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CM Revanth Seeks Centre's Help on Tungabhadra Water Share



Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged the Central Government to intervene in ensuring Telangana receives its rightful share of Tungabhadra river waters...

meeting at Jalasoudha on Wednesday on the Tungabhadra Project, Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), and inter-state river water issues...



about five to six TMC, he noted. The Chief Minister said the shortage was adversely affecting irrigation under the RDS...

and Karnataka, Revanth Reddy called for strengthening the Tungabhadra Board under the supervision of the Central Water Commission (CWC)...

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CM Warns Party Leaders Against Negligence on SIR Awareness Campaign

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday described the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise as a highly important issue and directed party leaders to intensify awareness campaigns across the state...



poor: Revanth Reddy made it clear that party instructions must be followed by all leaders without exception. He warned that those who fail to implement party directives regarding SIR awareness campaigns would be identified and replaced with more active constituency in-charges if necessary...

Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Calls for Vigilance on Voter Lists

Wyr, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday asserted that the Congress-led Indiramma Praja Government is committed to safeguarding the interests of all four crore people of Telangana...



Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, Bhatti Vikramarka urged Congress cadres to closely monitor voter registration, corrections, and mapping procedures...

The Deputy Chief Minister said advancements in technology, social media, and artificial intelligence have significantly transformed the electoral landscape...

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Governor Distributes Notebooks to Students, Encourages Them to Dream Big

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday inaugurated the Annual Mass Notebook Distribution Programme organized by Bharat Sevashram Sangh and distributed notebooks to students of Lok Bhavan Government School in Hyderabad...



and personal development to achieve success in life. Describing the notebooks as more than just educational materials, Shukla said they represent the foundation of students' dreams, confidence, and future aspirations...

cricket sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, highlighting how dedication, hard work, and self-belief can help individuals achieve remarkable success regardless of age...

Sevashram Sangh representatives reiterated their commitment to supporting education and ensuring that students from all backgrounds have access to essential learning resources...



Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma paid a courtesy call on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Also present on the occasion were Dr. Mehtab Chandee A. Sangma, wife of the Meghalaya Chief Minister, and Meghalaya Deputy Chief Ministers Sniawbhalang Dhar and Prestone Tynsong.

High Court Grants Bail to BRS Leader Balka Suman

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday granted bail to BRS leader and former MLA Balka Suman in a case registered over his alleged remarks against Singareni officials...



Manager's office in Mandamarri, sparked controversy. Following the incident, Singareni officials lodged a complaint with the Nampally police, alleging that the statements were objectionable...

Health Minister Reviews Expansion of Dialysis Services

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha on Wednesday reviewed healthcare services in tribal and Agency areas, focusing on strengthening renal care, disease prevention, and maternal health...



settlements, and transportation constraints should never hinder timely medical care. With the monsoon season underway, Rajanarsimha directed officials to remain vigilant and intensify preventive measures against seasonal diseases...

government hospitals to maintain sufficient stocks of medicines, diagnostic kits, intravenous fluids, and other essential medical supplies. The minister also called for the organization of special medical camps in vulnerable tribal habitations and emphasized the need for uninterrupted ambulance services...

nal death reported at the Gundala Primary Health Centre, he directed officials to strengthen maternal healthcare systems by identifying high-risk pregnancies early, closely monitoring expectant mothers, and shifting them to birth waiting homes before their expected delivery dates when necessary...

CM Meets Delegation Planning ST Reservation Golden Jubilee Bus Yatra

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

A delegation representing Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday to brief him about the proposed "Indiramma Ashirvada Bus Yatra" being organized as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations marking 50 years of reservation benefits for Lambadi, Erukala, and Yanadi tribes in Telangana. The delegation explained the objectives of the statewide bus yatra, which is being undertaken to commemorate five decades since reservation provisions were extended to the three tribal communities. The leaders informed the Chief Minister that the programme aims to highlight the social, educational, and economic progress achieved by ST communities through reservation policies over the



past 50 years, while also creating awareness about the need for continued empowerment and welfare initiatives. The proposed celebrations are expected to bring together community leaders, public representatives, and beneficiaries from various districts to reflect on the achievements made possible through con-

stitutional safeguards and government support. Among those who met the Chief Minister were Member of Parliament Balaram Naik, Government Whip Ramchander Naik, MLC Shankar Naik, MLA Balu Naik, former MP Ravindra Naik, and other representatives associated with the ini-

tiative. They sought the Chief Minister's support and cooperation for the successful conduct of the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the bus yatra. The delegation discussed the significance of the milestone and emphasized the contributions of reservation policies in improving access to education, employment, and political representation for tribal communities. Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy was also present during the meeting. The proposed Indiramma Ashirvada Bus Yatra is expected to travel across various parts of Telangana, highlighting the history, achievements, and aspirations of the Lambadi, Erukala, and Yanadi communities while commemorating 50 years of reservation benefits extended to Scheduled Tribes.

Minister Konda Surekha Reviews Grand Arrangements for Bonalu Festival

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has announced elaborate arrangements for the upcoming Bonalu festival, one of the state's most significant cultural and religious celebrations, which will be observed from July 16 to August 13 across Hyderabad and surrounding districts. The festivities will commence at the historic Sri Jagadamba Mahankali Temple and conclude at Sri Simhavahini Mahankali Temple and Sri Akkanna Madanna Mahankali Temple in the Old City. Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, currently on an official visit to London, reviewed the festival preparations through a virtual meeting with officials from various departments. The meeting was attended by Ministers Ponnambhakhar and Mohammed Azharuddin, along with MLAs and senior government officials. During the review, Surekha

directed departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the Ashada Bonalu celebrations across Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts. She described Bonalu as a festival that reflects the spirit, culture, traditions, and collective faith of Telangana. The minister stated that this year's celebrations would be organized on a grand scale across the Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri municipal corporations. She emphasized the need for comprehensive arrangements, including drinking water facilities, sanitation management, medical camps, queue systems, decorative lighting, floral decorations, CCTV surveillance, and improved temple infrastructure. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Surekha noted that the government had allocated ₹20 crore for the conduct of this year's Bonalu festivities.

She also instructed the Transport Department to deploy additional buses to accommodate devotees traveling from different parts of the state. Officials were directed to implement special traffic management plans, strengthen security arrangements, and deploy additional medical teams at temples expected to witness large crowds. The celebrations will proceed in three phases, beginning with Golconda Bonalu, followed by the famous Ujjaini Mahankali Temple Bonalu in Secunderabad, popularly known as Lashkar Bonalu. Bonalu, a centuries-old festival dedicated to Goddess Mahankali, is marked by women carrying decorated pots containing food offerings to temples. The festival is believed to have originated more than 150 years ago following a cholera outbreak, when devotees began offering Bonalu to seek the blessings of the Goddess and protect communities from disease.

TGSRTC Offers 694 Commercial Spaces on Lease to Boost Business and Revenue

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

In a major initiative aimed at enhancing non-fare revenue and promoting entrepreneurship, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has announced the leasing of vacant commercial spaces located across its bus stations and commercial complexes throughout the state. TGSRTC management said the move is designed to provide a golden opportunity for entrepreneurs, startups, established businesses, and local traders looking to expand their operations in high-footfall locations. The corporation has made details of all available commercial spaces publicly accessible through its official website, enabling a transparent and



streamlined leasing process. With bus stations serving as major public hubs that witness lakhs of commuters every day, TGSRTC believes its commercial complexes offer an ideal environment for a wide range of businesses, including hotels, food courts, supermarkets, branded showrooms, service centers, and small retail establishments. The steady flow of

passengers is expected to provide businesses with a ready customer base and increased visibility. As part of the initiative, tenders will soon be invited for 694 vacant shops across Telangana. Officials said the leasing process will be conducted through transparent guidelines and digital systems to ensure equal opportunities for all interested applicants. In a first-of-its-kind step, TGSRTC has also uploaded comprehensive information about its commercial properties on its official portal. The data includes the location of shops, occupancy status, names of existing tenants, lease periods, and rental details. The corporation believes this level of transparency will eliminate mid-

dlemen and strengthen accountability in the allotment process. TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagi Reddy said the procedure for leasing commercial spaces has been simplified to encourage wider participation from the business community. He urged entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunity, stating that partnering with TGSRTC would not only help businesses grow but also contribute to the corporation's development. Officials said the initiative is expected to generate additional revenue for TGSRTC while creating employment opportunities and supporting economic activity across urban and semi-urban areas of Telangana.

Minister Ponnambhakhar Defends Welfare Initiatives, Blames Centre for Urea Shortage

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnambhakhar on Thursday asserted that the Congress government has been effectively addressing public grievances and implementing welfare schemes, while accusing the Centre of failing to ensure adequate urea supplies to Telangana. Addressing a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan after participating in the "Face-to-Face with Ministers" programme, the minister said the initiative was being conducted as per the directions of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) to directly engage with citizens and resolve their concerns. He noted that during previous grievance programmes, thousands of applications seeking ration cards were received. However, after the Congress government came to power and issued ration cards to eligible beneficiaries, not a single application seeking a ration card was received during the latest interaction. He said most petitions now relate to land disputes, housing, and new pension requests. Ponnambhakhar high-



lighted several welfare measures being implemented by the state government, including the distribution of fine rice, 200 units of free electricity, LPG subsidy support, interest-free loans to women's self-help groups, and the allocation of 3,500 Indiramma houses in each constituency. The minister said the government had already sanctioned two lakh new pensions and that the process of identifying beneficiaries would be completed soon. He also revealed that plans were being prepared to construct one lakh new houses in Hyderabad to address housing needs. On the issue of fertilizers, Ponnambhakhar alleged that attempts were being made to create artificial panic regarding urea availability. He emphasized that

fertilizer production, allocation, and supply fall under the Centre's jurisdiction and said Telangana had repeatedly requested adequate urea allocations. He accused the BJP-led Central Government of discriminating against Telangana and demanded that the entire fertilizer output from the Ramagundam plant be allocated to the state. Warning of protests if supplies remain inadequate, he said Congress leaders were prepared to take up the issue directly with the Centre. The minister also urged BJP MPs from Telangana to take responsibility for ensuring adequate fertilizer supplies to farmers and reiterated the state's commitment to providing quality seeds and agricultural inputs ahead of the upcoming farming season.

Minister Directs Grand and Hassle-Free Bonalu Celebrations

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad In-charge Minister and Transport & BC Welfare Minister Ponnambhakhar on Wednesday directed officials to ensure the grand and smooth conduct of the upcoming Bonalu festival, emphasizing that the celebrations are a symbol of Telangana's cultural identity and spiritual heritage. Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Jubilee Hills, the minister reviewed arrangements for the Bonalu festivities scheduled to be held from July 16 to August 13 across Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts under the supervision of the Endowments Department. Addressing officials from various departments, Ponnambhakhar said Bonalu is not merely a religious festival but a reflection of Telangana's traditions, faith, and cultural pride. He noted that lakhs of devotees from across the state are expected to visit prominent temples during the Ashada month and stressed the need to provide seamless darshan



facilities and adequate amenities for all devotees. The minister announced that the state government has sanctioned Rs. 20 crore for the conduct of the festival and highlighted the government's continued support to temples across Telangana. He directed district administrations and Endowments Department officials to ensure transparent allocation of assistance based on temple requirements and expected devotee turnout. Special emphasis was laid on uninterrupted power supply, decorative lighting, floral

arrangements, drinking water facilities, sanitation, queue management, CCTV surveillance, medical camps, emergency response systems, and fire safety measures. Considering the large number of women devotees expected to utilize the free bus travel scheme, the minister instructed TGSRTC to operate additional special services during the festival period. Ponnambhakhar also directed police, traffic, intelligence, GHMC, and other civic agencies to prepare comprehensive crowd management and security plans, particu-

larly at major temples such as Golconda Jagadamba Mahankali Temple, Balkampet Ellamma Temple, Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, Subzi Mandi Mahankali Temple, and Akkanna Madanna Mahankali Temple. The minister urged the Information and Public Relations Department to launch extensive awareness campaigns on the history, significance, schedules, traffic diversions, and facilities related to Bonalu celebrations. The festivities will commence on July 16 with the Bonalu Jatra at Golconda Sri Jagadamba Mahankali Temple. Major events include Balkampet Ellamma Kalyanotsavam on July 21, Secunderabad Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu on August 2, Rangam and Ambari procession on August 3, and celebrations at various historic temples across Hyderabad through August 10. Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and several legislators and senior officials participated in the review meeting.

CMC Approves 'Donald Trump Avenue' in Hyderabad Sports, Worker Welfare Projects Get Nod

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) Standing Committee has approved a proposal to rename a key stretch of road near the United States Consulate in Hyderabad as Donald Trump Avenue, a day after a commemorative plaque marking the renaming was unveiled. The road extends from the Q City junction to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) junction. According to the government, the renaming is intended to reflect Telangana's tradition of honouring global leaders and organizations that have contributed to Hyderabad's rise as an international hub for information technology and innovation. However, the decision has sparked political criticism. Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao voiced opposition

to the move, questioning the rationale behind naming a public road after the former US President. The Standing Committee also cleared several infrastructure and public welfare initiatives. Among the major approvals was the development of sports infrastructure at five locations in the Serilingampally zone through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding, public-private partnerships, or other suitable implementation models. In another sports-related initiative, the committee approved the development of a sports arena beneath the PJR Flyover, an area already known for murals depicting international football stars. The committee further approved Project Ashray, a welfare initiative aimed at supporting gig and delivery workers. Under the project, rest and wellness hubs will be established at five locations across

the Serilingampally zone through CSR partnerships. Approval was also given to invite expressions of interest for the procurement of mechanized sweeping machines. The meeting was held on Tuesday in the presence of Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Metropolitan Area and Urban Development within HMDA limits. Meanwhile, the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) Standing Committee approved the construction of an Animal Birth Control and Animal Care Centre in Jawaharnagar. To address urban flooding concerns, the committee sanctioned the construction of a stormwater drain from Irrigation Nala to the Musi River in Uppal Bhagayath Phase-I at a cost of ₹5.8 crore. An additional ₹3 crore administrative sanction was approved for another stormwater drain project in Road No.

TNGOs Leaders Felicitate DGP C.V. Anand on Assuming Charge

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Telangana Non-Gazetted Officers (TNGOs) Association and Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC) met C.V. Anand, IPS, and conveyed their greetings on his assumption of office as the

Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana. The courtesy meeting was held at the Telangana State DGP Office in Hyderabad, where the employee representatives extended their best wishes to C.V. Anand for a successful tenure as the head of the state police force.

The delegation was led by Maram Jagadeeshwar, State President of TNGOs and State Chairman of the Employees JAC. Other members who participated in the meeting included S.M. Hussaini (Mujeeb), State General Secretary of TNGOs; Muthyala

Satyanarayana Goud, State Vice-President of TNGOs; and Nashetty Suman Kumar, Nizamabad District Chairman of the Employees JAC and District President of TNGOs. During the interaction, the employee leaders congratulated the newly appointed

DGP and expressed confidence in his leadership and administrative capabilities. They wished him success in maintaining law and order, strengthening policing services, and ensuring public safety across Telangana. The meeting concluded with the exchange of greetings and discussions on issues of mutual interest concerning government employees and public administration. The



TNGOs representatives reiterated their commitment to extending cooperation in ini-

tiatives aimed at improving governance and public service delivery in the state.

KTR Claims People Want KCR Back as Chief Minister

Khammam, June 24 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Wednesday asserted that people in Telangana want to see former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao return to power and called on citizens to vote out the Congress government when the opportunity arises. Addressing a meeting of party workers in Sathupalli, Khammam district, Rama Rao alleged that the Congress government had weakened several welfare schemes and development programmes introduced during the previous BRS administration. He claimed that public sentiment across the state was increasingly in favour of bringing KCR back as Chief Minister. The BRS leader also criticized the performance of the Congress government in



Khammam district, stating that despite the district being represented by three ministers holding significant portfolios, it had not witnessed substantial benefits under the current administration.

Rama Rao further targeted Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over crop procurement and support for farmers. He alleged that Revanth Reddy, during his tenure as Telangana Pradesh Congress

Committee (TPCC) president, had promised to procure all agricultural produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). According to Rama Rao, the government has failed to ful-

fill those assurances and has cited limitations imposed by the Centre on procurement. He accused the state government of delaying crop procurement operations, neglecting the implementation of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, and failing to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers for farmers. The BRS Working President said these issues had adversely affected the farming community and urged party workers to highlight them among the public. He also called on party cadres to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level and prepare for future political battles. The meeting was attended by local party leaders and workers from the Sathupalli region, where discussions focused on organizational activities and key issues affecting the state.

CM Revanth Seeks Centre's Help on Tungabhadra Water Share

continued structurally vulnerable. The Chief Minister directed officials to urgently identify and prioritize safety-related works. Discussions were also held on the modernization of the Rajolibanda Diversion Canal, for which the Telangana Government has already deposited Rs. 59 crore. Officials informed the Chief Minister that while works under Packages 3 and 4 had been completed, Packages 1 and 2 were yet to commence.

