

Madhav Calls for Long-Term Reforms to Protect Mango Farmers



Chittoor, June 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP President PVN Madhav has urged the State Government to adopt long-term measures to safeguard the interests of mango farmers in Chittoor district, particularly growers of the Totapuri variety, who are facing severe financial distress due to a sharp fall in market prices.

While welcoming the government's decision to provide 4 per kilogram as support to mango farmers, PVN Madhav said the measure offers only

temporary relief and stressed the need for permanent, sustainable solutions. He said the recurring crisis faced by farmers every season underscores the need for structural reforms in the horticulture sector.

He called for strengthening the mango industry through value addition, branding, diversification, and improved market linkages. PVN Madhav advocated the establishment of processing industries, pulp manufacturing units, dehydration facilities, and export-oriented infrastructure to ensure better returns for farmers. He also stressed the importance of promoting Farmer-Producer Organisations to enhance farmers' bargaining power and collective marketing.

PVN Madhav appealed to the Central and State Governments, agricultural scientists, MSMEs, food processing industries, and other stakeholders to jointly prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the long-term development of Chittoor's horticulture sector, ensuring farmers receive stable and remunerative prices.



The Voice of Telugu Resounds on Gujarat Soil

Surat, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The spirit of Telugu culture echoed in Gujarat as grand centenary celebrations of Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao were held in Surat on Saturday evening. The event coincided with the 11th Foundation Day of the Rashtretara Telugu Samakhya and highlighted the enduring legacy of the veteran leader.

Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao is remembered as a visionary who played a pivotal role in uniting Telugus across India and abroad. His landmark initiative—the World Telugu Conference 1975—brought global recognition to the Telugu language and fostered cultural unity among Telugu-speaking communities.

The celebrations featured a seminar on “The Spirit of the World Telugu Conference and the Role of Mandali Venkata

Krishna Rao.” The programme was jointly organised by the Surat chapter of the Rashtretara Telugu Samakhya and the Sri Tirupati Balaji Seva and Charitable Trust, with participation from various Telugu associations in the city.

Prominent attendees included Mandali Buddha Prasad, former Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly; Goretu Venkanna, Telangana MLC and noted lyricist; and Ghazal Srinivas, an internationally acclaimed performer.

Floral tributes were paid to Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao, and speakers fondly recalled his contributions to the promotion of Telugu language and the strengthening of Telugu associations beyond the state. The event stood as a tribute to his vision and a celebration of Telugu identity beyond regional boundaries.

Rain Alert Across State

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has forecast moderate to heavy rainfall in parts of the state on Sunday due to a trough extending from the Andhra coast to central Maharashtra.

APSDMA Managing Director Prakash Jain said a cyclonic circulation persists over the west-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining south coastal region, resulting in cloudy conditions, scattered rainfall and gusty winds across Andhra Pradesh. He advised people to remain alert during adverse weather conditions.

Light rainfall is likely at iso-

lated places in Srikakulam, NTR, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor and Tirupati districts, while the remaining 20 districts may experience light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms.

During the 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, the highest rainfall of 86.2 mm was recorded at Velerupadu in Eluru district, followed by Mudinepalli in Krishna district with 83.6 mm. Authorities urged residents to avoid sheltering under trees and hoardings and stay away from snapped power lines during thunderstorms. Farmers, labourers and cattle herders have been advised to move to safer locations immediately upon hearing thunder.

Eggs Hurlled at YSRCP Leaders, Including Perni Nani

Amaravati, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Tensions prevailed in the Amaravati capital region on Saturday after members of the YSRCP CRDA Protection Committee were confronted by protesting farmers and coalition supporters during their visit to inspect capital lands. Senior YSRCP leaders Perni Nani, Ambati Rambabu and Lella Appireddy

were stopped by protesters near Undavalli Centre in Tadepalli mandal. Demonstrators wearing black badges raised slogans of "Go Back YSRCP" and opposed the leaders' visit, leading to heated arguments and scuffles between the two groups. During the confrontation, eggs were reportedly hurled at the YSRCP leaders. Protesters also allegedly pelted stones at the vehicle carrying Lella Appireddy, causing

CM Inaugurates Sanjeevani Digital Health Project

Markapuram, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the 'Sanjeevani' Digital Nerve Center at Kishtanshetti Palle in Giddalur constituency, describing it as a comprehensive digital health initiative for every citizen. He said the project will be implemented statewide from August 15 and will maintain digital health records from Primary Health Centres to super-specialty hospitals, enabling predictive, preventive and curative healthcare.

Naidu said the system would allow doctor appointments, follow-ups and virtual consultations through a unified platform. He added that 2.61 crore people have already undergone NCD screenings and announced that disease profiling will be analysed at village, district and state levels. He urged public participation and promoted healthier lifestyles, including yoga and millet-based diets. Schemes such as Stree Shakti, Deepam 2.0 and Thalliki Vandanam were also highlighted.

Speaking on technology and



governance, he said he aligns with a Gen Z mindset and stressed the need for youth to adopt AI and quantum technologies. He also spoke about population management and joint families, suggesting incentives for larger families.

On Amaravati, Naidu said the capital is being built as a world-class green city. He accused YSRCP of misleading the public and obstructing development, alleging conspiracies and corruption narratives. He said Amaravati construction is progressing rapidly and credited farmers' cooperation.

He reiterated that interlinking of rivers is essential for water security, citing projects like Veligonda, Godavari-Nallamala Sagar link and Cauvery

integration. He also referred to irrigation works, industrial development, and port projects including Ramayapatnam.

Strongly criticising YSRCP, he alleged that its leaders attempted to provoke farmers in Amaravati and indulged in “criminal politics,” accusing them of creating unrest and spreading misinformation. He also made allegations about previous regime debts and governance failures.

Ministers Anam Ramamarayana Reddy, DBV Swamy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy and MLA Ashok Reddy attended the programme. Naidu also presented a report card on civic services and announced surprise inspections to ensure governance accountability.

DGP Offers Prayers at Kanipakam Temple

Kanipakam, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Director General of Police Harish Kumar Gupta visited the Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple at Kanipakam in Chittoor district on Friday and offered special prayers for the well-being of the people and continued peace and security in Andhra Pradesh.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Madhusudan Reddy and Chittoor Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi accompanied the DGP during the visit. Temple authorities accorded a traditional welcome, while priests presented Vedic blessings and offered teertha prasadam and



sacred robes. Speaking to the media after the darshan, Harish Kumar Gupta said he prayed for the prosperity and happiness of the people and for further strengthening law and order in the state. He said the police department remains committed to delivering transparent, efficient and people-

centric services.

He highlighted the government's focus on crime prevention, women's and children's safety, cybercrime control and technology-driven policing, while urging citizens to cooperate with the police in building a peaceful and secure society.

Anita Slams YSRCP Leaders Over Amaravati Visit

Amaravati, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Home Minister Vangalapati Anita strongly criticised YSRCP leaders Perni Nani, Ambati Rambabu and Devineni Avinash over the clashes that occurred during their visit to Undavalli, questioning whether they had come to console Amaravati farmers or indulge in “rowdiness.”

Addressing the media, Anita alleged that the YSRCP leaders lacked the moral authority to enter Amaravati and claimed that the police have records identifying the rowdy sheeters who accompanied them. She further alleged that individuals involved in the earlier attack on the TDP office were present during the visit and said visual evidence exists.

The minister stated that police had cautioned that the visit could lead to tensions,



but the warnings were ignored. She said a comprehensive inquiry would be conducted into the incident and assured that complaints lodged by YSRCP leaders would also be examined. Anita maintained that nearly 90 per cent of those who protested were genuine farmers who had voluntarily pooled their lands for the capital project, including in areas like Penu-

maka. She accused the YSRCP of attempting to provoke unrest and undermine Amaravati's development.

Criticising YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Anita said Amaravati had earlier been accepted but later faced uncertainty due to the three-capitals proposal. She asserted that the coalition government remains committed to completing Amaravati by 2027.

Government Allows Airport Bars Across State

Amaravati, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The state government has decided to establish bars at all airports in the state, except Tirupati. The Excise Department has issued orders granting bar licences for airport premises under the revised policy framework.

According to the orders, each airport bar licence will be permitted to operate up to three service points. The bars will be allowed to function

around the clock, subject to compliance with airport operational requirements, security protocols, and law-and-order regulations. Authorities clarified that all operations must align with aviation safety norms and passenger movement regulations.

A group of ministers constituted by the government studied the management and licensing of airport bars. The panel examined policies implemented in other states, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Telan-

NTR District Boy Wins 8 Golds at Karnataka Shooting Meet

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A 12-year-old boy from Veerulapadu in NTR district has delivered a standout performance at the Karnataka State Shooting Championship, winning multiple gold medals and drawing attention to emerging shooting talent from Andhra Pradesh.

The shooter, identified as Uma Karthik, reportedly clinched eight gold medals in the 10m air pistol events, showcasing exceptional consistency and composure against senior and experienced competitors. He also scored an impressive 375 out of 400, marking one of the highest performances in his category.

According to results published by the Karnataka State Rifle Association (KSRA), the 13th Karnataka State Shooting Championship held at the SAI Shooting Range in Bengaluru featured multiple age and category divisions, including sub-youth and youth events in air pistol and rifle disciplines.

In the sub-youth category results, young shooters from across India participated, with scores in the 340–360 range among top performers, reflecting the high competitive standard of the championship.

Uma Karthik's performance has been highlighted in regional media coverage as a remarkable achievement for a shooter of his age, particularly in the 10m air pistol disci-



pline, which demands precision, control, and mental strength.

The championship, conducted annually under the Karnataka State Rifle Association, serves as a qualifying and ranking platform for national-level shooting events under the National Rifle Association of India framework.

Officials and coaches have noted that such performances from young shooters indicate the growing strength of grassroots shooting academies in South India, especially from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh regions.

Karthik's achievement has been widely appreciated, with expectations that he will soon compete at national-level junior championships, further strengthening his sporting career.

Tribal Bodies Demand Immediate Legal Intervention

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Adiwasi Girijana Sangham State Committee has urged the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to immediately file implead petitions in the Supreme Court to protect the provisions of the 1/70 Regulation governing tribal land rights in agency areas.

Addressing a meeting of tribal activists at Vaddeswar-am, Adiwasi Adhikar Rashtriya Manch national convener and former MP M. Baburao expressed concern over petitions filed in the Supreme Court seeking to remove Section 3(1) (c) of the 1/70 Act, which prohibits the sale, purchase and

lease of tribal lands to non-tribals. He questioned the stance of both state governments on the issue and demanded that they publicly clarify their position. Baburao said around 1,700 non-tribals from the two Telugu states had approached the Supreme Court through WP Civil Diary No. 1752/2026 and Case No. 394/2023 seeking dilution of the law. He announced that the Adiwasi Girijana Sangham State Committee and Telangana Girijana Sangham State Committee would also file implead petitions to defend the legislation.

State leaders Killo Surendra, A. Ashok, K. Narsaiah, N. Appanna and Sirimalli Reddy participated in the meeting.

Parents Seek Probe in Radha Gayatri Death Case

Visakhapatnam, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The parents of tech professional Radha Gayatri, who died under suspicious circumstances in Mussoorie recently, met the Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner on Saturday seeking a parallel investigation into the case in Visakhapatnam.

They submitted a representation requesting local police authorities to conduct an inquiry alongside the ongoing investigation. Speaking to the media after meeting the Commissioner, Radha Gayatri's mother, Satyavati, demanded stringent action against the accused, Sricharan.

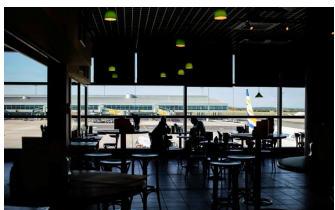
She alleged that her daughter was murdered as part of a premeditated plan and urged authorities to ensure that the accused is



brought to justice. Satyavati said the family is seeking a thorough and transparent investigation to uncover the circumstances surrounding Radha Gayatri's death.

The family's appeal comes amid growing public attention on the case, with demands for an impartial probe intensifying. They expressed hope that an investigation in Visakhapatnam would help reveal additional facts and ensure accountability in the suspected murder case.

Expected Tirupati



ed that implementation will be closely monitored to ensure adherence to safety norms and airport authority guidelines. The exemption of Tirupati airport was maintained in view of its religious significance and associated restrictions.

Modi Receives Warm Diaspora Welcome in Seychelles

continued

received by Seychelles President Patrick Herminie and a high-level delegation, and was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour. A large gathering of the Indian diaspora welcomed him at the airport, reflecting strong cultural ties between the two nations. Traditional performances, including a folk dance from Gujarat's Kutch region, were presented in his honour. Modi appreciated the performances and praised the diaspora for preserving India's cultural heritage abroad.

Later, he visited the botanical gardens with President Herminie and participated in a tree plantation drive. He also observed and fed the Aldabra



giant tortoise, an iconic species of Seychelles.

The visit, at the invitation of President Herminie, will focus on maritime security, trade, climate action, development co-operation, and people-to-people ties. Modi will also attend Seychelles' National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour, alongside events marking 50 ears of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles.

Pawan Kalyan slams YSRCP, stresses unity beyond caste politics

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same time, he made it clear that he does not endorse inappropriate remarks from his own party members, referring to comments made by Jana Sena leader Pantam Nanaji. He asserted that he would never encourage caste-based politics and reiterated his commitment to social unity. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that caste should remain a private matter and not influence public life or governance. He advocated for a unified hostel system for all children, instead of separate hostels for SC, ST, and BC communities, stating that such segregation from a young age

weakens social cohesion.

He further stated that political gains achieved through caste divisions do not lead to long-term social progress. Alleging that YSRCP exploits caste and religion for power, he said Jana Sena would focus on strengthening its grassroots structure through transparent data collection on party workers.

He directed the committee to identify dedicated workers and assured recognition for their long-standing contributions, while warning that the party would respond firmly if provoked by continued personal attacks

Pawan Kalyan outlines grassroots strategy

continued

party for over a decade were yet to receive due recognition, and said the formation of committees with around 700 members aims to address this gap. He clarified that the committees are tasked only with collecting accurate information on grassroots performance, not selecting leaders or assigning posts.

He announced that each Parliamentary constituency will have a 28-member team, sup-

ported by facilitators and a dedicated team from his office to ensure data accuracy. He said committee members were selected based on experience, commitment, and years of service, not personal preference.

Stressing inclusivity, Pawan Kalyan said the committees include individuals from diverse backgrounds such as auto drivers, homemakers, and daily-wage workers, reflecting the party's commitment to empowering genuine grassroots activists.

