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India's Future Lies in Creative Economy: Kishan Reddy



Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday said that India's future growth will be driven by the creative economy, stressing that storytelling, digital content, animation, and intellectual property will play a decisive role in shaping the country's global leadership. He was speaking as the chief guest at the "CineKathan 2026" event held at the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) in Rahmat Nagar, Yousufguda, Hyderabad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has arrived in Seychelles for a three-day visit, which includes a symbolic meeting with 'Jonathan', the world's oldest living tortoise. Jonathan, aged 193, lives at the Seychelles National Botanical Gardens and is recognised by Guinness World Records as the oldest known tortoise. Born in 1832, he was brought to Saint Helena in 1882 at the age of 50 and has since remained a major attraction. Officials say Jonathan is in good health despite his age. During the visit, Modi will also plant a sapling in the botanical gardens, underscoring environmental conservation efforts. On arrival in Victoria, Modi



was warmly 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 wel-

comed 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.

Telangana Eyes Blue-Collar Skill Leadership

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed confidence that the State will soon emerge as India's leading hub for highly skilled blue-collar professionals, highlighting the success of the government's skill development initiatives under the Telangana Rising 2047 vision. Reacting to the remarkable placement performance of students from the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI) upgraded as an Advanced Technology Centre (ATC) at Uttoor in Adilabad district, the Chief Minister said the State is witnessing encouraging results from its investment in modern technical education and industry-linked training. In a post on social media platform X on Saturday, Revanth Reddy said Telangana is steadily transforming into a destination for globally competitive skilled manpower, with leading multinational

companies actively recruiting trained youth from government institutions. The Chief Minister pointed out that 99 out of 100 candidates who participated in a campus recruitment drive at the Government ITI-ATC in the tribal region of Uttoor secured employment offers from multinational companies. He described the achievement as a significant milestone in the State's efforts to create world-class employment opportunities for young people, particularly those from rural and tribal backgrounds. According to the Chief Minister, several globally reputed companies, including Tata Motors and Foxconn, participated in the recruitment drive and selected students based on their technical skills and industry readiness. Revanth Reddy said the success demonstrates the effectiveness of the government's strategy to modernize Industrial Training Institutes by upgrading them into Advanced



Technology Centres equipped with industry-oriented curriculum, modern infrastructure, and advanced training facilities. He stated that the Telangana Rising 2047 vision focuses on producing a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting the evolving demands of domestic and international industries. The initiative aims to bridge the gap between education and employment by aligning technical training with emerging technologies and industrial requirements. The Chief Minister noted that while Telangana



Khairatabad Ganesh Festival Preparations Begin

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Preparations for Hyderabad's world-famous Khairatabad Maha Ganapathi festival began on Friday with traditional rituals marking the commencement of idol construction. The festival committee formally launched this year's celebrations by performing the customary 'Karra Puja', a ritual that signifies the beginning of work on the massive Ganesh idol. Following the sacred ceremony, artisans officially started constructing the iconic idol, which attracts lakhs of devotees from Telangana and across the country every year during the Ganesh Chaturthi festivities. The Khairatabad Ganesh Utsav Committee announced that this year's presiding deity will be unveiled in the divine form of 'Panchamukha Sankatahara Maha Ganapathi', symboliz-

ing the remover of obstacles and the protector of devotees. The unique five-faced manifestation of Lord Ganesha is expected to become a major spiritual attraction during the festival. Organizers said elaborate preparations are already underway to ensure the smooth conduct of one of Hyderabad's largest and most celebrated religious events. Every year, the Khairatabad Ganapathi draws hundreds of thousands of devotees, who visit the pandal to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Lord Ganesha. The committee stated that extensive arrangements will be made for crowd management, security, traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water, and medical assistance to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for devotees. Volunteers will be deployed throughout the festival to assist visitors and coordinate with

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CM Reviews Musi Project, Directs Allocation of Double-Bedroom Houses

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday reviewed the progress of the first phase of the Musi Riverfront Development Project and directed officials to ensure that families currently residing in the Musi riverbed area are provided with double-bedroom houses as part of the rehabilitation process. The review meeting was held at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion and attended by Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, MP Vem Narendar Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, and senior government officials. During the meeting, officials made a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the progress of the project's first phase and the proposed development plans. The Chief Minister reviewed key components of the project, including land acquisition, rehabilitation, and public infrastructure. Officials informed the Chief Minister that wherever land acquisition is required, affected landowners would be offered either Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or monetary compensation in accordance with government policy. Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure that the compensation process is carried



out transparently and without unnecessary delays. The meeting also discussed the Gandhi Sarovar component of the Musi project. Officials stated that certain structures located on Defence Department land would need to be relocated to facilitate project execution. The Chief Minister instructed officials to coordinate with the concerned authorities to complete the process smoothly. To increase public awareness about the ambitious riverfront project, Revanth Reddy proposed establishing a Musi Experience Centre on Necklace Road. The centre will showcase the proposed development plans, project models, and expected outcomes of the

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Southern Railway Sets Record in Special Train Operations

Chennai, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Southern Railway has emerged as the best-performing railway zone in the country in terms of passenger occupancy on special trains during the 2025-26 financial year, achieving record ridership and revenue through extensive deployment of additional services across high-demand routes. In a statement issued on Saturday, Southern Railway said it operated 2,513 trips of 229 special train services, carrying 32.98 lakh passengers and generating ₹243.22 crore in revenue during the financial year. The railway zone recorded an average occupancy of 1,312 passengers per trip, significantly higher than the Indian Railways' overall average of 894 passengers per

trip, making Southern Railway the top-performing zone on this key operational efficiency indicator. According to the release, the largest share of special train operations was concentrated across Southern Railway routes, South Western Railway sectors, and long-distance inter-zonal corridors. These services helped effectively manage seasonal travel demand, reduce waiting lists, and provide additional travel options during peak periods. Special trains were strategically introduced on high-demand routes connecting southern states including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bengaluru, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana with destinations in eastern, western, and northern India. The move enabled passengers to secure confirmed travel during festi-



vals, holidays, and periods of increased demand. In addition to reserved special trains, Southern Railway also operated several unreserved special services to cater to passengers requiring affordable and flexible travel options. Railway officials said continuous monitoring of waiting lists, reservation

trends, passenger demand, and occupancy levels on regular trains enabled timely introduction of special services on busy routes such as Chennai-Kanyakumari and Chennai-Thiruvananthapuram. To improve passenger convenience, Southern Railway also introduced an SMS-based alert system.

Whenever a special train is announced for a particular route, passengers holding waitlisted tickets on corresponding regular trains receive SMS notifications informing them about the availability of seats on the newly introduced special service. Officials said this initiative has helped passengers secure alternate travel arrangements, encouraged point-to-point diversion to special trains, and significantly improved occupancy levels while easing congestion on regular services. Southern Railway stated that it will continue to closely monitor passenger demand and introduce additional special trains whenever necessary to ensure comfortable and efficient travel for passengers across its network.