It was decided that the pending works would be strongly raised at the forthcoming meeting of the Chief Ministers of the three states to be chaired by the Union Jal Shakti Minister. Engineers informed the meeting that heavy silt accumulation on the Telangana side of the RDS was preventing the expected diversion of water. The review noted that a committee of experts had recommended desilting as early as 2004, but the recommendations remain unimplemented. Since the silted area falls within Karnataka territory, Telangana plans to seek the neighbouring state's cooperation for desilting operations. The Chief Minister also directed irrigation officials to explore alternative measures for maximizing water utilization through the Tungabhadra Lift Irrigation Scheme and expedite works to enhance the capacity of the Mallammakunta Balancing Reservoir, a key component for drawing water from Thummillala. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao, MP Dr. Mallu Ravi, Government Adviser A.P. Jitender Reddy, Adviser Aditya Nath Das, and senior irrigation officials attended the review meeting.

Congress Rule Has Disappointed People, Says KTR

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao alleged that people in Telangana have become disillusioned with the Congress government and are looking forward to the return of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to power. Addressing an extended-level meeting of BRS workers from the Serilingampally constituency at Miyapur in Hyderabad on Tuesday, KTR launched a sharp attack on the state government, accusing it of failing to fulfill its

promises and mismanaging key sectors of governance. He alleged that the state was currently witnessing what he termed an "RR Tax" regime under Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. KTR claimed that corruption had become rampant and alleged that some IAS officers were acting as intermediaries in government affairs. The BRS leader further stated that the real estate sector in Telangana had suffered significantly under the present administration. Referring to the Hyderabad

Metro Rail project, he alleged that the government was attempting to burden the people with liabilities amounting to ₹14,000 crore. He claimed that decisions related to Metro land and debt restructuring were being taken without transparency and accused the government of acting against public interest. KTR also criticized the handling of the Hyderabad Metro expansion project, alleging that Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy were staging political dra-

mas in Delhi instead of addressing the actual needs of the state. Targeting the Congress government over its welfare promises, KTR said women beneficiaries were yet to receive the financial assistance promised during the elections. He challenged the Chief Minister to credit the pending amount of ₹75,000 per eligible woman, calculated at ₹2,500 per month since the formation of the government. He further remarked that if the promised benefits, including future installments, were fully paid, he

would be willing to retire from politics. The BRS Working President also called upon party cadres to remain vigilant regarding the ongoing voter list revision process. He urged aspiring candidates for the upcoming GHMC elections to actively monitor voter registrations, corrections, and additions at the booth level to safeguard voters' rights. The meeting was attended by MLAs Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Jagadish Reddy, KP Vivekanand, MLC Shambhupur Raju, and other senior BRS leaders.

Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Calls for Vigilance on Voter Lists

continued government's welfare agenda, Bhatti Vikramarka stated that despite inheriting a heavy debt burden from the previous BRS government, the Congress administration continues to implement welfare programmes on a large scale. He claimed that Telangana is currently paying nearly Rs. 76,000 crore annually towards principal and interest repayments on loans accumulated over the past decade.

He also criticized the previous government over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, alleging financial irregularities and questioning its long-term utility. In contrast, he described the Nagarjuna Sagar Project as a lasting asset that continues to benefit farmers across the region. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government is providing free electricity to more than 50 lakh families, implementing loan waiver schemes, extending Rythu Bharosa assistance, and supporting agricultural procurement operations. He reiterated the government's goal of transforming one crore women into millionaires through self-help group initiatives and announced plans to provide interest-free loans worth Rs. 1 lakh crore over the next five years. Bhatti Vikramarka also said Young India Schools with international-standard facilities are being developed in every constituency and appealed to the public to continue supporting the government's welfare-oriented governance model.

Minister Highlights Women Empowerment Initiatives at WETA Event

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar on Thursday reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to women's empowerment while participating in a programme organized by the Women Empowerment Telugu Association (WETA) under the leadership of Congress leader Jhansi Reddy at Jubilee Hills Convention,

Hyderabad. Addressing the gathering, the minister lauded the launch of WETA and said women today are excelling in every field, proving their capabilities and leadership across sectors. He emphasized that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has taken several landmark initiatives to strengthen women's social and economic empowerment. Ponnamb Prabhakar recalled

that the Congress government introduced free bus travel for women within 48 hours of assuming office. He noted that the government had gone a step further by enabling women to become bus owners, creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and financial independence. The minister said the government's vision is to help one crore women become financially prosperous through a range of tar-

geted welfare and empowerment programmes. He highlighted that Indiramma houses and new ration cards are being issued in the names of women, reinforcing their role as heads of households and decision-makers. Stressing the importance of women's leadership within families, he said households led by empowered and capable women are more likely to achieve progress in all spheres of life. Ponnamb

Prabhakar also pointed out that women enjoy 50 percent reservation in local bodies in Telangana and said the government is working to expand employment opportunities and ensure that welfare schemes reach women effectively. He reaffirmed the government's resolve to promote gender equality and strengthen women's participation in social, economic, and political development across the state.

Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas Distributes 120 Pairs of Young Bulls to Farmers



Rajanna Sircilla, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Vemulawada MLA and Government Whip Adi Srinivas along with Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agarwal on Wednesday distributed 120 pairs of Kodelu (young bulls) free of cost to eligible small and marginal farmers at the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple goshala in Thippapur. Addressing the beneficiaries, Adi Srinivas said the distribution process was being carried out transparently to ensure that deserving farmers received the animals. He noted that the tradition of offering Kodelu to Lord Rajarajeshwara Swamy is unique to Vemulawada and that the government had initiated their free distribution to support farming families.

The MLA also announced that the state government had allocated 40 acres of land at Marripalli for the construction of a modern goshala and said foundation stone-laying for the project would be taken up shortly. He stated that officials from the Revenue and Endowments Departments would conduct periodic inspections to ensure the animals were used exclusively for agricultural purposes and warned that action would be taken in cases of misuse. Adi Srinivas further said that the programme would be expanded to benefit eligible farmers in Karimnagar and other districts of North Telangana.

Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah Calls Vote

'The Great Equaliser', Urges Vigilance During SIR Process



Bhuvanagiri, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Government Whip and Aler MLA Beerla Ilaiah on Wednesday said that the right to vote remains the greatest symbol of equality in Indian democracy, as every citizen, irrespective of wealth or social status, enjoys the same voting right guaranteed by the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference at the Mother Dairy Guest House in Bhuvanagiri, Ilaiah spoke about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process being undertaken by the Election Commission across Telangana from June 25. He said that voting is a fundamental democratic right granted to every Indian citizen upon attaining 18 years of age, in line with the vision of Constitution architect Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Congress leader alleged that the BJP was attempting to influence electoral processes and accused the party of misusing institutions for political gains. Referring to recent developments concerning AICC Telangana In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, he claimed that actions affecting her Rajya Sabha prospects had raised concerns about the functioning of democratic institutions.

BRS MLA G. Jagadish Reddy Alleges Corruption in PM Kusum Scheme

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging large-scale corruption in the implementation of the PM Kusum Scheme and accusing the state administration of failing to fulfill its election promises.



Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Jagadish Reddy claimed that the "hybrid Congress government" had not only failed to implement its assurances but was also neglecting several welfare initiatives introduced during the previous BRS regime. The former minister alleged that a scam worth nearly Rs. 1,000 crore had surfaced in the PM Kusum Scheme. He said many farmers and

investors had borrowed money to establish solar power plants under the programme, and despite the completion of nearly 1,000 to 1,200 MW of projects, authorities had allegedly delayed

synchronization of the plants with the power grid for several months. Jagadish Reddy further alleged that certain officials linked to the Energy Department and REDCO had

harassed project developers and demanded illegal payments. According to him, developers were allegedly being asked to pay substantial amounts to facilitate approvals and synchronization. He demanded an immediate response from Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and warned that failure to act would raise questions about the government's role in the matter. The BRS leader also accused the state government of misleading farmers on paddy procurement and claimed that procurement operations were far from complete. He demanded that all remaining paddy stocks be purchased without delay and alleged that farmers were still awaiting significant dues under various schemes. Targeting the Congress leadership, Jagadish Reddy alleged that the government

was attempting to gain political mileage ahead of future elections through welfare announcements while leaving several commitments unfulfilled. He also accused the Congress and BJP of maintaining a tacit political understanding, claiming recent interactions between state and central leaders reflected a "match-fixing" arrangement. The former minister further criticized the government's handling of financial institutions and accused it of exerting pressure on nationalized banks. He warned that the BRS would soon reveal additional details regarding alleged irregularities in the power sector. Former MLAs Bhaskar Rao and Gadari Kishore Kumar, BRS General Secretary Gadari Balamallu, and several party leaders were present at the press conference.

Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya Joins Congress Rally Seeking Dharmendra Pradhan's Resignation

Hanamkonda, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders and workers staged a candlelight rally in Hanamkonda on Tuesday demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET). The protest was organized as part of the nationwide "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign launched by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to raise concerns over the credibility and transparency of competitive examinations.

Held under the directions of the All India Congress Committee and the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, the rally was led by Hanamkonda District Congress Committee President Inagala Venkatram Reddy. The march commenced at Ambedkar Junction and concluded at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Public Garden. Among those who participated were Kadiyam Kavya, MLA K. R. Nagaraju, former mayor Gundu Sudharani, and several party leaders and workers.

Protesters raised slogans against the Union government, alleging that repeated examination paper leaks had adversely affected students across the country. Leaders also paid tributes to students who reportedly lost their lives due to academic pressure associated with examination-related controversies. Addressing the gathering, Venkatram Reddy said the campaign sought to protect students' interests and restore public confidence in the education system. He stated that the movement represented the voices of stu-

dents demanding accountability and transparency in the conduct of national-level examinations. Congress leaders alleged that repeated irregularities in examinations such as NEET, JEE, and UPSC had undermined students' hard work and aspirations. They demanded strict action against those responsible for examination leaks and called for systemic reforms to ensure fairness. The speakers also expressed concern over the increasing commercialization of education and the psychological

pressure faced by students and their families. Referring to student suicides reported from coaching hubs such as Kota, they argued that the current examination system had created widespread anxiety among young aspirants. The party leaders said restoring trust in public examinations and ensuring equal educational opportunities must be a priority, adding that the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" campaign would continue until accountability is fixed and concerns over examination irregularities are addressed.

Deputy Commissioner Conducts Field Inspection to Address Civic Issues

Quthbullapur, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Demonstrating a proactive approach toward resolving public grievances, Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkata Manikaran conducted an extensive field inspection in Mallampet and Gagillapur areas under the Dundigal Circle of Quthbullapur on Wednesday. The visit focused on identifying and addressing civic issues, particularly those likely to worsen during the monsoon season. During his inspection of Dream Valley Road No. 1 in Mallampet, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed areas severely affected by waterlogging. He interacted with local residents, received their representations, and assured them that appropriate measures would be taken to prevent inconvenience to the public. Emphasizing the need for immediate action,



he issued specific instructions to Assistant Engineer (Maintenance) B. Surender Naik and Solid Waste Management Deputy Engineer Anvesh Reddy to address the issue on a priority basis. As part of the visit, Dr. Manikaran also inspected the construction of new washrooms at the Government High School in Mallampet. He reviewed the quality and progress of the works and

directed officials to expedite the project while maintaining construction standards. He stressed that improved sanitation facilities are essential for ensuring a better learning environment for students. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Deepthi Suvarna Sampada Venture in Gagillapur following representations submitted by venture management regarding the need for roads, drainage systems, street

lighting, sanitation facilities, and other basic infrastructure. After assessing the ground situation, he instructed the concerned officials to prepare a comprehensive report and submit detailed proposals for the required civic amenities. Dr. Manikaran reiterated that field visits play a crucial role in understanding public concerns firsthand and ensuring prompt resolution of civic issues. He directed officials to remain responsive to public complaints and take timely action to improve basic infrastructure across the circle. Local colony representatives, residents, and municipal officials accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the inspection and welcomed the administration's active engagement in addressing community concerns.

IAS Officer Launches Saree Distribution for 22,745 Women Under Indiramma Mahila Shakti Scheme

Quthbullapur, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Thousands of women gathered in Jeedimetla on Wednesday as the government rolled out a large-scale saree distribution programme under the Indiramma Mahila Shakti initiative, aimed at strengthening welfare support for women associated with self-help groups. The programme was inaugurated by Quthbullapur Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar, IAS, of the Cyberabad Municipal Corporation. Officials stated that a total of 22,745 sarees would be distributed to women who are members of self-help groups across the Jeedimetla Circle. Speaking on the occasion, officials said the initiative is part of the government's efforts to ensure that welfare schemes effectively reach poor and middle-class women. They noted that self-help groups have played a significant role in empowering women economically and pro-



moting financial independence at the grassroots level. The saree distribution programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from women beneficiaries, many of whom welcomed the government's continued focus on women's welfare. Beneficiaries expressed happiness over the support being extended through various welfare programmes. Officials emphasized that the Indiramma Mahila Shakti programme is designed to strengthen women's social and economic empowerment while encouraging greater

participation in community development activities through self-help groups. Among those present were Deputy Commissioner D. Shankar Singh, Project Officer L. Indrasena, Assistant Municipal Commissioners Uday Kumar and P. Sunitha, community organizers, self-help group leaders, and a large number of women members. The programme marked another step in the government's ongoing efforts to expand welfare outreach and provide direct benefits to women across urban communities in Quthbullapur.

OU JAC Alleges Threat to RS Praveen Kumar's Security, Warns of Agitation

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Osmania University Joint Action Committee (OU JAC) on Wednesday alleged that attempts were being made to reduce the security cover of former IPS officer and political leader Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar and demanded that the state government enhance his protection. OU JAC leaders Rudravaram Sunil and Rishipaka Ganesh Madiga raised slogans against the Congress government near the Arts College at Osmania University and expressed concern over what they described as efforts to withdraw security personnel and a bulletproof vehicle assigned to Dr. Praveen Kumar. Addressing the gathering, the leaders alleged that Chief



Minister Revanth Reddy and Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar were involved in a conspiracy against Dr. Praveen Kumar. They urged the authorities to abandon any move to reduce his security arrangements and instead strengthen them. The OU JAC leaders recalled Dr. Praveen Kumar's service as a police officer in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, stating that he had played a significant role in bringing several individuals associated with Naxalite movements

into the mainstream. Given his public profile and past service, they argued that reducing his security personnel would be inappropriate. They further alleged that Dr. Praveen Kumar has been vocal in criticizing corruption and governance issues and claimed that attempts were being made to inconvenience him by scaling down his security cover. Demanding immediate action from the state government, the OU JAC leaders called for enhanced security arrangements for Dr. Praveen Kumar. They warned that if their demand was not addressed, they would launch a large-scale agitation in the coming days. The protest drew the attention of students and activists present on the university campus.

MLC Attends Investiture Ceremony and Toppers' Felicitation

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Pallavi Model School, Alwal, celebrated its Investiture Ceremony and Board Exam Toppers' Felicitation Programme with grandeur and enthusiasm, bringing together students, parents, teachers, and distinguished guests in a vibrant celebration of leadership and academic excellence. The event was graced by DPGOS Chairman and MLC Malka Komaraiah as the chief dignitary, while Brigadier Sanjay Mohanty attended as the Chief Guest and Brigadier C.P. Sriram as the Guest of Honour. The programme commenced with the watering of plants and a prayer song, symbolizing growth, harmony, and a positive beginning for the academic year. The newly elected student council members marched ceremoniously



to the stage, displaying discipline and confidence. The dignitaries conferred badges and sashes on the Head Boy, Head Girl, House Captains, and other council members, formally entrusting them with leadership responsibilities. In her address, Principal Vidyadhari Rao emphasized that true leadership is rooted in humility, responsibility, and the courage to uphold

ethical values. She also expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for the school's outstanding academic results and continued success. The ceremony also recognized the exceptional performance of students in the CBSE Class X and XII Board Examinations. High achievers were felicitated with mementos in the presence of proud parents and teachers. The toppers shared their

experiences, inspiring younger students to pursue excellence through dedication and perseverance. The school management felicitated teachers who have rendered more than a decade of service and also honoured faculty members who taught board examination classes for their contribution to the institution's academic achievements. Addressing the gathering, Brigadier Sanjay Mohanty congratulated the students for their accomplishments and stressed the importance of balancing academic success with character development. The dual celebration reflected the school's commitment to nurturing leadership, scholarship, and holistic development, encouraging students to dream big, lead responsibly, and achieve excellence in all spheres of life.

Residents Allege Unauthorized Additional Floor in Building Under Construction

Quthbullapur, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Gajularamaram have raised concerns over an under-construction building in Okshith Enclave, opposite the back gate of Tatva School, alleging violations of sanctioned building norms and seeking immediate intervention from town planning authorities. According to local residents, the construction has reportedly been approved for a stilt floor plus two upper floors (Stilt + 2). However, they claim that work is currently progressing on an additional floor, effectively making it a Stilt + 3 structure. Residents have also alleged that the building is being constructed without the mandatory



setbacks, resulting in what they describe as a "zero-setback" structure. The alleged violations have triggered criticism from colony residents, who question the lack of action by the concerned town planning officials. They argue that while minor deviations by ordinary homeowners often attract notices and enforcement measures, larger alleged violations appear to be proceeding unchecked. Residents expressed concern that unauthorized additional floors and the absence of setbacks could create safety and infrastructure challenges in the future. They pointed to potential risks such as difficulties during emergencies, parking shortages, drainage issues, and

increased congestion in the locality. The issue has become a topic of discussion among residents, who are demanding a thorough inspection of the site to verify whether the construction conforms to the approved building plan. They have urged the concerned town planning authorities to take appropriate action if any violations are found. Local residents warned that continued inaction could lead to further questions about enforcement mechanisms and regulatory oversight in the area. They called upon officials to respond promptly and ensure that all construction activities adhere to the prescribed norms and permissions.