Tension Prevails During YSRCP Farmers' Committee Amaravati Visit

continued

alleged that Amaravati farmers expressed grievances to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy regarding unjust land acquisition and financial irregularities. He fur-

ther said the attackers were identifiable and accused ruling party-linked groups of attempting to intimidate farmers and silence dissent in the capital region.

Jagan Slams Govt Over Alleged Attacks on YSRCP Leaders

Nakkapalli, June 27 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP president and former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, in a post on X, launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, alleging "repressive and anti-democratic" actions in the Amaravati capital region. He questioned whether the government was functioning democratically or as a "regime of goons," claiming attacks were orchestrated on former YSRCP ministers and MLCs visiting the area with the CRDA Protection Committee at farmers' invitation. He also alleged police inaction or complicity. Jagan accused the government of harassing farmers through land acquisition notices, destruction of field access routes, diversion of Kondaveeti Vagu, and forced returnable plot schemes, and vowed YSRCP support to farmers.

Veteran Actor-Director K. Bhagyaraj Passes Away at 73

continued

Katha Kaadu and Kubera. His passing is an irreparable loss, with condolences pouring in from cinema and political circles.

AP Leaders Condole K. Bhagyaraj's Demise

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh expressed grief over the demise of filmmaker K. Bhagyaraj and conveyed condolences to his family. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said Bhagyaraj rose from writer and supporting actor to a successful director and actor, with several of his films remade in multiple languages.

Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy de-



scribed him as a rare multi-talented personality whose films reflected love and family values. Leaders termed his passing an irreparable loss to Indian cinema.

Farmers Protest Against YSRCP Leaders' Visit to Penumaka and Undavalli

Tadepalli, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Farmers in Penumaka and Undavalli villages staged protests on Saturday opposing the visit of YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders to the Amaravati capital region. The farmers displayed black flags and placards and raised slogans during the protest, expressing strong opposition to the leaders' presence in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, several farmers alleged that during the previous YSRCP regime, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had weakened Amaravati through the "three capitals" policy and was now attempting further disruption under what they referred to as the "Mavi-gun" narrative. They said they would not allow leaders who, according to them, had harmed the interests of capital region farmers to enter Amaravati.

The protesting farmers further alleged that Jagan Mohan



Reddy was acting out of political spite as Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was developing Amaravati for future generations. They claimed that repeated visits by YSRCP leaders were aimed at creating unrest among farmers. The farmers warned that they would no

longer remain silent and would strongly resist any attempts they believe could affect the future of their lands and livelihoods. They asserted that their movement was aimed at protecting the interests of the capital region and safeguarding agricultural land.

YSRCP Playing Politics Over Amaravati Farmers: Atchannaidu

Amaravati, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Friday launched a sharp attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), accusing it of attempting to gain political mileage by exploiting the sentiments of Amaravati farmers.

In a press release, Atchannaidu alleged that the party, which had stalled the development of Amaravati during its tenure, is now staging political dramas in the name of protecting farmers. He said it was unfortunate that leaders who had, according to him, weakened the capital project and affected the livelihoods of thousands of farmers were now portraying themselves as champions of the Amaravati cause.

The minister claimed that the public was fully aware of YSRCP's past actions and that this was the reason its leaders were facing opposition during their recent tours. He accused the party of making provocative statements and attempting to create unrest for political gains. Atchannaidu also con-



demned the alleged attack on police personnel deployed to maintain law and order during a recent YSRCP programme. He expressed concern over injuries sustained by police officers and stated that violence against law enforcement personnel has no place in a democratic system. The minister said that inciting people, creating tensions, and later portraying themselves as victims had become a recurring political strategy of the opposition par-

ty. He asserted that the people of Andhra Pradesh would no longer be misled by such tactics. While emphasizing the importance of respecting the sentiments of Amaravati farmers, Atchannaidu cautioned political parties against using their concerns for electoral advantage. He reiterated the government's commitment to the development of Amaravati and urged all stakeholders to act responsibly in the interest of the state's progress.

Durgesh Slams YSRCP Over Amaravati Remarks

Amaravati, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh on Saturday strongly criticized YSRCP leaders for their remarks against Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and the Amaravati capital project, asserting that the opposition lacked the moral authority to question leaders committed to public service and state development.

Speaking on the occasion, Durgesh said that while YSRCP's politics revolved around the pursuit of power, Pawan Kalyan's political journey had always been driven by public welfare. He praised the Deputy Chief Minister for his role in promoting rural development



initiatives, strengthening local governance, and working towards long-term employment and development opportunities for the youth.

The minister accused YSRCP of maintaining an inconsistent stand on the capital issue during its tenure and alleged that the party had created uncertainty through its three-capitals proposal. He claimed that the opposition

was unable to tolerate the rapid development taking place in Amaravati under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

Durgesh further alleged that recent visits by YSRCP leaders to Amaravati were intended to provoke unrest rather than address public concerns. He said the alliance government remained committed to transparent governance, welfare, and development, while countering misinformation with facts.

The minister asserted that the people of Andhra Pradesh would continue to support leaders focused on development and public service.

YSRCP Demands Justice for Assaulted Tribal Woman

Nellore, June 27 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party Women's Wing Working President Kakani Poojitha on Friday demanded immediate justice for a tribal woman allegedly stripped, assaulted and publicly humiliated in Kavali. She sought strict action against those responsible and accused the state government of failing to ensure women's safety.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP district office in Nellore, she alleged that incidents of violence against women had increased under the coalition government, raising serious concerns over law

and order.

She said the victim, a widow living with her children, was brutally assaulted and humiliated. Poojitha questioned the police response, alleging that although the incident occurred on June 19, a case was registered only on June 26, and claimed the victim's son was wrongly booked instead of the accused.

She also alleged bias in the investigation and cited another similar incident in Duttalur mandal where no case was registered. Poojitha urged Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha to visit the victim's family and ensure justice.

YSRCP Alleges Corruption in Temple, Corporation Bodies

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) NTR district spokesperson Kamaraj Harish Kumar on Friday alleged corruption and misuse of authority in the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam and the State Swachhata Corporation.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP district office in Gunadala, he alleged that temple chairman Borra Gandhi was collecting commissions from contractors and damaging the reputation of the Kanaka Durga temple atop Indrakeeladri. He also claimed that several irregularities had surfaced since Gandhi as-

sumed office and said temple development had been neglected.

He raised concerns over temple contracts, including procurement of sarees offered to devotees, and demanded a detailed inquiry into administrative functioning. He warned that the party would approach anti-corruption agencies if action was not taken. Harish Kumar also alleged that Swachhata Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram was demanding commissions from contractors for clearing pending bills and claimed widespread corruption. He called for investigation and public disclosure of findings.

YSRCP Defends Party Office Land Allotment

Vizianagaram, June 27 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Vizianagaram District President and Zilla Parishad Chairman Majji Srinivasa Rao on Friday dismissed reports questioning the allotment of land for the party's district office, stating that the allocation was made strictly as per government rules and procedures.

Addressing a press conference at the YSRCP district office on Ring Road, Srinivasa Rao criticised certain television channels and newspapers for publishing what he called false and misleading reports without seeking clarification. He said such reporting violated basic journalistic ethics.

He clarified that the land allotment and construction of the YSRCP district office were carried out only after securing all required government permissions. He rejected allega-

tions of irregularities and said the reports were intended to create confusion among the public.

Srinivasa Rao said the party was compelled to present facts in response to what he described as a negative campaign. He added that during the YSRCP government's tenure, party president and former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had envisioned establishing district party offices to support organisational work and cadre meetings.

He said an application was submitted in 2021 seeking government land on lease for the district office, and the entire process followed prescribed norms and was fully transparent.

The YSRCP leader urged media organisations to verify facts before publishing reports and avoid spreading misinformation on sensitive public issues.

YSRCP Seeks CBI Probe in Sai Krishna Custodial Death Case

Tadepalli, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Saturday reiterated its demand for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged custodial death of Sai Krishna, stating that the ongoing investigation lacks fairness and transparency.

Addressing the media at the party headquarters in Tadepalli, YSRCP Legal Cell President Manohar Reddy alleged that attempts were being made to shield those responsible. He questioned the reported disappearance of CCTV footage, arguing that surveillance systems have multiple monitoring layers and that footage should

be available through command centres.

He said the government's claim that cameras were non-functional was unacceptable, citing Supreme Court guidelines on preservation of CCTV evidence in custodial death cases. He further alleged that police personnel who are accused are also involved in the investigation.

Reddy claimed Sai Krishna was taken from Markapuram by a task force and handed to Krishnalanka Police Station, where he was allegedly tortured. He demanded retrieval of CCTV footage and urged a CBI inquiry for an independent investigation.



YSRCP Condemns Attack on Fact-Finding Team

Tadepalli, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Saturday strongly condemned the alleged attack on members of its Farmers' Protection Committee at Undavalli and accused the coalition government of suppressing facts related to land issues in the Amaravati region.

Addressing the media in Tadepalli, former ministers Perni Nani and Ambati Rambabu alleged that they were attacked by TDP supporters while proceeding to Penumaka village to meet farmers

who had reportedly complained of harassment over land-related issues. They said the visit was undertaken following representations made by affected farmers to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who subsequently constituted legal and political fact-finding committees.

The leaders claimed that police stopped their convoy at Undavalli citing possible law-and-order concerns, but alleged that attacks were carried out on their vehicles despite prior information being available to authorities.

They stated that a police head constable was injured during the incident and demanded that CCTV footage be examined to identify those responsible.

Perni Nani and Ambati Rambabu further alleged that the government was attempting to prevent public scrutiny of alleged irregularities in land pooling and development activities in the capital region. They said farmers had expressed willingness to part with land for public infrastructure but opposed its use for real estate purposes.

Devineni Uma Calls for Stronger Grassroots Network

Mangalagiri, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Devineni Umamaheswara Rao on Friday called upon party workers to play an active role in strengthening the organization and building public trust through fact-based politics.

Speaking at a training programme organized for cluster and unit in-charges at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Uma stressed the importance of effective grassroots leadership in expanding the party's reach and communicating government initiatives to the people.

He said Andhra Pradesh had returned to the path of development under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and noted that it was the responsibility of every party worker to explain the alliance government's welfare and development programmes to the public.



grammes to the public.

Describing party cadres as the backbone of the Telugu Desam Party, Uma stated that the organization would become stronger through systematic monitoring and digital documentation of party activities, public outreach efforts, and the implementation of government schemes. He added that the party consistently prioritizes the welfare of its workers and that training programmes are aimed at enhancing their effectiveness and leadership skills.

The former minister urged workers to actively promote

government initiatives and highlight the state's development agenda among the people. He also advised them to analyze the actions and policies of rival parties using facts, data, and statistics rather than relying on emotional arguments.

Emphasizing the importance of credibility in public life, Uma said fact-based politics would help strengthen public confidence in the party. He called on party workers to remain committed to the party's ideology and work collectively to further strengthen the organization at every level.

AIIMS Leads Anti-Drug Awareness Drive

Mangalagiri, June 27 | TPN Bureau

AIIMS Mangalagiri successfully observed the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan Saptah from June 17 to 26 with a series of awareness, wellness, and community outreach programmes aimed at promoting a drug-free society and encouraging healthy lifestyles among youth and the general public.

Organized by the Department of Psychiatry, the campaign began with a mass anti-drug pledge taken by students, faculty members, nursing staff, administrative personnel, and support staff, reaffirming their commitment to a drug-free India. A yoga session was also conducted to highlight the importance of physical and mental well-being in preventing substance abuse.

As part of the initiative, a registration drive for "Nasha Mukti



Mitra" volunteers was organized to encourage public participation in the nationwide anti-drug movement. Awareness programmes were conducted to educate students and staff about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of early intervention.

The institute also organized a street play and public awareness rally to spread anti-drug messages among the community. A candlelight march across the hostels symbolized solidarity in the fight

against drug addiction. Various sports competitions were held under the theme "No to Drugs and Yes to Sports," promoting fitness and healthy living. Creative competitions, including quiz, poster making, essay writing, and reels contests, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students.

AIIMS Mangalagiri stated that the week-long campaign reflected its continued commitment to mental health awareness, preventive healthcare, and community engagement.

Counseling Essential for Safeguarding Students' Mental Health, Says Dr G Kondala Rao

Guntur, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Dr G Kondala Rao, retired IIS officer, stated that mental health is crucial for the holistic development of students and stressed the need to expand school psychologists and counseling services to every school.

A training workshop for school psychologists was inaugurated at Acharya Nagarjuna University by University Rector Prof Sivaram Prasad. The programme was organized by the Andhra Pradesh School Psychological Services Association (APSA) in collaboration with the Department of Psychology, ANU.

Speaking as chief guest, Dr G Kondala Rao highlighted the increasing mental stress among students due to academic pressure, examinations, family issues and social influences. He said school



psychologists and counsellors play a key role in early identification of student problems and providing timely guidance.

He added that building self-confidence, emotional balance and addressing behavioural issues can significantly support personality development. He emphasised coordinated efforts among parents, teachers and counsellors to ensure a healthier learning environment.

Prof Sivaram Prasad inaugurated the workshop and appreciated

the organisers. Detailed discussions were held under the supervision of Head of the Department Prof Gujju Chenna Reddy.

Experts trained participants in modern counselling techniques, psychological assessment, child behaviour analysis and mental health care. School psychologists, teachers and counsellors from various districts participated.

APSA State President Dr M Varalakshmi and several educationists and psychologists attended the programme

Free Mega Medical Camp Draws Huge Response in Vijayawada West

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A free mega medical camp organized by the Sujana Foundation under the initiative of Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdary received an overwhelming response from residents, with hundreds of people availing themselves of healthcare services on Saturday.

The camp was conducted at Babburi Grounds in Karakatta South as part of an ongoing effort to provide quality, corporate-level medical services free of cost to poor and middle-class families in the constituency. Residents turned out in large numbers to undergo medical examinations and receive treatment from specialist doctors.

The camp, held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., offered a range of diagnostic services, including blood pressure and blood sugar tests, ECGs, and X-rays, all provided free of charge. Expert doctors examined patients suffering from various ailments and offered consultations in general



medicine, dental care, and ophthalmology.

Around 100 patients received medical attention during the camp. Free medicines were distributed on the spot, providing much-needed relief to families struggling with healthcare expenses.

Office Secretary Prathipati Sridhar said the initiative was aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all sections of society. He encouraged residents, particularly those from economically weaker sections, to make full use of the

free medical camps being conducted regularly on weekends under the guidance of MLA Sujana Chowdary.

Medical services at the camp were provided by doctors from PVR Multi-Specialty Hospital, including Dr. PVR, Dr. Guravayya, and Dr. Prasad. Eye care services were offered by Dr. Veerla Ankamma and Dr. Sandhya from Sankara Eye Hospital, while Government Dental Doctor Anjaneyulu conducted dental examinations.