Police Academy Holds POSH Awareness Session for Probationary DSPs

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Police Academy on Saturday organized a special awareness programme for 112 probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act and women's safety in the workplace. The programme focused on the effective implementation of the POSH Act and the

responsibilities of police officers in creating safe, respectful, and inclusive work environments for women. CID Director General of Police Charu Sinha, who attended as the chief guest, delivered a detailed presentation on the legal framework of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act. She explained that workplace sexual harassment can take various forms, including inappropriate remarks, gestures,

unwelcome behaviour, and other forms of misconduct. She urged the probationary officers to promptly identify incidents of harassment and ensure that victims receive legal protection, institutional support, and timely assistance. Stressing the importance of strict enforcement of the law, Charu Sinha said every police officer has a responsibility to promote workplaces free from discrimination and harassment.

Women Safety Wing Counsellor Isha Sharvani also addressed the gathering, highlighting the psychological, social, and professional challenges faced by women in workplaces. She explained different forms of sexual harassment and outlined the legal mechanisms available to address complaints under the POSH Act. Sharvani encouraged the trainee officers to spread awareness about workplace safety and

gender sensitivity in society while ensuring that victims are treated with empathy and dignity. The awareness programme forms part of the Telangana Police Academy's training curriculum aimed at equipping future police leaders with the knowledge and skills required to effectively implement laws protecting women's rights and promoting safe working environments across public and private institutions.

E-Autos Distributed to Empower Persons with Disabilities

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

In a significant welfare initiative, e-autos were distributed to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) at a programme held at Praja Bhavan under the supervision of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP). The event witnessed a large turnout of beneficiaries and their family members. Telangana State Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Seethakka, attended the programme as the chief guest. Special Government Secretary Dana Kishore and SERP CEO Divya Devarajan were also present on the occasion. Speaking at the event, Minister Seethakka said that the distribution of e-autos on the occasion of Helen Keller's birth anniversary was a

meaningful step towards improving mobility and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities. She said the initiative reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development and social security. She stated that the State government, with the support of the Chief Minister, has allocated a dedicated budget for the welfare of persons with disabilities and is implementing several targeted schemes for their empowerment. "Disability is not merely a physical condition; those who lack compassion and humanity are the truly disabled," she said, emphasizing the importance of social sensitivity. The Minister further remarked that individuals who show arrogance or disrespect toward others also reflect a form of disability in behaviour. She encouraged



persons with disabilities to face life's challenges with confidence, stating that they can achieve remarkable success when given equal opportunities and proper support. Highlighting global inspiration, she referred to Helen Keller, noting that despite being deaf and blind, she became a symbol of

resilience and inspiration worldwide. She also pointed out that many individuals are achieving educational and professional success through assistive technologies such as Braille and digital tools. Seethakka said the government has established special associations for PwDs and is

introducing new initiatives through SERP to strengthen livelihood opportunities. She added that efforts are underway to create assets and employment avenues in their name, ensuring long-term economic stability. The Minister reiterated that the government's primary objective is to ensure social security and dignity for persons with disabilities. She urged beneficiaries and stakeholders to provide suggestions so that welfare schemes can be further improved. She also stated that the e-auto distribution programme is designed to reduce the financial burden on families and enhance self-reliance among PwDs. Expressing gratitude, she thanked IOCL for partnering in the initiative and supporting inclusive welfare efforts in the State.

Govt Orders Fresh Land Acquisition for Canal



Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Panchayat Raj Minister Dana sari Anasiya (Seethakka) have directed officials to initiate fresh land acquisition for the Ramappa-Laknavaram gravity canal by adopting current market rates, after reviewing delays and compensation issues in the project. During a detailed review meeting, the ministers examined the ongoing land acquisition process and sought clarification from officials on the challenges being faced on the ground. Officials informed them that the earlier land acquisition award issued in 2019 had become outdated, as compensation fixed at that time is significantly lower than present market values, leading to reluctance among farmers to part with their lands. Taking serious note of the issue, the ministers ordered cancellation of the old land acquisition award and instructed officials to immediately issue a fresh notification based on updated market rates. They stressed that fair compensation is essential to ensure smooth land acquisition and timely completion of

irrigation projects. Officials informed the ministers that farmers have expressed willingness to surrender their lands if they are paid as per current market value. The ministers further directed that a comprehensive action plan be prepared to complete the Ramappa-Laknavaram gravity canal within two years. They instructed departments to accelerate work and avoid further delays. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy also ordered officials to immediately initiate the Potlur project and make arrangements for its foundation-laying ceremony next week. Additionally, the ministers instructed the Irrigation Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) to place all ongoing irrigation projects in Mulugu district on a fast-track mode and submit a detailed progress report. They emphasized that timely completion of irrigation infrastructure is crucial for improving agricultural stability and supporting farmers in the region. Officials were directed to ensure strict monitoring and coordination among departments to achieve project targets within the stipulated timelines.

Neighborhood Centers Bring New Hope for Children : Mothers Share Emotional Stories

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Neighborhood Centers have become a source of renewed hope for many families, with mothers sharing emotional accounts of how their children have shown remarkable improvement after receiving regular therapy and care. Several parents described how they once lived in constant worry about their children's future, but now see steady progress and new possibilities. Mamata from Raghunathpally Mandal shared her experience, saying her son was previously unable to perform basic activities like other children. "He could not hold objects in his hands and had difficulty with daily tasks," she said. After the neighborhood center was established in their village, she began taking him



regularly for speech therapy and physiotherapy. She said the consistent care brought significant changes in her child. "Now he can recognize the need to use the toi-

let and communicate with it himself. He can also hold objects properly. Beyond that, he even secured first place at the district-level carroms competition and later won

first place at the state-level competition held in Domalguda," she said emotionally, adding that her child's transformation brought immense happiness

to the family. Another mother, Shirisha from Rajapur, also shared her journey with her son Krupakar. She said her child initially faced severe difficulties in walking and speaking. "It was very hard for us. But after regular visits to the neighborhood center for physiotherapy and speech therapy, he has changed completely," she said. She added that her son is now able to walk independently, speak better, and attend school like other children. "We never imagined this change. These centers have given our children a new life and given us courage for the future," she said with tears of gratitude. Officials said such centers continue to play a crucial role in early intervention, rehabilitation, and inclusive development for children with special needs.

Tummala Reviews Godavari Flood Preparedness, Calls for Coordinated Action

Kothagudem, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to remain on high alert to prevent any loss of life, crops, or property due to possible flooding in the Godavari River catchment areas. He instructed the district administration to take all necessary precautionary measures, particularly in the flood-prone Bhadrachalam and Pinapaka Assembly constituencies. The Minister chaired a district-level flood preparedness review meeting at the Kothagudem District Collectorate on Saturday. MLAs Tellam Venkatrao and Payam Venka teswarlu, District Collector Ankit, Superintendent of Police Rohit Raj, ITDA



Project Officer Rahul, Mayor Moodu Ganesh, and senior officials from various government departments attended the meeting. Reviewing the preparedness of the district administration, Tummala stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to effectively respond to any flood situation. He instructed officials to draw lessons from previous flood experiences and ensure that preventive measures are implemented well in advance. The Minister directed officials to identify villages and habitations that are likely to become inaccessible due to rising floodwaters and to prepare contingency plans accordingly. He emphasized that emergency medical services, evacuation operations, and the supply of

essential commodities should not be disrupted under any circumstances. Tummala also instructed the district administration to formulate a comprehensive action plan to ensure uninterrupted transportation, maintain communication networks, and provide timely assistance to affected residents if floodwaters rise. He urged officials to remain vigilant throughout the monsoon season and ensure that all emergency response teams, relief materials, and rescue equipment are kept ready for immediate deployment. The Minister reiterated that protecting human lives, safeguarding agricultural lands, and minimizing losses would remain the government's top priorities during the flood season.

