging. Transforming political culture is a gradual process that requires patience and credibility.

Breaking caste equations is a worthy objective. But achieving it demands balance, logic, and constructive engagement rather than emotionally charged rhetoric. Political leaders must lead this change thoughtfully if they wish to create a more inclusive political future.

Editor

## Beyond the Law: Can Andhra Pradesh End Child Marriage?

Rammohan Nimmaraaju



Former Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, Prakasam District

Despite decades of legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and government interventions, child marriage continues to cast a long shadow over India's development journey. The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24) offers a mixed picture: while the prevalence of child marriage is steadily declining, millions of girls remain vulnerable to early marriage, interrupted education, poor health outcomes, and diminished life opportunities.

The encouraging news is that India has made measurable progress. According to NFHS-6, the proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married before the age of 18 has fallen from 23.3 per cent in NFHS-5 to 20.1%. Telangana has emerged as a notable success story, reducing child marriage from 23.5% to 17.9%, while Andhra Pradesh has also improved, bringing the figure down from 29.3% to 25.1%. Yet the numbers reveal an uncomfortable truth: in Andhra Pradesh, one out of every four young women was still married before reaching adulthood, leaving the state above the national average despite recent gains.

These statistics demonstrate that legislation alone cannot eliminate a deeply rooted social practice. Child marriage has historically been intertwined with poverty, gender inequality, social customs, and economic

insecurity. In some instances, adolescents themselves choose to marry early, influenced by family pressures or social expectations. Such situations require counselling, education, and community engagement rather than a purely punitive response. Criminalisation has its place in protecting children, but lasting change depends on addressing the conditions that encourage early marriage in the first place.

Across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, numerous civil society organisations have played a vital role in preventing child marriages through grassroots interventions, community mobilisation, and coordination with local authorities. For many years, the CHILDLINE 1098 emergency response mechanism enabled NGOs and government agencies to work together effectively, allowing rapid intervention from the village level to district administrations whenever children were at risk. Many practitioners believe that this collaborative model helped avert thousands of child marriages and strengthened local child protection systems.

However, after the operational responsibility for CHILDLINE was shifted from voluntary organisations to state governments under Mission Vatsalya during 2020-21, several stakeholders have voiced concerns that response systems



have become less agile and community-driven. While government ownership has the potential to improve institutional accountability, many field organisations argue that implementation gaps, staffing constraints, and coordination challenges have reduced the effectiveness of frontline interventions in some districts.

Recognising the urgency of the issue, the Government of Andhra Pradesh adopted an ambitious vision through G.O.Ms. No. 39 of 15 September 2023, aiming to make the state "Child Marriage Free Andhra Pradesh." The policy framework calls for identification of vulnerable hotspots, awareness campaigns, vigilance during mass marriage seasons, enrolment of adolescents into education programmes, skill development initiatives, regular review meetings, and capacity building for Child Marriage Prohibition Officers. It also emphasises collaboration with religious leaders, marriage hall operators, event organisers, Self-Help Groups, schools, and community institutions. Complementing this framework, the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules, 2023 establish responsibilities for officials from the district level down to villages and wards, supported

by Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees intended to function as the first line of defence against underage marriages.

Yet the existence of institutional mechanisms does not automatically translate into effective implementation. Many observers point out that Village Level Child Protection Committees and similar community structures have often struggled to achieve their intended impact, much like Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees in many parts of the country. Questions persist about whether monitoring committees meet regularly, whether quarterly reviews are consistently conducted, and whether data-driven oversight exists to ensure accountability from village secretariats to district headquarters.

Another challenge lies in public investment. Child protection has traditionally received only a modest share of government spending, and within already limited child-focused budgets, preventive services often receive even less attention. Consequently, children from marginalised communities—who are disproportionately affected by poverty, social exclusion, and educational disadvantage—frequently remain invisible within the system. Their voices are rarely heard until a crisis emerges.

Nevertheless, there is reason for optimism. The downward trend in child marriage demonstrates that sustained interventions can produce meaningful results. Telangana's experience shows that coordinated action involving education, community awareness, social protec-

tion, and administrative commitment can significantly reduce early marriages. Andhra Pradesh has also made progress, but accelerating that momentum will require stronger implementation rather than additional legislation alone.

The path forward is clear. Village and Ward Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees must become active, visible, and accountable. Quarterly reviews should be institutionalised, supported by robust digital monitoring systems that track interventions in real time. Frontline workers—including Anganwadi staff, teachers, police personnel, health workers, Panchayat representatives, NGOs, and youth groups—must receive continuous training and support. At the same time, investments in girls' education, vocational opportunities, adolescent empowerment, and family support programmes should be expanded so that delaying marriage becomes a realistic and attractive choice for vulnerable households.

India's progress against child marriage deserves recognition, but complacency would be misplaced. Every percentage point in the statistics represents thousands of girls whose futures depend on collective action. With stronger community engagement, better coordination, and genuine accountability at every level of governance, Andhra Pradesh can move closer to its aspiration of becoming a child-marriage-free state, while contributing to a future in which every girl is free to learn, grow, and choose her own path in life.

## The "Heart Vaccine" for India: A National Mission to Eradicate 7,800 Daily Deaths

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

Every 24 hours, India faces a silent catastrophe. According to the World Health Organization and Global Burden of Disease studies, cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) account for nearly 27% of all deaths in the country, claiming roughly 28.6 lakh lives annually—a staggering average of 7,800 deaths every single day.

In response to this escalating crisis, the Punyaa Heart Foundation, a social endeavour of the SAAOL (Science and Art of Living) community of over 700,000 families, inspired by ace noninterventional cardiologist Dr Bimal Chhajer, an ex AIIMS consultant, has launched a nationwide movement titled NPPEHA (National Program for Prevention and Eradication of

Heart Attack) to provide what they call the "Heart Vaccine".

### Beyond the Clinic: The "Heart Vaccine" Concept

Heart Vaccine is not a traditional medical vaccine. Instead, the Foundation defines it as an "Edu Vaccine"—a profound shift in lifestyle and health education. While the traditional education system covers many subjects, it often fails to teach citizens how to optimize their health through an understanding of body functions, nutrition, mind management, and exercise. SAAOL, over its 3 decades of operation, has confirmed reversal of heart diseases through lifestyle modification with its over 7 Lakh patients and their families.

Dr. Bimal Chhajer,



India's leading non-invasive Cardiologist and Lifestyle expert for reversing CVD

The program aims to replace the outdated "an apple a day" adage with a comprehensive lifestyle approach that can save people from becoming patients of this Non-Communicable Disease (NCD).

The stakes are not just physical, but economic. "Vikasit Bharath is a Healthy Bharath," the Foundation notes, pointing out that every chronic health trauma can send a family spiralling back into debt and pov-



erty. This is especially critical in India, where an estimated 5.5 to 6 crore people are already living with established CVDs, and over 3.5 crore have experienced a heart attack or undergone procedures like angioplasty.

The Fourteen Pillars of Risk The core of the "Heart Vaccine" is educating the public on 14 major risk factors that drive heart attacks. These include metabolic factors like Hypertension (High Blood Pressure), which damages arterial lin-

ings, and Elevated LDL Cholesterol, which deposits fatty plaques. Lifestyle choices such as Tobacco Use, Sedentary Lifestyles, and Unhealthy Diets high in trans-fats are also primary drivers and pointers to Diabetes.

The campaign further addresses modern psychological and systemic triggers, including Chronic Stress and Anxiety, Sleep Deprivation, and Systemic Chronic Inflammation. Alarmingly, the Foundation identifies a massive segment

of the population as "Walking Time Bombs"—individuals who have adopted the fusion of "Westernized" lifestyles but never conduct routine medical tests, often only discovering their condition during a fatal cardiac event. When NPPEHA was started in 2018, the daily death rate due to heart attack was 900, and age was 45 and above. Now in 2026, it is 18 years of age and over 7800 deaths per day. It is an 8-fold reality.

### Digital Tools for a Healthier Bharath

With 85.5% of Indian households now possessing at least one smartphone, the program is leveraging technology to reach the masses. The operational plan for NPPEHA utilizes viral branding through the media penetration, "Mr Heart" cartoon series and educational games to penetrate the "Indian psyche".

### The outreach includes:

- AI-driven, insightful social

- media intrusion
- Multilingual YouTube Web Series and global webcasts.
- Door-to-Door Campaigns and 100 pilot health camps.
- Film Screenings in rural villages followed by medical lectures.
- An Epistemology Survey to gather big data on public health knowledge for future policymaking.

### A Targeted Rollout - You're the Cure

By targeting both urban spaces and "fast-infected" villages that lack critical care medical facilities, the program seeks to empower individuals to take responsibility for their own longevity with a slogan 'You're the Cure'. As India moves toward its goal of becoming a developed nation, the Punyaa Heart Foundation reminds us that national growth is built on the health of its families. Prevention, they argue, is the only way to safeguard the country's economic and physical future.

## AI: What Is the Goal of the Telugu States?

Chennu Peddiraju



Sr Journalist

The Government of Andhra Pradesh aims to develop Amaravati into a world-class "Quantum Valley." Through this initiative, the state seeks to bring together research institutions, industries, and startups working in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and deep technologies under one ecosystem. A key focus is on youth development. The state plans to introduce Quantum Technology and AI courses at school and college levels. It is also preparing to provide specialized quantum-skills training to more than 50,000 technology students. Partnerships with institutions such as IIT Madras, IIT Tirupati, and IBM are expected to offer guidance and support to aspiring professionals. Efforts have also begun to promote AI awareness programs in regional languages, including Telugu. To create employment opportuni-

ties, the state has recently signed seven key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in the AI and Quantum sectors. The government's objectives include equipping youth with future-ready skills, increasing the use of AI in public services, and strengthening the research ecosystem. According to the government, Amaravati Quantum Valley could attract world-class research centers, startup incubators, and training institutions, leading to the creation of high-paying jobs. Meanwhile, Telangana has launched several initiatives with the ambition of becoming India's leading state in the AI sector. As part of this effort, the Telangana Government launched "AIKAM," a dedicated AI innovation entity, during a World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting. Its objective is to position Telangana among the world's top 20 AI innovation

hubs. For young people, Telangana is focusing on large-scale AI upskilling programs, funding and mentoring AI-based startups, strengthening partnerships between universities and industries, and establishing AI academies and research centers. The Telangana Skill Development Mission has been established to prepare youth for future-oriented sectors such as AI, robotics, aerospace, and life sciences. The state is also developing an AI-powered job-matching portal. What Is the Difference Between the Two Telugu States?

Andhra Pradesh is primarily focused on building a Quantum Technology + AI + Research-driven ecosystem. Telangana, on the other hand, is leveraging its existing IT strengths to promote AI-driven industries, startups, and employment generation. While Telangana is currently advancing rapidly through practical AI implementation and industry integration, Andhra Pradesh is pursuing long-term technological leadership through its Quantum Technology initiatives. If the efforts of both states succeed, the Telugu states could emerge over the

next decade as major global centers for AI and Quantum Technologies—not only within India but on the world stage.