Several public representatives and volunteers, including minority leader and former corporator Mohammed Abdul Khader, 40th Division TDP President P.V. China Subbayya, and Sujana Mitra coordinators, participated in the programme and assisted in its smooth conduct.

Organizers said the foundation will continue conducting similar healthcare initiatives to improve public health and ensure access to essential medical services across Vijayawada West constituency.

Collector Reviews Voter Revision, Polio Drive and MSME Utsav

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha on Saturday reviewed key public welfare and development initiatives, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the upcoming Pulse Polio programme, and MSME Utsav-2026, emphasizing transparency, public participation, and entrepreneurship.

Inspecting voter list revision activities in the Vijayawada East, Central, and West Assembly constituencies, the Collector said that accurate electoral rolls are essential for a healthy democratic process. He stated that 14,99,852 enumeration forms, accounting for 87.53 percent of the total, have already been distributed across the district, while digitization of



1,84,411 forms has been completed. He directed Booth Level Officers to ensure that the survey process is conducted impartially and in strict accordance with Election Commission guidelines.

The Collector also flagged off a Pulse Polio awareness rally near the Old Government General Hospital and appealed to parents to ensure that every

child below five years of age receives polio drops on June 28. A target of 1,69,810 children has been set for the district through 966 vaccination centres. Special transit points, mobile teams, and door-to-door visits have been arranged to ensure complete coverage.

Later, Dr. Lakshmisha inaugurated MSME Utsav-2026 at the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub

(RTIH) in Enikepadu. The event, organized on the occasion of International MSME Day, showcased more than 80 stalls featuring innovations and products developed by startups, women entrepreneurs, and young innovators.

The Collector said the event aims to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation among youth while supporting the goals of Swarnandhra and Viksit Bharat. He noted that RTIH and RISE are providing technical guidance, mentorship, and market access to startups and self-help group members. More than 500 industry representatives and visitors participated in the event, which also featured a technical session on Industry 4.0 and discussions on strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.



RGUKT Holds Grand 6th Convocation, Degrees Awarded to Graduates

Nuzvid, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The 6th Convocation of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Andhra Pradesh, was held with grandeur at the Nuzvid campus on Saturday, where degrees were conferred upon B.Tech and M.Tech graduates from the academic years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 across the Nuzvid, Idupulapaya, Ongole, and Srikakulam campuses.

The ceremony was attended by NITI Aayog Member Prof. Gobardhan Das as the chief guest, along with RGUKT Chancellor Prof. Kotha Madhumurthy and Vice Chancellor Prof. Maddali Lakshminarayana Rao. Degrees were awarded to 26 B.Tech toppers and eight M.Tech students for their outstanding academic achievements.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Gobardhan Das said RGUKT was established to provide quality technical education to talented rural students and promote educational equity. He emphasized the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and multidisciplinary learning in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He also expressed

pride that nearly two-thirds of the graduating students were women, highlighting the institution's commitment to inclusion and empowerment.

Prof. Madhumurthy outlined the university's recent achievements, including the introduction of AI and Machine Learning programs, expansion of M.Tech courses, and infrastructure development worth over 20 crore. He noted that RGUKT recorded 11,539 NPTEL certifications, the highest among government institutions in the country, and achieved 84 percent placements with 557 job offers and a highest package of 28 lakh per annum.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Lakshminarayana Rao presented the annual report, highlighting progress in quality education, research, innovation, internships, and campus placements. He also emphasized the significant contribution of women students in academics, sports, leadership, and research.

Several senior academic administrators, faculty members, students, and parents from all RGUKT campuses participated in the convocation, making the event a memorable celebration of academic excellence and achievement.



Malladi Vishnu Demands CBI Probe into Sai Krishna Death

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former MLA Malladi Vishnu has demanded a CBI inquiry into the alleged custodial death of Gade Sai Krishna and called for the resignation of State Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha over the incident.

Addressing a protest organized by the YSRCP at Dharna Chowk in Gandhinagar on Saturday, Vishnu alleged that Sai Krishna was beaten to death in police custody and accused the government of attempting to suppress the truth through internal investigations. He said there was no faith in a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or departmental probe, arguing that an independent agency alone could ensure justice.

Vishnu alleged that mandatory legal procedures, including an inquest, were not properly followed and questioned

reports claiming that the body had been treated as an unclaimed corpse and cremated. He also raised concerns over the reported disappearance of CCTV footage from locations linked to the case, alleging possible tampering of evidence.

The former MLA further criticized the repeated transfer of investigating officers, claiming it had created doubts about the transparency of the probe. He accused authorities of submitting misleading reports and attempting to divert attention from the core issues surrounding the case.

Stating that the matter was a humanitarian issue rather than a political one, Vishnu said the YSRCP would continue its agitation until justice was delivered to the victim's family. Former Deputy Mayor Avuthu Sailaja Reddy, YSRCP leaders, student wing representatives, and party activists participated in the protest.



Youth Time Bank Completes 100 Days of Service

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Youth Time Bank initiative, launched under the guidance of NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha, has successfully completed 100 days of service, providing valuable assistance to patients and the public across the district. Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Welfare Department and District NSS Programme Officer, announced that the programme, inaugurated on March 17 at the Government General Hospital (GGH), reached the milestone on Thursday. He said volunteers have rendered essential support to thousands of patients visiting the hospital during the past 100 days.

Expressing gratitude to the District Collector for introducing the initiative, Dr. Ramesh also thanked college principals, NSS Programme Officers, Youth Red Cross coordinators, Vasavya Mahila Mandali volunteers, government hospital staff, and Youth Welfare Department personnel for their contribution to the programme's success.

Apart from assisting patients at the Government General Hospital, Youth Time Bank volunteers have been actively participating in public

grievance redressal programmes conducted every Monday at the Collectorate. They have also been extending services to devotees visiting the Indrakeeladri temple on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Dr. Ramesh praised the dedication of NSS volunteers, Youth Red Cross members, and college students, whose efforts have ensured the uninterrupted continuation of the programme. He appealed to educational institutions, voluntary organisations, and social service groups to continue supporting the initiative and help expand its reach in the future.

To commemorate the completion of 100 days, chocolates were distributed to volunteers by Indian Red Cross Society Chairman Dr. G. Samaram and Government Hospital Superintendent Dr. Raghunandan.

The celebration was attended by Dr. Samaram, Dr. Raghunandan, Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, Health Inspector Somarajulu, KBN College NSS Programme Officer Sambasiva Rao, Youth Welfare Department Superintendent Srinivasa Rao, and volunteers from the NSS, Youth Red Cross, and Vasavya Mahila Mandali. The programme highlighted the spirit of youth volunteerism and community service in the district.



₹6 Lakh Donation for Durgamma Annadanam

Vijayawada, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A donation of 6 lakh was made to the Annadana scheme at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple on Indrakiladri by Anel Kumar Chintha, Chairman and Managing Director of Amaravathi Software Innovations Pvt. Ltd.

After offering prayers to the presiding deity along with his family on Friday, Anel Kumar handed over a cheque for 6 lakh to Temple Executive

Officer V.K. Sheena Naik. The contribution will sponsor the temple's free meal distribution programme for one full day, benefiting thousands of devotees visiting the shrine.

Expressing his happiness, Anel Kumar said supporting the Annadana scheme brought him immense spiritual satisfaction. EO Sheena Naik appreciated the generous contribution and said it would help provide Anna Prasadam to devotees throughout the day.

Editorial

THEN ONLY WE
CAN STOP THESE
KILLINGS

Every time a woman is accused of killing her husband, society reacts with anger and condemnation. Social media is flooded with criticism, and many are quick to judge her character. While no crime can be justified, it is equally important to ask what circumstances led to such a tragic outcome. Understanding the reasons behind a crime is essential if society truly wants to prevent such incidents.

Even today, many women in India do not enjoy the freedom to express their opinions or make important decisions about their own lives. In numerous families, daughters are expected to obey rather than be heard. Their choices regarding education, career, and marriage are often controlled by others. Fear of rejection, family pressure, and social stigma force many women to suppress their emotions and remain silent.

Like men, women have the right to choose their life partners and express their feelings. However, society often judges women more harshly for exercising that choice. At the same time, the actions of a few individuals are unfairly used to stereotype all women, creating a misleading perception about their character.

Continuous emotional suppression and the absence of support can push some individuals into extreme mental distress. This does not excuse violence, but it reminds us that every crime has a background that deserves careful examination. Instead of limiting discussions to the crime alone, we must also examine the family environment, emotional abuse, and the pressures the accused may have faced.

If we genuinely want to reduce such tragedies, change must begin at home. Families should encourage open communication, respect women's opinions, and give them equal freedom to make life choices. Only by creating an atmosphere of trust, dignity, and mutual respect can we prevent desperation from turning into violence.

Only then can we truly stop these killings.

Editor

Drishyam-3: The Story Has Not Ended Yet

Varala Anand



Poet, Film Critic
Recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Award for translation

Cast: Mohanlal, Meena, Ansiba Hassan, Esther Anil, Siddique, Biju Menon and others
Music: Anil Johnson
Cinematography: Satheesh Kurup
Director: Jeethu Joseph

In recent years, the familiar “Shubham” (The End) card has almost disappeared from our films. Earlier, movies would conclude with a graceful Shubham, and occasionally, in a playful spirit, even with a humorous variation. That era, however, has passed. There are interesting reasons behind this change. The tradition came to cinema from theatre, and even classical Sanskrit dramas often ended with a benedictory conclusion symbolizing harmony and closure. Today, commercial culture has transformed the entire storytelling form. Even when a narrative appears complete, filmmakers leave room for another chapter if the film succeeds. This is the age of sequels. Drishyam-3 belongs to that culture of continuation.

Drishyam, the remarkable thriller gifted to us by Malayalam cinema, began with an extraordinary incident in the life of an ordinary cable television operator. From there, it evolved into a gripping narrative that questioned conventional notions of crime, punishment, and justice, challenging audiences to rethink their assumptions.

The primary reason for Drishyam's success lies in the way its story was told. Director Jeethu Joseph was not merely interested in presenting a murder mystery. His deeper concern was to explore how far a father would go to protect his family. That is why Georgekutty transcended the boundaries of an indi-

vidual character and became a symbol. In the first part, the audience learns the truth long before the police do. Yet the suspense never diminishes. The central question is not “Who committed the crime?” but rather, “How will this family survive?” Such a narrative strategy remains rare in Indian thriller cinema.

The second installment of Drishyam was an even more intriguing experiment.

Watching Drishyam-3 now raises a fascinating question, can Georgekutty's story ever truly end? One lie demands another lie for its protection. One secret inevitably gives birth to another. By that logic, George kutty's story should never conclude. What he concealed was not merely a crime, but the very existence and survival of a family.

In Drishyam-3, Georgekutty (Mohanlal) appears to have moved beyond the events of the past and settled into a seemingly ordinary life with his family. He has become a film producer and creates a movie titled Drishyam, inspired by the bitter experiences of his own life. The film becomes a runaway success, bringing him national recognition. However, a persistent journalist begins to investigate the old case with renewed seriousness, gathering evidence and reopening buried questions. Thus the story circles back to its beginning.

For Telugu audiences, the film may initially feel somewhat challenging. Those familiar with the Telugu adaptations of the Drishyam series may find the character dynamics confusing at first, and by the time clarity emerges, nearly half the film has passed. The first half unfolds slowly, without many compelling twists. Yet one positive aspect is that, unlike many sequels that merely capitalize on familiar-



ity, this installment functions as a direct continuation of the first two films. Mohanlal once again inhabits Georgekutty with effortless conviction. Meena, Ansiba Hassan, and Esther Anil are effective in their roles as family members. However, Siddique's character suffers from a lack of convincing motivation, making his criminal scheming appear less compelling than it should. Satheesh Kurup's cinematography is impressive, with several beautifully composed shots standing out. Anil Johnson's background score lends emotional and dramatic weight to the visuals. The Telugu dubbing, however, feels less than satisfactory. Whatever one may

think of the ending of Drishyam-3, this is ultimately not a story about crime. It is a story about memory and guilt. It is about the relentless way in which time pursues human beings. A body may be hidden. Evidence may be destroyed. But memories cannot be buried. No discussion of this series can overlook Mohanlal's extraordinary performance as Georgekutty. The fear visible in his eyes, the anxiety resonating through his silences, and the fierce love of a father willing to sacrifice everything for his family bring the character vividly to life. He is not merely a hero. He is an ordinary man. That is precisely why he becomes unforgettable. The Drishyam

series also reminds us of a profound truth: law does not always guarantee justice, and justice does not always reside within the boundaries of law. The tragedy of a human being trapped between these two forces forms the narrative's emotional core. Yet the film's somewhat confusing editing occasionally creates ambiguity, leaving the audience with moments of uncertainty. Georgekutty's story has not ended. And if it continues, perhaps it never will. For in every family, in every individual, and in every memory, there remains a drishyam, a scene, an image, a fragment of truth that refuses to fade away.

Education at the Crossroads: Time for Society to Take Charge

Dr. Nagam Kumaraswamy



Assistant Professor,
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Education is the backbone of any progressive society, yet in Telangana—and across India—it stands at a critical crossroads. While enrollment numbers are rising and aspirations are expanding, the system that is meant to nurture this growth is steadily weakening. The contradiction between policy promises and ground realities has never been more stark. If education is truly the foundation of development, as thinkers from John Dewey to Nelson Mandela have asserted, then its current neglect signals a deeper crisis in governance and social priorities.

Schools, colleges, and universities today are filled with students from marginalized communities—BCs, SCs, STs, and minorities—who were historically denied access to education. This expansion is a positive and necessary shift. However, the pressing question is whether government support has kept pace with this growth. Despite repeated emphasis on “quality,” “equity,” and “affordability” in policies like the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), there remains a glaring disconnect

between vision and implementation.

The condition of public education reveals a system under severe strain. Foundational and primary education continue to suffer from poor infrastructure and acute teacher shortages, with over a quarter of schools functioning with just one or two teachers. At higher levels, the absence of subject-specific faculty undermines learning outcomes. Universities such as Osmania, Kakatiya, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar are grappling with faculty vacancies exceeding 70 %. Research, once the cornerstone of academic excellence, has been reduced to a neglected domain, with laboratories lying underutilized due to a lack of funding and staff. Compounding this crisis, nearly 95 % of support staff across institutions are employed on insecure, outsourced terms.

This vacuum has enabled private educational institutions to dominate the sector, often prioritizing profit over purpose. Under the guise of “international standards” and “top ranks,” corporate institutions charge exorbitant fees, pushing families—espe-

cially from middle and lower-income groups—into financial distress. Weak regulation and political complicity have allowed these practices to flourish unchecked, turning education into a commercial commodity rather than a public good.