Govt Committed to RTC Workers : Ponnam



Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has reaffirmed the State government's commitment to implementing every promise made to RTC employees, while accusing a section of trade union leaders of spreading misinformation and attempting to mislead both workers and the public by distorting facts. Addressing the ongoing concerns of RTC employees, the Minister recalled that during the RTC strike, the government held an extensive 14-hour meeting led by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. The discussions were attended by Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, D. Sridhar Babu, Vivek Venkataswamy, and Adluri Laxman Kumar, along with Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, senior IAS officers, RTC Managing Director V.C. Sajjanar Nagi Reddy, senior RTC officials, and nearly 30 representatives from various trade unions. He said all decisions were taken unanimously with the consent of every stakeholder. According to the Minister, the meeting reviewed 32 demands submitted by RTC employees. Of these, 29 issues fell within the jurisdiction of the RTC management, while three required government intervention. He stated that the RTC management had already initiated action through the Executive Directors' Committee to resolve the 29 issues under its purview. Ponnam Prabhakar explained that the three issues requiring government action include the elections

to RTC recognition associations, implementation of the 2021 Pay Revision Commission (PRC), and the merger of RTC with the State government. He said the government had already announced an 11 percent salary increase under the PRC, which will be reflected in employees' salaries from July onwards. The Minister said employee representatives had unanimously agreed that labour representatives should be included in the committee responsible for framing rules and guidelines for the RTC merger. However, it was also decided that elections to the recognised trade unions should be conducted first so that duly elected representatives could participate in the merger committee. He informed that the government has already initiated the election process by appointing Labour Joint Commissioner Sunita as the nodal officer. Verification of eligible unions will begin once the election schedule is announced, paving the way for recognition association elections. Ponnam Prabhakar said the government intends to include recognised trade union leaders in the merger committee to ensure transparency and avoid complications similar to those witnessed during the RTC merger process in Andhra Pradesh. He urged employees not to fall prey to false propaganda and assured them that the Congress government remains committed to fulfilling every assurance given to RTC workers while safeguarding their long-term interests.

RS.148.97 Crore Sanctioned for Road Development

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has sanctioned ?148.97 crore for the development of 74.49 kilometres of roads in the Husnabad constituency under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), marking a major push to improve rural connectivity across multiple districts. The sanctioned works cover eight key road stretches spread across Hanumakonda, Karimnagar, and Siddipet

districts. Officials said the initiative aims to strengthen road infrastructure, improve village connectivity, and ensure safer and faster transportation for the public. In Hanumakonda district, three road works have been approved, including the Gunturpalli-Keshavapur road (3.99 km), Vangara-Mulkanoor-Bheemadevar apalli road (5 km), and the Bavupet-Kamalapur stretch (6 km), covering several villages en route. In Karimnagar district,

the Kothagattu-Duddenapalli road (10.9 km) has been sanctioned for upgradation. In Siddipet district, four major works have been cleared, including the Tangalapalli-Baddipadiga road (8 km), Mulkanoor-Koheda road (16 km), Koheda-Devakkapalli widening and strengthening works (14.6 km), and the Husnabad-Akannapet PWD road (10 km), which accounts for the highest allocation. Officials said the HAM model will ensure faster

execution and better quality maintenance of road infrastructure, combining public investment with private sector efficiency. Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar expressed gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for approving the large-scale road development package. He said the new roads will

significantly improve access for rural populations and enhance connectivity for agriculture, trade, education, and healthcare services. He added that the project would become a milestone in the overall development of the Husnabad constituency. Officials further stated that the works will be taken up in a phased manner and closely monitored to ensure timely completion and high-quality standards across all sanctioned road stretches.

Telangana Opposes Centre's Proposed Employment Law, Plans Legal Battle

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday said the State government will not accept the Centre's proposed VB-G RAM-G Act-2025 in its present form, alleging that it undermines the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and weakens the constitutional powers of States. The Minister was speaking after chairing the second meeting of a Cabinet Sub-Committee held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. Ministers Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Tummala

Nageswara Rao, Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, senior officials from the Panchayat Raj Department, and other representatives participated in the review. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the proposed legislation is not a routine amendment but a "direct attack on India's federal structure" and accused the Centre of attempting to centralise powers in rural employment and development programmes. He said the Telangana government would protect the interests of farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural poor at all costs. He added that legal experts who attended the meeting had flagged several provisions of the proposed Act as



unconstitutional. The government, he said, is prepared to challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court if required and may also explore the possibility of enacting a separate State-level law to safeguard employment guarantees. The Minister stated that Telangana is also considering coordinated action with other States, particularly Karnataka and Kerala, which have expressed similar concerns. He said discussions would be held with the Chief Ministers of these States to decide a joint strategy, including legal and political steps. He further said civil society organisations that attended the meeting strongly opposed the Centre's pro-

posal, demanding an increase in guaranteed employment from 60 days to at least 200 days per rural household and insisting on statutory minimum wages. Uttam Kumar Reddy also criticised the proposed 60:40 funding pattern, stating it could impose a heavy financial burden on Telangana and penalise better-performing States. He said the State Law Department is examining the financial implications in detail. The Minister said the final decision on the issue will be taken at the State Cabinet meeting scheduled for July 2, and reiterated that 'Telangana would not remain silent if State rights or rural livelihoods are compromised.

Khairatabad Ganesh Festival Preparations Begin

continued

government departments. Special emphasis is also being placed on safety measures during the construction of the giant idol. Experienced sculptors and craftsmen have begun work using traditional techniques while incorporating modern engineering practices to ensure structural stability. The construction process is expected to continue over the coming weeks before the idol is unveiled ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi. Organizers said close coordination will be maintained with the Hyderabad Police, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Fire Department, Electricity Department, and other civic agencies to facilitate the smooth conduct of the festival. Traffic management plans and public safety measures will be finalized closer to the event. The Khairatabad Ganapathi festival has evolved into one of the most iconic cultural and religious celebrations in Telangana, attracting devotees from across India as well as international visitors. The towering idol, which changes its divine form each year, has become a symbol of Hyderabad's festive spirit and artistic excellence. Festival committee members expressed confidence that this year's celebration would be conducted on a grand scale while maintaining traditional values and ensuring public convenience. They appealed to devotees to cooperate with authorities and follow safety guidelines during the festival. With the ceremonial commencement of idol construction, the countdown has officially begun for one of Hyderabad's most anticipated annual religious celebrations, as devotees eagerly await the unveiling of Panchamukha Sankatahara Maha Ganapathi.

India's Future Lies in Creative Economy: Kishan Reddy

continued

global intellectual property. He said India is rapidly expanding its infrastructure, including national highways, airports, and aviation networks. He pointed out that the number of airports has increased from 64 in 2014 to over 180 today, while highway expansion continues at a rapid pace. The Minister said India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest economy and is leading in digital transactions globally. He noted that digital payments are now widely used even in small shops across the country. Kishan Reddy said the next phase of growth depends on innovation, startups, and research. He highlighted government initiatives such as Startup India, Atal Incubation Centres, and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, which supports innovation and R&D with a ₹1 lakh crore fund. He said India has improved its global ranking in patent applications from around 100th place earlier to sixth position now, with over 1.43 lakh applications filed in 2025. Calling for a shift from job seekers to job creators, he said India's youth must focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. He also emphasized that future leadership will belong to nations that promote creativity and technology together. Kishan Reddy said India must confidently present its stories to the world through films, digital platforms, and startups, adding that regional cinema, including Telugu films, is already making a global impact. He concluded that India is no longer dependent on others but is now capable of setting global benchmarks in creativity, technology, and innovation.