Osmania University Launches Telangana AI and Digital Learning Mentorship Programme



Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Osmania University on Wednesday launched the Telangana State AI and Digital Learning Train-the-Trainer Programme under the state government's flagship Anna-Akka Mentorship initiative. The two-day training programme aims to prepare faculty mentors who will, in turn, guide government school students in Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital literacy, coding, computational thinking, and future-ready skills. Inaugurating the programme, Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram said that artificial intelligence and digital technologies are set to transform the future of education. He encouraged students to become innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders rather than merely job seekers. He also noted that students participating in the programme would receive academic credits. The initiative, conceived under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and guided by Principal Secretary, Education, Dr. Yogita Rana, IAS, seeks to provide government school students with learning opportunities comparable to those available in private educational institutions. Prof. B. Lavanya, Dean of Development and UGC Affairs at Osmania University, said the programme would help students develop leadership qualities, social responsibility, and technological competencies. State Nodal Officer Dr. D. Saritha explained that nearly 39,000 student interns and 520 nodal faculty members across Telangana would be involved in the programme. She said the initiative is expected to reach students in around 9,000 government schools, introducing them to AI, digital literacy, coding, and other future-oriented skills. The programme is being implemented through the collaborative efforts of Osmania University, JNTU Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, the Commissionerate of Collegiate and Technical Education, SCERT, government degree colleges, polytechnic colleges, and the School Education Department. Commissioner of Collegiate and Technical Education Devasena has extended special support to the initiative. Earlier, Prof. B. Mangu, Vice-Principal of University College of Engineering (A), Osmania University, and University Nodal Officer, welcomed the participants. Faculty representatives from government degree and polytechnic colleges across various districts of Telangana are attending the training programme.

Differently-Abled Woman Allegedly Sexually Assaulted

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

A differently-abled woman was allegedly sexually assaulted while alone at her residence in the LB Nagar police station limits of Hyderabad, police said on Wednesday. According to preliminary information, the accused is suspected of exploiting the victim's vulnerability, as she is reportedly unable to hear or speak. The woman sustained minor injuries to her neck and hands during the incident. The matter came to light after family members noticed her condition and



immediately alerted the police. The victim was shifted to a hospital for medical examination and treatment. Based on the complaint, LB Nagar police registered a case and launched an investigation. Police teams are examining CCTV footage from the surrounding area and collecting evidence to identify and trace the accused. Officials said efforts are underway to apprehend the suspect at the earliest and assured that a thorough investigation is being conducted. Further details are expected to emerge as the probe progresses.

Mystery Deepens Over Four-Member Family Murder

Nalgonda, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The brutal murder of four members of a family in Telangana Colony on Sagar Road in Nalgonda district continues to remain a mystery, with police intensifying their investigation into the sensational case that has shocked the state. Police have confirmed that Mohammed Sultan (45), his wife Hasina (38), son Mujamil (19), and daughter Afora (14) were murdered. Forensic experts and police officials visited the residence on Tuesday to collect evidence. Following postmortem examinations at the Government General Hospital, the bodies were

handed over to the family members. Investigators are focusing on what transpired between 11 p.m. on June 19 and 4 a.m. on June 20. According to local residents, loud cries of "Bachao, Bachao" were reportedly heard from the house during the night. Medical experts noted that the victims had sustained multiple injuries consistent with a violent attack using weapons. Police suspect that after killing the family, the assailants covered the bodies with blankets and locked the gate from outside to delay the discovery of the crime. Investigators believe this may have been done to allow decomposition of the bodies,

making the collection of forensic evidence more difficult. The case has also drawn attention to a theft complaint lodged by Sultan nearly two months ago. Residents said Hasina, a teacher by profession and a native of Nakrekal, had inherited the plot from her parents and constructed the house through her own earnings about two years ago. Sultan, a bag trader from Nalgonda's Old City area, had reportedly married Hasina after the death of his first wife. The two children were from his first marriage. Local residents claimed that family disputes had intensified after the family attended relatives' weddings in

Miryalaguda and Bhuvanagiri earlier this month, though police have not officially linked these developments to the murders. Additional Superintendent of Police Ramesh and DSP Shivaram Reddy are supervising the investigation. Police teams, including the Dog Squad and Clues Team, are examining CCTV footage from the surrounding area and analyzing the call records of the victims to identify possible suspects and establish the motive behind the killings. Authorities have not ruled out any angle and said the investigation is progressing on multiple fronts.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy Participates in Renuka Ellamma Kalyanotsavam

Nalgonda, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Wednesday participated in the annual Brahmotsavams and Kalyanotsavam of Sri Renuka Ellamma Ammavaru at Daraveshipuram village in Kanagal mandal of Nalgonda district. The minister visited the temple and offered special prayers to the presiding deity as part of the ongoing festivities. On the occasion of the divine wedding ceremony of Sri Renuka Ellamma Ammavaru and Jamadagni

Maharshi, he carried silk robes in a traditional procession accompanied by devotional music and temple rituals from the temple premises to the Kalyana Mandapam before offering them to the Goddess. Later, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy joined devotees in the Kalyanotsavam and participated in special religious ceremonies. Addressing the gathering, the minister extended his greetings to the large number of devotees who attended the Brahmotsavams and prayed for the blessings of Renuka Ellamma Ammavaru upon all people.

He expressed hope that the Goddess would bless the people of Nalgonda district and Telangana with peace, prosperity, happiness, and good health. The minister also stated that efforts are being made to further develop the Daraveshipuram Renuka Ellamma Temple and improve facilities for devotees. Tahsildar Padma, MPDO Veda Rakshita, Temple Chairman Venkat Reddy, Executive Officer Nagredy, Market Committee Chairman Jukuri Ramesh, and other officials and public representatives participated in the programme.

GHMC Election Machinery Sensitized for Special Intensive Revision Process

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

District Election Officer and GHMC Commissioner on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review and sensitization meeting with election officials to ensure the effective implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of electoral rolls. The meeting, held at the GHMC Head Office, was attended by all 15 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), 93 Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), 15 District Trainers (DTs), and 406 BLO Supervisors. Addressing the officials, the District Election Officer emphasized the importance



of meticulous execution of the SIR exercise and directed the election machinery to ensure smooth distribution and collection of Enumeration Forms (EFs) from eligible voters. Detailed instructions were issued regarding the proper distribution of forms, timely collection, verification of voter information, and accurate uploading of data through

the BLO App. The Commissioner underscored the need for close coordination with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to promote transparency and achieve 100 percent voter coverage during the revision process. Officials were also briefed on the standard operating procedures to be followed throughout the exercise.

Highlighting the critical role of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Supervisors, the District Election Officer explained the do's and don'ts for field staff. Officials were instructed to maintain impartiality, professionalism, and accuracy while carrying out voter verification and data entry tasks. They were also directed to strictly adhere to Election Commission guidelines and complete all assigned responsibilities within the stipulated timelines. The review meeting aimed to strengthen the preparedness of the election machinery and ensure a smooth, transparent, and error-free revision of electoral rolls across the GHMC limits.

Cyberabad Police Transfers 17 Sub-Inspectors Across Key Units

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has ordered the transfer and posting of 17 Civil Sub-Inspectors to various police wings, including the Special Branch, Central Crime Station (CCS), Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Cyber Crimes, police stations, and traffic units, as part of administrative restructuring. According to orders issued by the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, the transfers were made on administrative grounds and took effect immediately. Among the officers shifted from vacancy reserve (VR), T. Koteswar Rao was posted to Traffic R.C. Puram, L. Ganga Narasiah to Traffic Narsingi, N. Anjaiah to Traffic Madhapur, P. Mahender

Reddy to Medchal Police Station, and M. Sravanthi to Kukatpally Police Station. Sashidhar, who was serving in the IT Cell, has been transferred to KPHB Police Station, while P. Saritha Reddy of Balanagar Police Station has been posted to the IT Cell. Kale Venkatesh was moved from Madhapur Police Station to Balanagar Police Station. M. Akshetha has been transferred from Gachibowli Police Station to IDA Bollaram, while P. Jayaprakash Kumar Goud was shifted from Cyber Crimes to Gachibowli Police Station. N. Vishwanath, who was attached to the 100 Dial service while in vacancy reserve, has been posted to the Special Branch, Cyberabad. Ramulu Galva was transferred from the R.C. Puram Traffic Sector to the Special Branch.

Further, Srinivas Gundepangu has been moved from Medchal Police Station to CCS Balanagar, while P. Ramakrishna was transferred from Kukatpally Police Station to the Economic Offences Wing. Rambabu Barpati has been shifted from Madhapur Traffic Police Station to the Special Branch. T. Avinash Babu was transferred from KPHB Police Station to CCS, while K. Lingaiah alias Lingya Kethavath has been moved from the Narsingi Traffic Sector to the Cyber Crimes Wing. The Cyberabad Police Commissionerate directed all officers concerned to report to their new places of posting without delay, ensuring a smooth transition and continuity in policing operations across the commissionerate.

Parigi MLA T. Rammohan Reddy: Land Acquisition Begins for Lakshmidivally Reservoir

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has initiated the land acquisition process for the proposed Lakshmidivally Reservoir, a major component of the Palamur-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, by issuing orders to acquire 2,919 acres of land in Vikarabad and Rangareddy districts. The reservoir, designed with a storage capacity of 2.8 tmc ft, is expected to provide irrigation facilities to nearly four lakh acres across Parigi, Shadnagar, Vikarabad, Chevella and adjoining regions while also ensuring a reliable drinking water supply. On Wednesday, Parigi MLA T. Rammohan Reddy and Shadnagar MLA Veerlapally Shankar visited the proposed



reservoir site along with officials to review land acquisition, survey work and construction preparations. Speaking during the inspection, Rammohan Reddy said approximately 7600 crore would be spent on land acquisition, while the total project cost is estimated at around 710,000 crore. He stated that the reservoir would play a crucial role in transforming agriculture and water availability in the region.

According to project estimates, the reservoir will provide irrigation to 61,824 acres in Shadnagar, 1,24,713 acres in Chevella, 24,112 acres in Jadcherla, 80,000 acres in Parigi, 90,000 acres in Tandur, 80,000 acres in Vikarabad, 69,000 acres in Ibrahimpatnam, 39,000 acres in Maheshwaram and 9,000 acres in Rajendranagar. The MLA noted that the government had fulfilled an assurance made by the Chief

Minister on February 7 by issuing the land acquisition orders. District Collectors of Rangareddy and Vikarabad have been directed to commence acquisition proceedings immediately. Rammohan Reddy said the project would significantly enhance agricultural productivity, improve groundwater recharge and address drinking water shortages in several drought-prone areas. He added that the government's long-term vision is to supplement Krishna river waters with Godavari waters and create a Krishna-Godavari water network that would benefit future generations. The Lakshmidivally Reservoir is expected to become a key water infrastructure project for southern Telangana once completed.

ACP Vasundhara Yadav: Inter-State Burglary Gang Busted, Four Arrested

Khammam, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Police have busted a notorious inter-state burglary gang allegedly involved in a series of thefts across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, arresting four members and recovering vehicles used in the crimes. According to Vasundhara Yadav, ACP, Kalluru Sub-Division, the accused were identified as Manikala Vasantha Rao (39), Manikala Ramesh (33), Ponnuri Koteswara Rao (24), and Thummala Sekhar (25). Two motorcycles allegedly used in the burglaries were seized during the operation. Acting on credible information, the VM Banjar Police apprehended the accused from a farm on the outskirts of Lankapalli village in Penuballi mandal of Khammam district on

Tuesday. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to their involvement in at least seven burglary cases registered in Khammam and Eluru districts. Police said the gang stole gold, silver, cash, and other valuables worth approximately 716 lakh. Investigators revealed that the gang primarily targeted locked houses and temples. The accused were allegedly involved in burglaries at Chinnampeta in Eluru district and in Duddupudi, Kandukur, Lankapalli, and Adavimallela villages in Khammam district. They were also linked to a temple hundi theft case in Sathupalli. (Police further stated that several members of the gang are history-sheeters who had previously served jail terms in theft-

related cases. Despite earlier arrests and imprisonment, they allegedly continued their criminal activities across the Telugu states. Considering the gang's repeated involvement in coordinated thefts, police invoked Section 111 (Organised Crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Proceedings have also been initiated under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against the accused. The arrested individuals have been remanded to judicial custody. Meanwhile, police have launched a search operation to trace another alleged gang member, Ponnuri Rambabu, who remains absconding. Officials said further investigation is underway to determine the gang's involvement in additional unsolved burglary cases across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

IIIT-H Director Sandeep Kumar Shukla Joins Launch of Telangana's First AI-Native Business School

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana's first AI-native business school was launched in Hyderabad on Wednesday, with EThames Business School announcing the integration of artificial intelligence across all aspects of academic and professional learning. The institution said the initiative aims to prepare students for a rapidly evolving workplace increasingly influenced by AI technologies and automation. Unlike conventional approaches that treat artificial intelligence as a separate subject, the AI-native model embeds AI into teaching, learning, research, innovation, and student development processes. EThames Business School Chairman Kali Prasad Gadiraju said the transformation was driven by the



growing need for AI literacy and practical AI skills in modern careers. "The world of work is changing faster than educational institutions. AI literacy and AI capability have become essential skills," he said, emphasizing that AI should enhance learning, creativity, and decision-making rather than replace human judgment. A highlight of the launch event was a skit titled "AI Tools Speak, Humans Decide," in which students

and faculty portrayed leading AI platforms, including ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Perplexity, Copilot, and Grok. The performance underscored the importance of responsible AI use, critical thinking, and human oversight in an AI-driven world. Students, faculty members, and institutional leaders also took a pledge to use artificial intelligence ethically and professionally. Certificates were distributed to participants who successfully com-

pleted the institution's AI-native transformation programme. Joining the event virtually, Sandeep Kumar Shukla, Director of IIIT Hyderabad, highlighted the need for educational institutions to go beyond teaching AI tools and focus on fostering responsible innovation. He said students must be equipped not only to use AI technologies effectively but also to innovate responsibly and collaborate with AI systems in real-world environments. The launch event attracted more than 200 participants, including students, faculty members, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. Organizers described the initiative as a significant step toward aligning higher education with the demands of the AI era and preparing graduates for future-ready careers.

Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar's Airport Land Acquisition Remarks Trigger Concern Among Villagers

Adilabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Confusion over the extent of land required for the proposed Adilabad Airport has triggered anxiety among residents and farmers in villages surrounding the existing airdrome, with local leaders trading allegations over the dissemination of information related to the project. Farmers from Anukunta, Kachkanti, Ankoli, Landasangi and Tantoli villages expressed concern over reports of increased land acquisition, stating that uncertainty regarding the identification of lands has created panic among residents. The Telangana government had earlier issued GO No. 73 for the acquisition of 700 acres in addition to the 360 acres already available with the Indian Air Force at the existing aerodrome. Subsequently, the land requirement was indicated to have increased to 1,860 acres. Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar stated that the govern-



ment was considering acquiring an additional 400 acres for runway expansion and security requirements beyond the proposed 1,860 acres. He said that 80 acres would be handed over immediately to the Airports Authority of India and that the state government had agreed to spend 7340 crore for shifting high-tension power transmission towers and 7600 crore on related infrastructure development. However, residents said there was little clarity on which areas had been identified for acquisition and how much land would ultimately be required, leading to widespread concern. Former minister Jogu Ramanna accused the MLA of creating confusion by making announcements based on information that had not been officially con-

firmed. He questioned whether a Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been finalized or notified through official channels and alleged that the project details were yet to be formally published. Adding to the debate, Adilabad District Congress Committee President Naresh Jadhav alleged that the issue was being politicized and criticized the lack of official clarity regarding the project. He said unauthenticated information circulating among villagers had heightened fears and urged authorities to provide clear and transparent updates on the airport proposal and land acquisition plans. Residents also echoed similar concerns. Rajeshwar, a resident of Ankoli village, appealed to the authorities to issue an official clarification to dispel rumors and address growing uncertainty among affected communities. With conflicting claims emerging from different quarters, villagers are awaiting an official statement on the scope and status of the proposed airport project.

BRS Focuses on Voter Protection, Digital Membership Drive

Khammam, June 24 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) attended the party's general body meeting in Sathupalli of Khammam district, where he outlined strategies for strengthening the party at the grassroots level and safeguarding eligible voters during the upcoming electoral processes. Addressing party leaders and cadres, KTR explained the measures that need to be adopted to effectively implement and monitor the Election Commission's proposed Special Intensive



Revision (SIR) process, which is expected to be conducted across the state soon. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter remains on the electoral rolls.