At the heart of this crisis lies inadequate funding. Despite longstanding recommendations to allocate at least 6 % of GDP or 15–18 % of state budgets to education, actual allocations remain far below these benchmarks. In Telangana, the education sector receives a modest share, much of which is consumed by salaries. This leaves little for infrastructure, research, or student support. The consequences are evident: delayed scholarships, mounting arrears, and increasing dropout risks among economically disadvantaged students. Even private degree colleges are struggling to survive under financial pressures.

Equally troubling is the plight of contract and outsourced staff who sustain the system. A vast majority work without job security, fair wages, or timely payments. From guest lecturers to sanitation workers, their contributions are critical, yet their conditions reflect systemic neglect. A system that fails its educators cannot hope to deliver quality education to its students. Addressing this crisis requires urgent and decisive



action. Governments must significantly enhance budgetary allocations, fill vacant teaching positions, and regularize contract staff with dignity and fairness. Strict regulatory mechanisms are needed to control private institution fees, while dedicated research funding must be re-

vived to restore academic excellence. Scholarships and financial aid must be disbursed on time to ensure no student is forced to abandon education due to economic hardship. However, the responsibility cannot rest solely with the government. Civil society must rise to the occasion. Par-

ents, teachers, and intellectuals must collectively demand accountability, conduct social audits, and actively participate in safeguarding educational institutions. Education is not a privilege granted by the state—it is a fundamental right. Its protection requires vigilance, participation, and

sustained public pressure. The future of Telangana—and indeed the nation—depends on the strength of its education system. Without immediate reforms and collective responsibility, the promise of education as a tool of empowerment risks fading into an unfulfilled ideal.



Fort Murder Probe Puts Matchmakers Under Spotlight

The investigation into the murder of Ketan Agarwal has drawn fresh attention to the role of relatives who helped arrange his marriage with Siya Goyal, now an accused in the alleged conspiracy.

Narendra Mittal and his wife Renu Mittal, Siya Goyal's maternal uncle and aunt, recently appeared before police and recorded their statements in the ongoing probe. They reportedly expressed shock over the allegations against their niece, saying they never imagined her involvement in such a crime.

According to investigators, Ketan Agarwal died on June 18 after falling from a cliff at Lo-hagarh Fort near Pune during a trekking trip with Siya Goyal. Initially treated as an accident, the case took a turn after suspicions were raised by the victim's family, leading to a police probe that allegedly uncov-

ered a conspiracy involving Siya and her reported lover, Chetan Chaudhary.

Police allege that Siya considered her fiancé an obstacle to her relationship and that during the trek, she signalled Chetan, who then pushed Ketan into a 400-foot gorge.

The Mittals told police they were unaware of any relationship between Siya and Chetan and described both families as shocked by the allegations. They said marriage talks began in January 2026, with engagement held in February and wedding plans underway.

Ketan's father, Vishal Agarwal, has alleged that Renu Mittal strongly recommended Siya for the match and that some family members may have known about her relationship, claims being examined by investigators. Police continue to record statements as the probe progresses.



Afghanistan Quake Shakes North India

Strong tremors were felt across Delhi-NCR, Jammu and Kashmir, and several parts of northern India on Saturday evening after a powerful earthquake struck Afghanistan.

According to the National Centre for Seismology, the earthquake measured 6.2 on the Richter scale and occurred at 7:04 pm IST. The epicentre was in northeastern Afghanistan at a depth of about 215 km. The United States Geological Survey recorded a magnitude of 6.1 with a depth of around 208 km.

The tremors were widely felt across northern India, prompting people in several cities to rush outdoors as buildings swayed briefly. In Delhi-NCR, residents reported strong shaking, though no immediate reports of damage or casualties were received.

In Jammu and Kashmir, tremors were felt in Srinagar, Poonch, and other districts, with videos on social media showing people evacuating homes and offices. Similar shaking was reported from parts of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

The quake also affected eastern Afghanistan, including Khost and Nangarhar provinces, and tremors were felt in Islamabad and surrounding regions in Pakistan.

Seismologists said the deep-focus nature of the earthquake likely reduced surface damage, even though it was strongly felt across a wide region. Authorities across India and neighbouring countries are monitoring the situation for aftershocks, with no major damage reported so far.

Afghanistan lies in a highly active seismic zone where the Indian and Eurasian plates interact, making earthquakes frequent in the region. The latest tremor once again highlights the importance of preparedness in earthquake-prone areas.

Supreme Court Ends 69-Year Land Dispute

Bringing closure to a legal battle spanning nearly seven decades and four generations, the Supreme Court has upheld a land sale deed executed in 1957, ending a long-standing ownership dispute in Uttarakhand.

A bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and N. V. Anjaria ruled in favour of the heirs of Sarafat Ali, whose family had purchased 15.5 bighas of land in Narsipur Kalan village of Haridwar through a registered sale deed in June 1957.

Court records showed that the family had remained in continuous possession of the land since the purchase. However, when they sought mutation in the 1980s, complications arose. While revenue officials initially accepted the

claim, land records during a 1991 consolidation process continued to show the original sellers as owners.

Authorities later rejected the mutation request, citing alleged violations of land laws at the time of the sale and discrepancies in witness details. The 1957 sale deed was declared invalid, leading the family to challenge the decision in multiple legal forums.

Bharat Taxi Launched in Gujarat

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday launched Bharat Taxi, a cooperative-model ride-hailing platform, in Gujarat, positioning it as a driver-centric alternative to private app-based transport services. The initiative marks a significant step in India's mobility sector, with the government-backed cooperative aiming to provide greater benefits and ownership opportunities to transport operators.

Addressing the launch event in Gandhinagar, Shah said the taxi industry has transformed dramatically over the years and has become an essential part of everyday life for millions of people. He observed that transport services now extend beyond conventional taxis, with two-wheelers and other vehicles increasingly being used for passenger mobility across the country.

Shah criticized existing private ride-hailing platforms, alleging that they have often prioritized corporate profits at the expense of drivers. Referring to transport operators as "saarthis" rather than drivers, he highlighted their contribution to the economy and argued that they deserve dignity, financial security, and fair treatment. According to him, many operators have faced arbitrary policies, reduced earnings, and uncertainty under existing app-based systems. To address these concerns, Bharat Taxi



has been developed under a cooperative framework inspired by the success of the dairy cooperative model popularized by Amul. Shah said the new platform seeks to create a balanced ecosystem where both customers and service providers benefit without exploitation. He announced that nearly seven lakh drivers have already joined the initiative as shareholders, giving them a direct stake in the enterprise and its future growth.

The platform has completed trial operations in several regions and has now formalized its presence in Gujarat. Agreements have been signed with key institutions, including Ahmedabad Airport and the municipal corporation, paving the way for wider adoption. Bharat Taxi will operate across multiple categories, including two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, and four-wheelers. Responding to reports about

fare differences between Bharat Taxi and competing services, Shah dismissed allegations that the cooperative platform is more expensive. He accused rival companies of temporarily lowering prices to create pressure on the new entrant and discourage its expansion. However, he expressed confidence that Bharat Taxi would withstand competition and establish itself as a sustainable alternative.

Drawing parallels with the growth of Amul, Shah said cooperative enterprises can successfully compete with private corporations when supported by the public. He urged both operators and customers to contribute to the platform's success, asserting that Bharat Taxi has the potential to reshape the transport sector by ensuring fairness, ownership, and long-term prosperity for its members.

Thackeray Targets BJP Over Ram Temple Donation Row

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of betraying Hindus and exploiting religious sentiments for political gain. Addressing a rally in Yavatmal, Thackeray invoked the ongoing controversy surrounding the alleged embezzlement of donations received at the Ram Mandir to question the BJP's commitment to Hindutva.

Thackeray asserted that "real Hindutva" is rooted in humanity and accused the BJP of promoting a version of Hindutva associated with the misuse of religious institutions. He declared that the Shiv Sena (UBT) would spearhead protests aimed at ensuring what he termed "BJP-mukt Ram," alleging that the ruling party had tarnished the sanctity of the Ram temple issue.

Referring to donations made by the undivided Shiv Sena for the construction of the Ram Temple, Thackeray questioned the whereabouts of the funds and silver bricks allegedly contributed by the party. His remarks followed claims made by Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut that the party had not received a receipt for a 1 crore donation made to the temple



trust.

The controversy comes amid an investigation into alleged financial irregularities linked to temple donations. Several individuals associated with counting cash and valuables received at the temple have been arrested, while authorities continue their probe into the alleged misappropriation of funds. Thackeray also criticized the BJP over citizenship-related issues, questioning government statements regarding passports and citizenship documentation. In a strongly worded remark, he accused the BJP of creating confusion and asked whether party membership had become the only acceptable proof of citizenship. The former Maharashtra chief minis-

ter further alleged that the BJP has relied on engineering defections and splitting political parties to strengthen its electoral position. He targeted rebel leaders who left Shiv Sena (UBT), including MPs who recently joined the ruling Shiv Sena faction, accusing them of abandoning public interests and betraying voters.

Thackeray maintained that development funds do not belong exclusively to the BJP and rejected claims that defecting legislators were compelled by financial constraints. He concluded by expressing confidence that neither the Thackeray family nor Shiv Sena (UBT) could be politically weakened through defections and political maneuvering.

Statehood Must Be Restored to J&K: Karan Singh

Veteran Congress leader and former Karan Singh on Saturday strongly advocated the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that the people of the region should not have to plead with the Centre for a status that had already been promised.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an Interfaith Dialogue programme held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre in Srinagar, Singh said the Government of India had committed to restoring statehood and should fulfill that assurance. He noted that Jammu and Kashmir was once among the country's largest states and said its people should not be compelled to seek what rightfully belongs to them.

While expressing confidence that statehood would eventually be restored, Singh acknowledged that the timing of the decision rests with the Central Government. He added that the people of Jammu and Kashmir could continue to voice their aspirations but could not force the Centre's hand.

The former Union minister also emphasized the importance of maintaining harmony between the Jammu and Kashmir regions. He said unity between the two regions is essential for the overall growth and progress of the Union Territory and urged citizens to work together to strengthen social



cohesion.

Highlighting the significance of religious harmony, Singh said interfaith dialogue plays a vital role in fostering understanding among communities. Referring to India's historical experiences with division and communal discord, he stressed the need for people of different faiths to engage with one another and promote mutual respect.

The Interfaith Dialogue programme was organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language in collaboration with the Inter-Faith Harmony Foundation of India. The event focused on promoting communal harmony, social unity, and understanding among diverse religious communities.

Singh's remarks come amid continuing political discussions over the future status of Jammu and Kashmir, with several political parties and civil society groups reiterating their demand for the restoration of full statehood.



Tagore Takes Charge of TN Congress

The Congress party on Saturday appointed B. Manickam Tagore as the new president of the Tamil Nadu Pradesh Congress Committee (TNPPCC), replacing K. Selvaperunthagai in a key organisational reshuffle aimed at strengthening the party ahead of future elections.

The announcement was made by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) through a statement issued by General Secretary K. C. Venugopal. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge approved the decision with immediate effect and appreciated the services of outgoing state president K. Selvaperunthagai.

Manickam Tagore, a Congress Member of Parliament from Virudhunagar constituency in Tamil Nadu, currently serves as the party whip in the Lok Sabha. He also holds responsibilities as AICC in-charge for Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. His appointment is seen as

an effort to bring experienced parliamentary and organisational leadership to the Tamil Nadu unit.

The leadership change comes at a crucial time for the Congress in Tamil Nadu, where the party remains part of the ruling alliance led by actor-turned-politician Vijay Joseph's TVK. Political observers believe the move may help strengthen grassroots organisation and improve coordination with alliance partners.

Tagore is known as an active voice of the Congress in Parliament and within the organisation. His experience in election management and party affairs is expected to play a key role in shaping strategy in the state. Party leaders and workers welcomed the decision, expressing confidence that his leadership will energise the cadre and expand outreach. The outgoing president Selvaperunthagai was thanked for his contributions and organisational work during his tenure.

Kharge Questions Centre Over Fuel Price Relief Amid Falling Crude Oil Rates

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has questioned the Centre over the continued high prices of petrol, diesel, and LPG despite a significant fall in global crude oil rates. He accused the BJP-led government of imposing an excessive tax burden on citizens while benefiting from higher revenue collections.

In a sharp attack on the Union government, Kharge said international crude oil prices have dropped substantially from the peak levels seen during the West Asia conflict, but consumers have not received any corresponding relief in fuel prices. He alleged that the government is treating citizens primarily as a source of revenue and is unwilling to pass on the benefit of lower crude prices.

Referring to earlier trends, Kharge noted that when crude oil had surged to around \$138 per barrel during geopolitical tensions, petrol was priced at 94.77 per litre and diesel at 87.67 per litre. He questioned why fuel prices have not been reduced now that crude has fallen to nearly \$70 per barrel.

The Congress leader also criticised LPG pricing, stating that commercial cylinder rates were increased sharply during global supply disruptions. With supplies now stabilised and crude prices declining, he asked why those hikes have not been rolled back.

Kharge further expressed concern over rising prices of 5-kg LPG cylinders used by migrant workers, low-income families, and small vendors, saying the increase is adding



pressure on already strained household budgets amid inflation.

He argued that reducing fuel prices would provide immediate relief to consumers and help lower transportation and commodity costs across the economy. However, he alleged that the government is deliberately avoiding price cuts de-

spite favourable global conditions.

The remarks come amid ongoing political debate over fuel pricing and taxation policies, with opposition parties demanding cuts in excise duties. The Centre maintains that fuel prices are influenced by global markets, exchange rates, and domestic tax structures.

Trump Visit to India Likely in 2027 Iran Vows Retaliation After US Strike

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has indicated that President Donald Trump is likely to visit India in the early months of next year, underscoring the growing strength of bilateral relations between the two nations and the close personal rapport between President Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking at the White House, Rubio said efforts are underway to finalize plans for the visit and expressed optimism that the trip would take place in early 2027. He also revealed that he expects to travel to India before the end of this year to help prepare for the high-profile visit.

According to Rubio, relations between India and the United States are currently in a highly positive phase. He pointed to the recent interaction between President Trump and Prime Minister Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, describing it as productive and reflective of the strong partnership shared by the two leaders.

Rubio said both countries are making significant progress in strengthening economic and strategic cooperation. He noted that discussions on a bilateral trade agreement are in their



final stages and expressed confidence that a deal could be concluded soon. The proposed agreement is expected to further enhance trade, investment, and economic collaboration between the world's largest and fifth-largest economies.