CM Reviews Musi Project, Directs Allocation of Double-Bedroom Houses

continued

Musi Riverfront Development Project. He also directed officials to use the centre as a platform to gather public feedback and suggestions, ensuring greater public participation in the project. The Chief Minister emphasized that the Musi Riverfront Development Project should be implemented in a transparent and people-centric manner while balancing urban development with the rehabilitation and welfare of affected families.

Mahmood Ali Slams Govt Over Minority College Incident

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Friday and launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging administrative failure and negligence in minority welfare institutions. He described the Congress administration as a "failed government," claiming that key minority welfare institutions have been weakened under its rule. He also pointed out that despite the presence of senior leaders such as Mohammad Azharuddin as Minister for Minority Welfare and Faiyaz Qureshi as Vice Chairman of Minority Residential Schools, these institutions were not functioning effectively. Mahmood Ali alleged that minority residential schools, which had reportedly achieved top performance levels during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, had now deteriorated significantly. He further claimed that the government attempted to suppress details of an incident reported at the Golconda Minority Junior College. Referring to the incident, he said a serious case had occurred in which a girl student of the college became pregnant and later gave birth. He alleged that the college principal and warden failed to respond appropri-

ately to the situation and that immediate action was not taken. He further claimed that the newborn died shortly after birth, which, according to him, raises serious questions about negligence and accountability. The former Deputy Chief Minister also recalled a previous incident in which a girl student died at a minority residential school, stating that such occurrences reflect poor monitoring and lack of oversight in educational institutions meant for minority students. Mahmood Ali demanded that the Chief Minister, Education Minister, and Director General of Police respond to the allegations and ensure a thorough investigation into the incident at Golconda Minority Junior College. He called for the registration of a case and strict action against those responsible. He insisted that justice must be delivered to the affected family and that accountability should be fixed at all levels of administration. He urged the government to take immediate corrective steps to restore confidence in minority educational institutions. The former minister concluded by stating that the welfare of minority students is being compromised and called for urgent reforms to ensure transparency, safety, and proper functioning of residential schools and colleges across the state.

BJP Prepares for Massive 'Vijaya Sankalpa Sammelanam'

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao on Friday reviewed the arrangements at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds for the upcoming 'Vijaya Sankalpa Sammelanam' (Victory Resolve Meeting), which will be addressed by BJP National President Nitin Nabin during his three-day visit to the State. Speaking to the media after the inspection, Ramchander Rao said the visit of Nitin Nabin marks a significant moment for the Telangana BJP, as it will showcase the party's organisational strength, cadre enthusiasm, and future political roadmap in the State. He said the programmes beginning from June 28 would set the tone for



the party's next phase of expansion. According to him, upon arriving in Hyderabad, Nitin Nabin will visit the BJP Ranga Reddy district office at Shamshabad, where he will virtually inaugurate the party offices of Ranga Reddy and nine other districts. He described this as a historic step in strengthening the party's organisational net-

work in Telangana. Following this, a large-scale cadre meeting will be held at the Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad, expected to be attended by nearly 15,000 party workers, including booth-level presidents, booth agents, BLA-2 representatives, state executive members, and key leaders from GHMC, Malkajgiri, and Cyberabad regions.

Ramchander Rao said that although Nitin Nabin has visited Telangana earlier, this will be the first major mass organisational event of such scale in Hyderabad, and it is expected to generate renewed enthusiasm among party workers. BJP Telangana in-charge Abhay Patil has already inspected the arrangements, while MP Rekha Sharma also reviewed preparations and provided suggestions regarding stage design and event coordination. He added that the programme will also send a strong political message, asserting that Telangana remains a key focus area for the BJP. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already highlighted the party's ambition in the State, and this meeting will rein-

force that direction. As part of the visit, meetings with booth-level leaders will also be held in Warangal, along with a State Executive Committee meeting near Ghatkesar, which will be inaugurated by Nitin Nabin. Additionally, a Youth and Students Conclave will be organised at VBIT campus to engage young participants on topics such as 'Viksit Bharat' and India's future development vision. Ramchander Rao expressed confidence that the BJP is gaining strong public support in Telangana and will emerge victorious in key urban bodies such as GHMC, Malkajgiri, and Cyberabad. He stated that public sentiment is shifting towards change and the BJP represents that alternative political direction in the State.

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Over River Water Sharing, Alleges 'State Betrayal'

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Friday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the State's water rights are being "mortgaged for political gains" and warning that Telangana's irrigation future is being compromised through recent inter-state water developments. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao said the Chief Minister has turned into a "Submergence Architect" who is "drowning Telangana's interests," and accused him of lacking basic understanding of river water

management. He alleged that decisions taken during a recent meeting involving the Chief Ministers of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka were detrimental to the State's interests. He claimed that Karnataka's proposed Navali Reservoir (35 TMC) and Andhra Pradesh's Gundrevula project (20 TMC), together totalling 55 TMC, would severely impact inflows to the Tungbhadra and ultimately affect the Srisailem project. This, he said, would have cascading effects on lift irrigation schemes in Palamuru-Rangareddy and Kalwakurthy regions. Harish Rao alleged that Telangana's Irrigation Minister and officials were



not allowed inside the meeting where key decisions were discussed. He further questioned whether the State secured its rightful 15.9 TMC

share from the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), and demanded that the Chief Minister disclose details of what he termed a "secret understanding" among the three States. He also accused the government of failing to oppose alleged illegal barrages being constructed by Karnataka, claiming that structures at Kurudi, Chikkalapalli, and Chukkalamanchi would together hold 9.5 TMC of water. He warned that combined storage efforts upstream could block up to 45 TMC, drastically reducing water flow into Telangana. The BRS leader further alleged that during the previous BRS regime, similar projects were successfully

opposed, preventing damage to Telangana's water share. He said the current government's silence amounted to complicity. Harish Rao also criticized the Chief Minister for what he described as inconsistent understanding of irrigation issues and demanded clarity on whether Telangana's entitlements under tribunal awards were properly safeguarded in recent discussions. He urged the government to immediately disclose full details of inter-state agreements and take strong measures to protect Telangana's irrigation interests, warning that failure to do so would cause irreversible damage to agriculture in several districts.