### Employment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh

Through the Amaravati Quantum Valley Project, the Andhra Pradesh government aims to create more than 100,000 high-skilled jobs. The state also has plans to promote over 50 unicorn startups. With the participation of companies such as IBM, TCS, and L&T, the government believes that employment opportunities will increase in sectors such as Quantum Computing, AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Chip Design, and Cloud Computing. Preparations are currently underway to build the necessary ecosystem to achieve these objectives. The government believes that over the next five to ten years, there will be significant opportunities for employment in the Telugu states in fields such as AI Engineering, Data Science, Machine Learning, Cyber Security Analysis, Quantum Software Development, Quantum Research, Cloud Architecture, Robotics Engi-

neering, AI Ethics Consulting, and Semiconductor Design Engineering. Experts say that many of these jobs are likely to offer higher salaries than the existing IT jobs.

### How Real are Employees' Fears About AI?

Across the world, there is growing concern among employees about the impact of AI. Jobs involving repetitive tasks such as data entry, customer support, basic programming, back-office operations, and accounting are likely to be affected by automation. However, the view that is increasingly gaining acceptance is not that AI will completely eliminate jobs, but that it will transform the nature of jobs. Industry experts say that employees who can effectively use AI will become even more valuable resources in the future.

### The Situation in Telangana

Telangana is already one of India's leading IT hubs. Global technology giants such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Deloitte, and Accenture operate major facilities in Hyderabad. The government is now attempt-

ing to establish leadership in the AI sector as well. As part of this effort, it has launched a dedicated platform called AIKAM (AI Innovation and Advancement Mission). Through this initiative, the government has set several key objectives: transforming Telangana into one of the world's top 20 AI innovation hubs; providing funding and mentorship to AI-based startups; training millions of young people in AI skills; creating stronger linkages between universities, research institutions, and industries; expanding the use of AI in healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance; and ensuring ethical standards and responsible practices in the deployment of AI technologies.

### The Real Difference Between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

A closer look at the approaches of the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana governments reveals a significant difference. While Andhra Pradesh is focusing on building a future-oriented ecosystem centered on Quantum Computing, AI, research, and deep technologies, Telangana is



leveraging its existing IT strength to accelerate the growth of AI-driven industries, startups, products, and services. Overall, although the strategies of the two states differ, their objective is the same — creating jobs of the future.

However, success will not be determined by buildings, agreements, or technological infrastructure. The real test lies in how effectively the states can equip people—from rural youth to engineering students—with future-ready skills in AI, Quantum Technologies, Cybersecurity, and related domains. If they succeed in this mission, the Telugu states have the potential to emerge not merely as IT hubs but as globally recognized centers of technological innovation.

# CJP Launches 'Diaper Drive' in Protest Against NEET Leak Row

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Tuesday intensified its agitation over alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG examination by launching a unique "Diaper A Day Keeps Leaks Away" campaign, demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The protest, being held at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, entered its fourth consecutive day as students, activists, and members of various student organizations continued their demonstration against alleged paper leaks and examination-related controversies.

Announcing the campaign through social media, the CJP appealed to supporters to bring diapers to the protest venue and write messages demanding the minister's resignation. The party said the symbolic campaign was aimed at highlighting what it described as repeated failures in safeguarding the



integrity of national examinations.

"Bring a diaper, write your demand for his resignation on it, and we'll make sure it reaches the education minister," the party said in its appeal.

Meanwhile, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke alleged that Delhi Police attempted to reduce the space allotted for the protest late Monday night by shifting barricades and restricting the demonstration area. There was no immediate response from the police regarding the

allegation.

The party has maintained that its protest will continue until accountability is fixed for the alleged examination irregularities and the education minister steps down.

On Monday evening, protesters lit candles in memory of students who allegedly died by suicide following controversies surrounding examination leaks and recruitment irregularities. Addressing the gathering, Dipke criticized authorities for what he termed a

failure to act against those responsible for leaks while students continued to suffer the consequences. The agitation has drawn participation from a wide range of student groups, including the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Association (AISA), and the All India Students' Federation (AISF). As part of the movement, AISF has also established a free library at the protest site under its "Fight for Education with Education" initiative.

Organizers said the campaign aims to keep public attention focused on issues of transparency, accountability, and fairness in India's examination system. With growing participation from students and youth organizations, the protest is emerging as one of the most visible demonstrations against alleged examination malpractice in recent months.

# Udhayanidhi's Remarks on Vijay Spark Fresh Political Row



A fresh political controversy has erupted in Tamil Nadu after Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Vijay, drawing criticism for bringing personal issues into the political arena.

The exchange began after Vijay, while addressing the Assembly, delivered a strongly worded speech targeting the opposition DMK. He accused the previous government of corruption and asserted that his administration would recover public funds allegedly misused in the name of party fund collections. His remarks triggered protests from DMK legislators, who objected to the allegations and demanded evidence.

During the debate, Vijay reportedly used a "missing man" story as a political metaphor, which was widely interpreted as a veiled criticism of DMK leadership. The speech led to heated reactions from opposition members, with sev-

eral legislators staging a walk-out from the House.

Responding later, Udhayanidhi Stalin intensified the political confrontation by comparing the Assembly proceedings to a movie set. He accused Vijay of "acting" inside the House and suggested that the Assembly was being turned into a cinema hall. Using film-related analogies, Udhayanidhi remarked that the Speaker appeared to be calling "action" and "cut" while Vijay continued his performance.

The controversy escalated further when Udhayanidhi referred to reports concerning Vijay's ongoing family court proceedings, making comments that many observers viewed as personal rather than political. His remarks immediately sparked reactions across political circles and social media, with supporters of TVK condemning the statements as inappropriate and unnecessary.

Meanwhile, Vijay's supporters defended the Chief Minister's Assembly speech, arguing that he was highlighting issues of governance and accountability. They accused the DMK leadership of diverting attention from political criticism by resorting to personal attacks. Political analysts believe the exchange reflects the growing rivalry between the ruling TVK and the DMK ahead of upcoming electoral battles in the state. The sharp war of words has further intensified the political atmosphere, with both parties seeking to consolidate support among voters.

As the debate continues, the incident has once again highlighted the increasingly confrontational nature of Tamil Nadu politics, where Assembly proceedings and public statements are becoming major battlegrounds for political messaging and public perception.

# Japan PM's Assam Visit Cancelled



The proposed visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to Assam next month has been cancelled, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Tuesday, ending anticipation surrounding what would have been the first official visit by a Japanese Prime Minister to the northeastern state.

Addressing reporters in Guwahati, Sarma said the Ministry of External Affairs had informed the state govern-

ment that the planned India-Japan summit in Assam would not take place as scheduled. He added that the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state in connection with the summit had also been cancelled.

The chief minister said he was not aware of the specific reasons behind the decision but clarified that the Government of India had assured the state that the proposed investors' engagement and related

activities would be organized on a later date.

Prime Minister Takaichi was expected to visit India from July 1 to July 3 for the annual India-Japan summit. While Guwahati had initially been identified as the venue, the summit is now expected to be held in New Delhi.

Earlier, officials from the Japanese Embassy in India had indicated that the visit had not yet received formal confirmation, even as reports emerged suggesting that the trip might be called off due to a combination of undisclosed factors.

The visit was expected to carry significant diplomatic and economic importance. A delegation of more than 50 leading Japanese business executives was likely to accompany the Prime Minister, with discussions planned on strengthening bilateral supply chains, semiconductor cooperation, renewable energy pro-

jects, and industrial development in India's Northeast.

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Takaichi were also expected to hold bilateral talks aimed at deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries.

In preparation for the high-profile event, Guwahati had witnessed extensive beautification efforts in recent weeks. Authorities undertook road repairs, plantation drives, cleaning of public spaces, and re-painting of infrastructure across key parts of the city to present a welcoming image for the visiting dignitaries.

Despite the cancellation, officials expressed optimism that future engagements between India and Japan would continue to strengthen economic cooperation and investment opportunities, particularly in the northeastern region, which has emerged as a key focus area in New Delhi's Act East policy.

# Jaipur Cracks Down on Coaching Centres After Deadly Lucknow Fire

In the wake of the devastating fire at a coaching centre in Lucknow that claimed 15 lives, the Jaipur administration on Tuesday launched a massive inspection drive against coaching institutes and libraries, sealing 14 establishments and issuing notices to more than 24 others for violating fire safety norms.

Joint teams from the municipal corporation and police conducted inspections across various parts of the city to assess compliance with fire safety regulations. Officials examined the availability and functionality of firefighting equipment, emergency exits, evacuation arrangements, and mandatory fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

Chief Fire Officer Devendra Meena said that authorities have intensified enforcement measures to ensure student safety. He revealed that since June 4, nearly 600 establishments in Jaipur's Heritage area have been served notices regarding fire safety compliance. These include around 150 coaching institutes and librar-



ies that were found lacking in one or more safety requirements.

According to officials, 14 coaching centres and educational facilities were immediately sealed after inspectors found serious deficiencies in safety infrastructure. More than two dozen institutions received notices directing them to rectify shortcomings within a stipulated timeframe.

The crackdown follows growing concerns about safety standards in educational institutions, particularly in cities such as Jaipur that host thousands of students preparing for competitive examinations.

Authorities stressed that adherence to fire safety norms is crucial given the large number of students who occupy coaching centres and libraries daily.

During the inspections, teams checked whether fire extinguishers and firefighting systems were operational, whether emergency exits remained unobstructed, and whether safety equipment had crossed its validity period. Officials also scrutinized documentation related to fire clearances and building safety certifications.

The Lucknow tragedy has triggered nationwide concern

over safety standards in educational institutions. Many states have begun reviewing fire preparedness measures to prevent similar incidents. Jaipur officials said the current drive is part of a broader effort to ensure that coaching centres and libraries comply with prescribed safety guidelines and are adequately equipped to handle emergencies.

Authorities warned that institutions failing to address safety violations could face stricter action, including closure and legal proceedings. They also urged managements to prioritize student safety over operational convenience.

Officials confirmed that inspections will continue in the coming days across Jaipur, with additional teams deployed to cover more educational hubs. The administration has reiterated its commitment to ensuring that students study in safe and secure environments and that no compromise is made on fire and emergency preparedness standards.

# Missing CMO Reports Trigger High-Level Probe

The investigation into the disappearance of two crucial inquiry reports from the Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO) intensified on Tuesday, with police conducting another round of searches at the General Administration (GA) Department in Lok Seva Bhawan, the state secretariat.

Investigating officers examined records maintained by the offices of the Chief Secretary and the General Administration Department as part of efforts to trace the missing documents. The latest inspection follows an earlier search conducted on June 20 after a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Capital Police Station regarding the disappearance of the reports.