The planned visit would mark President Trump's first trip to India since February 2020 and his first official visit after returning to the White House for a second term. Political observers believe the visit could provide fresh momentum to cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, defense, energy, and regional

security.

Highlighting Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Rubio praised India's growing role on the global stage and credited Modi with elevating the country's international standing. He described India as an increasingly influential global power and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between New Delhi and Washington.

The anticipated visit is expected to attract significant diplomatic attention, with both nations seeking to deepen their strategic partnership amid evolving global geopolitical and economic challenges.

es. Analysts believe a successful visit could result in new agreements and initiatives aimed at strengthening ties across multiple sectors.

As preparations begin, expectations are growing that the proposed visit will serve as another milestone in the India-US relationship, reinforcing cooperation between the two democracies and expanding opportunities for mutual growth and development. The visit is also likely to highlight the shared commitment of both countries to maintaining a stable, prosperous, and rules-based international order.



Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced on Saturday that it had targeted United States military positions in the region in response to what it described as a fresh American attack against Iran, signaling a new escalation in tensions between Tehran and Washington.

In an official statement, the IRGC said it had launched retaliatory operations against US military assets located in the region. However, Iranian authorities did not disclose the specific locations targeted, the nature of the operation, or the extent of any damage caused. The absence of detailed information has fueled speculation regarding the scale and impact of the reported retaliation.

The announcement came amid heightened regional tensions following reports of a new US military strike involving Iranian interests. While details surrounding the alleged American action remain limited, Iran's leadership has

repeatedly warned that any attack on its territory, personnel, or strategic assets would be met with a firm response.

Earlier in the day, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency published a statement attributed to the Revolutionary Guards, warning that Iran's response to the latest US action would be "swift and decisive." The report drew considerable attention before it was later removed from the agency's platform without explanation. The subsequent official statement from the IRGC appeared to reinforce Tehran's determination to retaliate against perceived aggression.

The latest development underscores the fragile security situation in the Middle East, where tensions involving Iran, the United States, and regional allies have periodically threatened to trigger broader conflict. Military analysts note that any direct confrontation between Tehran and Washington carries significant risks for regional stability, energy markets, and inter-

national security.

Governments across the region are closely monitoring the situation amid concerns that further retaliatory actions could lead to a cycle of escalation. Diplomatic observers have urged restraint from all sides, warning that miscalculations or misunderstandings could rapidly worsen an already volatile environment.

The United States had not immediately provided an official response to the IRGC's statement. Meanwhile, international attention remains focused on whether the latest exchange will remain limited or develop into a broader military confrontation.

As tensions continue to simmer, global powers are expected to intensify diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing further escalation. The coming days are likely to be crucial in determining whether the situation moves toward de-escalation through dialogue or spirals into a more serious regional crisis with far-reaching consequences.

Rare Aircraft Crashes in Beijing

A small aircraft crash involving an aircraft reportedly no larger than a car has drawn renewed attention to aviation safety in Beijing, a city known for its tightly controlled airspace and strict flight regulations. The incident occurred on Friday when the aircraft struck the tallest building in the Chinese capital, resulting in the death of one person and prompting widespread discussion about the rarity of such accidents.

Witnesses described the aircraft as unusually small, emphasizing the unusual nature of the crash in a city where unauthorized flights are rarely permitted. Beijing's airspace is among the most heavily regulated in the world due to security concerns and its status as China's political center. As a result, aviation accidents involving small aircraft are relatively uncommon compared to many other major cities.



The latest incident has brought back memories of several small aircraft and helicopter crashes that have occurred in and around Beijing over the past two decades. While infrequent, these accidents have occasionally resulted in fatalities and injuries.

One of the most recent tragedies occurred on July 6, 2022, when a tourist helicopter crashed during a flight between Beijing's Changping and Fangshan districts. Both pilots on board lost their lives

in the accident. Earlier, on July 30, 2018, a civil helicopter crashed into a parking area in Chaoyang district due to pilot error, injuring four occupants.

In June 2015, a training helicopter crashed into the Miyun Reservoir area, killing two people. A year earlier, in April 2014, another small training aircraft went down near the same reservoir, claiming the life of one pilot while seriously injuring another.

A particularly severe acci-

dent occurred in August 2011 when a police helicopter crashed into Miyun Reservoir while returning from a search-and-rescue exercise. Four of the five crew members on board were killed, making it one of the deadliest helicopter incidents in the region in recent years. Another fatal crash took place in July 2008 in Beijing's remote Pinggu district. A helicopter engaged in pesticide-spraying operations struck a high-voltage power line before crashing and catching fire, killing the pilot.

Authorities are expected to investigate the latest crash thoroughly to determine the cause and assess whether additional safety measures are required. While Beijing's strict aviation controls have helped keep such incidents rare, Friday's accident serves as a reminder that even heavily regulated airspace remains vulnerable to unexpected aviation emergencies.

Questions Renewed Over Epstein Office

Fresh scrutiny has emerged over the role of the Florida Science Foundation, an organization linked to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, as renewed attention focuses on the circumstances surrounding his controversial 2008 plea agreement and the privileges he reportedly enjoyed while serving his sentence.

According to records cited in recent reports, a police officer observed Epstein walking away from the direction of his residence on August 18, 2009. When questioned, Epstein stated that he was heading to the Florida Science Foundation office for work. At the time, the office formed a key part of an arrangement that allowed him to leave jail for extended periods under a work-release program.

However, questions arose just days later when authorities attempted to verify his activities. On August 26, police officers visited the Palm Beach office and reportedly discovered that the company's name had been removed from the door. Epstein was not present at the location, and investigators later learned that he had traveled to New York.

A police report noted that officials were informed Epstein was in New York City despite being scheduled to be at the office during designated work hours. The revelation fueled



concerns about the level of oversight applied to the work-release arrangement and whether the office was functioning as a legitimate workplace.

The Florida Science Foundation officially ceased operations in April 2010 and was dissolved several months later. Reports indicate that during its existence, the organization had limited publicly known activity, including a modest contribution to a student science competition. Critics argue that the foundation appeared to serve little practical purpose beyond facilitating Epstein's work-release privileges.

Renewed attention has also been drawn to allegations made by attorney Gloria Allred, who has represented numerous Epstein survivors. Allred welcomed renewed examination of Epstein's 2008 plea agreement, describing it

as a highly favorable arrangement that allowed him to plead guilty to lesser state charges rather than face more serious federal accusations.

She questioned whether the Florida Science Foundation operated as a genuine business and alleged that the office was used for inappropriate purposes during the period in question. Allred has also called for a new congressional investigation into how the arrangement was approved and monitored.

The controversy surrounding the foundation remains closely tied to broader concerns about Epstein's treatment within the criminal justice system. For many observers, the case continues to raise questions about accountability, influence, and whether wealth and connections enabled special treatment that would not have been available to ordinary offenders.

Oil Tanker Damaged in Hormuz Amid US-Iran Tensions

An oil tanker navigating the strategically important Strait of Hormuz was damaged after being struck by an unidentified projectile, raising fresh concerns about maritime security in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

According to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), the vessel suffered damage to its bridge, but all crew members on board were reported safe. The incident occurred amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran following a recent exchange of military strikes.

Maritime security firm Vanguard Tech identified the vessel as the Panama-flagged tanker KIKU. Authorities have not yet determined the origin of the projectile or identified those responsible for the attack. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

The development comes at a sensitive time in the Gulf re-



gion. Earlier on Saturday, Iran's Revolutionary Guards announced that they had targeted American positions in the Gulf in response to recent US strikes on Iranian targets. The exchange marked the first reported direct military confrontation between the two countries since their agreement aimed at ending hostilities in the broader Middle East conflict.

The Strait of Hormuz, situated between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, serves as one of the world's most important mari-

time chokepoints. A significant share of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports passes through the narrow waterway each day. Any disruption in the region often triggers concerns among energy markets, shipping companies, and governments worldwide.

Security analysts have warned that rising tensions between Washington and Tehran could increase risks to commercial shipping operating in the Gulf. Previous periods of confrontation between the two na-

tions have seen attacks on tankers, vessel seizures, and heightened military deployments in the area.

While the tanker crew escaped unharmed, the incident has renewed fears of potential disruptions to international trade routes. Maritime authorities have advised vessels operating in the region to exercise caution and closely monitor security updates. Global energy markets are expected to closely watch developments in the coming days, as any further escalation could affect oil supply routes and shipping costs. Industry observers note that maintaining safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz remains critical for global energy security.

The latest attack underscores the fragile security environment in the Gulf and highlights the broader geopolitical risks that continue to impact one of the world's most vital shipping lanes.

Quake Crisis Becomes Political Test for Venezuela

The devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela this week have evolved into a major political challenge for acting President Delcy Rodríguez, as the government's response comes under intense public and international scrutiny. By Friday, authorities reported that nearly 1,000 people had lost their lives and more than 3,300 others were injured. More than 200 aftershocks have rattled the country since the twin earthquakes, which are considered the strongest to hit Venezuela in decades.

The disaster has severely damaged infrastructure, overwhelmed hospitals, and left thousands of families searching for missing relatives.

As rescue and relief operations continue, the crisis has become a contest over political legitimacy between Rodríguez's administration and the opposition led by María Corina Machado. While the government is attempting to coordinate emergency assistance and secure international aid, opposition groups have launched par-

allel efforts to locate missing persons, organize volunteers, and distribute humanitarian supplies.

Political analysts say the government's handling of the disaster could significantly influence public perceptions of Rodríguez's leadership following the removal of former President Nicolás Maduro earlier this year. A transparent and effective response could strengthen confidence in the administration, while delays and inefficiencies could fuel criticism and bolster

support for the opposition.

Unlike previous Venezuelan governments that often rejected foreign involvement, Rodríguez has welcomed assistance from a wide range of countries, including the United States and several regional governments. She said she held discussions with US President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio regarding additional rescue teams, emergency shelters, and humanitarian aid.

However, concerns remain over the pace of relief efforts.

Residents in several affected areas reported limited official presence, forcing communities to organize their own search and recovery operations. Hospitals have struggled to cope with the influx of injured victims amid longstanding shortages of medicines and medical supplies.

The political rivalry has also extended online. Government authorities have converted the VenApp platform into an emergency reporting system, while opposition groups have estab-



lished independent networks to help families reconnect with missing relatives and coordinate relief activities.

With reconstruction expected to require enormous resources and months of sustained effort,

the earthquake disaster has become more than a humanitarian emergency. It is now a defining test of leadership, governance, and public trust in a country already facing years of political and economic turmoil.

Nifty Faces Key Resistance Zone

India's benchmark Nifty 50 index may find it challenging to reclaim the crucial 24,500–24,600 range in the near term despite maintaining a positive broader trend, according to market expert Sudeep Shah, Head of Technical and Derivatives Research at SBI Securities.

Speaking on the market outlook for the coming week, Shah noted that the Nifty continues to trade above its 20-day and 50-day Exponential Moving Averages (EMAs), indicating that the overall short-term

trend remains constructive. However, he cautioned that the index lacks strong directional momentum needed for a decisive breakout toward record highs.

According to Shah, the 24,500–24,600 zone has emerged as a significant resistance area. The benchmark index may require stronger buying support and improved market breadth before it can sustain a move above this range. While the underlying trend remains positive, momentum indicators are yet to confirm a fresh

upward rally.

Market participants are closely watching whether the Nifty can overcome this hurdle, as a successful breakout could pave the way for a fresh attempt at all-time highs. Conversely, failure to breach the resistance zone may result in continued consolidation in the short term.

Among stock-specific opportunities, Shah has recommended accumulating shares of Samvardhana Motherson International and CreditAccess Grameen for the week

ahead.

Samvardhana Motherson International has shown strong technical strength after breaking out of a symmetrical triangle pattern on the daily chart. Such breakouts are generally viewed by technical analysts as signals of a potential continuation of an uptrend. The stock has also witnessed healthy volumes, indicating growing investor interest.

CreditAccess Grameen, meanwhile, continues to display bullish undertones after experiencing a healthy pull-

back toward its 20-day EMA. The stock has managed to hold key support levels and is showing signs of renewed buying activity, making it an attractive candidate for traders seeking momentum opportunities.

Shah also highlighted the improving outlook for the pharmaceutical sector. He observed that pharma stocks have consistently outperformed the broader market over the past few months and appear to be entering a fresh phase of upward movement. The sector's resilience amid market volatil-



ity has attracted investor attention and could continue to support gains in selected counters. With global developments, earnings expectations, and institutional flows likely to influence sentiment, analysts be-

lieve investors should remain selective and focus on fundamentally and technically strong stocks while monitoring the Nifty's ability to conquer the crucial 24,500–24,600 resistance band.

Nifty Climbs to One-Month High Amid DII Support

Indian equity markets ended the holiday-shortened trading week on a positive note, with benchmark indices touching their highest levels in more than a month. Improved global sentiment, easing geopolitical tensions, falling crude oil prices, and strong domestic institutional buying helped the markets remain resilient despite continued foreign investor selling.

The BSE Sensex gained 297.57 points, or 0.38 percent, during the week to close at 77,100.47, while the Nifty 50 advanced 42.9 points, or 0.17 percent, ending at 24,056. During the week, the Nifty briefly crossed the 24,250 mark, its highest level in over a month.

Market sentiment improved significantly after international crude oil prices retreated to levels seen before the recent Iran-related tensions. Lower energy prices eased concerns about inflation and corporate profitability, boosting investor confidence. Positive global risk appetite and expectations of stable economic growth further supported equities.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) played a crucial role in sustaining the market rally. While Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers, offloading equities worth more than 2,000 crore during the week, DIIs purchased shares worth over 11,000 crore, effectively



absorbing the selling pressure and providing stability to the market.

Sector-wise, the Nifty Pharma Index emerged as the top performer, rising 2 percent. The Nifty Realty Index gained 1.7 percent, while the Nifty Private Bank and Nifty Auto indices advanced 1.5 percent each. Analysts attributed the strength in pharma stocks to continued investor preference for defensive sectors and expectations of improved earnings.

On the downside, the Nifty Metal Index was the worst-performing sector, falling 4.4 percent amid concerns over global demand and commodity price fluctuations. The Nifty Consumer Durables Index declined 2.4 percent, while the Capital Market and Energy indices shed 2.2 percent each.

The broader market presented a mixed picture. The Nifty Smallcap 100 Index end-

ed the week largely flat, while the Nifty Midcap 100 Index declined nearly 1 percent. Several midcap and smallcap stocks witnessed profit-booking after recent rallies, resulting in selective weakness despite the benchmark indices ending higher.