KTR Slams Congress, Predicts BRS Return to Power

Hyderabad (Ranga Reddy), June 27 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Friday attended a key meeting of party activists from the Maheshwaram constituency in Ranga Reddy district as the chief guest. During the meeting, he gave direction to party cadres on the ongoing S.I.R. initiative and the BRS digital membership registration drive. Addressing party workers, KTR expressed confidence that the enthusiasm among cadres in Maheshwaram reflected a strong wave in favour of the BRS. He said it appeared as

though the party had already secured victory in the upcoming Assembly elections and that K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) would return as Chief Minister. He claimed that the "Pink Flag" would once again fly across Telangana and predicted a sweeping victory for the BRS, while criticising the Congress government for what he alleged was administrative failure and policy reversals. He said welfare schemes introduced during the previous BRS regime had been weakened and development momentum had slowed

down under the current government. KTR highlighted the visit of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma to Hyderabad, stating that the leader had praised the KCR-era Command Control Centre and appreciated Telangana's governance model. He said such recognition reflected the strength of previous administration systems built under KCR's leadership. He further defended the financial and welfare record of the BRS government, citing investments in education, irrigation, agriculture, and welfare schemes, and

contrasted them with what he described as rising debt and lack of progress under the current government. Referring to the Telangana movement, KTR paid tribute to martyrs and said their sacrifices shaped the state's development journey. He also reiterated that Maheshwaram leader Siripuram Yadaiah's sacrifice remained an inspiration for the region. KTR criticised the Congress government's promises on welfare and agriculture, alleging shortages in fertilisers and unfulfilled assurances. He also questioned policies related to

land, irrigation projects, and industrial development, including Pharma City. Calling upon party workers, KTR urged them to strengthen booth-level organisation, ensure proper voter list monitoring under SIR, and expand digital membership enrolment. He said each cadre member would be issued a party identity card to strengthen organisational unity. He concluded by urging full preparedness for the next Assembly elections, asserting that disciplined cadre work would ensure a strong BRS comeback.

Jupally Urges Vigilance During Voter List Revision

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday called upon Congress leaders and booth-level workers to remain vigilant during the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, stressing that no eligible voter should be left out of the voters' list. Addressing an awareness programme for Congress booth-level agents at Tanisha Function Hall, the Minister said the loss of even a single eligible vote weakens the democratic process. He urged party workers to treat the voter list revision as a major

responsibility and actively participate in the exercise. Jupally advised booth agents and party cadres to visit every household in their respective areas to verify voter details and ensure that eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls. He emphasized that special attention should be given to migrant workers, minorities, and other vulnerable sections to prevent the deletion of genuine voters. Referring to controversies surrounding voter list revisions in other states, he said Telangana should not witness situations similar to those experienced in West



Bengal and Bihar. He urged workers to closely monitor the process and report any discrepancies to the authorities. The Minister said booth-level agents would play a cru-

cial role in protecting citizens' voting rights and ensuring free and fair elections. He described the revision process as a challenge that requires dedication and coordinated efforts from every party worker. Jupally also encouraged Congress cadres not to lose morale and assured them that the party would recognize the efforts of committed workers. He stated that priority would be given to those who have worked sincerely for the party while making appointments to organizational positions and nominated posts. The programme was attended by Congress leaders, booth-level agents, and party workers, who were briefed on the procedures and responsibilities related to the ongoing voter list revision exercise.

Indian-Origin CEO Among World's Highest Paid

New York, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Shankh Mitra, the Indian-origin Chief Executive Officer of US-based healthcare real estate company Welltower, has emerged as the world's second highest-paid corporate executive, earning an annual compensation of approximately 821 million US dollars (around ₹7,000 crore). The remarkable achievement places him behind only Tesla and



SpaceX CEO Elon Musk in global executive compensation rankings. Born in Kolkata, Mitra completed his engineering degree from Jadavpur University before pursuing an MBA at Columbia Business School in the United States. Over the years, he has built a distinguished career in the global real estate and investment sector, eventually taking over as CEO of Welltower,

one of the world's largest healthcare infrastructure companies. Industry experts attribute Mitra's record-breaking compensation package largely to long-term stock-based incentives linked to the company's performance and shareholder value. Under his leadership, Welltower has witnessed significant growth, strengthening its position in the healthcare real estate market.

Mitra's achievement has drawn widespread attention in India and abroad, highlighting the growing influence of Indian-origin professionals in global corporate leadership. He is also being recognized as the first Indian-origin executive after Elon Musk to receive compensation at such an extraordinary level, marking a significant milestone in international business leadership.

Nationwide Pulse Polio Drive on June 28

New Delhi, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The nationwide Pulse Polio Immunization Programme will be conducted on June 28, with the Health Department urging parents to ensure that every child below the age of five receives oral polio vaccine drops. The campaign aims to maintain India's polio-free status by protecting children against the highly infectious disease.

Special immunization booths have been established at government hospitals, primary health centres,



Anganwadi centres, bus stations, railway stations, and other public locations to make the vaccine easily accessible. Health officials have appealed to parents to visit the nearest booth with their children on Sunday and participate in the campaign.

For families who are unable to reach the vaccination booths on the scheduled day, trained health workers and ASHA volunteers will conduct door-to-door visits on Monday and Tuesday to administer the polio drops. The Health Department has

emphasized that every eligible child should receive the vaccine during the campaign, even if they have been administered polio drops on previous occasions. Officials said repeated doses are essential to strengthen immunity and ensure complete protection against poliovirus.

Parents and caregivers have been requested to cooperate with health workers and ensure that no child under the age of five is left out of the nationwide immunization drive.

Task Force Busts Illegal Pickle Unit

Warangal, June 27 | TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown on food adulteration, the Warangal Task Force police raided an illegal pickle manufacturing and storage unit operating under highly unhygienic conditions in the Kashibugga area of the city. Acting on credible intelligence that public health was being endangered, officials conducted a surprise inspection at a residence located on Sai Street under the jurisdiction of the Intezar Gunj Police Station.

During the raid, the Task Force uncovered large quantities of rotten and spoiled raw materials being used in

the preparation of pickles. Investigators found that the adulterated products were being processed, packed into small sachets, and distributed to local grocery stores and other retail outlets for sale to unsuspecting consumers.

Police arrested the accused, Arikela Srinivas (51), a resident of Kashibugga, in connection with the illegal operation. Authorities seized adulterated food stocks and raw materials valued at approximately ₹2.25 lakh. The seized items included 750 kilograms of tomatoes, 900 kilograms of mangoes, 200 kilograms of lemons, 100 kilograms of Indian goose-



berries (amla), and 150 kilograms of ginger-garlic paste, all found to be unfit for human consumption. Officials stated that the accused, along with the seized materials, has been

handed over to the Intezar Gunj Police Station for further investigation and legal action under relevant food safety and criminal laws. The Task Force appealed to the public to remain vigilant

while purchasing food products, especially unbranded pickles and packaged items sold at unusually low prices. Consumers were advised to check product quality and report any suspected cases of food adulteration or illegal storage facilities to the police or food safety authorities.

The operation was carried out by Inspector Bandari Raju, Reserve Sub-Inspector O. Bhanu Prakash, and Task Force personnel under the supervision of Task Force ACP A. Madhusudan, as part of ongoing efforts to safeguard public health and prevent the sale of unsafe food products.

Japan PM to Visit India Next Week

New Delhi, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will undertake her first official visit to India from July 1 to 3 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the three-day visit, the two leaders will hold the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit to review and further strengthen the longstanding strategic partnership between the two countries.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the summit will provide an opportunity to expand cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including trade, investment, defence, connectivity, emerging technologies, and regional security. The leaders are also expected to exchange views on key regional and global develop-



ments of mutual interest. Prime Minister Takaichi will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including business leaders, reflecting the growing economic engagement between India and Japan. The visit follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Tokyo in August 2025 for the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit and underscores the shared commitment of both nations to further deepen their Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Four-Year-Old Killed in Tata Ace Mishap

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A four-year-old boy lost his life after being run over by a Tata Ace goods vehicle in Bholakpur under the Musheerabad area of Hyderabad on Friday. The tragic incident, reportedly caused by the driver's negligence, has triggered anger among local residents, who have long been demanding restrictions on the movement of heavy vehicles through the narrow residential lanes.