According to official records, all files were returned from the CMO to the Home Department on June 4, 2024. However, two significant inquiry reports were later found missing. One pertains to the murder of Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, while the other concerns the tragic SUM Hospital fire incident in Bhubaneswar.

Authorities suspect that the reports may have been deliberately removed rather than misplaced during routine administrative procedures. Police are scrutinizing file movement registers, official



records, and internal administrative processes to determine how the documents disappeared and who may be responsible.

The FIR was lodged on June 10 by Home Department Joint Secretary Sarat Chandra Marandi. The complaint alleged that key documents, including the Justice A.S. Naidu Commission report on the 2008 Laxmanananda Saraswati murder case and the Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) inquiry report into the 2016 SUM Hospital fire tragedy, had gone missing.

Police have registered a case under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), reflecting the seriousness of the matter.

The issue has also sparked political controversy. Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari re-

cently suggested that the reports may have been intentionally stolen and indicated that even former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik could be questioned if required during the investigation.

The missing reports relate to two major incidents in Odisha's history. Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and four associates were killed in Kandhamal district in August 2008, triggering widespread communal unrest. The second report concerns the devastating fire at SUM Hospital in October 2016, which claimed more than 20 lives and exposed serious shortcomings in fire safety measures. Police investigations are continuing to uncover the circumstances behind the disappearance of the sensitive documents.

# Tilak Varma's Surprise Appearance in Maharashtra Assembly Draws Attention

Young Indian cricketer Tilak Varma created a buzz on Tuesday after making a special appearance at the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected MLC Vikram Kakade.

Tilak Varma's presence at the Assembly surprised many political leaders, legislators, and visitors, quickly becoming one of the highlights of the event. The Hyderabad-born cricketer attended the ceremony to support his close friend Vikram Kakade, who officially took oath

as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC).

Speaking on the occasion, Tilak described Vikram Kakade as being "like a brother" to him and expressed happiness at witnessing his friend begin a new chapter in public life. He extended his best wishes and hoped that Kakade would serve the people effectively in his new role.

Tilak noted that Vikram Kakade had been actively involved in several social service initiatives over the years and

had consistently worked for community welfare. He said these experiences would help Kakade perform his responsibilities successfully as a legislator.

The cricketer's remarks received appreciation from those present at the ceremony. Several attendees welcomed the support shown by a prominent sportsperson towards a public representative committed to social causes.

Vikram Kakade's induction into the Maharashtra Legisla-

tive Council is being viewed as an important milestone in his public service journey. Supporters expressed confidence that he would continue his developmental and welfare-oriented activities while representing the interests of the people in the Upper House.

Tilak Varma's participation added a unique sporting dimension to the political event. The young batting star, who has represented India in international cricket and earned recognition through his performances in do-

mestic and franchise cricket, drew considerable attention from media personnel and visitors gathered at the Assembly premises.

As Vikram Kakade embarked on his new political innings, Tilak Varma's heartfelt message of friendship and encouragement emerged as one of the memorable moments of the ceremony, reflecting the strong bond shared between the two and highlighting the intersection of sports, public service, and community engagement.



# Trump Says Iran Agrees to Nuclear Inspections

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that Iran has agreed to permit the highest level of international nuclear inspections, describing the development as a major breakthrough in ongoing negotiations between Washington and Tehran.

In a statement posted on his Truth Social platform, Trump said Iran had "fully and completely agreed" to allow extensive nuclear inspections for the foreseeable future. He asserted that the arrangement would ensure what he termed "nuclear honesty" and help strengthen confidence in Iran's nuclear activities.

The announcement comes

amid continuing diplomatic efforts aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East following months of regional instability and concerns over Iran's nuclear programme.

According to Trump, the reported agreement on inspections was accompanied by several other concessions from Tehran during recent negotiations. He stated that, in response to these developments, the United States would not proceed with any naval blockade of the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

"Based on this and other major concessions being made by Iran, I have agreed to allow the Hormuz Strait to remain open,

with no further naval blockade," Trump said.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, serving as a key route for global oil and gas shipments. Any disruption to navigation through the narrow waterway has the potential to impact international energy markets and global trade.

Trump also indicated that discussions between the United States and Iran were progressing positively, though he did not disclose specific details about the broader framework of the negotiations or the mechanisms through which the proposed inspections would be carried out.

The remarks come at a time when diplomatic engagement between the two countries has intensified following recent efforts by international mediators to reduce regional tensions. Observers view enhanced nuclear monitoring as a significant confidence-building measure that could contribute to long-term stability.

However, neither Iranian authorities nor international nuclear monitoring agencies immediately provided detailed confirmation regarding the scope or duration of the inspections referenced by Trump. Analysts note that the implementation of any inspection regime would likely involve coordina-

tion with international bodies responsible for nuclear oversight. The developments are being closely watched by governments across the Middle East and beyond, given their potential implications for regional security, global energy supplies, and future relations between Washington and Tehran.

If formally implemented, the reported inspection agreement could mark one of the most significant diplomatic steps in recent years toward reducing tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear programme and ensuring uninterrupted maritime trade through the Strait of Hormuz.



# Netanyahu Pushes for Greater Military Independence from US



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has once again called for Israel to reduce its dependence on American military assistance and strengthen its domestic defence manufacturing capabilities, according to a statement released by his office on Tuesday.

Addressing reserve officers attending a training programme in the occupied West Bank, Netanyahu emphasized the need for Israel to develop a self-reliant military-industrial base capable of meeting the country's long-term security requirements.

"I deeply appreciate the support we have received from our American friends, but we need to break free from dependency and build our own independent armaments network," Netanyahu said.

The remarks were made on June 18, a day after the United States and Iran reached a preliminary agreement aimed at

ending the recent Middle East conflict. Israel has expressed reservations about aspects of the diplomatic engagement between Washington and Tehran, particularly regarding Iran's future role in the region.

Netanyahu argued that Israel must invest heavily in domestic weapons production and technological innovation to ensure strategic independence. "We need our own independent armaments network. We must manufacture our own armaments," he said.

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has been one of the largest recipients of American economic and military aid. According to data from the Council on Foreign Relations, the country has received more than \$300 billion in US assistance, adjusted for inflation. Under a ten-year defence assistance agreement signed in 2016 and implemented in 2019, Israel receives approximately

\$3.8 billion annually in military aid from Washington. The agreement remains in force until 2028.

The aid package accounts for roughly 15 percent of Israel's defence budget and supports the acquisition of advanced weapons systems and military equipment from the United States.

Netanyahu has repeatedly advocated reducing Israel's reliance on foreign assistance. Earlier this year, he stated that he hoped Israel could end its dependence on US military aid within a decade. In another interview, he suggested that future American financial support should eventually decline to zero.

Despite being close allies, the United States and Israel have experienced policy differences in recent years, particularly regarding military operations in Gaza, Lebanon, and broader regional security issues. Relations have also faced occasional strains over diplomatic efforts involving Iran.

Analysts view Netanyahu's latest comments as part of a broader strategy to strengthen Israel's defence self-sufficiency amid changing geopolitical dynamics. While US support remains a cornerstone of Israel's security framework, the Prime Minister's remarks signal a long-term vision aimed at enhancing domestic production capabilities and reducing strategic dependence on external partners.

# Hormuz Traffic Hits Wartime High Despite Regional Tensions

The strategically vital Strait of Hormuz witnessed its highest level of commodity carrier traffic since the outbreak of the Middle East conflict in late February, highlighting the resilience of global energy supply routes despite ongoing regional instability.

According to maritime tracking firm Kpler, at least 35 commodity-carrying vessels transited the narrow waterway on Monday, marking the busiest single day recorded since hostilities escalated across the region. Analysts expect the figure to rise further as additional vessel movements are confirmed through maritime monitoring systems.

The surge in traffic comes amid heightened concerns over the security of one of the world's most important shipping corridors. The Strait of Hormuz serves as a critical gateway connecting the Persian Gulf to international markets and handles roughly one-fifth of global oil and natural gas exports.

Although the 35 vessel crossings represent only about one-third of the normal peacetime average of approximately 120 daily transits, the figure is significant given the security risks and uncertainty that have dominated maritime operations in recent months.

Shipping companies and energy traders have been closely monitoring developments in the region following military confrontations, diplomatic tensions, and concerns about possible disruptions to commercial navigation. The waterway



has long been regarded as a geopolitical flashpoint, with any threat to shipping capable of triggering sharp movements in global energy prices.

Industry experts believe the increase in vessel movements reflects growing confidence among shipping operators following recent diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing tensions in the region. Several governments and international organizations have emphasized the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation through the strait to prevent disruptions to global trade and energy supplies.

The rise in traffic is also seen as a positive signal for international energy markets, which have remained sensitive to developments in the Middle East. Stable operations through the Strait of Hormuz are crucial for major oil-producing nations in the Gulf, whose exports depend heavily on uninterrupted access to the maritime route.

Despite the encouraging increase in shipping activity, analysts caution that risks remain elevated. Insurance costs for vessels operating in the region continue to be higher than normal, while shipping companies remain vigilant regarding potential security threats.

Global energy markets are expected to continue monitoring traffic patterns through the strait in the coming weeks as diplomatic negotiations and regional security developments unfold. Any sustained increase in vessel movements could help ease concerns over supply disruptions and contribute to greater stability in international oil and gas markets.

For now, the record wartime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz underscores the waterway's enduring importance to global commerce and the determination of shipping operators to keep trade flowing despite ongoing geopolitical challenges.

# EU-Taliban Talks on Deportations Spark Human Rights Concerns

A delegation from Afghanistan's Taliban administration arrived in Brussels on Tuesday for rare closed-door discussions with European Union officials, with deportation policies expected to dominate the agenda. The meeting comes amid growing pressure from several EU member states to increase the return of Afghan nationals whose asylum applications have been rejected or who are convicted of crimes in Europe.

The five-member Taliban delegation includes Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a senior spokesperson for the Taliban's foreign ministry. While no EU country officially recognizes the Taliban government, the talks mark an unusual diplomatic engagement between the two sides.

EU officials have emphasized that the meeting does not amount to formal recognition of the Taliban administration. Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevet clarified that Belgium granted visas only in accordance with its obligations as host of EU institutions and that the move should not be in-



terpreted as conferring legitimacy on the Taliban.

The discussions are taking place outside official EU premises, reflecting the bloc's continued refusal to formally recognize Taliban rule since the group returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 following the withdrawal of US-led forces.

The talks follow requests from a majority of EU member states seeking stronger migration controls and improved mechanisms for deporting individuals considered security

risks. According to EU officials, only a small percentage of Afghans ordered to leave Europe have actually returned to their home country. Human rights organizations have strongly criticized the engagement. Groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International warned that increased cooperation on deportations could place vulnerable Afghans at risk.