Interestingly, the total market capitalization of companies listed on the BSE fell by more than 2 lakh crore during the week, reflecting sharp declines in several heavyweight stocks even as frontline indices remained positive.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee surrendered part of its intra-week gains and ended marginally weaker at 94.40 per US dollar, compared with 94.33 in the previous week.

Market participants will now closely monitor global developments, institutional fund flows, and corporate earnings expectations for further direction in the coming week.

Low Volatility Poses Hidden Risks for Option Sellers

Selling options during periods of low implied volatility (IV) may appear safer, but market experts caution that it can be far more challenging and less rewarding than many traders realize.

According to derivatives market analyst Shubham Agarwal, option sellers often overlook the impact of a low-IV environment, focusing only on the perceived advantage of smaller expected market movements. However, while the probability of options expiring worthless may increase, the reduced premiums collected can significantly alter the risk-reward equation.

Agarwal illustrates the challenge with a simple comparison. Two traders sell the same Nifty option. One receives a premium of 220, while the other earns only 60. Despite the vast difference in income, both traders block the same margin, assume the same overnight risk, and must actively manage their positions. The only distinction is the market's implied volatility at the time of



the trade.

Implied volatility reflects the market's expectation of future price movement and is often referred to as a "fear gauge." When traders anticipate major swings, option premiums rise, resulting in higher IV. Conversely, during calm market conditions, premiums contract and IV declines.

While low IV may suggest a stable market with fewer surprises, it also means option sellers receive significantly lower compensation for taking on risk. Traders continue to face potential losses from un-

expected news events, economic developments, geopolitical tensions, or sudden market reversals, even though the premium earned may be relatively small.

Experts warn that many traders mistakenly assume low volatility automatically translates into safer trades. In reality, the reduced premium leaves little room for error. A modest market move can quickly erode profits or turn a position into a loss, making risk management even more critical.

Furthermore, option sellers

in low-IV conditions must maintain the same level of discipline in monitoring positions, setting stop-loss levels, and managing exposure. The workload and responsibilities remain unchanged despite lower returns.

Market participants are therefore advised to evaluate the risk-reward profile carefully before initiating option-selling strategies in a low-volatility environment. Rather than focusing solely on the probability of success, traders should consider whether the premium collected adequately compensates them for the risks involved.

As volatility cycles change over time, understanding the relationship between implied volatility and option pricing remains essential for anyone involved in derivatives trading. Analysts believe that successful option selling depends not only on predicting market direction but also on recognizing whether the premium received justifies the risk undertaken.

Chip Sell-Off Drags Wall Street Lower



U.S. stock markets ended slightly lower on Friday as a sharp decline in artificial intelligence (AI)-related chip stocks outweighed strong gains in healthcare shares, particularly vaccine maker Moderna. The benchmark S&P 500 slipped 0.05 percent to close at 7,353.95 points, while the technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite fell 0.24 percent to 25,297.62 points. The Dow Jones Industrial Average also ended marginally lower, losing 0.09 percent to settle at 51,876.11 points.

The main drag on the market came from semiconductor stocks, with the PHLX Semiconductor Index plunging 5.3 percent. The decline highlighted growing investor concerns about the sustainability of the massive investments being made in artificial intelligence infrastructure and data centers.

Over the past two years, AI-driven enthusiasm has been one of the strongest forces powering Wall Street's rally, lifting technology giants and chip manufacturers to record valuations. However, recent

volatility suggests that investors are beginning to question how quickly companies will be able to translate billions of dollars in AI-related spending into meaningful profits.

Market strategists noted that while optimism surrounding artificial intelligence remains strong, concerns about profitability are becoming increasingly prominent. Investors are closely evaluating whether the enormous capital expenditure commitments made by technology companies can generate returns within a reasonable timeframe.

David Stubbs, Chief Investment Strategist at AlphaCore Wealth Advisory, said it is still too early to conclude that a major correction is developing in the technology sector. However, he emphasized that questions surrounding profitability and the long-term return on AI investments are unlikely to disappear anytime soon.

Analysts believe Wall Street's current valuations leave little room for disappointment. Any indication that major corporations may struggle to meet lofty earnings expectations could trigger fur-

ther bouts of market volatility. This is particularly relevant for technology companies, many of which have experienced substantial stock price gains based on expectations of future AI-driven growth.

Despite weakness in technology stocks, healthcare shares provided some support to the broader market. Strong gains in Moderna and other healthcare companies helped offset a portion of the losses generated by the semiconductor sector.

Investors are now turning their attention to upcoming corporate earnings reports, economic indicators, and developments in the AI industry for clues about future market direction. The performance of chipmakers is expected to remain a key focus, given their central role in the AI revolution and their significant influence on overall market sentiment.

While the broader market decline was modest, Friday's session underscored the growing debate over whether AI-related investments will justify the high expectations currently reflected in stock prices.

Silver Consumer Electricals Raises ₹150 Crore in Pre-IPO Boost



Electrical consumer durables and agricultural equipment manufacturer Silver Consumer Electricals has secured 150 crore in a pre-IPO funding round, strengthening investor confidence ahead of its planned public offering. The investment came from Riyaz Suterwala, who acquired a 2.59 percent stake in the company through a secondary share purchase from promoter Dharamshibhai Mohanbhai Bediya.

According to disclosures made to investors, the transaction involved the transfer of 73.15 lakh shares on June 24 for a total consideration of 149.9 crore. The deal was executed at a price of 205.05 per share, reflecting strong market confidence in the company's future growth prospects.

The transaction values Silver Consumer Electricals at approximately 5,800 crore on a pre-issue basis. Following the proposed public issue, the company's valuation is expected to rise to nearly 6,800 crore, posi-

tioning it among the notable emerging players in India's consumer electricals and agricultural equipment segment.

The company, backed by prominent angel investor Arpit Khandelwal, has built a growing presence in the electrical appliances and farm equipment market. Industry observers view the latest investment as a significant endorsement of the company's business model and expansion strategy ahead of its anticipated stock market debut.

The pre-IPO investment comes at a time when investor

appetite for quality manufacturing and consumer-focused businesses remains strong. Companies with established distribution networks, scalable operations, and exposure to India's growing rural and urban consumption trends continue to attract substantial interest from institutional and high-net-worth investors.

By purchasing a minority stake before the public issue, Suterwala gains exposure to a company that is expected to benefit from rising demand for electrical products, agricultural machinery, and infrastruc-

ture-linked consumer goods. Such pre-IPO transactions often serve as indicators of market confidence and can help strengthen a company's position as it prepares to approach public investors.

Market experts note that successful pre-IPO fundraising not only provides valuation benchmarks but also enhances credibility among prospective investors. For Silver Consumer Electricals, the latest capital infusion and strategic investment underscore the growing interest in India's manufacturing and consumer durables sectors.

As the company moves closer to its public listing plans, investors will closely watch its financial performance, growth trajectory, and expansion initiatives. The 150-crore transaction marks an important milestone in Silver Consumer Electricals' journey toward becoming a publicly traded company and highlights the continued momentum in India's primary market landscape.

Market Focus Shifts to FY27 Growth Story

Indian equity markets have largely moved past concerns surrounding the recent US-Iran tensions and are now focusing on normalized earnings growth expected in FY27, according to Ashwini Shami, President and Chief Portfolio Manager at OmniScience Capital.

Shami observed that investor sentiment has improved significantly, with market participants increasingly concentrating on domestic growth prospects rather than short-term geopolitical uncertainties. The resilience of the broader market, particularly the strong performance of midcap and smallcap stocks, reflects growing confidence in India's economic outlook and corporate earnings trajectory.

He noted that the sharp rally witnessed in the Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty Smallcap 250 indices indicates that investors are willing to look beyond temporary global disruptions and position themselves for long-term growth opportunities. According to him, the market is now pricing in a more stable earnings environment for FY27.

On the issue of government disinvestment through the Offer for Sale (OFS) route, Shami believes there is scope for additional OFS issues in the coming months. With equity markets remaining relatively strong and investor participation continuing to expand, the government may find favorable conditions to raise capital through stake sales in public sector enterprises.



He pointed out that the government's fiscal consolidation efforts and capital expenditure requirements could encourage authorities to accelerate disinvestment plans. If market conditions remain supportive, FY27 could witness substantial fundraising through the OFS mechanism, although the exact scale would depend on market sentiment and valuation levels.

Shami also highlighted significant opportunities emerging in sectors linked to India's infrastructure and energy transition. He sees strong long-term growth potential in data centers, power generation, transmission infrastructure, and renewable energy projects. Increasing digitalization, rising electricity demand, and the country's clean-energy ambitions are expected to drive investments across these segments.

At the same time, he urged caution regarding the information technology sector. While

valuation multiples have corrected considerably over the past year, he argued that IT stocks cannot automatically be considered cheap. The sector continues to face challenges as companies adapt to changing business models, evolving client requirements, and the impact of artificial intelligence on traditional services. According to Shami, investors should focus on earnings visibility rather than relying solely on lower valuations. He emphasized that sustainable growth, sector-specific opportunities, and strong fundamentals will remain the key drivers of market performance in the coming quarters.

With geopolitical concerns easing and economic fundamentals remaining supportive, market participants are increasingly positioning themselves for a growth-oriented FY27, with broader earnings recovery expected to play a central role in shaping investment decisions.

Helmet Could Have Saved Bengaluru Biker Injured by Falling Branch

A shocking incident in Bengaluru has once again highlighted the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a two-wheeler. A 52-year-old biker suffered severe head injuries after a tree branch suddenly fell on him while he was commuting to work, reminding everyone that accidents can occur in the most unexpected ways.

The incident took place on Ram Mandir Road in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. Satish, a resident of the city, was travelling on his motorcycle to his workplace when a dry branch from a roadside tree unexpectedly snapped and crashed onto his head. Unfortunately, he was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

The impact was so severe that Satish lost control of his bike and collapsed onto the road. The entire incident was captured on nearby CCTV cameras, and the footage has since drawn widespread attention on social media. Witnesses rushed to his aid and immediately shifted him to a nearby hospital for first aid before he was transferred to Manipal Hospital in Yeshwanthpur for advanced treatment.

Doctors revealed that Satish had sustained serious head injuries and had slipped into a coma due to the trauma. An emergency surgery was performed to save his life. Medical professionals later



confirmed that his condition is gradually improving and that he is currently recovering.

Road safety experts often stress that helmets are not only meant to protect riders during collisions with other vehicles but also from unforeseen hazards such as falling objects, road debris, or accidental slips. This incident stands as a powerful example of how a simple safety measure could make the difference between life and death.

Many riders tend to ignore

helmets during short-distance travel or while riding on familiar roads. However, this accident demonstrates that danger can strike anywhere and at any time. Even something as unpredictable as a falling tree branch can lead to life-threatening injuries. Authorities and safety advocates continue to urge motorcyclists to wear certified helmets at all times, irrespective of the distance they travel. A quality helmet significantly reduces the risk of fatal head injuries and offers

crucial protection in emergencies.

Satish's ordeal serves as a sobering reminder that road safety is not just about following traffic rules but also about being prepared for unexpected situations. Wearing a helmet should not be seen as an obligation imposed by law but as a personal commitment to safeguarding one's own life. One moment of negligence can have lifelong consequences, while a helmet can provide protection when it matters the most.

Five Garden Plants That May Attract Snakes

A lush green garden can enhance the beauty of a home and create a refreshing environment. However, wildlife experts caution that certain types of plants may inadvertently provide favourable conditions for snakes to seek shelter. While these plants do not directly attract snakes, the cool shade, moisture and abundance of small prey animals around them can make such areas appealing hiding spots.

Snakes are cold-blooded reptiles that prefer cool, shaded environments to regulate their body temperature. They are also drawn to places where food sources such as rodents, frogs, insects and lizards are commonly found. As a result, gardens with dense vegetation and undisturbed spaces may become suitable habitats for them.

One of the plants often associated with snake sightings is bamboo. Bamboo grows thickly and creates shaded, enclosed spaces that can serve as ideal hiding places. When planted along compound walls or fences, bamboo clusters may provide snakes with safe shelter away from human activity.

Ground-covering plants such as periwinkle and ivy are another concern. These vines spread densely across the soil surface, making it difficult to observe what lies underneath. Fallen leaves and retained moisture beneath the foliage create a cool environment that



snakes may find attractive.

Lemongrass, widely grown for its fragrance and culinary uses, can also become a resting spot for snakes. The plant tends to grow in thick clumps, leaving shaded gaps at the base where reptiles can remain concealed.

Similarly, jasmine shrubs can encourage snake activity. Their dense growth often attracts insects, rodents and other small creatures, which in turn become a food source for snakes. Areas with abundant prey naturally increase the possibility of snakes venturing nearby.

Large sandalwood trees may also provide favourable conditions because of the shade and moisture retained beneath their canopies. Such cool and sheltered environments can offer temporary refuge for snakes, especially during hot

weather. Experts stress that the presence of these plants does not automatically mean snakes will enter a property. Instead, it is the overall condition of the garden that plays a significant role. Maintaining cleanliness, removing piles of dry leaves, clearing debris, trimming overgrown bushes and preventing rodent infestations can significantly reduce the chances of snake encounters.

Homeowners need not avoid these plants altogether, as they offer aesthetic and practical benefits. Rather, proper garden maintenance and regular inspection can help ensure that outdoor spaces remain safe, attractive and less inviting to unwanted wildlife. A well-kept garden not only enhances the beauty of a home but also minimizes potential risks associated with hidden habitats for snakes.

Gen Z Redefines Work Culture With Boundaries and Bold Choices

A seemingly ordinary office incident has turned into a major talking point on social media, reigniting discussions about changing workplace values and the growing influence of Generation Z in redefining professional culture.

The viral story was shared by social media user Sheetal Rijhwani on X, where she recounted an experience involving her Gen Z cousin and a group of young colleagues. According to her post, the employees have adopted a workplace culture that prioritizes boundaries, well-being, and mutual respect over traditional expectations of long working hours and unquestioned obedience.

Rijhwani explained that the entire group leaves the office on time every day, without feeling pressured to stay back merely to

impress managers or demonstrate dedication. They also avoid responding to work calls or messages during weekends, firmly maintaining a distinction between professional responsibilities and personal time.

What truly caught the attention of internet users was an incident involving a malfunctioning air-conditioning system at their office. Instead of continuing to work in uncomfortable conditions, the employees collectively walked to a nearby café and informed the human resources department that they would return only after the air conditioning had been repaired.

Their message reportedly read, "We'll be back once the AC is fixed," a statement that quickly resonated with many people online and sparked a broader



conversation about workplace expectations.

The story took another interesting turn when Rijhwani

asked her cousin whether all members of the group belonged to Generation Z. The response was direct and provocative: "Yes.

Millennials don't dare to do this. You've gotten used to staying quiet and putting up with everything."