According to police, the child was walking along the street when the speeding Tata Ace vehicle struck him. The impact left the boy with severe injuries, and he died on the spot before medical assistance could arrive. The



driver allegedly failed to exercise caution while driving through the densely populated locality. The entire incident was captured on a nearby CCTV camera, and the footage has surfaced, providing crucial evidence for the investiga-

tion. Police have registered a case and launched efforts to identify and take appropriate action against the driver.

Residents of Bholakpur said they had repeatedly raised concerns with authorities over the frequent movement of heavy commercial vehicles through the neighborhood, warning that such traffic posed a serious risk to pedestrians, especially children. They alleged that their appeals had gone unheeded despite previous protests.

The incident has renewed demands for stricter traffic regulation and enhanced road safety measures in residential areas to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Warm Exchange Between Ministers Seethakka and Komatireddy



Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A cordial interaction was witnessed between Telangana Ministers Danasari Anasuya Seethakka and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy when the latter visited her residence on Friday. On his arrival, Minister Seethakka warmly welcomed him and felicitated him by presenting a shawl, marking a friendly exchange between the two leaders.

During the interaction, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expressed affection and respect towards Seethakka, stating that he considers her like his own sister. The gesture highlighted the cordial relationship between the two Cabinet colleagues.

Komatireddy also extended an invitation to Seethakka to attend the foundation-laying ceremony of development

projects in his constituency, which is scheduled to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister on Saturday. The upcoming event is expected to mark the launch of several key infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving connectivity and public facilities in the region. The meeting reflected a positive and cooperative atmosphere among the ministers, reinforcing a sense of unity within the State Cabinet. Such interactions, leaders said, help strengthen coordination among departments and ensure smoother implementation of government programmes at the ground level. The exchange between the two ministers drew attention as an example of political goodwill and mutual respect within the administration, ahead of the Chief Minister's official programme in the constituency.

Talasani Reviews SIR, Calls for Accurate Voter Data



Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Friday inspected the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme being conducted in Hamali Basti under the Sanathnagar Assembly constituency. During the visit, he reviewed the ongoing voter list verification process along with election officials and took part in the distribution of enumerator forms.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani stressed the need for comprehensive and accurate collection of family details during the revision exercise. He said that voter information must be thoroughly verified to ensure transparency and accuracy in the electoral rolls.

He instructed officials to cross-check family details with the existing voter list and ensure that the names of

deceased persons are properly identified and removed after due verification. At the same time, he cautioned that no eligible voter should be left out or wrongly deleted from the list. The MLA also emphasized that citizens who have attained the age of 18 must be encouraged to register themselves as voters without delay, strengthening democratic participation at the grassroots level. Officials accompanying him explained the progress of the SIR programme in the area and the steps being taken to ensure data accuracy. Talasani urged field staff to carry out the exercise with utmost care, as the integrity of the voter list is essential for free and fair elections. He reiterated that both inclusion of new voters and removal of ineligible entries must be handled with responsibility and precision.

Smoking on Trains to Attract Tough Penalties

New Delhi, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government has tightened railway regulations by introducing stricter penalties for smoking and other violations aboard trains, with the new rules set to come into force from July 1. The move follows the implementation of

the Jan Vishwas Act (Amendment of Provisions), aimed at improving passenger safety and ensuring better discipline across the railway network.

As per the gazette notification issued by the Centre, passengers found smoking inside trains or railway premises will face hefty

finest, possible cancellation of their tickets, and, in serious cases, imprisonment. Railway authorities have been directed to strictly enforce the amended provisions to discourage violations and create a safer travel environment. Apart from curbing smoking, the revised regulations also tar-

get the growing problem of unauthorized occupation of reserved berths. Officials believe stricter enforcement will help protect the rights of genuine ticket holders and improve overall passenger convenience. Railway officials said awareness campaigns will accompany the enforcement drive to educate

passengers about the new rules and penalties. The government expects the amendments to strengthen compliance, reduce nuisance onboard trains, and promote a cleaner, healthier, and more disciplined travel experience for millions of passengers using the Indian Railways every day.

Voter List Revision Triggers Political Row

New Delhi, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has sparked a nationwide political controversy after nearly six crore voter names were deleted during the exercise carried out across 19 states over the past year. The large-scale

revision, aimed at updating voter lists and removing duplicate, shifted, deceased, or otherwise ineligible entries,

has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties. The SIR exercise, which began as a pilot project in Bihar before being expanded to other states, has

been accused by several opposition leaders of selectively removing eligible voters. They alleged that the revision process was being used to influence the electoral rolls in a manner that would benefit the BJP. The Election Commission, however, has rejected the allegations, maintaining that the

exercise was conducted in accordance with established legal procedures to ensure clean and accurate electoral rolls. The matter reached the Supreme Court, where concerns over the deletion of voter names were raised. While hearing the case,

the apex court clarified that the Election

Commission has the constitutional authority to undertake the Special Intensive

Revision process. However, the court also emphasized that the exercise must remain transparent, fair, and in compliance with the law to safeguard every eligible citizen's right to vote.

HC Stays BC Quota for Muslim Converts

Chennai, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Madras High Court has clarified that individuals belonging to Backward Classes (BC) or Scheduled Castes (SC) who convert to Islam cannot be classified as 'BC Muslims' solely on the basis of their previous caste identity. The court observed that, after conversion, they are to be treated simply as Muslims and not as members of the BC Muslim category for reservation purposes.

A division bench stayed the operation of a Government Order (GO) issued by the Tamil Nadu government in 2024, which had extended Backward Class reservation benefits to such converts. The court held that the order

appeared to be inconsistent with constitutional provisions governing reservations and also noted that the concept of caste is not recognized under the principles of Islam. The bench observed that extending BC Muslim reservation benefits to converts from other communities without a proper legal basis could violate the constitutional framework governing affirmative action. It directed the State government to file its response in the matter, while keeping the GO in abeyance until further orders. The ruling is expected to have significant implications for reservation policy in Tamil Nadu, as the legal challenge over the validity of the government's order continues before the High Court.

SSR-2026 Voter Revision Progresses in Dundigal Circle

Hyderabad (Quthbullapur), June 27 | TPN Bureau

The Special Summary Revision (SSR-2026) programme, initiated under the directives of the Telangana Chief Electoral Officer, is progressing in a systematic manner across Dundigal Circle, officials said. The ongoing voter list revision aims to ensure accuracy and inclusiveness in the electoral rolls. Deputy Commissioner of Dundigal Circle, Dr. S. Venkata Mani Karan, inspected the field-level enumeration process on Friday as part of the exercise.

During his visit, he reviewed the door-to-door survey being carried out by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who are distributing enumeration forms to households and collecting voter details.

He instructed officials to ensure that every eligible citizen is covered under the revision process and urged residents to actively participate by verifying their voter information. Citizens were advised to carefully check details such as name, address, and other personal particulars and report corrections, if required, in the



forms provided. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the primary objective of the SSR-2026 programme is to guarantee that no eligible voter is left

out and that the electoral roll remains accurate and up to date. Officials informed that the door-to-door survey, which began on June 25, will con-

tinue until July 24. During this period, BLOs have been directed to visit every household and complete data collection systematically.