Rights advocates argue that Afghanistan remains unsafe, particularly for women, girls, journalists, activists, and former government employees. Since regaining power, the Taliban have imposed sweeping restrictions on women's education, employment, and public participation, drawing widespread international condemnation.

The meeting also comes as Afghanistan faces a worsening humanitarian crisis. Millions of Afghans have returned from neighboring countries such as Pakistan and Iran over the past year, adding pressure to an economy already struggling with sanctions, unemployment, and food shortages.

For the Taliban, engagement with European officials offers an opportunity to reduce diplomatic isolation and secure continued humanitarian assistance. For the EU, the talks reflect a difficult balancing act between migration management, security concerns, and commitments to human rights.

The outcome of the discussions is expected to influence future EU policies toward Afghanistan and the broader debate over migration and deportation across Europe.

# Iran, US Agree on Four Working Groups After Switzerland Talks

Technical negotiations between Iran and the United States concluded in Switzerland on Tuesday with both sides agreeing to establish four specialized working groups aimed at advancing discussions on key bilateral and regional issues.

According to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, the talks resulted in a framework for continued engagement through dedicated teams focusing on sanctions relief, nuclear affairs, economic development, and implementation mechanisms.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said the negotiators had reached an understanding to create four separate working groups: Sanctions Termination, Nuclear Affairs, Reconstruction and Economic Development, and Monitoring and Implementation.

The development marks another step in the ongoing diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington following recent high-level discussions aimed at reducing tensions in the Middle East and addressing long-standing disputes over Iran's nuclear programme and economic sanctions.

The sanctions-focused working group is expected to examine pathways for easing restrictions imposed on Iran's economy, particularly in sectors such as energy, banking, and international trade. The nuclear affairs team will concentrate on technical and policy issues related to Iran's nuclear activities, monitoring requirements, and future



commitments.

Meanwhile, the Reconstruction and Economic Development group is expected to explore opportunities for economic cooperation and support mechanisms that could contribute to Iran's economic recovery and regional stability. The Monitoring and Implementation team will oversee compliance and ensure that any future agreements are effectively carried out by both sides.

The conclusion of the technical talks follows recent diplomatic engagement between Iranian and American officials in Switzerland, which both sides have described as con-

structive. Observers view the creation of the working groups as a sign that negotiations are moving from broad political discussions to more detailed technical deliberations.

The talks come amid efforts to stabilize the region following months of conflict and heightened tensions. International stakeholders have closely watched the negotiations, hoping that progress between Tehran and Washington could contribute to broader peace and security in the Middle East. While significant differences remain between the two countries on several issues, the establishment of the working groups provides a structured

mechanism for addressing complex matters through sustained dialogue. Analysts believe that progress within these groups could lay the groundwork for a more comprehensive agreement in the future.

Neither side has announced a specific timeline for the completion of the working groups' tasks, but officials indicated that consultations will continue in the coming weeks. The outcome of these discussions is expected to play a crucial role in shaping future relations between Iran and the United States and influencing the broader geopolitical landscape of the region.

# Anubhav Plast IPO Receives 2.1 Times Subscription



The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Anubhav Plast, an ERW steel pipes and tubes manufacturer, concluded with a healthy response from investors, garnering an overall subscription of 2.1 times on the final day of bidding. The three-day public issue, which closed on June 23, attracted strong participation from retail and other investor categories, reflecting confidence in the company's growth prospects.

The company aims to raise 24 crore through a fresh issue of 30 lakh equity shares. The shares were offered in a price band of 77 to 80 per share, with the issue priced at the upper end of the band. The IPO consists entirely of a fresh issue, and the proceeds will be

utilized for business expansion, working capital requirements, and other corporate purposes.

Ahead of the public offering, Anubhav Plast successfully raised 6.78 crore from anchor investors. A total of 8.48 lakh shares were allotted through the anchor book on June 18. The anchor round witnessed participation from two institutional investors—Craft Emerging Market Fund and Longthrive Capital—providing an early boost to investor sentiment.

According to subscription data, investors placed bids for 44.97 lakh shares against the offer size of 21.52 lakh shares available for public subscription. The issue received 910 applications during the bidding

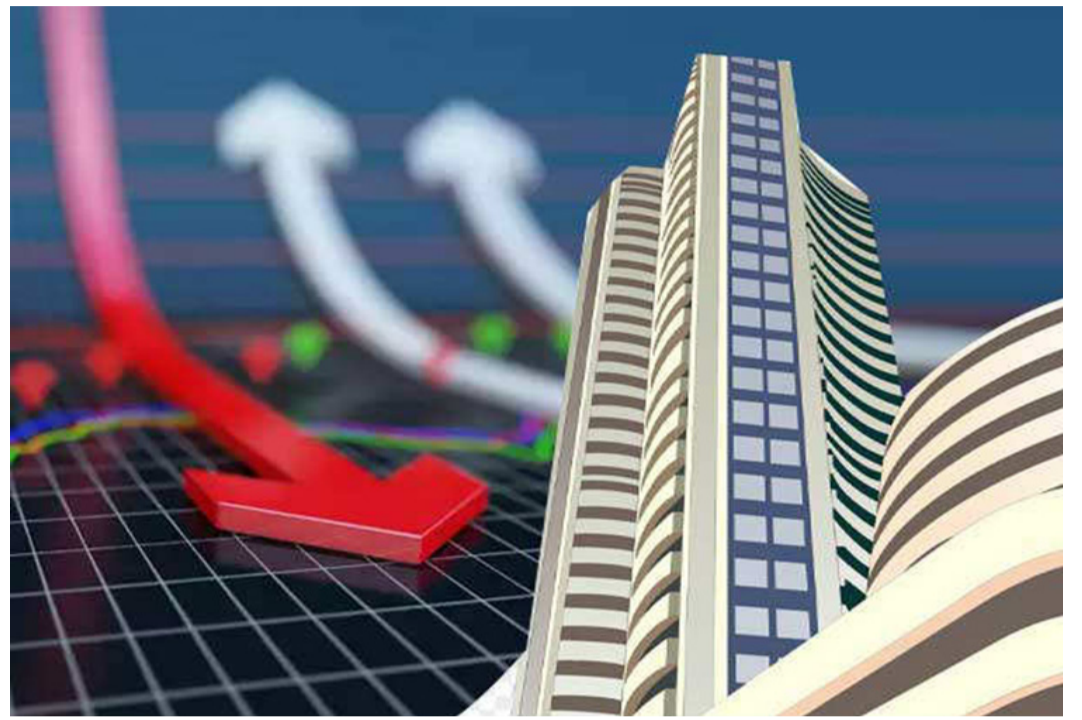
period, resulting in an overall subscription of 2.1 times.

Market participants noted that the oversubscription indicates moderate investor interest in the company, despite ongoing volatility in broader equity markets. The response also reflects confidence in the manufacturing and infrastructure-linked sectors, which continue to benefit from increasing industrial activity and government-led development initiatives.

With the subscription process now completed, investors are awaiting the share allotment. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalized later this week, after which successful applicants will receive shares in their demat accounts. Refunds for unsuccessful bidders are likely to be processed shortly thereafter. The company is expected to make its stock market debut on the NSE SME platform in the coming days following the completion of allotment formalities. Market analysts will closely watch the listing performance, as SME IPOs have witnessed mixed responses in recent months amid fluctuating market conditions.

Anubhav Plast's successful subscription marks another notable SME public issue this year, highlighting continued investor appetite for emerging companies seeking growth capital through the stock market.

# Markets Tumble as Global Uncertainty Weighs on Investor Sentiment



Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp sell-off on Monday, with benchmark indices ending significantly lower as weak global cues and uncertainty surrounding ongoing US-Iran peace negotiations dampened investor confidence. Broad-based selling across sectors dragged the indices down, although pharmaceutical and healthcare stocks provided some support.

The benchmark Sensex plunged 893.39 points, or 1.16 percent, to close at 76,200.68, while the Nifty declined 278.80 points, or 1.16 percent, to settle below the crucial 23,850 mark at 23,824.10. After a volatile start to the trading session, markets slipped further in the second half, with the Nifty touching an intraday low of 23,784.95.

Market participants remained cautious amid geopolitical concerns and global market weakness, leading to profit-booking across major sectors. Broader markets also ended in negative territory, with the Nifty Midcap index falling 1 percent and the Small-cap index declining 0.5 percent.

Information Technology stocks emerged as the biggest drag on the market. Heavyweights such as Infosys, TCS and Wipro witnessed notable losses, reflecting concerns over global economic growth and technology spending. Other major laggards included Adani Enterprises and JSW

Steel.

Sector-wise, all major indices ended lower except pharma and healthcare. Information Technology, Metals, Telecom, PSU Banks and Realty sectors recorded losses ranging between 1 and 3 percent. Defensive buying in pharmaceutical counters helped limit broader market losses. Stocks such as Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories and Sun Pharma emerged among the top gainers on the Nifty, while Power Grid Corporation and Axis Bank also ended in positive territory.

Despite the market decline,

several stocks touched fresh 52-week highs, indicating selective investor interest in fundamentally strong counters. Notable companies reaching new highs included Kirloskar Oil Engines, Syrma SGS Technology, Sai Life Sciences, AIA Engineering, Laurus Labs, Emcure Pharmaceuticals, GE Vernova T&D India, Apar Industries, Bharat Forge, Pidilite Industries, Nykaa, KEI Industries, Adani Enterprises, Navin Fluorine International, Aditya Birla Capital, Radico Khaitan and Adani Green Energy.

Analysts said investors are closely monitoring global developments, particularly geopolitical tensions and international diplomatic efforts, which continue to influence market direction. They added that volatility may persist in the near term as traders assess evolving global risks and upcoming economic indicators.

While the overall sentiment remained weak, the resilience shown by healthcare and pharmaceutical stocks highlighted continued investor preference for defensive sectors during periods of uncertainty.

# Cordelia Cruises IPO Sees Tepid Response on Day One



The initial public offering (IPO) of Waterways Leisure Tourism Limited, the operator of the popular Cordelia Cruises brand, witnessed a muted response from investors on the opening day of subscription, with the issue receiving bids for only 19 percent of the shares on offer.

According to data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), the 585-crore public issue attracted bids for approximately 8.03 lakh shares against the 41.84 lakh shares offered for subscription. The IPO consists entirely of a fresh issue of shares and aims to raise funds for the company's expansion and operational requirements.

Retail investors showed the strongest interest in the issue, with their reserved portion receiving nearly 99 percent subscription on the first day itself.

However, participation from Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) remained subdued, with the category garnering only 4 percent subscription. Institutional investor participation is expected to pick up closer to the closing date.

The weak opening-day response was also reflected in the grey market, where the premium for Cordelia Cruises shares declined further. Market observers tracking unofficial trading activity reported a drop in the Grey Market Premium (GMP), indicating cautious investor sentiment ahead of listing.