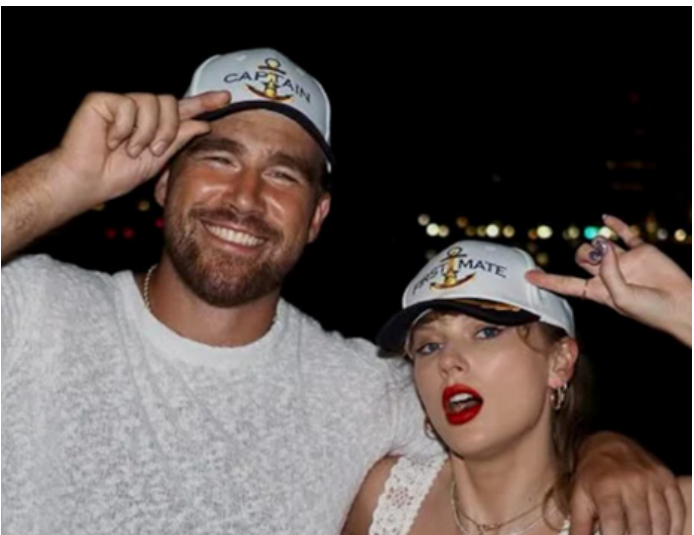
Taylor Swift's 'Lookalike Thief' as Police Hunt Purse Theft Suspect

A purse theft investigation in the United States has unexpectedly turned into a social media sensation after police revealed that the suspect bears a striking resemblance to NFL star Travis Kelce, the fiancé of global pop icon Taylor Swift.

Authorities in Salem are searching for a man accused of stealing a purse from a parked vehicle and allegedly using the victim's credit cards for unauthorized purchases. Surveillance footage captured the suspect exiting a store wearing a bucket hat and a T-shirt, prompting local police to seek public assistance in identifying him.

What made the case unusual was the playful approach adopted by the Salem Police Department. Instead of issuing a conventional appeal, officers highlighted the suspect's resemblance to Travis Kelce, sparking widespread interest online.

In a humorous social media post shared as part of their regular "Wanted Wednesday" campaign, police joked that although the suspect might resemble Taylor Swift's future husband, his appearance would not help him avoid the law. Officers even quipped about whether Kelce had an alibi before humorously concluding that he could not pos-



sibly be involved because, in their words, "He's a Swiftly."

The witty post quickly gained traction across social media platforms, with users joining in on the fun. Some joked that the suspect might be trying to raise funds for an extravagant wedding, while others playfully suggested he was "making a run for it" before the big day.

The viral attention comes amid ongoing speculation surrounding Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's much-discussed wedding plans. Reports circulating in entertainment circles claim that a high-profile ceremony is expected in early July, although the couple has

largely maintained privacy regarding personal details.

Despite the online buzz, police were keen to stress one important fact: the real Travis Kelce has absolutely no connection to the alleged crime. Authorities clarified that his name was mentioned solely because of the suspect's uncanny resemblance to the football star.

As investigators continue their search, the incident serves as a reminder that even routine police appeals can capture global attention when they involve celebrity culture, humor, and a case of mistaken identity that has left fans both amused and intrigued.

Dating Platform Offers Rs 2.8 Lakh Job to Help People Break Up Respectfully

In an era where unconventional careers continue to emerge, an online dating platform has introduced a role that has surprised many people around the world. The company is offering a monthly salary of nearly Rs 2.8 lakh for a position called "Chief Breakup Officer," whose primary responsibility is helping individuals end romantic relationships in a respectful and compassionate manner.

The initiative has been launched by Dating.com, which says the role aims to tackle the growing culture of "ghosting" in modern relationships. Ghosting refers to abruptly cutting off communication with a partner without any explanation, leaving the other person confused and emotionally distressed.

According to the company, the selected candidate will work remotely and earn around 3,000 US dollars per month. Their job will involve communicating breakup messages on behalf of clients who find it difficult to have such conversations themselves. The objective is to ensure that relationships end with honesty, clarity, and sensitivity rather than silence.

The responsibilities of a Chief Breakup Officer go beyond simply delivering bad



news. Candidates are expected to assess the complexity of each situation, understand the emotional dynamics involved, and communicate in a way that minimizes emotional harm. Strong interpersonal skills, empathy, and emotional intelligence are considered essential qualities for the role.

Interestingly, the company has outlined some unusual eligibility criteria. Applicants who have personally experienced at least three breakups will receive preference. They are also expected to understand the nuances of modern relationship terminology, in-

cluding concepts such as "relationship," "situationship," and "it's complicated."

Dating.com says the role was inspired by changing relationship patterns among younger generations. According to the company, nearly 84 percent of Gen Z individuals and millennials have experienced ghosting at least once in their lives. By introducing this position, the company hopes to encourage healthier communication habits and promote respectful closure in relationships. The announcement has generated significant discussion on so-

cial media, with many users expressing amusement at the existence of such a profession, while others view it as a practical solution to an increasingly common problem in today's digital dating culture.

As workplace trends continue to evolve, the Chief Breakup Officer role highlights how businesses are adapting to modern social challenges. Whether seen as an innovative service or an unusual career path, the position reflects the growing emphasis on emotional well-being, transparency, and respectful communication in personal relationships.

India's Road to the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Semifinals

The 2026 Women's T20 World Cup has reached a decisive stage, with the race for the semifinal spots becoming increasingly intense. While one team has already secured qualification, several others remain in contention for the remaining berths, including Team India.

India currently finds itself in a competitive position in Group A alongside Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Netherlands. With only one league match left for each team, the battle for qualification has narrowed significantly.

Australia leads the group standings with eight points, while India and South Africa have accumulated six points each. Bangladesh remains

mathematically alive with four points, whereas Pakistan and the Netherlands have already been eliminated from the tournament.

India's final group-stage encounter against Australia on June 28 is expected to be crucial in determining its semifinal fate. A victory against the Australians would place India on eight points, level with Australia. In such a scenario, the semifinal qualification would largely depend on net run rate, which could become the deciding factor if South Africa also wins its final fixture and reaches eight points.

At present, India enjoys a healthy net run rate advantage of +2.268, considerably better than South Africa's +0.734 and Bangladesh's -0.849. This could



prove to be a major advantage in a tightly contested group. Another possible scenario involves India losing to Australia. Even then, the Women in Blue may still qualify for the

semifinals, provided South Africa suffers a defeat against Bangladesh. Such a result would keep India ahead due to its superior net run rate, although Bangladesh would also need to avoid registering an emphatic victory that significantly boosts its own numbers.

Australia, meanwhile, has a relatively straightforward path. A win over India would almost certainly guarantee a semifinal berth for the defending champions. However, an Australian defeat would create a three-way battle involving India, Australia, and South Africa, making net run rate the ultimate deciding factor.

In Group B, England has already booked its place in the semifinals after collecting

eight points. The second qualification spot remains open, with the West Indies, Sri Lanka, and New Zealand still in contention. The West Indies currently holds six points and can seal qualification with a victory in its remaining match. Sri Lanka has completed all its fixtures and can only progress if both the West Indies and New Zealand lose their final games.

With every run, wicket, and over likely to influence the standings, fans can expect a dramatic finish to the group stage. For India, the equation remains clear—defeat Australia or hope for favorable results elsewhere while relying on its strong net run rate to secure a coveted place in the semifinals.

Abhishek Sharma Admits India Failed to Adapt Quickly in Shock Defeat to Ireland

India's disappointing start to their T20 bilateral series against Ireland has sparked discussions, with opener Abhishek Sharma admitting that the team failed to adjust quickly enough to the playing conditions. The young batter believes India's inability to read the pitch and adapt as a unit played a crucial role in their unexpected defeat.

Playing their first bilateral T20 series since the World Cup, India entered the contest as overwhelming favourites. However, Ireland stunned the visitors by defending a challenging total of 183 runs, exposing India's batting vulnerabilities and ending expectations of an easy victory.

Abhishek Sharma emerged as India's standout performer in an otherwise forgettable batting display. The left-handed opener scored an aggressive 49 runs from just 20 deliveries, striking seven boundaries and two sixes. His attacking innings briefly kept India's chase alive, but the lack of support from the middle order proved costly.

Reflecting on the defeat, Ab-



hishek stressed that modern cricket demands teams adapt to changing conditions at the earliest opportunity.

"Understanding the conditions quickly is extremely important. We play these days continuously, and whenever we get practice sessions or opportunities to assess the conditions, we need to make the most of them as a team," he said.

He further admitted that In-

dia, despite being a strong side, could not acclimatise rapidly enough during the opening match against Ireland.

"As a quality team, we should be able to adapt faster. Unfortunately, we couldn't do that in the first game," Abhishek added.

India's chase never really gathered momentum after early setbacks. Key batters Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer were dismissed

cheaply, putting immense pressure on the rest of the batting lineup. Abhishek's counter-attacking approach offered hope, but his dismissal eventually tilted the match firmly in Ireland's favour.

There was also some confusion surrounding Abhishek's individual score. Initial reports suggested he had completed a half-century in just 19 balls. However, it was later clarified that one run had been incorrectly credited to his account. The fifth ball he faced had actually resulted in a leg-bye, reducing his final tally to 49 runs instead of 50.

Despite the setback, India's camp remains optimistic about bouncing back in the remaining matches of the series. Abhishek's candid assessment underlines the importance of adaptability in modern cricket, where even slight delays in understanding conditions can prove decisive.

With more matches still to come, India will be eager to learn from their mistakes and respond strongly against a confident Irish side that has already shown it cannot be taken lightly.

Hardik Pandya's Secret Wedding Rumours Spark Social Media Frenzy



Indian cricket star Hardik Pandya has once again found himself at the center of public attention, this time over rumours suggesting that he has secretly tied the knot with his girlfriend, model Mahika Sharma. Speculation intensified after a photograph of Mahika wearing traditional attire and sindoors surfaced online and quickly went viral across social media platforms.

The image shows Hardik Pandya and Mahika Sharma standing together while an elderly woman appears to be holding their hands. Mahika is dressed in a saree and is seen wearing sindoor, a traditional symbol often associated with married Hindu women. The photograph immediately triggered widespread discussions,

with many users claiming that the couple may have exchanged vows in a private ceremony away from the public eye.

Within hours, hashtags related to Hardik Pandya and Mahika Sharma began trending, with fans and followers debating whether the cricket star had indeed entered into a second marriage. Several social media users congratulated the pair, while others questioned the authenticity of the claims, pointing out that there had been no official announcement from either side.

Despite the intense buzz, there is currently no concrete evidence to support the marriage rumours. Neither Hardik Pandya nor Mahika Sharma has issued any state-

ment confirming or denying the reports. Observers believe that concluding solely from a photograph may be premature, especially considering that celebrities are often photographed during religious visits, family gatherings, or private events where traditional attire is commonly worn.

The couple has reportedly been in a relationship since 2025 and has been relatively open about their bond through social media interactions. Mahika has frequently been spotted supporting Hardik during major cricketing events, including the IPL 2026 season and the T20 World Cup. Their public appearances together have fueled speculation about a possible future wedding, but

no official plans have been disclosed.

Hardik's personal life has remained under scrutiny ever since his separation from Serbian actress and model Natasa Stankovic in 2024. The former couple, who married in 2020, share a son, Agastya, and continue to co-parent him amicably.

For now, the viral photograph remains the sole basis for the wedding rumours. Until Hardik Pandya or Mahika Sharma makes an official announcement, the reports of a secret marriage remain unverified speculation. Fans are expected to wait for confirmation before celebrating what could potentially be another significant chapter in the cricketer's personal life.

Smallest Nation Cape Verde Reach Knockout Stage Scripts FIFA WC History

Cape Verde has emerged as one of the biggest success stories of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after creating history by becoming the smallest nation ever to qualify for the tournament's knockout stage. The island nation achieved the remarkable feat by securing a place in the Round of 32 for the first time in its footballing history.



Cape Verde sealed qualification after holding Saudi Arabia to a goalless draw in their final Group H encounter. The result was enough to ensure second place in the group and book a dream clash against defending champions Argentina, led by Lionel Messi, in the Round of 32.

The achievement has captured the imagination of football fans worldwide, as Cape Verde, a country with a population of just over half a million people, has managed to compete with and outperform several established footballing nations on the global stage.

Cape Verde's journey through the group stage was nothing short of inspiring. The team remained unbeaten in all three matches, collecting three points through consecutive draws and demonstrating remarkable resilience against stronger opponents. Their performances were disciplined, tactically sound, and highlighted the growing competi-

tiveness of smaller footballing nations.

In the decisive match against Saudi Arabia, Cape Verde produced several promising attacking moves. Players such as Willy Semedo and Kevin Pina threatened the Saudi defence, while Laros Duarte came close to scoring late in the contest. However, Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed Al Owais produced crucial saves to keep the scores level.

Despite failing to find the net, Cape Verde's defensive organisation and determination proved sufficient to secure a historic place in the knockout rounds.

The team has also etched its name into African football history. Cape Verde became only the third African nation to advance from its first-ever World Cup group-stage campaign without suffering a defeat.

Similar achievements were previously recorded by Morocco in 1986 and by Cameroon and Nigeria during earlier editions of the tournament.

Their qualification adds another memorable chapter to African football's growing influence on the global stage. It also serves as a reminder that passion, preparation and team spirit can often overcome limitations in size, resources and experience.

Cape Verde will now face one of the toughest challenges imaginable when they take on Argentina in the Round of 32. Nevertheless, having already surpassed expectations and rewritten history, the African underdogs enter the contest with confidence, determination and the support of football fans eager to witness another fairytale unfold at the FIFA World Cup.

Lukaku Creates History as Belgium Storm into WC Knockout Stage

Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku etched his name into the country's football history books after becoming Belgium's all-time leading scorer in FIFA World Cup history. The veteran forward achieved the landmark during Belgium's emphatic 5-1 victory over New Zealand in their final Group G encounter at the FIFA World Cup 2026.



The 33-year-old striker reached the milestone in the 86th minute when he found the back of the net to register his sixth World Cup goal, surpassing the previous Belgian record of five goals held by former international star Marc Wilmots.

Lukaku's historic strike capped another memorable outing for the Belgian national team, which delivered a dominant performance to secure top spot in Group G and head confidently into the Round of 32.

Belgium controlled proceedings from the opening whistle, leaving New Zealand with little opportunity to threaten. The Europeans dictated possession, created numerous chances and showcased their attacking depth throughout the contest.

The breakthrough arrived in the 28th minute when Leandro Trossard converted from close range following a goalmouth scramble. Earlier, the winger had appealed for a penalty after an effort struck the arm of New Zealand defender Finn Surman, but the decision was overturned after a VAR

review.