Voters were requested to fill out the forms provided during the first visit and return them during the follow-up visit. One copy will be retained by the authorities for official processing, while the acknowledgment copy will be kept by the voter for reference. Residents were also encouraged to contact their respective BLOs for any clarification regarding the process.

Diamonds Found at MRO's Residence

Siddipet, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A major Disproportionate Assets (DA) case has been registered against suspended Sub-Registrar Thummakomma Sucharita after the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) uncovered assets worth over ₹5.05 crore during searches conducted at her residence and other linked locations. Sucharita had earlier been suspended following her arrest while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹30 lakh.

During the raids, ACB officials discovered extensive movable and immovable properties believed to be disproportionate to her known sources of income. The seized assets include 2.17 acres of agricultural land in Siddipet, three residential flats in Hyderabad, and two additional plots. Officials also found two luxury vehicles—a Volkswagen car and a Hyundai Creta.

Among the valuables recovered were gold and diamond jewellery estimated to be worth ₹1.2 crore, attracting significant attention during the searches. In addition, cash amounting to ₹12 lakh and bank deposits worth ₹38 lakh were identified.

According to ACB officials, the total value of the assets detected so far stands at approximately ₹5.05 crore. The bureau has registered a DA case and initiated a detailed investigation to verify the source of the assets and examine whether more undisclosed properties are linked to the suspended official.



BC Welfare Association Calls for Statewide College Bandh on 30th

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

The National BC Welfare Association has announced a statewide college bandh on the 30th of this month, demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement dues in the State. Association leader and MP R. Krishnaiah made the announcement on Friday, stating that the agitation would intensify if the government fails to respond. Krishnaiah said the protest



has been called to press for the release of approximately ₹8,000 crore in outstanding fee reimbursement amounts. He alleged that delays in clearing the dues are severely affecting the education of nearly 18 lakh students across Telangana. He accused the State government of neglecting the future of students by failing to implement the fee reimbursement scheme effectively. "The Chief Minister is playing with the lives of stu-

dents by not releasing the pending funds," he alleged. As part of the protest plan, the association also warned that Collectorates, along with Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) offices, would be besieged if the government continues to delay action on the issue. Krishnaiah stated that the bandh would be observed across all colleges in the State, urging student unions and educational institutions

to extend support to the agitation.

He emphasized that the fee reimbursement scheme is crucial for ensuring equal access to higher education for economically weaker sections. The association demanded immediate intervention by the government to resolve the issue and release the pending funds without further delay, warning that protests would be escalated if their demands are ignored.

Encroachments Removed in Devender Nagar Road Drive

Hyderabad (Quthbullapur), June 27 | TPN Bureau

A coordinated enforcement drive was carried out in Devender Nagar under Gajulararam Circle limits to remove road encroachments and ensure smooth traffic flow for the public. The operation was conducted on Saturday based on the directives of the Cyberabad Municipal Commissioner and the Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner.

Officials, in coordination with the police department, cleared unauthorized structures and extended business setups that had encroached upon the main road, causing traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. The drive aimed to restore free movement on the stretch and prevent further obstruction in the area. Authorities stated that such encroachments not only disrupt traffic flow but also



pose safety risks to pedestrians and motorists. They warned that strict action would be taken against individuals and establishments found occupying public road space illegally. Officials also appealed to the public to voluntarily

cooperate with the municipal authorities and refrain from constructing or extending structures onto public roads. They emphasized that maintaining clear road access is essential for effective urban mobility and emergency response services.

The operation was supervised by Assistant City Planner R. Sumitra and Town Planning Supervisor B. Saritha Sen, along with municipal staff and police personnel who ensured the smooth execution of the drive. Officials indicated

that similar anti-encroachment drives will continue in other parts of the circle as part of ongoing efforts to improve urban infrastructure and reduce traffic bottlenecks in rapidly growing residential and commercial zones.

Talasani Urges Residents to Use Community Halls Effectively

Secunderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and Sanathnagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav has urged residents of local bastis to make effective use of community halls, stating that they were built to reduce the financial burden on poor families during auspicious and social events.

As part of an initiative supported by donors, kitchen equipment and utensils worth ₹3.60 lakh were distributed on Saturday in Padmarao Nagar and Bansilalpet divisions. The distribution was aimed at improving the usability of community halls and ensuring better facilities for residents.

At Hamali Basti in



Padmarao Nagar, Talasani attended the programme as the chief guest and distributed equipment worth ₹2.10 lakh in the presence of donors Himanshu Bapna, Nandish Goud, and Bal Reddy. He said that many families from economically weaker sections are forced to spend heavily on commercial function halls for conducting weddings and other ceremonies.

Community halls, he noted, were created to provide an affordable alternative for such events. He added that the newly provided utensils and equipment, arranged with donor support, would further enhance convenience for residents. The MLA also advised local residents

to maintain the community halls properly and ensure their long-term usability for the benefit of the entire community.

In a separate programme held at the D' Class community hall in Bansilalpet, equipment worth ₹1.50 lakh was distributed. Local residents and community representatives felicitated the donors for their contribution.

The events were attended by former corporator Kurma Hemalatha, BRS party in-charge Gurram Pavan Kumar Goud, division president Venkateshan Raju, and several local leaders and residents, who welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude for the improved facilities in their areas.

Mulugu, June 27 | TPN Bureau

A tragic incident was reported from Ankampalli village in Tadwai Mandal of Mulugu district on Friday night, where 21 cattle died after being struck by lightning during heavy rainfall.

According to villagers, the cows were tethered in a field near a house when sudden thunder and lightning accompanied by intense downpour hit the area. The lightning bolt reportedly struck the cattle, killing all 21 animals instantly on the spot.

The incident has left cattle owner Sammayya and local residents in deep shock. The sudden loss of a large number of livestock has resulted in a significant financial setback for the owner, who depended on the cattle for his livelihood.

Villagers rushed to the spot after the incident but found that the animals had already died. The impact of the lightning strike was so severe that no rescue effort was possible.

Local residents expressed concern over the vulnerability of livestock during extreme weather conditions and urged authorities to provide guidance and support to farmers and cattle rearers during monsoon seasons.

Revenue and veterinary officials are expected to visit the village to assess the loss and submit a report. The incident has once again highlighted the risks posed by unpredictable weather conditions in rural areas, particularly for those dependent on agriculture and livestock farming for their livelihood.

Private Security Plays Key Role in Crime Control: DCP

Hyderabad (Quthbullapur), June 27 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) N. Koti Reddy has stated that private security agencies and CCTV surveillance systems are emerging as crucial partners for the police in maintaining law and order in the city. He made these remarks while addressing an awareness programme organised by the Quthbullapur Zonal Police at CMR Technical Campus, Kandlakoya, under Medchal Police Station limits.

The programme saw participation from around 300 individuals, including private security agency representatives, security guards, and CCTV monitoring personnel. Speaking as the chief guest, the DCP highlighted that CCTV cameras and alert security personnel often play a vital role in preventing crimes and providing critical evidence during investigations. He stressed that all private security agencies must strictly comply with the provisions of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005, and operate only after proper registration.



Congress Slams BRS Over Double-Bedroom Housing Promises

Hyderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

Pargi MLA and TPCC Training Committee Chairman Dr. T. Rammohan Reddy on Friday alleged that the BRS party had failed to fulfill its promise of providing double-bedroom houses to the poor during its ten-year rule in Telangana.