According to Investorgain, the GMP slipped to around 1.24 percent, down from nearly 3 percent a week earlier. Another market tracker, IPO Watch, estimated the premium at 1.49 percent, compared with 3.22 percent recorded the previous

day. A declining GMP is often viewed as a sign that investors expect limited listing gains.

Investors can bid for a minimum of 18 equity shares and in multiples of 18 shares thereafter. The company has positioned itself as a leading cruise tourism operator in India, seeking to tap into the growing demand for domestic and international cruise vacations. Market analysts believe the IPO's performance over the remaining subscription period will depend on institutional participation and broader market sentiment. Recent volatility in equity markets, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties and cautious investor behaviour, has affected demand for several new public issues. Despite the slow start, analysts note that retail interest remains encouraging. The final subscription figures over the next few days will provide a clearer indication of investor confidence in the company's growth prospects and India's expanding cruise tourism sector.

The IPO will remain open for subscription as investors evaluate the company's financials, business model, and long-term growth potential before making investment decisions.

# ED Raids Rajesh Exports After SEBI Flags Financial Irregularities



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday carried out searches at multiple premises linked to gold jewellery giant Rajesh Exports Limited in Bengaluru, intensifying regulatory scrutiny over the company following serious allegations raised by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

According to sources, the searches began early in the day and covered several locations associated with the company, its promoters, and related entities. The operation was ongoing at the time of reporting.

The ED action comes shortly after SEBI issued an interim order against Rajesh Exports, its Chairman Rajesh Mehta, and certain associated entities, alleging major irregularities in financial reporting and fund movements. The market regulator's findings have triggered concerns over transparency and corporate governance within one of India's largest gold exporters and jew-

ellery manufacturers.

SEBI, in its order, alleged that the company engaged in a complex web of transactions involving related parties. These transactions, according to the regulator, created multiple layers that obscured the actual flow of funds and made it difficult to trace the ultimate source and destination of the money. The regulator expressed concern that such arrangements may have distorted the company's financial statements and misrepresented its financial position.

Sources familiar with the

matter indicated that the ED is examining whether any violations under anti-money laundering laws may have occurred. Investigators are reportedly scrutinizing documents, financial records, and transaction trails as part of the probe.

The case has attracted significant attention due to the scale of the alleged financial discrepancies. Reports suggest that the regulator's findings relate to suspected financial misstatements amounting to nearly 15.15 lakh crore in transaction values, although

investigations are still underway and no final conclusions have been reached.

Rajesh Exports has been under heightened scrutiny since SEBI's interim findings became public. The company has not accepted the allegations and is expected to pursue legal remedies available under securities laws. No official statement from the company was immediately available regarding the ED searches.

Market observers note that the developments could have broader implications for investor confidence and corporate governance standards in the listed company space. Regulatory authorities are expected to continue their investigations to determine the extent of any wrongdoing and whether further enforcement action is warranted.

The outcome of the SEBI and ED investigations will be closely watched by investors, regulators, and the broader financial community in the coming months.

# Ola Electric Secures BIS Nod for Indigenous Battery Cell, Shares Rise



Mumbai, June 23: Shares of electric vehicle manufacturer Ola Electric Mobility gained nearly 3 percent on Tuesday after the company announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Ola Cell Technologies, received Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its indigenously developed LFP 46100 cylindrical battery cell.

The stock was trading at 43.77 in afternoon trade, up 2.94 percent from its previous close, reflecting positive investor sentiment following the development.

According to the company, the certification under IS 16046 (Part 2):2018 and IEC 62133-2:2017 makes Ola Electric the

first Indian company to secure BIS approval for a locally developed battery cell in the 46100 format. The achievement is seen as a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen domestic battery manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports. To obtain the certification, the battery cell underwent extensive testing at a National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-accredited facility. The tests assessed safety, reliability and performance under various operating conditions.

The company also stated that the LFP 46100 cell has qualified under IS 16893 Parts 2 and 3, along with the internationally

recognized UN 38.3 standards. These certifications confirm compliance with stringent electrical, mechanical, environmental, reliability, abuse and transportation safety requirements.

Industry observers view the development as a major step toward achieving greater self-reliance in advanced battery technology, a critical component of India's rapidly growing electric mobility sector.

Ola Electric has been investing heavily in battery research, manufacturing infrastructure and cell technology development as part of its long-term strategy to build an integrated EV ecosystem. The company believes indigenous cell production will help improve supply-chain security, reduce costs and accelerate EV adoption across the country.

The BIS certification is expected to support Ola Electric's broader plans for large-scale battery manufacturing and strengthen its position in the competitive electric vehicle market. Investors responded positively to the announcement, driving the stock higher during the trading session.

# SpaceX Shares Slide Below Listing Price Amid Ongoing Market Sell-Off



Shares of SpaceX extended their losses in pre-market trading on Tuesday, falling nearly 5 percent and slipping below their listing price, as investor concerns over technology stocks and the company's aggressive funding plans continued to weigh on sentiment.

The stock dropped to around \$147 per share, below its debut opening price of \$150, raising concerns that the Elon Musk-led aerospace and technology giant could see its market capitalization fall below the \$2 trillion mark. The decline comes amid a broader sell-off in technology stocks that has pressured major market indices and reduced investor appetite for high-growth companies.

SpaceX has now recorded losses for three consecutive trading sessions. During this period, the company has re-

portedly lost more than \$600 billion in market value, including a dramatic \$400 billion decline in a single session on Monday, marking one of the largest one-day value erasions in market history.

The latest slide follows a steep 16 percent drop in the company's share price, which pushed the stock to its lowest

level since it began trading. Market analysts attribute the downturn to a combination of profit booking, broader weakness in technology shares, and investor caution regarding the company's financing strategy.

Adding to market concerns, SpaceX is currently raising funds through the sale of in-

vestment-grade bonds as part of a larger borrowing program aimed at supporting its expanding ambitions in artificial intelligence, satellite communications, and next-generation space technologies. Investors are closely monitoring how the company manages its debt while continuing to invest heavily in future growth initiatives. Despite the recent correction, analysts note that SpaceX remains one of the world's most valuable technology and aerospace companies, with significant interests in rocket launches, satellite internet services, and AI-driven innovation.

Market participants will be watching upcoming corporate updates and broader technology sector trends to assess whether the stock can stabilize after one of the sharpest declines in its trading history.

# Gen Z Intern's Simple Invitation Changes CEO's Perspective on Workplace Hierarchy

A casual question from a young employee has sparked a broader conversation about workplace culture, hierarchy, and how younger generations view professional relationships. The incident, shared by Noida-based entrepreneur Nitin Verma, has resonated widely on social media and prompted discussions about the evolving dynamics of modern workplaces.

Verma revealed that one of his Gen Z interns casually invited him to join the team for a drink after work. While the invitation itself seemed harmless, the reaction from other employees caught his attention. According to the CEO, several team members appeared shocked, as though the intern had crossed an unspoken professional boundary.

Although Verma declined the invitation at the time, he admitted that the moment stayed with him and led him to reflect on the changing nature of workplace relationships. He observed that the intern did not see him primarily as a CEO or a corporate authority figure but rather as a person who could be approached casually and comfortably.

The incident highlighted a clear contrast between generations. Verma explained that



older generations were often taught to maintain a formal distance from senior colleagues and authority figures. Respect was commonly expressed through hierarchy, careful language, and strict professional boundaries.

However, he believes Gen Z approaches workplace relationships differently. According to Verma, younger employees tend to value authenticity

and approachability over titles and designations. Rather than respecting someone solely because of their position, they respect individuals based on how they treat others and how accessible they are.

Reflecting on the experience, Verma acknowledged that there was a time when he might have considered such behavior unprofessional. Today, however, he sees it as a

genuine form of respect. In his view, the invitation reflected comfort, trust, and openness rather than a lack of professionalism.

He further noted that respect built through genuine human connection can sometimes be more meaningful than respect rooted in fear or hierarchy. The reactions of other employees, he said, demonstrated how organizational structures can create distance between people, while the intern's gesture suggested that such barriers are not always necessary. The entrepreneur concluded that the encounter offered valuable insight into the mindset of the younger workforce. While he declined the invitation on that particular day, he admitted that he might accept a similar invitation in the future.

The story has struck a chord online, with many users praising the intern's confidence and Verma's willingness to reconsider traditional workplace norms. As companies increasingly adapt to changing workforce expectations, the episode serves as a reminder that respect, professionalism, and leadership are being redefined by a new generation that values connection as much as authority.

# 76-Year-Old Retiree Spends Her Pension Feeding Hundreds of Monkeys

A heartwarming story from Madurai has captured the attention of people across the country, as a 76-year-old woman continues to dedicate a significant portion of her pension to feeding hundreds of monkeys every week.

For more than a decade, Malathi has been carrying out her unique act of compassion, using her retirement income to care for monkeys living around Tirupparankundram. Despite advancing age and health-related challenges, she remains committed to the routine she began years ago, earning admiration both online and offline.

Every Saturday, Malathi visits several locations in the Tirupparankundram area, carrying food for the animals. According to reports, nearly 350 to 400 monkeys gather whenever she calls out to them, a remarkable bond built through years of consistent care and affection. The sight of hundreds of monkeys responding to her voice has become a symbol of the trust she has developed with the animals.

Malathi's life has been marked by service long before she became known for her dedication to animal welfare. She served as Director of Physical Education at



Gandhigram University, worked at an international school in Kodaikanal, and spent 33 years associated with the Tamil Nadu Police Department before retiring in 2010. Rather than slowing down after retirement, she chose to devote her time and resources to caring for animals. What began as a simple act of kindness gradually evolved into a decade-long mission that now touches the lives of hundreds of monkeys every week. Her story has resonated strongly on social media, where users have praised her selflessness, compassion, and commitment. Many have described her efforts as a reminder that meaningful change often comes from small but consistent acts of kindness. Others have applauded her willingness to continue serving living beings despite per-

sonal challenges and advancing age.

Animal lovers and social media users alike have hailed Malathi as an inspiration, noting that her dedication reflects a deep sense of responsibility toward nature and wildlife. Her actions demonstrate how compassion can extend beyond people to include animals that share our environment.

As her story continues to spread online, Malathi's unwavering commitment serves as a powerful example of empathy in action. Through her weekly routine and years of dedication, she has shown that retirement need not mark the end of service—it can also become the beginning of a new purpose dedicated to caring for others, including the voiceless creatures that depend on human kindness.

# ₹56 Crore NRI Plans Return to India After 23 Years in US

A successful Non-Resident Indian (NRI) with assets worth nearly 56 crore has sparked a widespread discussion online after revealing plans to return to India following more than two decades in the United States. Despite achieving financial success and building a comfortable life abroad, the individual says the decision is being driven not by money, but by a desire for belonging and emotional security.