Stressing that protecting voters' rights is a collective responsibility, KTR urged party workers to remain vigilant and ensure that no eligible vote is removed from the voter list. He called upon party cadres to actively engage with voters at the grassroots level and provide necessary assistance during the revision process. The BRS leader also discussed the party's future organizational programmes, including the upcoming digital membership drive. He directed party workers and leaders to work in close coordi-

nation to make the membership campaign a success and strengthen the party structure across all levels. KTR underscored the need for unity and teamwork among party functionaries, stating that collective efforts would be crucial for expanding the party's reach and effectively implementing future programmes. The meeting was attended by local party leaders, elected representatives, and cadre from the Sathupalli region, who reviewed organizational matters and preparations for upcoming political activities.

Editorial

BHARAT BHUSHAN TIWARI: A QUESTION FOR THE YOUTH

Almost a week has passed, yet neither social media nor mainstream media seems able to forget Bharat Bhushan Tiwari. What began as a local issue in Bihar has now drawn the attention of the entire nation. People across India want to know who he was and why his story has touched so many hearts.

Bharat Bhushan Tiwari, a 28-year-old social activist from Bhojpur district, was killed by the police after a two-day protest. Authorities reportedly described him as mentally unstable. However, many people see a different picture. They believe he was a young man deeply disturbed by the suffering of flood victims and the failure of the system to provide relief and rehabilitation.

The Shahpur area of Bhojpur district witnessed severe floods during the monsoons of 2024 and 2025. Even after two years, many affected families continue to struggle for justice and rehabilitation. For Tiwari, this was not merely an administrative failure; it was a human tragedy. The sight of people battling for survival along the banks of the Sone and Ganga rivers reportedly pushed him into a state of frustration and anger against a system he believed was indifferent to their plight.

For the past two years, he had been raising his voice for the victims. As a social activist, he chose to stand with those who felt abandoned. According to his supporters, his confrontation with the administration was born out of despair over corruption and inaction. They argue that while the system failed to control corruption, it acted swiftly in the name of maintaining law and order.

The massive turnout at his funeral and cremation reflected the emotions of thousands who viewed him as a symbol of resistance. Whether one agrees with his methods or not, Bharat Bhushan Tiwari's story has sparked a larger debate about governance, accountability, and social justice.

More importantly, it raises a question before the youth of this country: What are we doing for society, and what should we be doing when people around us continue to suffer?

Editor

Othello: The Play That Conquered the Human Mind

Chitikena Kiran Kumar



Poet, Writer & Columnist, Member, International Benevolent Research Forum

When we look at the history of world literature, we find that some works transcend their own age and continue to influence generations. Kingdoms disappear, societies change, and languages evolve, but a few literary masterpieces remain relevant forever. One such immortal work is Othello, written by William Shakespeare. More than four centuries have passed since its creation, yet the play continues to captivate readers, audiences, scholars, and critics across the world. The reason for its enduring appeal lies not merely in its story but in the profound truths it reveals about human nature.

Literature has produced countless love stories, heroic tales, and tragic narratives. However, very few works have explored human emotions such as jealousy, suspicion, trust, betrayal, and manipulation with the depth and intensity found in Othello. For this reason, the play is not just a literary text; it is a timeless study of the human mind and its vulnerabilities.

To appreciate Othello, one must first understand its creator, William Shakespeare. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest writers in the history of world literature. Born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, Shakespeare rose from a modest background to become a literary figure whose influence extends far beyond his own era. Through his remarkable understanding of human behaviour and emotions, he earned a permanent place in the cultural history of the world.

Shakespeare began his career as an actor before establishing himself as a playwright. His association with the London theatre world provided him with opportunities to observe people from different walks of life. These experiences enriched his writing and enabled him to create characters that continue to feel real and relat-

able even today. His plays are filled with individuals who love, hate, dream, suffer, make mistakes, and struggle with moral dilemmas. This realism is one of the reasons why his works have remained relevant for centuries.

Among Shakespeare's most celebrated works are Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, Julius Caesar, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Merchant of Venice, and Much Ado About Nothing. Collectively, these plays reveal his extraordinary ability to portray different dimensions of human life. While Romeo and Juliet explores love, Macbeth examines ambition, Hamlet delves into indecision and inner conflict, and King Lear reflects on ageing and power. In Othello, Shakespeare presents one of the most destructive human emotions—jealousy.

What makes Shakespeare truly remarkable is not merely his storytelling ability but his deep understanding of the human psyche. His characters are not distant figures from history; they resemble ordinary people whom we encounter in everyday life. Their emotions, strengths, weaknesses, and struggles mirror our own experiences. As a result, readers from different cultures and generations continue to find meaning in his works.

At the centre of Othello stands a brave and accomplished military commander. Othello is respected for his courage, leadership, and achievements on the battlefield. He is a man who has conquered external enemies and earned honour through his abilities. Yet, despite all his strength, he fails to overcome a weakness that emerges within his own mind. This contrast between external success and internal vulnerability forms the heart of the tragedy.

The play demonstrates that even the strongest individuals can



be defeated by their own emotions. Shakespeare challenges the common belief that power and success guarantee stability and wisdom. Through Othello's downfall, he reveals that a person's greatest enemy may not always be outside but may arise from within.

One of the most fascinating characters in world literature is Iago, the principal antagonist of the play. Unlike traditional villains who rely on physical force, Iago uses words, deception, and psychological manipulation as his weapons. He understands human weaknesses and exploits them with extraordinary skill. By planting seeds of doubt in Othello's mind, he gradually transforms trust into suspicion and love into destruction.

The character of Iago remains relevant even in the modern world. In an age dominated by social media, misinformation, rumours, and manipulation, his methods appear surprisingly contemporary. Shakespeare, writing more than four hundred years ago, effectively warned society about the dangers of false narratives and unchecked suspicion.

Another significant character in the play is Desdemona. She represents love, loyalty, innocence, and devotion. Her affection for Othello is sincere and unwavering. However, despite her honesty

and goodness, she becomes a victim of circumstances beyond her control. Through Desdemona's tragic fate, Shakespeare highlights the painful reality that innocence is not always enough to protect an individual from injustice.

The play therefore extends beyond the boundaries of a domestic tragedy. It is a profound psychological exploration of how human thoughts can be influenced and distorted. Once suspicion enters the mind, it alters perception and reshapes reality. Every action, word, and event begins to appear through the lens of doubt. Modern psychology recognises many of these patterns, making Othello remarkably relevant even in contemporary discussions about human behaviour.

The global influence of Othello is immense. The play has been translated into numerous languages and staged in countries across the world. From Europe and America to Asia, Africa, and Australia, audiences have embraced the story and interpreted it within their own cultural contexts. Despite differences in language, geography, and tradition, the emotional core of the play remains universally understandable. The world of cinema has also been deeply influenced by Othello. Several film adaptations have been produced in different lan-

guages and cultural settings. Some have remained faithful to Shakespeare's original narrative, while others have adapted the story to suit local audiences. Yet the central themes of jealousy, manipulation, trust, and betrayal continue to resonate in every adaptation.

In India, Shakespeare's influence has been particularly significant. His plays have been translated into many Indian languages and have inspired generations of writers, dramatists, and scholars. Othello has received considerable attention in literary circles and academic institutions. Indian readers and theatre enthusiasts often view it not as a foreign text but as a universal story that reflects experiences found within their own society.

Even today, many social and personal conflicts arise from misunderstandings, mistrust, and suspicion. Family disputes, broken relationships, and emotional turmoil often have roots similar to those depicted in Othello. This is one of the primary reasons why the play continues to feel relevant. It does not belong solely to the past; it speaks directly to the present. World literature has produced countless works over the centuries. Many have faded into obscurity, while only a select few have achieved timeless status. Othello belongs to this rare category because it is not merely the story of one man's downfall. It is a reflection of the emotional conflicts that exist within every human being. It is not simply a tragic drama; it is a profound meditation on trust, doubt, love, and the fragile nature of human relationships. More than four hundred years after its creation, Othello continues to be read, performed, studied, and discussed across the globe. Times have changed, societies have evolved, and technologies have advanced, yet the human mind remains susceptible to the same emotions that Shakespeare explored centuries ago. By capturing these timeless truths with extraordinary insight, Shakespeare ensured that Othello would remain one of the greatest and most enduring masterpieces in the history of world literature.

Fragility of Words Vs Utility of Deeds



Pokkuluri Subbarao

Veteran Journalist



In an era dominated by instant communication and constant scrutiny, integrity stands as both a rare virtue and a vital currency. The timeless adage "doing what is said and saying what is done" still holds, yet the complexities of modern life demand a more nuanced approach. Premature promises often unravel amid changing circumstances, exposing leaders, organizations, and individuals to charges of inconsistency. The wiser course is to act first and speak later—ensuring that words are firmly grounded in deeds rather than conjecture.

Integrity as the Bedrock of Trust

Integrity transcends mere slogans; it embodies the harmony of values, words, and actions. When leaders or organizations consistently fulfil their commitments, they cultivate credibility that endures even through crises. Trust is built not on rhetoric but on reliability. Whether in workplaces, families, or politics, integrity is the adhesive that binds relationships.

The Risk of Premature Promises

Declaring intentions before execution can lead to misunderstandings. Circumstances evolve—policies

encounter resistance, projects face delays, and personal goals waver under pressure. When words outstrip actions, credibility diminishes. In politics, this often results in broken promises; in business, failed product launches; and in personal life, unmet commitments. The lesson is clear: integrity demands not only intention but also impeccable timing.

Political Leadership Lessons

History provides compelling examples of leaders who exemplified integrity by prioritizing action over speech.

Mahatma Gandhi showcased through marches and boycotts how non-violence could dismantle colonial rule. His credibility stemmed from lived practice rather than empty promises.

Nelson Mandela, after decades of imprisonment, refrained from immediate promises of reconciliation; instead, he enacted it by collaborating with former adversaries to forge a democratic South Africa.

Kiran Bedi, India's first woman IPS officer, demonstrated fearless integrity by ticketing illegally parked cars during the Asian Games—including one belonging to the Prime Minister. She acted

first, spoke later, earning respect for her fairness.

These examples underscore that political integrity is less about speeches and more about communication backed by action.

Corporate Responsibility in Practice

Businesses also prosper when they act before they speak. Apple's culture of secrecy ensures product launches are unveiled only after completion, maximizing impact and minimizing disappointment. A manufacturing firm facing pollution complaints earned respect by addressing the issue before issuing public statements. Similarly, startups that quietly remediate vulnerabilities after data breaches rebuild trust more effectively than those making premature promises. These instances illustrate that corporate integrity extends beyond mere compliance to genuine responsibility.

Integrity in Daily Life

On a personal level, integrity means aligning commitments with actions. Prematurely announcing lifestyle changes, such as fitness routines, often backfires. By acting first—building consistency—and then sharing results, individuals avoid embarrassment and inspire confidence. Here, integrity is not secrecy but reliability.

Takeaway

Integrity remains the cornerstone of trust, yet its practice requires discernment. Promises should be made only when delivery is assured, and communication should follow action. Leaders who act first and speak later inspire confidence; businesses that reveal achievements post-completion strengthen credibility; individuals who let results speak avoid misunderstandings. In an uncertain world, the most respected voices are those whose words resonate with their deeds.

A Reader's Reflection on the Dignity of the Fourth Pillar



GW Prabhakar

Veteran Journalist, An Embarrassment That Demands Urgent Attention

(Response to True Point Article by Chennu Peddiraju)

The article "Journalists' Pension Scheme - An embarrassment to the fourth pillar of democracy" by Chennu Peddiraju is not just a piece of writing—it is a painful reflection of a reality that many in the profession silently endure. It brings out the stark contrast between the respect journalists are publicly accorded and the neglect they face in their later years. As a reader, one cannot help but feel both disturbed and compelled to reflect on the issue.

A Cry of Anguish, Not Just a Report

This is more than a report—it is the voice of a journalist who has dedicated four decades of his life to the profession. After serving reputed institutions like Eenadu and ETV2, receiving a pension of less than ₹2,000 at the age of 65 is nothing short of distressing. Such an amount is insufficient even to meet basic medical expenses, let alone sustain a dignified life.

The irony highlighted through the accompanying cartoon is striking. While political leaders glorify journalism as the "fourth pillar of democracy," the very individuals who uphold this pillar are left to struggle for survival. The image of an elderly journalist burdened with "Service to Democracy - Unfulfilled Promises" captures this contradiction powerfully.

Three Harsh Realities

The article lays bare three uncomfortable truths. First, many journalists, especially at the district level, work for years with meagre salaries and no social security benefits like PF or gratuity. Their dedication often goes unrewarded after retirement.

Second, the pension offered to journalists in some cases is even lower than social welfare pensions. When states provide 3,000-4,000 for widows and the elderly, offering 500 to a journalist raises serious questions about dignity and fairness.

Third, the lack of meaningful implementation in Telugu states stands out. While states like Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, and Assam provide relatively substantial pensions, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana appear to have limited progress to announcements rather than action.

Why It Is Truly an 'Embarrassment'

The term "embarrassment" is justified on multiple counts. For governments, it reflects the contradiction between rhetoric and reality—praising journalism while failing to support journalists. For the profession, it is equally disheartening to see those who once questioned power forced to seek help for basic survival.

A journalist's role in holding the system accountable should not end in indignity. Those who dedicated their lives to public service deserve security and respect in return.

A Practical and Reasonable Demand
The demand for a minimum



pension of 10,000 is both reasonable and necessary. Along with this, provisions such as inflation-linked revisions, family pensions, health insurance, and emergency medical support are essential to ensure basic dignity.

A Question of Priorities, Not Resources

This issue is less about financial constraints and more about intent. Governments allocate hundreds of crores annually for advertisements. A small reallocation from such budgets could easily fund a dignified pension system for senior journalists. The challenge, therefore, lies in prioritizing welfare over optics.

Concerns about independence are valid, but they should not be used as an excuse for inaction. A transparent system, possibly managed by an independent body led by a retired judge, could address such concerns effectively.

The Larger Question Before Us

Why should Telugu states lag behind when others have implemented better systems?

Despite repeated announcements, a structured and dignified pension framework has not materialized. This gap between promise and practice is what truly makes the situation embarrassing.

An economically vulnerable journalist weakens democracy; a compromised journalist weakens it even further. The need of the hour is a balanced approach—ensuring financial dignity while preserving independence.

It is not enough to celebrate journalism in speeches. True respect lies in ensuring that those who upheld the fourth pillar are not left to struggle in their final years. Until that happens, the concern raised in the article will remain valid—and the embarrassment, undeniable.

The author's argument is both timely and justified. If the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana take the initiative to implement a minimum pension of ₹10,000, it would not only support journalists but also strengthen public trust in governance. The ball is now firmly in their court.

Ladakh Tightens Security Around Leh Airport After IAF Concerns



The Ladakh administration has initiated a series of measures to strengthen security and regulatory oversight around the strategically significant Leh airport following concerns raised by the Indian Air Force (IAF) over the circulation of sensitive images and videos on social media.

The issue was reviewed during a high-level interdepartmental meeting chaired by Nidhi Malik, Administrative Secretary of Ladakh's Civil Aviation Department. The meeting examined security, aviation safety, infrastructure and operational issues highlighted by Air Force Station Leh, which serves both military and civilian aviation

needs in the region. According to officials, the IAF expressed concern over the increasing number of photographs and videos showing operational areas, runway layouts, aircraft movements and other restricted zones being recorded and uploaded online by visitors and tourists. Authorities warned that such content could pose security risks, particularly given Leh's proximity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and its importance in India's border defence network.

In response, the administration directed concerned agencies to strictly enforce existing restrictions on photography and videography around sensitive installations. Public aware-

ness campaigns will also be launched to educate visitors about prohibited areas, while standard operating procedures are being prepared to prevent unauthorized recording of defence-related facilities.

The concerns were initially communicated to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, prompting a coordinated review involving multiple departments and technical agencies. Officials emphasized that the objective is to balance tourism and civil aviation activities with national security requirements.

Apart from security issues, the meeting also reviewed several aviation-related matters, including the proposed second

runway at Leh airport, air-space safety, terrain challenges and obstacle limitation requirements. IAF representatives stressed the need for scientific assessments of physical obstructions around the airport to ensure compliance with aviation safety standards and future operational needs.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Revenue Department and other technical agencies have been directed to conduct surveys of identified areas and submit detailed reports with recommendations. Discussions also covered land-use regulations, building permissions near airport zones and monitoring unauthorized constructions that could affect flight operations.

The installation of CCTV cameras and surveillance infrastructure overlooking sensitive defence establishments was another key topic. Officials stated that any such installations would require strict adherence to security protocols and prior approval from competent authorities.

Leh airport remains one of India's most strategically important airfields due to its altitude, location and role in supporting both civilian travel and military operations. Authorities said the latest measures are aimed at safeguarding national security while ensuring safe and efficient aviation operations in the region.

ED Cracks Down on Drug Syndicate Linked to Dawood Aide



The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday conducted extensive searches across Maharashtra and Gujarat as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged international drug trafficker Salim Ismail Dola, a close associate of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

Officials said raids were carried out at nearly 20 locations in Mumbai, Surat, Rajkot and Ankleshwar under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The searches targeted premises associated with chemical suppliers, traders, hawala operators and individuals suspected of holding assets allegedly acquired through proceeds generated from narcotics trafficking.