Addressing a press conference at the CLP office, he questioned whether the previous government had delivered even a single double-bedroom house despite repeatedly promising housing for the poor. He accused the BRS leadership of deceiving economically weaker sections by making assurances that were never implemented.

Dr. Rammohan Reddy said the present Congress government, which he referred to as the "people's government," has taken steps to address the housing needs of the poor in a more transparent and accountable manner. He stated that last year alone, 3,500 houses were constructed and handed over to eligible families across the State.

He further informed that the government has initiated measures this year to construct an additional 2,500 houses, which will be allocated to deserving beneficiaries after proper verification. He emphasized that the housing programme is being implemented with a focus on fairness and reaching genuine beneficiaries.



Police Lead Anti-Drug Awareness Rally in Secunderabad

Secunderabad, June 27 | TPN Bureau

An awareness programme was conducted by Gandhinagar Police Station on Friday in connection with the International Day Against Drug Abuse, urging citizens—especially youth—to stay away from narcotic substances and contribute to building a healthy society. The initiative was organised under the leadership of CI Bose Kiran, who, along with police personnel, carried out awareness activities across several localities in the Bansilalpet division. Officials educated residents about the harmful health, financial, and social consequences of drug abuse and

emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in preventing substance misuse.

Police personnel appealed to the public to actively support efforts to eradicate drugs from society and encouraged citizens to report any information related to the sale, consumption, or distribution of narcotics. They reminded residents that complaints and tips can be shared through the toll-free helpline number 1908. The programme witnessed participation from local residents, youth groups, and community leaders. BRS Party Bansilalpet Division President L. Venkatesham (Raju), leaders Gajjala



Srinivas, K. Shivakumar, Sai, and Vishal also took part in the awareness rally along with police staff.

Participants walked through key neighbourhoods spreading awareness messages and interacting with residents, particularly focusing on students and young people to discourage drug use and promote healthy lifestyles. Police officials reiterated that community participation is crucial in tackling the drug menace and assured strict action against those involved in illegal drug activities. The programme concluded with a call for sustained cooperation between the public and police to ensure a drug-free society.

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, Anisiba 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, Anisiba 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



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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

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.

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

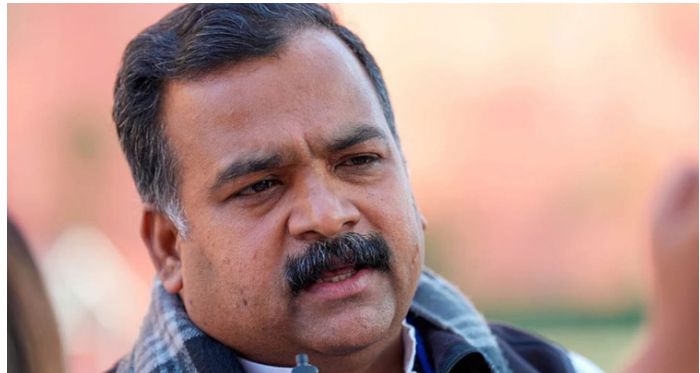


trust.

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 minister

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.



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

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 Vows Retaliation After US Strike



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 Riya 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.

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."

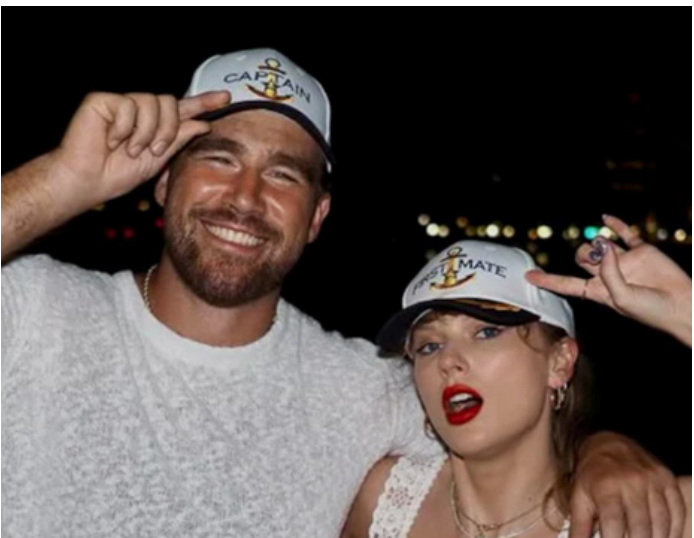
Taylor Swift's 'Lookalike Thief' as Police Hunt Purse Theft Suspect

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.

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.

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 sindoorsurfaced 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 cricketer 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.

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.

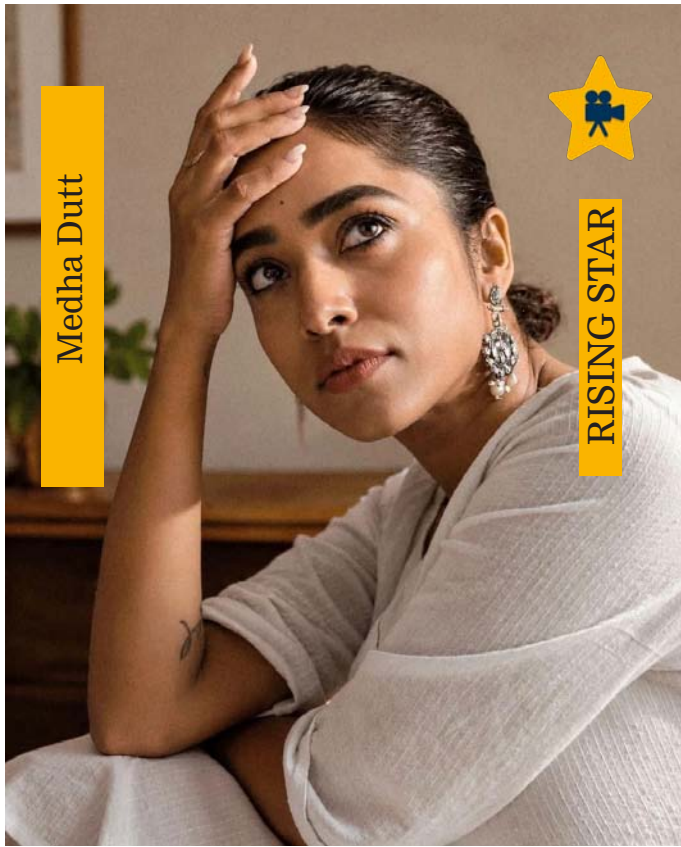
New Zealand managed to reduce the deficit when Elijah Just scored, briefly raising hopes of a comeback. However, Belgium quickly regained complete control.

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.



Medha Dutt



RISING STAR

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.



Dil Raju's observations come at a time when discussions surrounding rising production expenses have become increasingly common within the industry. Large-scale films today involve substantial investments not only in star salaries but also in visual effects, promotional campaigns, overseas shoots and technical infrastructure. As a result, producers often face immense pressure to recover investments through theatrical releases, satellite rights and digital streaming deals.

To address the issue, Dil Raju pointed towards a model increasingly adopted in the Hindi film industry. He advocated for a profit-sharing arrangement in which actors receive a percentage of a film's earnings instead of demanding massive upfront payments. Such a system, he believes, can help distribute

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.