In a social media post that quickly gained attention, the NRI shared his journey of spending 23 years in the US. Like many immigrants, he initially arrived with excitement and ambition, viewing America as a land of opportunity. He described how the country's infrastructure, lifestyle, and career prospects seemed far more advanced compared to what he had experienced while growing up in India.

Over the years, he built significant wealth through a combination of salary, equity compensation, and long-term investments in American technology stocks. Today, his investment portfolio alone is reportedly worth around \$6 million (approximately 56 crore), excluding other assets accumulated during his stay in the US.

However, despite professional accomplishments and financial stability, he admitted to experiencing a lingering sense of being an outsider. Accord-



ing to him, there remains a subtle but persistent emotional distance that is difficult to explain. He noted that no matter how much success an immigrant achieves, there are moments when it feels as though they are not completely part of the society around them. The NRI also said that thoughts about aging have increasingly influenced his outlook. Questions regarding family connections, community support, emotional well-being, and long-term security have prompted him to reconsider where he wants to spend the next phase of his life. While he appreciates every-

thing the US has offered, he wonders whether the comfort and sense of belonging he seeks can be found more naturally in India. The post triggered a lively debate on social media. Many users encouraged him to spend several months in India before making a permanent move, pointing out that the country has changed significantly over the past two decades. Others supported his decision, arguing that strong family ties, friendships, and community connections often become more valuable than wealth later in life. Several commenters emphasized that true happiness de-

pends less on geography and more on meaningful relationships. Whether in India or abroad, they said, having people to rely on during both successes and struggles is what ultimately creates a sense of home. The story has resonated with many immigrants around the world, highlighting a reality often overlooked in discussions about overseas success—that financial prosperity does not always guarantee a feeling of belonging. For many expatriates, the search for home remains an emotional journey that continues long after professional goals have been achieved.

# Bengaluru Auto Driver Accused of Extorting ₹2,400 From First-Time Visitors

A social media post alleging that two teenage boys were extorted by an auto-rickshaw driver in Bengaluru has triggered widespread outrage online and renewed concerns about the safety of first-time visitors in the city.

According to the viral post, the two teenagers, believed to be between 16 and 18 years old, had recently arrived in Bengaluru from a village in search of work opportunities. After reaching Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal, they reportedly hired an auto-rickshaw to travel toward Attibele so they could catch a bus to Hosur.

The incident was brought to light by a Bengaluru-based tech professional named Sanu, who claimed the driver initially agreed to charge 50 per passenger for the journey. However, upon reaching the destination, the driver allegedly demanded an exorbitant 3,000 for the ride. The unexpected demand reportedly left the teenagers frightened and confused. According to the post, the boys contacted Sanu for help, but the situation allegedly escalated when the driver snatched their mobile phone, preventing them from seeking further assistance.

The techie claimed that the driver then took the boys to an isolated location and pressured them into making a payment. After pleading with the driver, the teenagers eventually managed to retrieve their phone but were allegedly forced to transfer 2,400



through UPI before being allowed to leave.

Although the boys were unable to note the auto-rickshaw registration number, the payment was reportedly made digitally. Sanu later shared a screenshot of the UPI transaction on social media and tagged Bengaluru City Police, urging authorities to identify and take action against the driver using the available payment details.

The post quickly gained traction online, with many users expressing anger over the alleged exploitation of young newcomers unfamiliar with the city. Several social media users called for stricter action against such incidents, arguing that they damage Bengaluru's reputation as a welcoming destination for students, job

seekers, and migrants from across the country.

The allegations have also reignited discussions about overcharging by some auto-rickshaw drivers and the need for stronger enforcement against fraudulent practices. Many users urged visitors to rely on app-based transport services or insist on fare transparency before beginning a journey.

As of now, the claims remain allegations shared on social media, and official confirmation regarding the incident or any action taken by authorities has not been publicly disclosed. However, the viral post has once again highlighted concerns about passenger safety and fair transportation practices in one of India's largest metropolitan cities.

# Bumble Date Turns Into Stalking Scare as Woman Tracks Down Man's Home

What began as a seemingly ordinary first date through a dating app reportedly turned into a disturbing experience for a 28-year-old woman, who claims she was subjected to repeated calls and unexpected visits after declining a second date.

According to the man, he met a 30-year-old woman named Ruth through the dating platform Bumble. The two initially appeared to have a pleasant outing, spending time together over coffee and a workout session. After the date, the man dropped her off and later sent a polite message thanking her for the time spent together.

However, he also made it clear that he did not feel a ro-

mantic connection and did not wish to pursue the relationship further. While the woman initially acknowledged his message, the situation soon escalated.

The man alleged that she began repeatedly texting and calling him, demanding to know why he had decided not to continue seeing her. Despite explaining his decision and requesting that she stop contacting him, the calls reportedly continued throughout the evening.

According to his account, he received around ten phone calls in a single night. After blocking her number, he claims the woman began calling him from multiple different phone numbers the following day. In

total, he said he received nearly 20 missed calls and several voicemail messages asking him to return her calls.

The situation took a more alarming turn when the woman allegedly managed to locate his home address. The man stated that she arrived unannounced at his residence and attempted to speak with him. At the time, his mother answered the door and informed the visitor that he was not at home.

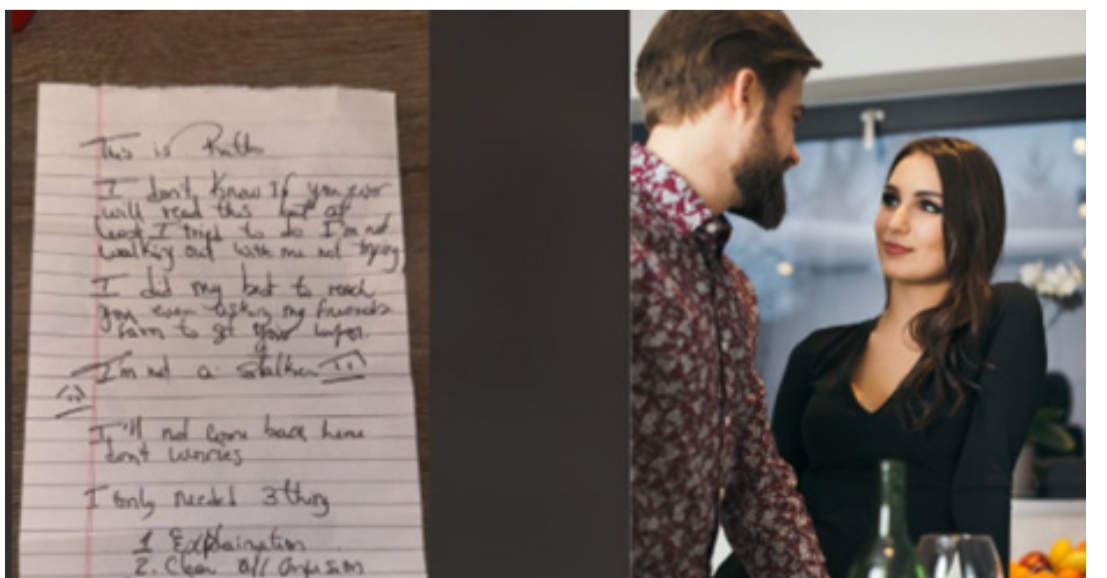
Before leaving, the woman reportedly wrote a letter and left it at the doorstep. The unexpected visit left the man feeling uneasy and concerned about his privacy and safety.

Sharing his experience online, he described the incident

as one of the most unsettling situations he had ever encountered. He also revealed that he had considered contacting law enforcement authorities or seeking a restraining order but was unsure about the appropriate course of action.

The story has sparked widespread discussion on social media, with many users expressing concern over personal boundaries in modern dating. Others advised the man to document all communications and seek legal assistance if the behaviour continued.

The incident serves as a reminder that while online dating can create meaningful connections, respecting personal boundaries remains essential for both parties.



# Capitals Reclaim Their Star as Pant-Kuldeep Swap Stuns IPL Fans

In one of the biggest player trades in Indian Premier League history, Rishabh Pant has completed a sensational return to Delhi Capitals, while star spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved to Lucknow Super Giants. The blockbuster swap deal was officially confirmed by the IPL on Monday, creating major excitement ahead of the next season.

Pant, who was bought by Lucknow Super Giants for a record-breaking Rs 27 crore ahead of the 2025 season, has agreed to a substantial pay cut to reunite with the franchise where he built his IPL legacy. Under the new deal, the wicketkeeper-batter will earn Rs 15 crore per season with Delhi Capitals.

The move marks a homecoming for Pant, who started his IPL journey with Delhi in 2016 and went on to become one of the franchise's most influential players. During his first stint with the Capitals, he played 111 matches, the highest by any



player in the team's history. He also captained the side in 43 matches between 2021 and 2024 and became the face of the franchise for nearly a decade.

Pant's two-year stay with Lucknow Super Giants, however, did not go according to expectations. Appointed captain ahead of the 2025 season, he struggled to deliver consistent perfor-

mances with the bat. He scored 269 runs in the 2025 season and followed it up with 312 runs in 2026. Despite being used in different batting positions, from opener to finisher, he failed to justify his record price tag.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Yadav's move to Lucknow Super Giants comes after an impressive spell with Delhi Capitals. Since join-

ing the franchise in 2022, the left-arm wrist spinner established himself as one of the league's most reliable wicket-takers. Over five seasons with Delhi, Kuldeep claimed 72 wickets in 65 matches and played a crucial role in the team's bowling attack.

Lucknow Super Giants have retained Kuldeep at a salary of Rs 13.50 crore, slightly higher than his previous contract value. The franchise will hope that his experience and wicket-taking ability strengthen their bowling department in the coming seasons.

The trade represents a major strategic shift for both teams. Delhi Capitals regain their former captain and one of the most popular players in the league, while Lucknow Super Giants secure a proven match-winning spinner. With both players switching franchises, the IPL landscape has received a significant shake-up ahead of the new season.

# Hyderabad E-Champions Outclass Palamuru Strikers in TG20 League

Hyderabad E Champions began their TG20 League 2026 campaign emphatically, registering a convincing seven-wicket victory over Palamuru Strikers. Delivering an all-round performance, Hyderabad first restricted their opponents to a modest total before comfortably chasing down the target with more than four overs to spare.

Batting first, Palamuru Strikers struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for 141 runs in 19.4 overs. Despite a promising start from Rohith Rayudu, who top-scored with 35 runs off 22 balls, the batting lineup failed to capitalize on key partnerships. Prateek Pawar and Vignesh Reddy contributed 30 runs each, but the remaining batters were unable to make significant contributions as wickets fell at regular intervals.

The Hyderabad bowling attack was led brilliantly by Ajay Dev Goud, who produced a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for 21 runs. He received excellent support from Yashveer Goud and Pranav Varma, who claimed two wickets each. Sriniket also chipped in with a wicket as Hyderabad maintained pressure throughout the innings and prevented Pal-



amuru from posting a challenging total.