According to investigating agencies, the case revolves around the production, distribution and financial transactions linked to Mephedrone, popularly known as MD, a synthetic narcotic drug that has emerged as a major concern for law enforcement agencies in recent years. Authorities are examining financial records, digital devices, bank documents and other materials seized during the searches to establish the money trail connected to the alleged drug network.

The investigation gained significance following the return of Salim Ismail Dola to India from Türkiye. Dola is accused

of operating an international narcotics syndicate with links extending across multiple countries. Investigators believe the network used a complex system involving shell entities, hawala channels and benami properties to move and conceal funds generated through illegal drug trade.

ED officials are reportedly tracing investments, real estate holdings and business interests suspected to have been funded through proceeds of crime. The agency is also examining possible links between suppliers of precursor chemicals and the alleged narcotics manufacturing network.

Sources said the probe is focused not only on identifying the financial beneficiaries of the drug trade but also on dismantling the infrastructure that facilitated the movement of illicit funds. The searches are expected to provide crucial evidence regarding the syndi-

cate's operations, financial transactions and asset holdings.

The latest action forms part of a broader crackdown on organized crime and drug trafficking networks with alleged international connections. Investigators are expected to question several individuals whose names have surfaced during the course of the inquiry.

Officials indicated that further searches, summons and asset-freezing actions may follow depending on the evidence recovered during the raids. The ED is coordinating with other central and state agencies as it seeks to uncover the full extent of the alleged narcotics and money laundering network.

The investigation remains ongoing, with authorities expecting fresh leads from the documents and digital evidence seized during Wednesday's operations.

Kerala HC Orders Fresh Oath for 20 BJP Councillors



In a significant ruling, the Kerala High Court has declared invalid the oath taken by 20 BJP councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation and directed them to take a fresh oath within four weeks.

Justice P.V. Kunhikrishnan passed the order while hearing a petition filed by CPI(M) councillor S.P. Deepak, who challenged the manner in which the councillors had taken their oath of office. The petition argued that elected representatives are required to take the oath either in the name of God or in accordance with the Constitution, as prescribed by law. However, the BJP councillors had reportedly invoked specific deities and martyrs during the oath-taking ceremony, which the petitioner claimed was contrary to the prescribed format.

The court agreed that the oath was not administered in the legally mandated manner and therefore could not be considered valid. At the same time, the High Court clarified that the councillors would continue to enjoy legal protection for all actions performed so far in their official capacity under the Municipalities Act, ensuring that civic adminis-

tration remains unaffected. Reacting to the verdict, Thiruvananthapuram Mayor V.V. Rajesh said the Corporation would comply with the court's directions and make arrangements for the councillors to retake the oath within the stipulated period. He emphasized that the judgment does not disqualify the councillors from holding office.

The Mayor also stated that the functioning of the Corporation, including standing committee meetings and routine administrative activities, would continue without interruption. Regarding BJP councillor Sugathan, who is currently in jail, Rajesh said appropriate steps would be taken in accordance with the court's order. He further noted that preliminary information suggests a few other councillors may also have invoked specific deities while taking the oath. The Corporation will verify those instances and take necessary action if required.

The ruling highlights the importance of adhering to constitutional and statutory procedures in public office and reinforces the legal framework governing oath-taking by elected representatives.

Thousands Participate in Srinagar's 8th Muharram Procession



Thousands of Shia mourners took part in the traditional 8th Muharram procession in Srinagar on Wednesday, marking the third consecutive year that authorities have permitted the historic route through the city's central areas after a gap of more than three decades.

The procession commenced from Guru Bazaar and proceeded through Jehangir Chowk, Budshah Chowk and Moulana Azad Road before moving toward Dal Gate, where it was scheduled to conclude with a mourning congregation. Extensive security, traffic and medical arrangements were put in place to facilitate the event, with officials and community volunteers coordinating crowd management and public services.

Men, women and children from various parts of the Kashmir Valley participated in the procession. Mourners recited elegies and nohas commemorating Imam Hussain and the martyrs of Karbala, while groups performed traditional matam as part of the observance.

The Guru Bazaar procession was among the major Muharram processions barred from Srinagar's traditional routes following the outbreak of mili-

tancy in 1989. Authorities had cited security concerns and the possibility of large gatherings being used for political mobilization. For decades, only smaller religious events and local Muharram observances were permitted in predominantly Shia areas such as Zaidab and in towns including Budgam and Magam.

The historic route was reopened in 2024, ending a restriction that had lasted for more than 30 years. Since then, the administration has continued to allow the procession under closely monitored conditions.

This year's event was held amid heightened attention following previous controversies surrounding the display of certain political and religious symbols during Muharram processions. While Hezbollah flags and portraits of its leadership were absent this year, some

participants carried Iranian national flags and portraits of Iranian leaders and individuals killed in recent regional conflicts.

Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed along the route and in adjoining areas to ensure security and manage traffic diversions. Officials reported that the procession remained peaceful and orderly throughout the day.

As the procession moved toward Dal Gate for the concluding majlis, authorities expressed satisfaction with the arrangements and credited the smooth conduct of the event to coordination between security agencies, civil administration and community volunteers. The successful observance further reinforces the gradual restoration of traditional religious processions in Srinagar after decades of restrictions.

India Faces Growth Headwinds as Trade Talks Advance



India's economic growth is expected to moderate in the current fiscal year as global uncertainties, energy market pressures, and concerns over monsoon performance weigh on economic activity, according to a latest assessment by S&P Global Ratings. At the same time, New Delhi is stepping up efforts to strengthen trade ties with major partners, including the United States and the United Kingdom, to support long-term growth and investment.

S&P Global Ratings has projected India's GDP growth at 6.6 percent for FY2026-27, down from 7.7 percent recorded in the previous fiscal year. The agency cited rising energy costs, expectations of a weaker monsoon, and slowing global economic activity as key factors behind the anticipated slowdown.

The report noted that India's heavy dependence on imported crude oil leaves the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global energy prices. Higher fuel and fertilizer costs are ex-

pected to push up inflation and increase production expenses across sectors. Consumer inflation is projected to rise to around 5.1 percent during the fiscal year as businesses pass on increased costs to consumers.

Concerns over rainfall have also emerged, with a significant monsoon deficit reported in June. Lower rainfall could affect agricultural output and rural demand, prompting the government to prepare contingency plans, including alternative crop strategies in vul-

nerable regions. Amid these challenges, India and the United States have moved closer to finalizing an interim trade agreement ahead of a key tariff deadline next month. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer recently held ministerial-level discussions focused on market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience, and reduction of non-tariff barriers.

Both sides expressed confidence that the proposed agree-

ment would serve as a stepping stone toward a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), strengthening economic cooperation and expanding commercial opportunities.

Meanwhile, Goyal is set to visit the United Kingdom to advance preparations for implementing the landmark India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), scheduled to come into effect on July 15. Discussions will focus on tariff reductions, customs coordination, professional mobility, and regulatory alignment.

The government believes the trade pact will boost exports, attract investment, and support the shared goal of expanding India-UK bilateral trade to \$120 billion by 2030.

While global challenges may temper short-term growth prospects, policymakers remain optimistic that stronger international partnerships, expanding investment flows, and structural reforms will help sustain India's long-term economic momentum.

Odisha Mourns Gas Leak Victims as Bodies Return Home

A wave of grief swept through several villages in Odisha's Keonjhar district on Wednesday as the bodies of five women workers who died in the ammonia gas leak incident in Tamil Nadu were brought back to their native places for final rites.

Heart-rending scenes were witnessed in Kodipasa, Talachampe, Rangamatia and Tangiri villages, where family members, relatives and local residents gathered to bid farewell to the deceased. Two of the victims belonged to Tangiri village, while one each hailed from Kodipasa, Talachampe and Rangamatia.

The women were among the workers affected by an ammonia gas leak at a seafood processing unit in Periyapalayam, located in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district, on June 19. The tragedy has deepened after two more workers succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment, taking the death toll among workers from Odisha's Keonjhar district to seven.

The incident has devastated several economically vulnerable

families, as many of the victims were the primary breadwinners of their households. Having migrated to Tamil Nadu in search of better employment opportunities, they had been supporting their families through their earnings.

As the bodies arrived in their native villages, scenes of anguish unfolded. Relatives struggled to come to terms with the sudden loss of their loved ones. Many family members said the victims had recently started contributing to household expenses and nurturing hopes of improving their families' financial conditions.

One grieving relative said the family had expected a better future after the victim began sending money home, but instead received the heartbreaking news of her death. The relative also expressed concern about the family's survival in the absence of its earning member.

The tragedy has sparked widespread demands for adequate compensation, accountability and long-term support for the affected families. Villagers pointed out that all seven victims came from poor backgrounds and had travelled hundreds of kilometres away from home solely to earn a livelihood.

Responding to the tragedy, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi enhanced the ex-gratia compensation for the families of the deceased from 4 lakh to 10 lakh. The state government has also deployed officials to Tamil Nadu to coordinate with local authorities, assist the affected families and oversee support measures for injured workers.

Several workers injured in the gas leak continue to receive treatment in hospitals, with reports indicating that some remain in critical condition. Authorities are closely monitoring their health while investigations into the circumstances surrounding the ammonia leak continue.

The tragedy has once again highlighted concerns over workplace safety standards and the vulnerabilities faced by migrant workers who leave their homes in search of employment opportunities.

Trump Rejected Proposal for Indian Peacekeepers in Ukraine

A new book on the administration of US President Donald Trump has revealed that India was considered as a potential contributor to a peacekeeping force in Ukraine, but the idea was quickly dismissed by Trump himself during internal White House discussions.

According to Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump, authored by New York Times journalists Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan, the proposal emerged during a high-level meeting in the Oval Office on January 30, shortly after Trump began his second term. The meeting focused on efforts to end the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, a key campaign promise of the US President.

The book states that retired Lieutenant General Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy for Russia and Ukraine, presented a peace plan that envisioned peacekeeping troops from countries such as the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. However, US Vice



President JD Vance reportedly opposed deploying NATO-member forces, arguing that such a move could further antagonize Russia.

Seeking alternatives, Vance suggested the possibility of involving countries outside Europe and reportedly mentioned India as a potential contributor. Trump is said to have laughed off the proposal, remarking, "The Indians won't do that... won't pay for something like that," while also referring to his personal rapport with Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. India has consistently maintained a neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, advocating dialogue and diplomacy rather than military solutions. New Delhi has repeatedly called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February 2025, India reiterated its position that "this is not an era of war" and emphasized that conflicts cannot be resolved on the battlefield. While the question of send-

ing Indian peacekeepers was never formally discussed by the Indian government, the possibility has occasionally surfaced in public debate. In April 2025, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor suggested that India could consider contributing a limited peacekeeping contingent if a mutually accepted ceasefire were established.

India possesses extensive experience in international peacekeeping operations and has been one of the largest contributors to United Nations missions worldwide. Indian forces have served in conflict zones including South Sudan, Lebanon and Somalia, earning recognition for their role in maintaining stability and humanitarian support.

The revelation offers a rare glimpse into internal US deliberations on ending the Ukraine conflict and highlights how India's growing global profile has led policymakers to consider it in discussions involving international peace and security.

PM Modi Invited to Ayatollah Khamenei's Funeral Ceremonies in Iran

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has reportedly invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the funeral and burial ceremonies of Iran's late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to diplomatic sources. The ceremonies are scheduled to be held from July 5 to July 9 across several key Iranian cities.

While diplomatic sources have confirmed the invitation, there has been no official confirmation from the Indian government regarding Prime Minister Modi's participation in the events.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who served as Iran's Supreme Leader for nearly three decades and was one of the most influential figures in West Asian politics, was killed on February 28 during large-scale air strikes carried out by the United States and Israel on Tehran. His death marked a significant turning point in the region and triggered widespread political and diplomatic reactions across the world.

According to the reported schedule, the funeral ceremonies will begin in Tehran on July 5 and continue on July 6 and 7. Additional commemorative events are expected to take place in the holy city of Qom, an important religious



center for Shia Muslims. The final burial ceremony is scheduled for July 9 in Mashhad, another major religious city in northeastern Iran.

The invitation extended to Prime Minister Modi is being viewed as a reflection of the longstanding diplomatic ties between India and Iran. The two countries share cooperation in areas such as energy, trade, connectivity, and regional security. India has also maintained close engagement with Iran on strategic projects, including the development of the Chabahar Port, which is considered crucial for regional connectivity.

The possible participation of the Indian Prime Minister in the ceremonies would carry significant diplomatic importance, given the evolving

geopolitical situation in West Asia following recent military tensions and the leadership transition in Iran.

Several world leaders and senior officials from various countries are expected to attend the funeral events, which are likely to draw global attention. The ceremonies will not only honor Khamenei's legacy but also provide an opportunity for international diplomatic engagement amid changing regional dynamics.

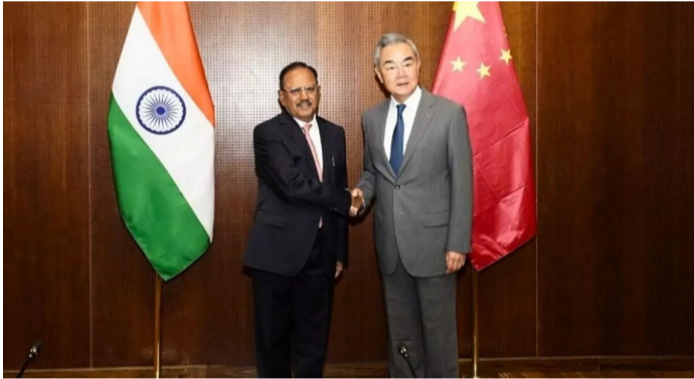
Observers note that New Delhi's decision regarding representation at the funeral will be closely watched, as India continues to balance its strategic relationships across the Middle East while maintaining its policy of constructive engagement with all major regional powers.

Doval Stresses Mutual Sensitivity in India-China Relations

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has emphasized the need for India and China to remain sensitive to each other's core concerns as both countries continue efforts to stabilize and improve bilateral relations after years of tension along the border.

Doval conveyed the message during talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a BRICS security officials' meeting in New Delhi. The discussions focused on the overall state of India-China relations and developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which has remained a key point of contention between the two neighbours.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Doval stressed that stable, predictable and constructive bilateral ties are essential for building trust and enhancing mutual understanding. He also underlined the importance of con-



sistently respecting each other's core interests, reflecting India's broader approach of mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interests.

The meeting comes as New Delhi and Beijing seek to rebuild relations that were severely strained following the prolonged military standoff in eastern Ladakh. Both sides have been working through diplomatic and military channels to reduce tensions and

restore normal engagement.

Chinese officials echoed similar sentiments. Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong said Wang emphasized the importance of viewing bilateral relations from a long-term and global perspective. He noted that cooperation between the world's two most populous nations could contribute significantly to economic development and the modernization of the Global South.

Wang reportedly stated that sensitive issues, including the boundary dispute, should be managed appropriately so they do not overshadow the broader relationship. He also highlighted the need to foster positive public perceptions and strengthen social foundations for improved ties.

The Chinese side expressed support for India's role as the current chair of BRICS and reaffirmed its willingness to work closely with New Delhi to strengthen the grouping's influence and cooperation agenda.

The discussions reflect ongoing efforts by both countries to maintain dialogue, manage differences, and explore avenues for cooperation despite lingering border-related challenges. Observers view the engagement as another step toward restoring stability in one of Asia's most significant bilateral relationships.

Bangladesh's J-10 Fighter Jet Plan Draws India's Attention

Bangladesh's reported decision to acquire 24 Chinese-made J-10CE multirole fighter jets has emerged as a significant development in South Asia's evolving security landscape, prompting close attention from India and regional strategic observers.

According to reports, Bangladesh is expected to advance discussions on the fighter aircraft deal during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to China. If finalized, the purchase would make Bangladesh only the second foreign operator of the J-10CE after Pakistan. The aircraft is regarded as one of China's most advanced export fighter platforms, designed for air superiority, precision strikes, and multirole combat operations.

The proposed acquisition is part of Bangladesh's broader military modernization programme aimed at strengthening the operational capabilities of its air force. Reports indicate that the deal could involve aircraft valued at approximately \$40 million each, with negotia-



tions expected to continue in the coming months.

For India, the development carries strategic significance beyond the aircraft purchase itself. Defence analysts point to the possibility of a changing airpower equation in the region, particularly because Pakistan already operates the J-10CE fleet. The aircraft reportedly played a role in Pakistan's recent air operations, making its induction by another neighbouring country a matter of interest for Indian security

planners.

Another key concern is the future deployment location of the fighters. Attention has focused on Bangladesh's plans to revive the Lalmonirhat Airbase in northern Bangladesh. The airfield lies close to the Indian border and relatively near the strategically important Siliguri Corridor, often referred to as India's "Chicken's Neck," which connects the northeastern states with the rest of the country.

Reports have suggested possi-

ble Chinese assistance in upgrading the airbase, including infrastructure for fighter aircraft operations. While Bangladeshi authorities have previously stated that there are currently no plans to use the facility for military purposes, Indian officials have maintained that developments affecting national security are being closely monitored.