Trossard continued his impressive display after the interval, scoring his second goal with an acrobatic finish after goalkeeper Max Crocombe had initially denied him. The brace underlined the Arsenal attacker's growing importance in Belgium's campaign.

Belgium extended their advantage further through captain Kevin De Bruyne, who curled a superb effort into the net from outside the penalty area following a powerful attacking move engineered by Trossard.

New Zealand managed to reduce the deficit when Elijah Just scored, briefly raising hopes of a comeback. However, Belgium quickly regained complete control.

Lukaku then delivered his historic moment, rising highest inside the penalty area to

head home Belgium's fourth goal and become the nation's most prolific World Cup scorer. The experienced striker later turned provider by setting up Alexis Saelemaekers, who completed the scoring with Belgium's fifth goal.

The victory reinforced Belgium's status as one of the strongest contenders in the tournament. More importantly, it highlighted Lukaku's enduring impact on Belgian football. Having already established himself as the country's all-time leading international goalscorer, he has now added another prestigious record to his remarkable career.

Belgium entered the knockout rounds full of confidence, with Lukaku's milestone serving as another significant chapter in the Red Devils' rich footballing history.



94-Year-Old Singeetam Srinivasa Rao Inspires with ‘Sing Geetham’ Making Video



Veteran filmmaker Singeetam Srinivasa Rao continues to redefine creativity and passion at the age of 94 with his latest cinematic venture, Sing Geetham. The celebrated director, known for his innovative storytelling and timeless classics, has once again demonstrated that age is no barrier to artistic expression.

Released recently, Sing Geetham has garnered a positive response from audiences and critics alike. Following its successful reception, the film has now been released in Tamil as well, expanding its reach to a wider audience. To mark the occasion, the makers unveiled a special making video that offers viewers a fascinating glimpse into the creative process behind the project.

The behind-the-scenes footage has become a talking point among cinema enthusiasts, primarily because of Singeetam Srinivasa Rao's extraordinary enthusiasm and command over filmmaking even in his nineties. In the video, the legendary director is seen explaining various aspects of the shoot, discussing scene compositions, and interacting energetically with the cast and crew. His sharp memory, attention to detail, and unwavering dedication have left many viewers amazed and inspired.

For generations of film lov-

ers, Singeetam Srinivasa Rao represents innovation and versatility. Over the decades, he has directed several iconic films across multiple languages, earning admiration for his unique storytelling techniques and willingness to experiment with different genres. His career has been marked by a remarkable ability to adapt to changing cinematic trends while preserving the essence of meaningful storytelling.

The making of the video of Sing Geetham serves as a testament to his enduring passion for cinema. At an age when most people choose to step away from professional commitments, Singeetam remains actively involved in every aspect of filmmaking, proving that creativity has no expiration date. His dedication has resonated deeply with audiences, many of whom have praised his commitment and determination on social media platforms.

The film itself has been appreciated for its fresh narrative style and emotional depth, reflecting the director's signature approach to storytelling. Viewers have particularly admired the fact that a filmmaker with decades of experience continues to embrace contemporary filmmaking methods while maintaining his distinctive artistic identity.

As the making of videos gains traction online, it is inspiring aspiring filmmakers and movie lovers alike. Singeetam Srinivasa Rao's journey stands as a powerful reminder that passion, curiosity and a love for one's craft can transcend age. Through Sing Geetham, the veteran director has not only delivered another memorable cinematic experience but has also reinforced his status as one of Indian cinema's most respected and enduring creative minds.

RK Deeksha Set for July 3 Release

Director-producer Dr. Prathani Ramakrishna Goud's upcoming film RK Deeksha is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on July 3. Produced under the banners RK Films and Sigdha Creations and presented by D.S. Reddy, the film stars Kiran, Aks Khan, Alekha Reddy, and Tulasi in key roles. The makers announced the release plans during a press meet while also voicing serious concerns over the lack of theatre allocations in the Nizam region.

Addressing the media, Dr. Ramakrishna Goud said the film has completed all formalities and that the Andhra and Ceded distribution has been finalized successfully. However, he alleged that a handful of people have monopolized theatre allocations in the Nizam region, making it difficult for small-budget films to secure screens. He warned that if theatres are not allotted to RK Deeksha, the team will begin an indefinite hunger strike in

front of the Film Chamber from Monday.

The filmmaker also criticized the alleged exploitation through Cube and UFO systems and urged the government to intervene to protect small films. He expressed confidence in the film's content, stating that audiences would support it if allowed to watch it in theatres. He added that BookMyShow ticket bookings would open shortly. Fight Master Ravi praised debut hero Kiran for performing demanding action sequences without body doubles or artificial support. He also appealed to the industry to stop creating obstacles for small films.

Hero Kiran said Dr. Ramakrishna Goud has consistently encouraged newcomers despite having the ability to make bigger films with established stars. He expressed hope that RK Deeksha would receive fair theatrical opportunities and win audience appreciation after its release on July 3.

Rashmika Mandanna Rumoured to Join Allu Arjun’s Raaka



The buzz surrounding actor Rashmika Mandanna joining the cast of Raaka has taken social media by storm, exciting fans eager to witness the beloved “Pushpa Raj–Srivalli” pairing once again on the big screen. Though there has been no official confirmation yet, reports suggest that Rashmika may play a significant role in the ambitious project headlined by Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Atlee Kumar, Raaka is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Indian films in recent years. Industry insiders claim that Rashmika is expected to participate in the upcoming Mumbai shooting

schedule, further fuelling speculation about her involvement. The actress previously shared remarkable on-screen chemistry with Allu Arjun in the blockbuster Pushpa franchise, making the possibility of their reunion an exciting prospect for audiences.

Adding to the growing intrigue, reports indicate that actresses Mrunal Thakur and Janhvi Kapoor may also feature in important roles in the film. If these reports turn out to be true, Raaka could boast one of the most star-studded ensembles in contemporary Indian cinema.

Speculation does not end there. Rumours are also circulating that Bollywood su-

perstar Shah Rukh Khan might make a special appearance in the film. While these claims remain unverified, fans have been actively discussing the possibility across online platforms. According to industry chatter, an event featuring Atlee, Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone is expected to take place soon, where a major update about the project could be unveiled. Produced by Sun Pictures, Raaka is reportedly being mounted on a massive budget of nearly 700 crore, placing it among the costliest Indian films ever made. The production team is said to be aiming to wrap up shooting by the end of this year, signalling an aggressive schedule for the high-profile venture.

Despite the excitement generated by these developments, the makers have remained tight-lipped, leaving fans eagerly waiting for an official announcement. Until then, the prospect of seeing Rashmika Mandanna and Allu Arjun recreate their celebrated magic on screen continues to dominate entertainment conversations and fan discussions across the country.



Suhas Turns Fierce Villain in Mandaadi BTS Raises Expectations

The makers of Mandaadi, one of the most anticipated action dramas of the year, have unveiled an intense behind-the-scenes (BTS) glimpse showcasing Telugu actor Suhas' incredible transformation for his Tamil cinema debut. Produced by Elred Kumar under the RS Infotainment banner and directed by Mathimaran Pugazhendhi, the film is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release this September.

The newly released BTS video offers a fascinating look at the dedication and hard work that went into shaping Suhas' character. Known for his versatile performances as a lead actor in Telugu cinema, Suhas takes on a completely different challenge in Mandaadi, portraying a menacing antagonist. The actor reportedly spent nearly 100 days working on the film and underwent a remarkable physical makeover to convincingly portray the intense, negative-shaded role.

The glimpse highlights Suhas' raw aggression, rugged appearance and commanding screen presence, hinting at what could be one of the most powerful performances of his career. Having previously impressed audiences with his negative roles in HIT 2 and Family Drama, the actor is now set to push boundaries further with a character described as his most ferocious and emotionally demanding yet.

Leading the film is Soori, who also essays one of the most physically and emotionally challenging roles of his career. Actress Mahima Nambiar plays the female lead, while veteran actor Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, Mithun and Bala Saravanan form a strong supporting cast, adding further depth to the action-packed drama. On the technical front, Mandaadi boasts an accomplished crew. G.V. Prakash Kumar composes the music, while acclaimed cinematographer S.R. Kathir handles the visuals. Pradeep E. Raghav takes charge of editing, and D.R.K. Kiran serves as the production designer. The film's high-octane action sequences are choreographed by renowned stunt masters Peter Hein, Dhilip Subburayan and Mahesh Mathew, promising adrenaline-filled cinematic moments.

With shooting already completed and post-production progressing at a brisk pace, Mandaadi has steadily generated curiosity through its promotional material. The latest BTS glimpse has further heightened expectations, particularly around Suhas' striking transformation and powerful performance. As the countdown to its September release begins, the makers are expected to unveil a series of exciting promotional updates, keeping fans eagerly awaiting what promises to be a gripping action entertainer.

Vishnu Manchu Reflects on Kannappa One Year Later

A year after the release of the mythological epic Kannappa, actor and producer Vishnu Manchu has looked back on the film's journey with gratitude, describing it as one of the most transformative experiences of his career.

Marking the first anniversary of the film's release, Vishnu shared an emotional message on social media, recalling the challenges, sacrifices and personal growth associated with bringing Kannappa to life. According to the actor, the project was much more than just another film; it became a deeply meaningful experience that shaped him both professionally and personally.

"Some films entertain. Some films change you. Kannappa did both for me," Vishnu wrote, emphasizing that the movie represented a journey of faith, perseverance and unwavering belief. He acknowledged that the process tested him in every possible way but ultimately gifted him memories that he will cherish for a lifetime.

Expressing gratitude to audiences, Vishnu thanked everyone who watched the film in theatres, discovered it later on streaming platforms, appreciated it, critiqued it and continued discussing it long after its release. He noted that the affection and conversations surrounding the movie have kept its spirit alive even a year later. Concluding his heartfelt message, he invoked Lord Shiva with

the phrase, “Har Har Mahadev.” Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, Kannappa was scripted by Vishnu Manchu himself and produced under the banners of AVA Entertainment and 24 Frames Factory. The film drew inspiration from the legendary tale of Kannappa, a devoted follower of Lord Shiva in Hindu mythology, renowned for his ultimate act of devotion in sacrificing his eyes for the deity.

The ambitious project boasted an ensemble cast featuring several prominent stars, including Mohan Babu, Mohanlal, Prabhas, Akshay Kumar, Kajal Aggarwal, R. Sarathkumar, Madhoo and several others in significant roles.

Released on June 27, 2025, Kannappa generated considerable anticipation owing to its grand scale, devotional theme and star-studded cast. While the film received mixed critical responses and did not achieve the expected success at the box office, it managed to build a dedicated audience over time through digital platforms.

A year later, Vishnu Manchu's reflections underline the emotional connection he continues to share with the film. Despite its commercial outcome, Kannappa remains a milestone in his career, symbolizing determination, artistic ambition and an enduring belief in storytelling rooted in faith and mythology.

Chiranjeevi Mourns K. Bhagyaraj’s Demise: “I Still Can’t Believe He Is Gone”



The Indian film industry is mourning the loss of legendary filmmaker and actor K. Bhagyaraj, whose passing has left colleagues, admirers and cinephiles deeply saddened. Among those expressing heartfelt grief is megastar Chiranjeevi, who revealed that he had met Bhagyaraj only days before the tragic news emerged.

Taking to the social media platform X, Chiranjeevi shared an emotional message recalling his recent interaction with the veteran filmmaker. He said he was devastated upon hearing the news and found it difficult to accept that Bhagyaraj was no more. The two had met at the wedding ceremony of actress Khushbu Sundar's daughter on Thursday, where they spent time together, exchanged jokes and posed for photographs.

Reflecting on the encounter, Chiranjeevi described Bhagyaraj as cheerful, energetic and full of life during their meeting. The suddenness of his demise made the loss even more painful for the veteran Telugu actor. He remembered Bhagyaraj not only as a talented filmmaker but also as an exceptional screenwriter and performer whose contributions to Indian cinema would remain unforgettable. Chiranjeevi extended his deepest condolences to Bhagyaraj's family and loved ones during this difficult period.

Several prominent personalities from the South Indian film fraternity also

paid tribute to the late icon. Veteran actor Suman remembered Bhagyaraj as a close friend and mentor, noting that he had worked under his direction before entering the Telugu film industry. He praised Bhagyaraj's dedication and determination, saying it was hard to believe that such an influential figure was no longer among them.

Actor Vishal expressed shock over the sudden demise, calling it a major loss to the film industry. He prayed for the departed soul and wished strength and courage for the bereaved family. Actress Simran also shared her condolences, describing Bhagyaraj as an extraor-

dinary director and actor who created memorable films with strong social messages.

For decades, K. Bhagyaraj remained one of the most respected creative forces in Tamil cinema, earning admiration for his distinctive storytelling style and socially relevant narratives. His remarkable body of work influenced generations of filmmakers and actors across Indian cinema. As tributes continue to pour in from fans and celebrities alike, his legacy as a visionary filmmaker, gifted writer and accomplished actor is certain to endure for years to come.

40% of a Film’s Budget Goes to the Hero’: Dil Raju



Renowned producer Dil Raju has sparked a fresh debate in the Telugu film industry with his candid remarks on soaring actor remunerations and ballooning production budgets. Speaking in a recent podcast, the veteran producer shared insights into the financial challenges confronting Tollywood and stressed the need for a more sustainable business model.

Dil Raju revealed that a significant portion of a film's budget is often allocated to the lead actor's remuneration. According to him, in a project mounted on a budget of 300 crore, nearly 35 to 40 %—equivalent to 100 crore to 120 crore—can go towards paying a single hero. He described this trend as one of the major reasons behind the increasing financial burden on producers.

The producer explained that he prefers to discuss market realities with actors well in advance and only proceeds with projects that fit within his predetermined budget framework. However, he acknowledged that many top Tollywood stars are reluctant to reduce their fees, fearing that a cut in remuneration could negatively impact their market image and brand value.

financial risks more evenly between producers and stars while ensuring long-term sustainability.

Citing Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as an example, Dil Raju noted that the actor has reportedly shifted from a fixed remuneration structure to a profit-sharing model in response to changing market conditions. This approach, he suggested, could serve as a blueprint for the Telugu film industry as it navigates evolving audience preferences and fluctuating box-office trends. His comments have ignited conversations among filmmakers, industry experts and fans alike, with many debating whether Tollywood should embrace similar strategies. While star power continues to play a crucial role in attracting audiences and investors, Dil Raju's remarks highlight the growing need to balance creative ambition with financial prudence.

As production costs continue to rise, the discussion initiated by Dil Raju may encourage stakeholders across the industry to reconsider existing compensation structures and explore models that support both artistic excellence and economic viability.