In reply, Hyderabad E Champions approached the chase aggressively. After losing an early wicket, captain Abhirath Reddy turned the game in his team's favor with a breathtaking knock of 35 runs from just 13 deliveries. His innings included five boundaries and two sixes, providing Hyderabad with a flying start and putting immediate pressure on the opposition bowlers.

Although Hyderabad lost a couple of wickets during the powerplay, Anvith Reddy and Gadugu Ganesh steadied the innings with a match-defining unbeaten partnership. The duo combined caution with aggression, ensuring there were no further setbacks in the chase.

Anvith Reddy anchored the innings superbly, remaining unbeaten on 53 runs from 42 balls, which included four fours and two sixes. At the other end, Gadugu Ganesh played an equally important role, scoring an unbeaten 50 from 30 deliveries with five boundaries and two maximums. Their partnership guided Hyderabad to the target in just 15.4 overs, finishing at 142 for 3.

For his composed and match-winning half-century, Anvith Reddy was named Player of the Match. The comprehensive victory gives Hyderabad E Champions an ideal start to their TG20 League campaign, while Palamuru Strikers will look to regroup and bounce back strongly in their upcoming matches.

# Nitish Kumar Reddy Injured, Suryansh Shegde Gets India Call-Up



Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed that Nitish will miss both the Ireland and England T20 assignments. The injury occurred during India's recent ODI series against Afghanistan. Initially believed to be a minor issue, medical examinations and MRI scans later revealed damage to his hamstring muscles.

According to medical experts, Nitish is expected to require at least four weeks to recover fully. Even after completing rehabilitation, he will need additional time to regain match fitness and satisfy the team's fitness requirements. As a result, the selectors decided not to risk the talented all-rounder and removed him from the squad for the upcoming tour.

Nitish's absence is a significant loss for Team India, considering his growing importance as a batting all-rounder.

His ability to contribute with both bat and ball has made him a valuable option in the shortest format of the game. The injury also continues a worrying trend for the Indian team, which has already seen players struggle with fitness issues ahead of an important international schedule.

To fill the vacancy, the selectors have handed an opportunity to promising youngster Suryansh Shegde. The middle-order batter impressed in recent domestic and developmental tournaments, earning recognition for his consistent performances.

Suryansh recently showcased his talent during the triangular series involving India A and Sri Lanka A teams, where he scored 147 runs in five matches. Apart from his batting contributions, he also delivered useful performances with the ball, highlighting his

versatility.

The youngster had earlier caught the attention of selectors during the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Representing Mumbai, he scored 131 runs and displayed the temperament needed for high-pressure situations. His strong domestic record and recent form ultimately convinced the selectors to include him in the national squad. India will begin their white-ball campaign with a two-match T20 series against Ireland from June 26 to June 28. Following that, the team will travel to England for a five-match T20 series scheduled between July 1 and July 11.

For Suryansh Shegde, the call-up represents a golden opportunity to make an impact on the international stage, while Team India will hope Nitish Kumar Reddy recovers quickly and returns stronger for future assignments.

# Telugu Spinner Sricharani Climbs to World No. 1

Indian spinner and Telugu cricketer Sricharani has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the No. 1 ranked bowler in women's T20 International cricket. The young spinner rose to the top of the latest ICC rankings, surpassing England's Lindsey Smith and marking a historic moment in her rapidly growing career.

Sricharani's rise to the summit has been fueled by a series of outstanding performances in recent months. She played a crucial role in India's campaign at the latest Women's T20 World Cup, where she emerged as one of the tournament's standout bowlers. In just three matches, she claimed an impressive 10 wickets, showcasing her ability to trouble batters consistently with her accuracy, variations, and composure under pressure.

The achievement is particularly significant considering the relatively short span of her international career. Sricharani made her T20 International debut for India on June 28 last year in a match against England. Since then, she has quickly established herself as a key member of India's bowling attack. Her ability to deliver breakthroughs at crucial moments and maintain control during pressure situations has earned praise from teammates, coaches, and cricket experts alike.

Becoming the world's No. 1 T20 bowler is a testament to Sricharani's dedication, discipline, and relentless hard work. Her success story has inspired aspiring cricketers, especially young girls from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who now see her as a symbol of what can be achieved through determination and perseverance.

The achievement also drew appreciation from Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Loke-



sh, who congratulated the young spinner on her historic feat. Recalling a conversation he had with Sricharani last year, Lokesh said he still remembered her sharing the struggles and challenges she faced during her early cricketing journey. He noted that her success is proof that talent combined with hard work and persistence ultimately leads to recognition and achievement.

In a message shared on social media, he expressed pride on behalf of the entire state and wished her continued suc-

cess in the years ahead. He also encouraged her to achieve even greater milestones and bring more glory to Indian cricket.

Sricharani's rise to the top of the world rankings represents not only a personal triumph but also a proud moment for Indian cricket. As she continues her international journey, fans and cricket followers will be eager to see her build on this success and further strengthen her reputation as one of the finest bowlers in women's T20 cricket.

# Anvith Reddy, Ganesh Star as Hyderabad E Champions Crush Palamuru Strikers



tenders in the tournament.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, Palamuru Strikers struggled to build substantial partnerships and were eventually bowled out for 141 runs in 19.4 overs. Rohith Rayudu emerged as the top scorer with 35 runs from 22 balls, striking three boundaries and two sixes. Prateek Pawar and Vignesh Reddy contributed 30 runs each, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to capitalize on their starts.

Hyderabad's bowlers maintained pressure throughout the innings. Ajay Dev Goud was the standout performer, producing a match-winning spell of 4 wickets for 21 runs. Yashveer Goud and Pranav Varma provided excellent support, claiming two wickets apiece, while Sriniket chipped in with one wicket. Their collective effort ensured Palamu-

ru could not post a challenging total.

Chasing 142, Hyderabad began aggressively despite losing an early wicket. Captain Abhirath Reddy played a sensational cameo, smashing 35 runs off just 13 deliveries. His innings featured five fours and two sixes, giving Hyderabad valuable momentum during the powerplay.

However, after a couple of quick wickets, Hyderabad found themselves needing a steady partnership. Anvith Reddy and Gadugu Ganesh rose to the occasion with an unbeaten match-winning stand that completely shifted the game in Hyderabad's favor.

Anvith anchored the innings brilliantly, remaining unbeaten on 53 from 42 balls. His composed knock included four boundaries and two sixes. At

the other end, Gadugu Ganesh complemented him perfectly with a fluent unbeaten 50 from 30 deliveries, striking five fours and two sixes.

The duo accelerated at the right moments, punishing loose deliveries and rotating the strike effectively. Their partnership ensured Hyderabad reached the target comfortably in just 15.4 overs, finishing at 142 for 3 and securing a comprehensive victory.

For his match-winning half-century and calm presence during the chase, Anvith Reddy was named Player of the Match.

The emphatic win gives Hyderabad E Champions a dream start to their TG20 League 2026 journey, while Palamuru Strikers will aim to address their batting shortcomings and bounce back stronger in their upcoming fixtures.



# Young Team India Sets Off for Ireland and England Challenge

Fresh from their triumphant T20 World Cup campaign, Team India has embarked on an important overseas tour to Ireland and England. Led by captain Shreyas Iyer in the T20 format, the Indian squad departed from Chennai International Airport on Tuesday for a tour that marks the beginning of a new phase in the country's white-ball cricket journey.

The tour will begin with a two-match T20I series against Ireland in Dublin on June 26 and June 28. This will be India's first T20 assignment since lifting the T20 World Cup trophy and is expected

to provide valuable opportunities for young players as the team starts preparations for future global events, including the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the next T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

One of the biggest attractions of the squad is 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi. At just 15 years and 71 days old, he has become the youngest player ever selected for the Indian men's cricket team, surpassing a long-standing record set by Sachin Tendulkar more than three decades ago. Cricket fans will be ea-

ger to see how the teenage sensation performs on the international stage.

Another notable inclusion is uncapped fast bowler Prince Yadav, who earned his maiden national call-up after an impressive showing in the IPL. His selection highlights the team's focus on nurturing emerging talent and building a strong player pool for the future.

The squad has also witnessed a few changes due to injuries and fitness concerns. Senior pacer Mohammed Siraj, who was initially named in the squad, has

been replaced by Prasidh Krishna. Seam-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi have returned after recovering from injuries and re-gaining fitness.

Following the Ireland series, the same T20 squad will travel to England for a five-match T20I series scheduled from July 1 to July 11. The series is expected to test India's depth and adaptability against strong opposition in challenging conditions.

After the T20 leg, attention will shift to the ODI format. India will play a three-match ODI series

against England from July 14 to July 19. Shubman Gill will captain the ODI side, while Shreyas Iyer will serve as vice-captain. Star batter Virat Kohli is set to return to the squad after recovering from a thigh injury that ruled him out of the Afghanistan ODI series earlier this year. However, his participation will depend on clearing the final fitness assessments.

With a blend of experienced stars and exciting young talent, Team India will be aiming for a successful tour and a strong start to the next chapter of its international journey.

## “Vasudheva Sutham” Trailer Unveiled: A Mythical Action Spectacle

The makers of “Vasudheva Sutham” have unveiled the film’s much-awaited trailer, offering audiences a visually stunning glimpse into an epic battle between divine forces and evil powers. Produced by Dhanalaxmi Badarla under the Rainbow Cinemas banner and directed by Vykunt Bonu, the film stars Master Mahendran and Ambikavani in the lead roles. Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on July 10, the film has already generated considerable buzz through its posters, glimpses, and teaser. The trailer introduces viewers to a fascinating story centered around a revered temple in Odisha dedicated to Lord Vasudeva. Hidden within the temple is the mysterious “Brahma Padartham,” a divine essence believed to possess immense power. When dark forces attempt to capture this sacred object and use its energy to dominate the universe, a fierce battle unfolds between righteousness and evil.



Master Mahendran appears in a powerful role as a courageous warrior determined to protect Dharma and safeguard the divine artefact. The trailer blends action, fantasy, and mythology seamlessly, creating a gripping cinematic experience. Stunning visuals, large-scale action sequences, mystical elements, and a strong mythological backdrop add depth to the narrative. Powerful dialogues and an impressive background score further elevate the trailer, while the striking Garuda sequence in the final moments leaves a lasting impact. Speaking at the trailer launch event, Mahendran expressed his happiness about being part of the project. He praised

the producers for their unwavering belief in the story and their commitment to making the film on a grand scale. Calling the movie a content-rich entertainer inspired by Lord Krishna, he said he considers himself fortunate to have landed such a significant role. He also appreciated director Vykunt Bonu’s vision, Ambikavani’s performance, and highlighted the cinematography by Jijuu Sunny and music by Mani Sharma as major strengths of the film. Director Vykunt Bonu revealed that the idea for the film emerged after he developed a story set against the backdrop of a famous temple in Odisha. He said the producer immediately ap-

proved the concept and encouraged him to proceed. According to the director, Mahendran accepted the project instantly after hearing the story, while legendary composer Mani Sharma also showed great enthusiasm after listening to the script. Vykunt stated that the final 45 minutes of the film will be one of its biggest highlights, promising audiences a thrilling and emotionally satisfying experience. He also expressed confidence in the film’s dialogues, visual effects, songs, and background score. Producer Trinadh Keshav described “Vasudheva Sutham” as a special debut venture and thanked the entire team for their dedication. Lead actress Ambikavani expressed gratitude for the opportunity she received despite language barriers. With its unique blend of mythology, action, fantasy, and spiritual themes, “Vasudheva Sutham” is gearing up to deliver a grand cinematic spectacle when it hits theatres on July 10.