The potential fighter deal also reflects growing defence cooperation between Dhaka and Beijing. Alongside military ties, China and Bangladesh have expanded collaboration in trade, infrastructure development, and investment projects.

If completed, the acquisition would represent one of the most significant upgrades to the Bangladesh Air Force in recent years, while adding a new dimension to strategic calculations in the Bay of Bengal region. Defence experts believe the move will be watched closely by regional powers as South Asia's security environment continues to evolve.

IAEA Set to Resume Iran Nuclear Inspections Amid Fragile Peace Deal

The United Nations nuclear watchdog is preparing to resume inspections in Iran following a recently signed interim peace agreement between the United States and Iran, marking a significant step toward easing tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme. However, uncertainty remains over the scope and timing of access to key nuclear facilities.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi said inspections would take place soon, with discussions underway regarding procedures, timelines and locations. The move follows a 14-point memorandum of understanding signed last week by Washington and Tehran, which outlines a framework for ending hostilities and initiating 60 days of negotiations on unresolved issues, including Iran's nuclear activities.

Despite the announcement, Iran signalled that access to sensitive sites remains conditional. Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi stated that there are currently no plans to allow inspections of facilities damaged in previous attacks or access to nuclear material stored at those locations. He said such matters would be addressed only as part of a final agreement and after concrete steps are taken toward lifting U.S. sanctions.

The IAEA has been unable to inspect Iran's most sensitive nuclear facilities since



military strikes by the United States and Israel last year. While some monitoring activities continued at other locations, broader inspections were suspended following the attacks. A major focus of upcoming negotiations is Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Before the conflict escalated, the IAEA estimated that Iran possessed 440.9 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 percent purity, a level close to weapons-grade material. According to IAEA assessments, if enriched further, the stockpile could theoretically be sufficient for multiple nuclear weapons.

Grossi stressed that the interim agreement explicitly places future nuclear activities under IAEA supervision, making inspections essential to verifying compliance. He said the exact timing of inspections was less important

than ensuring they ultimately occur.

Iran, however, appeared cautious about the watchdog's expectations. Officials reiterated that inspection arrangements would depend on progress in broader negotiations, particularly regarding sanctions relief. The developments highlight both the opportunities and challenges facing diplomatic efforts to resolve long-standing disputes over Iran's nuclear programme. While the interim accord has reopened channels of communication, significant disagreements remain over transparency, verification mechanisms and the future of Iran's enriched uranium stockpiles. The outcome of the upcoming negotiations is expected to play a crucial role in determining regional stability and the future of international nuclear oversight.

France Confirms First Ebola Case Amid Congo Outbreak

France has confirmed its first-ever case of Ebola detected on its territory after a doctor returning from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) tested positive for the virus, health authorities announced on Wednesday.

The patient, identified as a physician working with the humanitarian organization ALIMA (The Alliance for International Medical Action), had travelled from Kinshasa to Paris on a commercial flight. According to the French Health Ministry, the doctor displayed only mild symptoms, including headaches, before boarding the flight. However, the condition reportedly worsened slightly during the journey.

Upon arrival in Paris, medi-

cal teams isolated the patient as a precautionary measure and transferred them to a specialized treatment facility. Authorities later confirmed the Ebola diagnosis through laboratory testing. Officials stated that the patient remains in stable condition and has a low viral load, reducing the immediate risk of transmission.

Health authorities have launched contact-tracing operations to identify and monitor passengers and others who may have come into contact with the infected individual. The French government emphasized that the risk to the general public remains low.

The case is linked to the Democratic Republic of Congo's 17th Ebola outbreak, which was declared on May 15

in the conflict-affected Ituri province. Official figures indicate that more than 1,000 infections and 267 deaths have been recorded so far. Experts believe the actual number of cases may be higher because many affected communities are located in remote and insecure regions.

The current outbreak involves the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, for which no approved vaccine or treatment currently exists. Existing Ebola vaccines are designed to protect against the Zaire strain and are not considered effective against the Bundibugyo variant.

This marks the first time France has identified an Ebola infection within its borders. During the 2014 West African

Ebola crisis, France treated infected patients who had already been diagnosed abroad, but no domestic case was recorded.

Despite the latest development, international health experts continue to assess the risk of wider global spread as low. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has stated that the likelihood of infection for European residents remains low, while the risk to the broader population is considered very low.

French authorities said they will continue monitoring the situation closely while maintaining heightened surveillance measures at points of entry and healthcare facilities.



Crude Price Fall Lifts HPCL, IndiGo Shares

Shares of oil-sensitive companies rallied sharply on Wednesday as international crude oil prices extended their decline, boosting investor sentiment across sectors that benefit from lower fuel costs. Among the top gainers were aviation and oil marketing companies, with shares of IndiGo and state-run fuel retailers posting strong gains. Investors cheered the drop in global crude prices, which is expected to improve profit margins and reduce operational expenses for several industries.



At around 2:50 p.m., shares of IndiGo rose 4.3 percent to 5,185.30 apiece, making it one of the best-performing stocks of the day. Public sector oil marketing companies also witnessed strong buying interest, with HPCL, BPCL and IOC advancing up to 4.5 percent during intraday trade.

clined \$1.08, or 1.5 percent, to \$72.13 per barrel.

The rally came as Brent crude futures fell below the crucial \$76-per-barrel mark. Brent was trading at \$75.71 per barrel, down \$1.37 or 1.8 percent, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude de-

clined \$1.08, or 1.5 percent, to \$72.13 per barrel. Market participants attributed the decline in oil prices to improving confidence in shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy transit routes. Reports indicated that more oil tankers were openly crossing the strategic waterway with satellite tracking sys-

tems switched on, suggesting reduced concerns among shipowners regarding regional security risks.

Brent crude touched an intraday low of \$75.60 per barrel, its weakest level since late February, while WTI slipped to \$72.03, the lowest level seen since early March. The decline marks a significant reversal from the sharp gains witnessed

during periods of heightened tensions in the Middle East.

For aviation companies such as IndiGo, lower crude prices translate into reduced aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs, one of the industry's largest operating expenses. Analysts believe sustained weakness in oil prices could improve airline profitability in the coming quarters.

Similarly, oil marketing companies including HPCL, BPCL and IOC benefit from lower crude prices as they reduce inventory losses and improve refining and marketing margins. Investors responded positively to expectations of stronger earnings if crude prices remain stable at lower levels.

The broader market also drew support from easing energy prices, as lower crude costs are viewed as beneficial for India's economy by helping contain inflation and reducing the country's import bill.

Market experts said continued stability in crude oil prices could provide additional support to equities, particularly in sectors heavily dependent on fuel and energy costs.

Markets Rebound as Banks Lead Strong Rally



Indian benchmark equity indices staged a sharp recovery on Wednesday, with the Sensex surging nearly 900 points and the Nifty climbing above the 24,050 mark, driven by strong buying in heavy-weight banking stocks and improved global sentiment.

By afternoon trade, the BSE Sensex was up 837.06 points, or 1.10 percent, at 77,037.74, while the NSE Nifty gained 223.35 points, or 0.94 percent, to trade at 24,047.45. The rally came a day after markets witnessed a steep decline, with the Sensex falling 893 points and the Nifty dropping nearly 279 points.

Market participants attributed the rebound largely to easing crude oil prices and optimism surrounding ongoing peace negotiations between the United States and Iran. Lower oil prices are generally viewed as positive for India, which imports a significant portion of its energy requirements, as they help reduce inflationary pressures and improve the country's trade balance.

Banking stocks emerged as the biggest contributors to the rally. The Bank Nifty jumped around 1.5 percent to reclaim the crucial 58,000 level, reflecting renewed investor confidence in the financial sector. Major private lenders such as

HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank led the gains, attracting strong buying interest from institutional investors.

Information technology stocks also supported the market's upward momentum, helping benchmark indices recover a substantial portion of the previous session's losses. Investors appeared encouraged by improving risk appetite in global markets and expectations of stable earnings growth among large-cap companies. Sector-wise, most Nifty indices traded in positive territory. Banking, financial services, information technology, healthcare and realty stocks recorded notable gains. However, the automobile, metal and consumer durables sectors lagged behind and traded marginally lower during the session. Analysts noted that the sharp rebound reflects investors' willingness to accumulate quality stocks after recent corrections. The easing of geopolitical concerns and moderation in energy prices have helped improve overall market sentiment. Despite the strong recovery, market experts advised investors to remain cautious, citing continued global uncertainties and volatility linked to international developments. They believe sustained gains will depend on further clarity regarding geopolitical tensions, crude oil price movements and upcoming corporate earnings.

The day's rally nevertheless provided relief to investors after recent market turbulence, with banking and technology stocks once again demonstrating their pivotal role in driving Indian equity markets higher.

Reliance Retains Top Spot Despite ₹11 Lakh Crore Value Erosion

India's 10 most valuable privately owned companies witnessed a sharp decline in market value during 2026, collectively losing nearly 11 lakh crore, according to the latest Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 report. Despite the downturn, Reliance Industries retained its position as the country's most valuable private enterprise for the fifth consecutive year.



The report, released by Axis Bank's Burgundy Private in partnership with Hurun India, revealed that the combined valuation of the top 10 non-state-run companies fell from 97 lakh crore in the previous year to 86 lakh crore. The decline reflects changing market dynamics, investor caution and pressure on corporate valuations across sectors.

2025 Burgundy Private Hurun India 500 list.

Even after the correction, the economic significance of these companies remains substantial. Their combined value accounts for nearly one-fourth of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and represents about 27 percent of the total valuation of companies featured in the

services. The report noted that investors increasingly favored companies demonstrating strong cash generation, healthy return on equity (ROE), efficient capital allocation and robust balance sheets. Businesses with sustainable earnings growth and prudent financial management were better positioned to withstand market volatility. While the overall value of India's corporate giants declined, analysts view the trend as part of a broader market recalibration rather than a sign of structural weakness. Fluctuations in global economic conditions, interest rate movements, geopolitical uncertainties and sector-specific challenges contributed to valuation pressures during the year.

As market conditions stabilize, corporate leaders are expected to focus on profitability, innovation and balance-sheet strength to regain lost ground. The report underscores that while valuations may fluctuate, companies with strong fundamentals continue to command investor confidence and maintain their leadership positions in India's rapidly expanding economy.

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Waterways Leisure Tourism IPO Gains Momentum on Day 2



The initial public offering (IPO) of Waterways Leisure Tourism, the operator of Cordelia Cruises, witnessed improved investor participation on the second day of bidding, with the issue receiving 45 percent subscription by Wednesday afternoon.

According to data available on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), investors had placed bids for 18.66 lakh shares against the 41.84 lakh shares on offer as of 3 p.m. The response marks a significant improvement from the first day of the issue, reflecting growing interest among retail investors.

The retail investor category emerged as the strongest segment, receiving subscriptions of more than 2.09 times the shares reserved for individual investors. In contrast, the non-institutional investor (NII) category was subscribed 24 percent, indicating moderate participation from high-net-worth individuals and other non-retail investors.

Ahead of the public issue, the company had successfully

raised 263.25 crore from anchor investors, providing a strong foundation for the IPO. The anchor book attracted participation from institutional investors and helped boost confidence in the offering before the issue opened to the public.

Waterways Leisure Tourism is best known for operating Cordelia Cruises, India's leading premium cruise line. The company has been positioning itself to capitalize on the growing domestic cruise tourism market, which is witnessing increasing interest from Indian travelers seeking leisure and luxury experiences closer to home.

The IPO consists of a fresh issue aimed at raising funds for business expansion, debt reduction and general corporate purposes. Market observers believe the company stands to benefit from the long-term growth potential of India's tourism and hospitality sectors, particularly as cruise travel gains popularity among middle- and upper-income consumers.

Meanwhile, grey market ac-

tivity indicated cautious optimism. Market participants are closely tracking the Grey Market Premium (GMP), which serves as an unofficial indicator of investor sentiment ahead of listing. While GMP levels have remained modest compared to some recent public offerings, analysts note that subscription levels often strengthen during the final day of bidding.

Investors are now looking ahead to the next key milestones in the IPO process. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalized on June 29, while the allotment status will be available through the registrar, MUFG Intime India. Successful applicants can expect shares to be credited to their demat accounts shortly before the company's proposed market debut.

With retail participation already crossing the fully subscribed mark and institutional interest expected to pick up, market watchers will closely monitor the final-day subscription figures to gauge overall demand for the issue.

Oberoi Realty Gains on Gurugram Project Approval

Shares of Oberoi Realty climbed nearly 3 percent on Wednesday after the company secured approval from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) for its upcoming project in Gurugram, marking a significant milestone in its expansion strategy beyond Mumbai.



The stock gained positive momentum following the announcement, rising 3 percent to 1,756.20 apiece in afternoon trade. Investors welcomed the development as it clears a major regulatory hurdle and enables the company to proceed with the launch and marketing of the project in one of North India's most prominent real estate markets.

for premium residential and mixed-use developments.

The RERA approval allows Oberoi Realty to officially commence sales bookings and begin generating revenue visibility from the project. Industry experts view the approval as an important step toward strengthening the company's presence in the National Capital Region (NCR), a market that continues to witness strong demand

Oberoi Realty has traditionally been associated with luxury and premium real estate projects in Mumbai, where it has built a strong reputation through successful residential, commercial and hospitalty developments. The entry into Gurugram represents a strategic move aimed at reducing geographic concentration and broadening its growth opportunities across key urban markets.

Analysts believe the company's expansion into Gurugram aligns with its long-

term objective of diversifying revenue streams and tapping into high-growth regions. Gurugram remains one of India's most active real estate destinations, driven by strong corporate presence, infrastructure development and sustained demand from professionals and high-income homebuyers.

Market participants also view the approval as a positive signal for future earnings growth. With regulatory clearances now in place, the company can begin monetizing the project through advance sales and customer

bookings, which could contribute meaningfully to revenue in the coming years.

The development comes at a time when India's real estate sector is witnessing renewed momentum, supported by urbanization, rising income levels and increasing demand for quality housing. Developers with strong balance sheets, established brands and a proven execution track record have particularly benefited from the sector's recovery. Brokerages have noted that Oberoi Realty's disciplined project execution, premium positioning and healthy financial profile continue to make it one of the preferred players in the real estate sector. The Gurugram project is expected to enhance the company's growth pipeline and strengthen its footprint beyond Maharashtra.

Investor sentiment remained positive following the announcement, with market participants viewing the RERA approval as a catalyst for future growth and a key step in Oberoi Realty's broader expansion strategy.

Unicommerce Gains on Swiggy Partnership

Shares of Unicommerce eSolutions rose up to 2.5 percent in Wednesday's trading session after the company announced a strategic partnership with Swiggy Networks Ltd, a subsidiary of Swiggy, aimed at streamlining business-to-business (B2B) order processing for brands operating within the Swiggy ecosystem.

In a regulatory filing, Unicommerce stated that the integration would allow brands to efficiently manage and fulfil bulk orders destined for Swiggy Networks' warehouses through its centralized technology platform. The solution is designed to simplify operations by bringing multiple processes under a single dashboard. According to the company, the plug-and-play integration covers key aspects of the supply chain, including purchase order verification, warehouse processing, shipping management, tracking capabilities and label generation. By consolidating these functions onto one platform, the system is expected to significantly reduce manual intervention and improve operational efficiency.

The positive market response reflected investor optimism regarding the partnership's potential to strengthen Unicommerce's position in the rapidly expanding e-commerce and supply chain management sector. The stock witnessed steady buying in-

terest following the announcement, as investors assessed the long-term benefits of the collaboration.

The company emphasized that the partnership will help brands replenish inventory across multiple warehouse locations more quickly, ensuring smoother supply chain operations. Faster restocking is expected to improve product availability and support growing demand from Swiggy

Networks' B2B customers. Industry analysts noted that efficient inventory management and seamless order processing have become increasingly important as businesses seek to optimize logistics and reduce operational costs. Technology-driven solutions that automate supply chain processes are witnessing rising demand across sectors, particularly in e-commerce, quick commerce and digital retail.

The collaboration is also expected to enhance Swiggy Networks' ability to manage large-scale procurement and inventory distribution. With de-

mand patterns becoming more dynamic, centralized order management systems can help improve visibility across the supply chain and enable faster decision-making.

Unicommerce, which provides software-as-a-service (SaaS) solutions for e-commerce enablement, has been expanding its partnerships with leading retail, logistics and marketplace players. The company's technology platform is designed to help businesses manage orders, inventory, warehousing and logistics through integrated digital solutions.

Market participants viewed the lat-



est partnership as another step in Unicommerce's efforts to strengthen its ecosystem and expand its client base. The collaboration with Swiggy Networks is expected to enhance the company's revenue opportunities while reinforcing its position as a key technology provider in India's growing digital commerce landscape.

Analysts believe that continued adoption of automated supply chain solutions and increasing demand for efficient B2B commerce infrastructure could provide further growth opportunities for Unicommerce in the coming years.

Techie Triples Salary in a Year From Rs 3.3 LPA to Rs 24.8 Lakh

A software developer with around five years of experience has gone viral after sharing how he transformed his career earnings from Rs 3.3 lakh per annum to nearly Rs 25 lakh within just one year, highlighting how calculated job switches and skill growth can significantly impact salary progression in the IT industry.



The developer, a Java full-stack engineer, began his career at TCS through a "Ninja" profile with a modest package of Rs 3.3 LPA. He worked on a strong technology stack including Java, Spring Boot, AWS, Angular, and Python, and remained with the same project for nearly four years. Despite consistent performance ratings and internal exams, his salary progression remained limited, reaching only about Rs 7.8 LPA after several years.

a more dynamic work environment and new professional networks.

Frustrated by the slow growth, he decided to explore external opportunities. In July 2025, he made his first job switch, securing an offer that nearly doubled his compensation. He relocated to Bengaluru and joined a new company, describing the move as a turning point in his career. The change not only improved his salary but also exposed him to

However, the developer soon experienced uncertainty in his new role as project restructurings and cost-cutting measures led to multiple team members being released. Concerned about job stability, he began actively preparing for new interviews while still serving his notice period.

During this phase, he attended several interviews with companies including major international firms. While some offers did not meet his expectations, he eventually received a competitive offer from AMEX GBT, which provided a significant hike compared to his previous salary. After careful con-

sideration, he accepted the offer and joined the company, bringing his total compensation close to Rs 24.8 lakh per annum. The developer's story has resonated widely on social media, especially among young IT professionals, as it reflects both the opportunities and uncertainties in the tech industry. His journey highlights how strategic job changes, continuous skill development, and timely decisions can play a crucial role in accelerating career growth in a competitive market.

While the story showcases impressive financial progress, it also underscores the importance of adaptability in an evolving industry where job security can shift quickly.

Germany Lake Swimming Rule Sparks Debate

A swimming facility in Halle, Germany has triggered widespread debate after introducing a controversial rule that restricts entry to visitors who do not have sufficient knowledge of the German language, citing safety concerns following a recent near-tragic incident.



The rule has been implemented at the Heidebad lake swimming area after the manager, who is also a trained lifeguard, rescued a toddler from dangerously deep water. Following the incident, the management decided that stronger measures were needed to ensure that all visitors can clearly understand safety instructions and respond appropriately in emergency situations.

Since the rule was introduced, a small number of visitors have already been turned away. Supporters of the policy argue that safety must come first, especially in open water environments where conditions can change quickly. They point out that lifeguards must be able to communicate effectively during emergencies and that misunderstanding instructions could lead to serious accidents.

Facility manager Mathias Nobel said the decision is driven entirely by safety considerations rather than any intent to exclude people. He explained that clear communication is essential in a natural lake setting where water depths can reach up to 13 metres, making it crucial that swimmers understand warnings and lifeguard instructions.

Under the new system, staff assess visitors at the entrance on a case-by-case basis. If a group does not have anyone capable of communicating in German, entry may be denied.

However, critics have raised concerns that the rule could be discriminatory and may exclude tourists or non-German speakers from public recreational spaces. They suggest that multilingual signage, translation tools, or visual safety systems could be better alternatives than restricting access based on language ability. The policy was introduced after a serious incident involving a toddler highlighted the risks associated with miscommunication and insufficient understanding of safety rules. Management maintains that preventing such situations in the future is the primary goal.

As discussions continue, the Halle lake swimming rule has become a topic of broader debate in Germany, raising questions about how public safety can be balanced with inclusivity and equal access in shared community spaces.

Excited Even After 5 Years Microsoft Employee's Post Highlights Workplace Culture

A Bengaluru-based Microsoft employee has gone viral on social media after sharing a heartfelt video explaining why she still feels excited to walk into office every single day, even after more than five years with the company.

Deepika emphasized that her office environment encourages honest brainstorming sessions and constructive conversations that help her grow professionally and personally. She also noted that instead of unhealthy competition, her peers push each other toward improvement and shared success.



The employee, Deepika Koul, shared her experience on Instagram, where she often posts about corporate life and workplace experiences. In her video, she reflected on completing over half a decade at Microsoft and explained that her long-term enthusiasm is not driven by the brand name or corporate perks, but by the people and culture she experiences every day inside the workplace. She said it is uncommon for employees to feel the same level of excitement years into a job, but in her case, the environment continues to motivate her. According to her, the real strength of her workplace lies in everyday interactions, open discussions, and meaningful collaboration with colleagues.

One of the key points she highlighted was the emotional impact of the workplace environment on her mental wellbeing. She mentioned that on challenging days, stepping into the office helps clear her mind, and she often leaves work feeling more positive and balanced than when she arrived.

She further explained that even when she enters the office feeling mentally exhausted or stressed, the supportive atmosphere helps her regain clarity and motivation. This, she said, is one of the most valuable aspects of her professional life.

Concluding her message, she urged professionals to appreciate and value positive work environments whenever they find them. She stressed that such workplaces are not just standard corporate features but meaningful cultural experiences that can significantly influence personal growth and

happiness. Her video has resonated widely online, with many users praising her perspective and sharing similar experiences about the importance of healthy workplace culture in long-term career satisfaction.

Cute Animals Are More Fascinating Than You Think

Rabbits are often seen as adorable, gentle pets with long ears and a love for carrots, but their real biology and behavior are far more interesting and unique than most people realize. From their vision to their survival instincts, these small creatures have evolved several extraordinary traits.



One of the most surprising facts about rabbits is that their teeth never stop growing throughout their lives. Unlike humans, rabbits continuously grow teeth, which is why they need to constantly chew on grass, leaves, and fibrous plant material. This natural chewing helps keep their teeth at a healthy length. Without it, their teeth can overgrow and lead to serious health problems.

of a happy rabbit.

Another remarkable feature is their nearly 360-degree field of vision. The position of a rabbit's eyes on the sides of its head allows it to detect movement from almost every direction. This wide vision is a crucial survival adaptation, helping them quickly spot predators approaching from behind or the sides.

Contrary to popular belief, carrots are not a rabbit's primary food. While they may enjoy them occasionally, rabbits mainly feed on grass, leaves, and other green vegetation. Carrots contain natural sugars, so they should only be given in moderation to pet rabbits.

Rabbits also have a unique way of expressing happiness known as a "binky." When a rabbit feels joyful or excited, it may suddenly jump into the air, twist its body, and kick its legs. This playful movement is often observed by pet owners and is considered a clear sign

In the wild, mother rabbits behave differently than many might expect. They do not stay constantly with their babies. Instead, they visit the nest briefly a few times a day to feed them, helping reduce the risk of attracting predators. Because of this behavior, finding baby rabbits alone does not necessarily mean they have been abandoned. Rabbits are also incredibly fast runners. When threatened, they can sprint at high speeds and use quick zigzag movements to escape predators. Their strong hind legs give them the ability to change direction suddenly, making them difficult to catch.

These fascinating traits show that rabbits are not just cute animals but highly adapted survivors with unique biological and behavioral characteristics that help them thrive in the wild.

Former OpenAI Researcher Shyamal Anadkat Returns to India Calls It a Global AI Opportunity Hub

Shyamal Anadkat, a former OpenAI researcher who led the Applied Evals team, has announced his move from the San Francisco Bay Area back to India, describing the country as a "once-in-a-generation opportunity hub" for artificial intelligence development.

search institutions can be built locally at global scale. While he has not revealed full details about his next professional venture, his comments suggest that he may be preparing to launch a new artificial intelligence project. He emphasized his continued focus on advancing safe and beneficial AI systems that can accelerate scientific progress and remain accessible to a wider audience.

Anadkat, who spent nearly four years at OpenAI working on evaluating and improving the safety and performance of advanced AI systems, shared his decision through a post on social media platform X. His move has drawn attention in global tech circles, especially given his role at one of the world's leading artificial intelligence companies. He explained that the decision

During his time in India, Anadkat has reportedly been engaging with engineers, researchers, and innovators across the tech ecosystem. He noted that the region has no shortage of talent or capability, but what is often missing is the collective belief that world-class technology companies and re-

search institutions can be built locally at global scale.

While he has not revealed full details about his next professional venture, his comments suggest that he may be preparing to launch a new artificial intelligence project. He emphasized his continued focus on advancing safe and beneficial AI systems that can accelerate scientific progress and remain accessible to a wider audience.

Anadkat also highlighted his belief that the future of AI innovation will not be limited to a single geographic hub. Instead, he envisions a more distributed global ecosystem where breakthrough technologies emerge from multiple regions, including India.



In his closing remarks, he expressed openness to connecting with individuals who share his vision, hinting that more announcements regarding his next steps will be made in the near future.

Man Buys Dream Porsche Using Inheritance From Hacker He Once Helped Jail

A remarkable story of friendship, redemption, and unexpected legacy has gone viral after a man revealed that he purchased his dream Porsche sports car using inheritance money left behind by a former hacker he once helped bring to justice.

A key piece of evidence in the case came from a voicemail recording Nunley preserved after a late-night phone interaction involving Mitnick, who had posed under an alias while attempting to gain unauthorized access. That recording later played a significant role in the legal proceedings. Despite their adversarial beginnings, the two eventually connected after Mitnick's release. Following a period of legal resolution and reflection, they met in person at a technology conference in San Francisco. That meeting marked a turning point, as mutual respect replaced their ear-

lier conflict. Over time, their relationship evolved into a genuine friendship that lasted for decades. Nunley described Mitnick as someone who transformed significantly after his legal troubles, maturing into a thoughtful and influential figure in the cybersecurity world. Their bond continued until Mitnick's death in 2023 due to illness.



Shawn Nunley, a technology professional, shared that he bought a Porsche 911 Carrera 4 GTS after receiving a financial gift from Kevin Mitnick, one of the world's most well-known former hackers. What makes the story unusual is the deep history between the two men, who once stood on opposite sides of a cybercrime investigation before eventually forming a long-lasting friendship.

Nunley first encountered Mitnick in the 1990s during his work as a network administrator. At the time, Mitnick was targeting major technology companies, including enterprise software firm Novell. Sus-

In his final gesture, Mitnick left Nunley a financial inheritance, which he chose to use to fulfill a long-held personal dream of owning a Porsche sports car. Nunley said the purchase is not just about luxury, but a tribute to a friendship shaped by unusual circumstances and shared history.

The story has resonated widely online, with many highlighting how relationships can evolve in unexpected ways and how even former adversaries can ultimately leave behind meaningful legacies.

Gill Climbs to No. 2 Bumrah Shares Top Spot with Matt Henry in Latest ICC Rankings



The latest ICC rankings have brought encouraging news for Indian cricket, with several players making notable gains across formats. Young opener Shubman Gill has climbed to the second position in the ODI batting rankings, while Jasprit Bumrah continues to dominate Test cricket by sharing the No. 1 spot in bowling with New Zealand pacer Matt Henry.

Gill's rise reflects his consistent performances in recent ODI outings. His aggressive batting style and ability to anchor innings have helped him move up

three places in the rankings. Currently, he is just behind the top-ranked batter, with a narrow rating gap separating him from the summit position, indicating a close race at the top of ODI batting charts.

Another positive development for India is the rise of Ishan Kishan, who has jumped significantly in the ODI rankings after strong performances in recent series. His improvement highlights the growing depth in India's batting lineup, especially among younger players who are increasingly making their mark

on the international stage.

India's bowling unit has also seen upward movement. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh has made a substantial jump into the top 25, reflecting his improving consistency and wicket-taking ability. Young fast bowler Prasidh Krishna has also gained several spots, showing progress in his international career. All-rounder Washington Sundar has similarly improved his position, strengthening India's presence across all-round categories.

In Test cricket, a major high-

light is the shared top position between Jasprit Bumrah and New Zealand's Matt Henry. Henry's recent match-winning performance, including a remarkable 11-wicket haul against England, helped him join Bumrah at the summit. Bumrah, who has been holding the No. 1 position since late 2024, continues to demonstrate his dominance in the longest format of the game.

On the batting side of Test cricket, England's Joe Root has reclaimed the No. 1 position after a strong run of form. This marks another milestone in his decorated career, as he continues to remain one of the most consistent performers in the format. Elsewhere, the T20 rankings also saw movement following recent series results. Australian captain Mitchell Marsh has moved up into the top 10 among batters, while Nathan Ellis has climbed the bowling rankings. Bangladesh players also made progress despite series losses, with several individuals improving their positions significantly.

Overall, the latest ICC rankings reflect a competitive global cricket landscape, with emerging talents and established stars continuing to battle for supremacy across formats.

NZ Cricket Legend Bob Blair Passes Away

Former New Zealand fast bowler Bob Blair, a figure etched permanently in cricket history for his extraordinary courage during personal tragedy, has passed away in England at the age of 94. His death marks the end of an era for one of New Zealand cricket's most respected and emotionally significant personalities.

Blair is best remembered for his remarkable act of bravery during the 1953 New Zealand tour of South Africa, an incident that became one of the most moving stories in the sport's history. During the second Test at Ellis Park, he received devastating news that his fiancée, Nerissa Love, had died in the Tangiwai train disaster on Christmas Eve. Despite the emotional shock, Blair chose to take the field when New Zealand was down to its last wicket, displaying exceptional mental strength and commitment to his team.

What followed became a defining moment in cricket folklore. Blair joined Bert Sutcliffe at the crease and contributed 33 runs in a cru-

cial last-wicket partnership. The duo also launched a remarkable counterattack, including a famous over that yielded 25 runs, which stood as a record at the time. The moment was later celebrated as a symbol of resilience and sportsmanship under unimaginable personal grief.

Blair's overall international career spanned from 1952 to 1964, during which he played 19 Test matches for New Zealand. He achieved notable success as a fast bowler, including his best Test figures of 7 for 142. After retiring from international cricket, he remained involved in the game, contributing as a coach in several countries and sharing his experience with younger players.

His legacy is closely associated with the "Tangiwai" story, which continues to be remembered as one of the most emotional chapters in cricket history. In recognition of this historic event, the New Zealand and South African cricket boards introduced the Tangiwai Shield in 2024 to honor the memory of



the players and the incident that shaped it. Tributes have poured in from across the cricketing world, highlighting Blair's courage, character, and lasting impact on the sport. New Zealand Cricket officials have also confirmed that players will wear black armbands during upcoming matches as a mark of respect.

Bob Blair's story remains a powerful reminder of human strength and dignity in the face of personal tragedy, ensuring his legacy will continue to inspire generations of cricketers and fans alike.

IND W vs BAN W India Must Fix Middle Order and Fielding Issues

Team India's Women's World Cup campaign has reached a crucial stage where consistency in the middle order and sharper fielding could define their journey ahead. After starting the tournament with two strong wins, India suffered a setback against South Africa, exposing key areas of concern that need immediate correction before their next clash against Bangladesh on Thursday.

Placed in Group A alongside Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Netherlands, India currently sits second with four points from three matches. Australia leads the group with a perfect record, while India, South Africa, and Bangladesh are all tied on points, making the race for semi-final qualification highly

competitive. With two matches remaining, including a tough encounter against Australia, every run and every wicket now carries added significance.

India's qualification scenario is straightforward but demanding. Winning both remaining matches would secure a semi-final spot comfortably. However, even a single loss could push net run rate into a decisive role, making a dominant win against Bangladesh extremely important. The team is therefore under pressure not just to win, but to win convincingly.

A major concern for India has been the instability in the middle order. While openers like Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana have provided strong starts, the momentum

often fades once the top order is dismissed. Jemimah Rodrigues has struggled to convert starts into impactful innings, and captain Harmanpreet Kaur is yet to deliver a defining performance in the tournament. Richa Ghosh has provided aggressive finishing touches, but the lack of sustained partnerships in the middle overs has left India vulnerable.

Fielding has also emerged as a critical weakness. Missed chances in the match against South Africa proved costly and shifted the momentum away from India at key stages. The coaching staff has repeatedly emphasized that in high-pressure tournaments, fielding errors can decide outcomes, and India's dropped catches have already had an impact on their

campaign.

On the positive side, India's spin attack continues to be a major strength. Young spinner Sricharan has been outstanding, emerging as one of the tournament's top wicket-takers with consistent match-winning spells. Deepti Sharma has also shown her ability with a five-wicket haul in one game, though her overall consistency has fluctuated. However, support from other bowlers, especially the pace attack, has been limited, with few breakthroughs coming from the seamers.

With the tournament entering its decisive phase, India's path forward depends on addressing these weaknesses quickly. A strong performance against Bangladesh is essential



not only for points but also for restoring confidence ahead of tougher challenges. The team

now faces a situation where execution in all departments will determine whether they ad-

vance smoothly into the semi-finals or enter a complicated net run rate scenario.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Colombia Reach Knockouts Ghana Hold England

Colombia have secured their place in the knockout stage of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over DR Congo, while Ghana delivered a major upset by holding title favourites England to a goalless draw in a tightly contested Group stage encounter.

Colombia's qualification was confirmed through a disciplined performance in Group K. The match against DR Congo remained evenly poised in the first half, with both sides struggling to convert chances. Colombia eventually broke the deadlock in the 76th minute when Daniel Muñoz found the net with a crucial strike. Despite registering multiple attempts on goal, Colombia managed to convert only once, but that proved enough to seal their progression to the next round. DR Congo showed moments of promise, including a couple of attempts that struck the post, but they were unable to capitalise on their chances.