## Chiranjeevi’s Praise for ‘Maa Inti Bangaram’ Sparks Buzz Over Samantha’s ‘New Chapter’



A congratulatory message from megastar Chiranjeevi for the upcoming film Maa Inti Bangaram has triggered widespread discussion on social media, with fans speculating about a possible personal revelation involving actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu.

Taking to social media, Chiranjeevi showered praise on Maa Inti Bangaram, which features Samantha in the lead role. The veteran actor said the film impressed him greatly and commended director Nan-

dini Reddy for blending family emotions and action elements into an entertaining narrative. He particularly appreciated Samantha’s action sequences performed while wearing a saree, describing them as highly effective and impactful. However, it was a remark at the end of his message that grabbed the attention of netizens. Chiranjeevi extended his wishes to “Samantha and Raj” for what he described as a “new chapter” in their lives. The phrase immediately sparked speculation online, with several social media users linking it to ongoing rumors about Samantha’s personal life. Some online discussions interpreted the “new chapter” comment as a possible reference to pregnancy, leading to claims that

the megastar may have indirectly confirmed the circulating rumors. However, neither Samantha nor her representatives have publicly confirmed any such reports, and the speculation remains unverified. Responding to Chiranjeevi’s appreciation, Samantha expressed heartfelt gratitude. She said receiving praise from a legendary figure like Chiranjeevi felt like a dream come true and thanked him sincerely for his encouraging words. The actress also shared her happiness that he enjoyed the film. The episode has once again highlighted how comments made by prominent film personalities can quickly become the subject of intense public scrutiny. In recent months,

Chiranjeevi has occasionally revealed interesting details related to films and industry developments before official announcements, leading fans to closely analyze his statements. While the appreciation for Maa Inti Bangaram has generated positive attention for the film, the conversation online has largely shifted toward the meaning behind Chiranjeevi’s “new chapter” remark. Until an official statement is made by Samantha or those close to her, the discussions surrounding the comment remain purely speculative. For now, the focus remains on the positive reception of Maa Inti Bangaram and the praise Samantha has received from one of Telugu cinema’s most respected stars.

## Mammootty Honoured with Padma Bhushan



Veteran Malayalam superstar Mammootty has been conferred with the prestigious Padma Bhushan, one of India’s highest civilian honours, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema and society. The award was presented by Droupadi Murmu during the second investiture ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 23. Accompanying the celebrated

actor on the special occasion was his son, actor Dulquer Salmaan, making the moment even more memorable for the family. With a remarkable career spanning more than five decades, Mammootty has established himself as one of Indian cinema’s most respected and versatile performers. Over the years, he has appeared in more than 400 films across Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Kannada, and English languages, earning critical acclaim as well as immense popularity among audiences. Beyond his achievements on screen, Mammootty is also widely recognized for his contributions to various social and charitable causes. His work in education, healthcare initiatives, and community welfare programs has earned him admira-

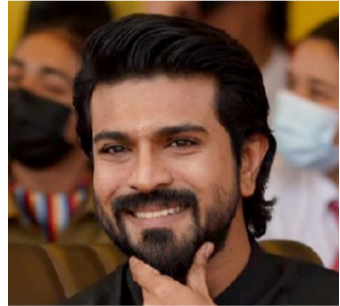
tion beyond the film industry. Reacting to the honour, Mammootty expressed immense happiness and gratitude. Speaking about the recognition, he described it as one of the greatest moments of his life and said there could be no honour greater than receiving recognition from the nation itself. His heartfelt response reflected the emotional significance of the award after decades of dedication to cinema and public service. The Padma Bhushan is India’s third-highest civilian award and is bestowed upon individuals for distinguished service of a high order in various fields. Mammootty’s recognition is being celebrated by film personalities, political leaders, and millions of fans across the country, particularly in Kerala, where he re-

mains one of the most beloved cultural icons. This year, the Government of India approved 131 Padma Awards, including five Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri honours. The awards recognize exceptional contributions in fields such as art, literature, education, social work, science, sports, medicine, public affairs, and civil service. The honour marks another milestone in Mammootty’s illustrious journey and serves as a fitting tribute to an actor whose influence has extended far beyond the silver screen. As tributes continue to pour in from across the nation, the Padma Bhushan stands as a recognition of his enduring legacy in Indian cinema and his contributions to society.

## Ram Charan Calls for Lower Popcorn and Soft Drink Prices in Theatres

Global star Ram Charan has voiced concerns over the rising cost of food and beverages in movie theatres, stating that high prices for popcorn and soft drinks are discouraging many families from visiting cinemas.

The actor made the remarks while participating in the prestigious Summit 2026 organized by Republic TV in New Delhi. Appearing as a special guest in a session hosted by journalist Arnab Goswami, Ram Charan discussed not only cinema but also issues affecting the movie-going experience for audiences across the country.



The appearance came amid the strong theatrical run of his pan-India sports drama Peddi, which has been generating significant attention at the box office.

During the discussion, Ram Charan highlighted the challenges faced by middle-class families when planning a trip to the movies. He pointed out that cinema continues to be one of the most affordable forms of entertainment in India, but said the steep prices of snacks and beverages sold in multiplexes have become a major concern for audiences.

According to the actor, moviegoers are increasingly frustrated by the cost of items such as popcorn and cold drinks, which often add significantly to the overall expense of a theatre visit. He noted that many people are hesitant to watch films on the big screen because of these additional costs.

Ram Charan suggested that reducing food and beverage prices would make the cinema experience more accessible and

enjoyable for families. He emphasized that lowering these costs could encourage more people to return to theatres and help strengthen the theatrical exhibition business. His comments have resonated with many movie fans, as debates over multiplex pricing have been ongoing for several years. Audiences frequently express concerns that refreshments often cost nearly as much as, or even more than, movie tickets themselves.

The actor’s observations have sparked fresh discussions on social media, with many users agreeing that more affordable pricing could improve footfalls in theatres and make movie outings more budget-friendly.

As one of the country’s biggest stars, Ram Charan’s remarks have brought renewed attention to an issue that affects millions of cinema lovers. Whether theatre chains respond to such concerns remains to be seen, but his comments have certainly added momentum to the conversation about making the theatrical experience more affordable for the average moviegoer.

## ‘Baahubali: The Eternal War’ Takes Prabhas Back to the Global Spotlight

Pan-India star Prabhas has delighted fans with an exciting update related to the iconic Baahubali franchise. The upcoming animated feature Baahubali: The Eternal War has been officially selected for the prestigious Anecy International Animation Film Festival in France, marking another major international milestone for the Baahubali universe.

Sharing the news on social media, Prabhas unveiled a brand-new poster from the animated project and expressed his excitement over the film’s recognition on a global platform. The actor revealed that Baahubali: The Eternal War has been chosen for the highly regarded “Work in Progress” section of the Anecy Festival, a segment that showcases promising animation projects from around the world.

Expressing his happiness, Prabhas praised the efforts of the creative team behind the film and described the project as something truly special. He stated that the makers are crafting an extraordinary cinematic experience and said he is eager for audiences across the globe to witness the film upon its release.

The selection is a significant achievement for the animated venture, as the Anecy International Animation Film Festival is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious events in the global animation industry. Being featured in its “Work

in Progress” category provides international exposure and recognition even before the film’s completion and release.

Baahubali: The Eternal War expands the world of the blockbuster Baahubali franchise, which became a cultural phenomenon and earned worldwide acclaim. The animated adaptation is expected to further explore the rich mythology, characters, and epic storytelling that made the franchise a global success.

The announcement has generated immense excitement among Prabhas fans and followers of the Baahubali series. Social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory messages as fans celebrated yet another international achievement associated with the beloved franchise.

The project’s selection at Anecy highlights the growing global appeal of Indian animation and storytelling. It also reinforces the enduring popularity of the Baahubali brand, which continues to attract attention years after the release of the original films.

With international recognition already coming its way before release, Baahubali: The Eternal War is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated animated films from India. Fans are now eagerly awaiting further updates on the project as it prepares to introduce the legendary Baahubali universe to animation audiences around the world.



## “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” Launched with Grand Ceremony

The upcoming romantic entertainer “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” was launched grandly amid the presence of film industry personalities and well-wishers. Presented by Gnanamma Kalivela and produced under the banner of Sanjana Movie Makers, the film introduces Venkatesh Kalivela as director. The movie features Vishva, Aishwarya, and Anusha in the lead roles and promises a blend of romance, emotions, and entertainment. The launch ceremony was held with traditional rituals and enthusiasm. The muhurtham shot featuring the lead actors was formally clapped by actor Amit Tiwari, while Kumari Sanjana switched on the camera. Director Venkatesh Kalivela directed the first shot, marking the official beginning of the project. Speaking at the event, director Venkatesh Kalivela revealed that the film revolves around a captivating triangular love story. He said the screenplay has been designed to entertain audiences with a perfect mix of romance, emotions, action, and drama. According to him, the film will feature four songs and four action sequences. He also highlighted that a flashback episode, centered around the dialogue “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teli-



yali,” will be one of the major attractions of the movie.

Producer Sanjana Kalivela expressed confidence in the project and stated that the regular shooting schedule will commence by the end of this month. She informed that the entire film is planned to be completed within 34 days in a single schedule. Major portions of the shoot will take place in and around Bhimavaram, Narsapuram, and Antarvedi, which are expected to provide a beautiful visual backdrop for the story. Lead actor Vishva said he feels fortunate to begin his film career with a role that offers significant scope for performance. He expressed gratitude to the director and producer for giving him such an opportunity. Actress Aishwarya shared that she will be

seen as a glamorous and relatable girl-next-door character, while actress Anusha stated that her role has been designed in a way that audiences of all age groups will appreciate. Music director Vardhan revealed that all four songs for the film have already been recorded. He added that the story provides excellent scope for a powerful background score, which will further enhance the emotional depth of the movie. The film also features Amit Tiwari, Shubhalekha Sudhakar, Shiva Prasad, Prasanna Kumar, Jayaraj, and Latha Reddy in important roles. With an experienced technical team and an interesting storyline, “Na Gurinchi Neeku Teliyali” is gearing up to offer an engaging cinematic experience for audiences.

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