In another key Group L fixture, Ghana frustrated England with a resilient defensive display to secure a 0-0 draw. England, who entered the match as favourites after a strong opening win, dominated possession and created several attacking opportunities. However, they failed to convert any of their four shots on target, as Ghana's defence held firm under pressure. A controversial moment in the match came in the 79th minute when Ghana players appealed for a penalty after a challenge involving England's goalkeeper and a



Ghana attacker. The referee, however, waved away the appeal, leading to frustration among Ghana players and coaching staff. The decision became a major talking point after the final whistle.

Despite the draw, Ghana's performance kept their qualification hopes alive, while England missed an opportunity to secure an early knockout berth. The result has made the group standings more competitive, with multiple teams still in contention for advancement. Meanwhile, Croatia kept their knockout hopes alive with a narrow 1-0 win over Panama. Ante Budimir scored the decisive goal

in the 54th minute, helping Croatia secure three vital points. Veteran midfielder Luka Modri also marked a special milestone by playing his 200th international match, adding significance to the victory.

With Panama eliminated following the defeat, the battle for qualification from Group L has intensified, with England, Ghana, and Croatia still competing for remaining spots in the knockout stage.

Overall, the latest round of matches has tightened the race across groups, setting up an exciting final phase in the group stage of the tournament.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Set for International Debut

Young batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi is all set to make his much-anticipated entry into international cricket after being selected for India's T20I series against Ireland. The teenager has already been handed the No. 3 jersey, signaling the team management's confidence in his abilities as he prepares for his debut in the upcoming matches.

India will play the first T20 against Ireland within the next two days, and excitement around Suryavanshi's inclusion has already begun to build. Former India cricketer and ex-Ireland coach M. V. Narasimha Rao has made strong remarks about the significance of his potential debut, calling it a historic moment for Irish cricket.

He stated that if Suryavanshi takes the field in Ireland, it would attract massive attention, even beyond expectations. According to him, the small stadium capacity in Belfast could become a challenge, as fans from across Europe, including cities like Paris, are likely to travel just to witness the young cricketer in action. He added that such is the curiosity around the youngster that ticket demand could surge significantly.

The former coach also mentioned that while Ireland may not pose a major challenge for the youngster, the real test will come in England, where conditions are known to be far more demanding. The swinging ball, unpredictable weather, and different playing surfaces will



test his technique and temperament. He expressed hope that the series will serve as a strong learning experience for the young batter.

Praising Suryavanshi's talent, Narasimha Rao compared his batting style to legendary West Indies cricketer Gary Sobers, noting his elegant stroke play and ability to execute a wide range of shots at a young

age. However, he also advised caution, urging the youngster to remain grounded, disciplined, and focused on fitness and consistency.

He emphasized that early success brings attention and pressure, and maintaining humility will be key to a long and successful career. The former coach added that adapting to different playing conditions

and continuing to work hard will determine how far the young player can go in international cricket.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi's rise has already created significant buzz in Indian cricket circles, and all eyes will now be on his potential debut against Ireland, which could mark the beginning of a promising international journey.

Chiranjeevi Expresses Pride in Ram Charan After Praise From PM Modi

Megastar Chiranjeevi shared an emotional message on social media after his son Ram Charan received high praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who referred to him as a New Age Megastar during a recent public program. The heartfelt reaction from Chiranjeevi quickly went viral, drawing attention from fans across the country.

The event, where Ram Charan was invited as a guest at a prestigious gathering organized by Republic TV, became a major highlight after the Prime Minister appreciated his contributions to Indian cinema. The recognition added to Ram Charan's growing national popularity following his recent successful film Peddhi, which has been receiving strong audience response.

Responding to the honour, Chiranjeevi expressed deep happiness and pride as a father. He shared that true joy for a parent comes not just from a child's success, but from the recognition they earn from society for their

hard work and achievements. His message reflected both emotional pride and gratitude for the appreciation shown towards his son on such a prestigious stage. In his social media post, Chiranjeevi also referenced a traditional Telugu poetic verse from Sumathi Satakam, highlighting the idea that a father feels fulfilled when his son is praised by the public for his greatness. This cultural reference added emotional depth to his message and resonated strongly with fans.

He further stated that Ram Charan's consistent dedication and hard work have helped him gain recognition beyond regional cinema, establishing a strong presence at the national level. Chiranjeevi expressed his happiness that Telugu cinema continues to gain wider appreciation through his son's achievements.

The megastar concluded his message by wishing Ram Charan continued success and hoping that he reaches greater heights in his career. He also expressed



pressed confidence that Ram Charan would continue to bring pride to Telugu cinema on a global stage.

The emotional post has been

widely shared on social media, with fans celebrating both the father's pride and the son's growing stature in the Indian film industry.

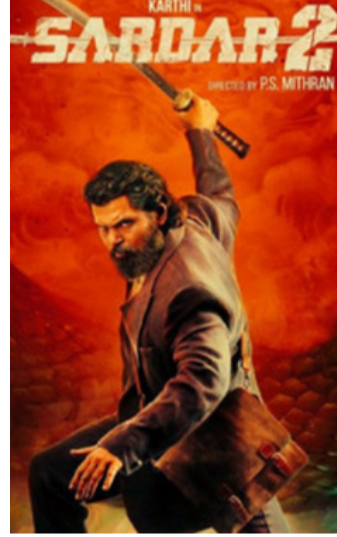
Karthi's 'Sardar 2' Locks September 10 Release

The much-anticipated sequel to the hit Tamil spy thriller Sardar 2 has finally received its official release date, bringing relief and excitement to fans who have been eagerly waiting for updates. The film, headlined by actor Karthi and directed by P. S. Mithran, is scheduled to hit theatres on September 10, marking one of the most awaited releases of the year in South Indian cinema.

The original Sardar earned strong appreciation for its gripping narrative, intelligent screenplay, and Karthi's powerful dual-role performance. Building on that success, the sequel has been designed to expand the franchise's universe with a bigger scale, deeper political intrigue, and more intense action sequences. According to early buzz, the makers have aimed to elevate every aspect of the film, from

storytelling to technical presentation, making it a pan-Indian entertainer.

Production of Sardar 2 was reportedly completed last year in June, but the team took additional time in post-production to refine visual effects and ensure a polished final output. This extended timeline had kept fans speculating about the release window, with social media frequently flooded by questions and theories about the sequel's progress. The announcement of the September 10 release has now officially ended that uncertainty. The film features Karthi reprising his role in a high-stakes espionage setting, where the storyline is expected to delve deeper into global conspiracies and internal threats. Joining him are Malavika Mohanan and Ashika Ranganath in key roles, adding both emotional depth and



strong character dynamics to the narrative. Their characters are said to play crucial parts in shaping the protagonist's journey and the unfolding mission.

One of the most talked-about aspects of Sardar 2 is the inclusion of S. J. Suryah as the antagonist. His character, reportedly named "Black Dagger," is expected to bring a menacing and unpredictable energy to the film. Known for his versatility and intense screen presence, Suryah's role is anticipated to be one of the highlights of the sequel.

With expectations running high, industry watchers believe Sardar 2 could replicate or even surpass the success of its predecessor if it delivers on both storytelling and execution. As the release date approaches, promotional activities are expected to ramp up, further increasing excitement among audiences.

For fans of action-packed espionage dramas, September 10 now marks a date to watch out for as Sardar 2 gears up for a grand theatrical release.

Samantha Box Office Power Proved Again Raj Nidimoru Says She Was Underrated

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has once again made a strong mark at the box office with her latest film "Maa Inti Bangaaram", which reportedly collected around 50 crore within five days of its release. The film's impressive performance has sparked fresh discussions in the industry about her star power and the growing acceptance of women-centric cinema.

Filmmaker and her husband Raj Nidimoru recently shared his thoughts on the film's journey and the early perceptions surrounding it. He revealed that before the release, the team had met an industry insider to understand the possible public reaction. However, the feedback they received was not very encouraging. The insider reportedly said that

there was very little buzz around the film and added that women-led films are often not expected to open strongly at the box office, as audiences tend to judge them only after release.

Raj Nidimoru said those comments initially sounded harsh, but the team decided to focus on the film's content and audience response rather than pre-release opinions. Once the film hit theatres, the strong opening collections and audience turnout surprised many and changed the narrative around its prospects.

He emphasized that Samantha's ability to bring audiences to theatres should not be underestimated. According to him, the opening numbers clearly show her strong fan base and her consistent pull as

a leading performer. He added that she has been choosing performance-driven roles, which continue to connect well with viewers and strengthen her position in the industry.

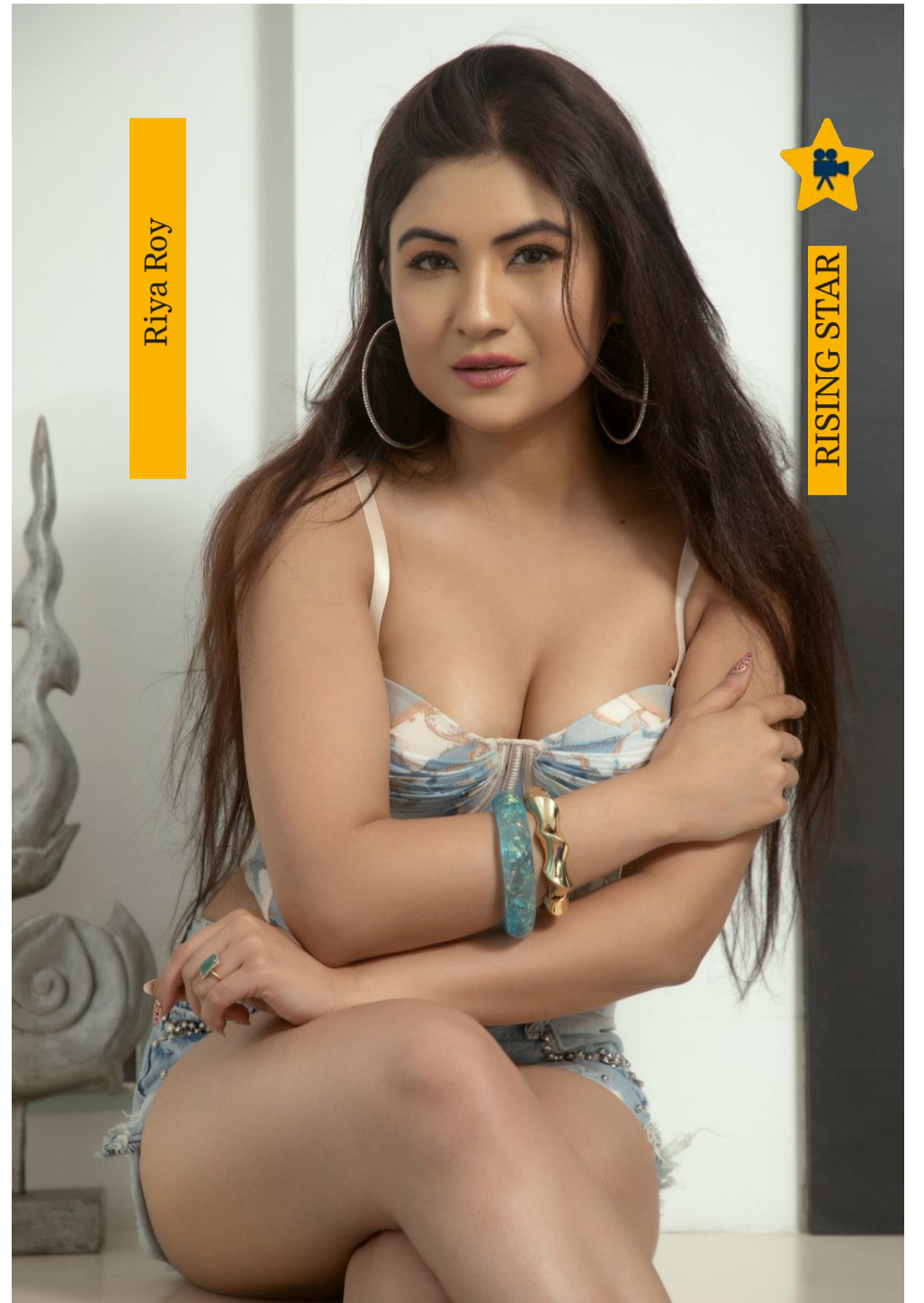
Samantha has been gradually shifting towards content-oriented cinema, focusing on characters with emotional depth and strong storytelling. This approach has helped her maintain relevance and earn appreciation from audiences who prefer meaningful and engaging films.

The success of "Maa Inti Bangaaram" is also being seen as part of a broader change in Indian cinema, where women-led films are slowly breaking old box office stereotypes. While challenges and biases still exist, audience response



is increasingly proving that strong content can succeed regardless of traditional expectations.

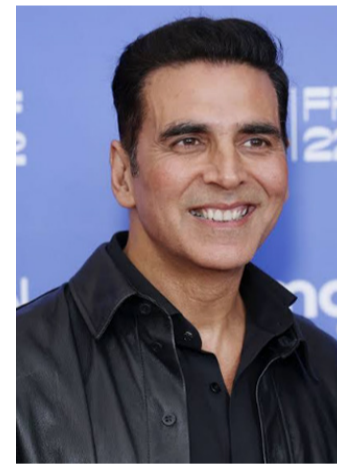
As the film continues its theatrical run, its overall performance will be closely watched. For now, its strong start has reinforced Samantha's image as a powerful box office draw and a respected performer in contemporary Indian cinema.



Riya Roy

RISING STAR

Akshay Kumar Says Multi Starrer Culture Is Declining



Akshay Kumar has shared his views on how the new generation of actresses in the film industry is evolving, highlighting both strengths and concerns about current trends. Speaking during the promotional interviews for his upcoming film Welcome to the Jungle, the veteran actor discussed differences he observes between earlier and present-day heroines in Bollywood.

According to Akshay Kumar, today's actresses enter the industry with a much higher level of preparation compared to the past. He noted that modern training facilities, acting

schools, workshops and early exposure to cinema have helped newcomers become more polished and professional even before they officially step into films. He appreciated this change and said that in terms of talent and dedication there is no major difference between generations.

However, he also pointed out what he considers a limitation in the current generation. He said that many new actresses are less willing to take creative risks. In his view, they tend to choose safer and more predictable roles instead of experimenting with challenging or unconventional characters. He suggested that taking more risks could help actors grow and bring fresh energy to cinema.

Akshay Kumar also spoke about another major shift in the industry, the decline of multi starrer films. He observed that earlier films often featured several major actors sharing the screen, which created strong entertainment value and wider audience appeal. He feels that this culture is slowly fading in today's industry.

He added that many actors today prefer not to share screen

space with others as individual stardom and personal branding have become more important. According to him, this mindset reduces opportunities for collaborative storytelling and limits the scope of large ensemble films.

The actor believes that bringing back multi starrer projects would benefit the industry as a whole. He explained that such films encourage teamwork among actors, provide diverse performances in a single story and create more engaging cinema for audiences. He also emphasized that collaboration helps the industry grow in a healthy direction.

His comments have sparked discussions among film enthusiasts and industry watchers about how Bollywood is changing with time. While some agree with his observations on collaboration and risk taking, others feel that the industry is simply adapting to modern audience expectations and market realities.

Overall, Akshay Kumar's views highlight the ongoing transition in Indian cinema where preparation and professionalism are rising, but traditional collaborative storytelling is becoming less common.

Gossip, A Hard Hitting Story of Words and Consequences

A new Telugu film titled "Gossip" is set to hit theatres on June 26, bringing a strong social message about how casual conversations and rumours can dramatically affect people's lives. The film's team believes it will make audiences reflect on the power of words and the responsibility that comes with speaking about others.

Directed by Vaibhav Kaundinya, the film features Rashi Singh in the lead role, supported by actors Ravi Varma, Mahesh Yadlapalli, Prithvi, and others in key characters. The project is produced by Yati Remella and is positioned as an emotional and thought-provoking drama.

Speaking during the film's trailer launch event in Hyderabad, director Vaibhav Kaundinya said the story is rooted in real-life inspired incidents from his personal experiences and those of his close friends. He emphasized that the film explores how a single piece of gossip can either uplift or completely destroy someone's reputation and life. According to him, the intention is to deliver a strong message about the need for responsibility in everyday communication. The director explained that words carry significant power and can shape relationships, reputations, and futures. He added that the film

highlights how people often underestimate the consequences of seemingly harmless conversations. Through its narrative, "Gossip" aims to encourage audiences to think before speaking about others.

Lead actress Rashi Singh also described the project as a very special film in her career. She said it portrays how a small misunderstanding or rumour can spiral into a life-altering situation for an individual. She expressed hope that audiences will connect with the emotional depth of the story and support it in theatres.

The trailer launch event was attended by several cast and

crew members, who shared their experiences working on the film. The team collectively expressed confidence that the movie will resonate with viewers due to its relatable theme and emotional storytelling. With its focus on social behavior and human relationships, "Gossip" positions itself as more than just entertainment. It aims to deliver a message-driven cinematic experience that encourages self-reflection. As the release date approaches, the film is generating interest among audiences who appreciate meaningful and issue-based storytelling.

