

BUZZ POINTS

Door-to-Door Voter Verification Drive Begins

PAGE 05

Students' Voices Shape Tomorrow's India: Rohit Mudiraj

PAGE 04

Temple Renovation Works to Begin on June 27

PAGE 04

HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE -89 | FRIDAY | JUN 26 | 2026 | PAGES 12 | PRICE . 5 | PUBLISHED FROM : VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD

CM Calls for Extra Commitment to Drive Development and Growth

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday urged government employees to contribute an extra hour of work each day to help accelerate development, enhance state revenues, and strengthen public welfare initiatives.

dependence to employees and their families during difficult times. Recalling the successful implementation of a similar insurance initiative for Singareni workers, the Chief Minister said he had initially been skeptical about providing insurance coverage worth ₹1 crore without premium payments.



and security, he added. The Chief Minister also responded to criticism from political opponents who refer to him as a "group leader" or "Gumpu Mestry."

working tirelessly to connect the government with the poor and marginalized sections of society. "This group is my strength and my prestige," he remarked.

had burdened the state with debts amounting to ₹8.11 lakh crore over a decade. He claimed that delayed salary payments had become common during that period, whereas the current administration has ensured salaries are credited on the

first day of every month and retirement benefits are being released in phases. The Chief Minister also accused the opposition of obstructing key development projects, including the Musi River rejuvenation initiative and Metro Rail expansion.

Revanth Reddy Calls for Lasting Solution to Tungabhadra Water Issues

Munirabad (Karnataka), June 25 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday described the ongoing efforts to renovate the 33 gates of the Tungabhadra project as a historic initiative that goes beyond infrastructure development and aims to resolve a long-standing problem affecting generations of farmers.



the Chief Minister noted that although 17.9 TMC of water has been allocated under the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), farmers are currently able to utilize only about 5 to 6 TMC. As a result, nearly 10 TMC of allocated water remains unutilized, adversely affecting agricultural productivity in the region.

Tungabhadra River and long-pending disputes related to water allocation. Discussions held during the meeting focused on finding a sustainable and permanent solution to these challenges. Describing the gathering as a significant step forward, Revanth Reddy said the deliberations conducted on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, beyond political considerations, could pave the way for a historic decision benefiting farmers across

state boundaries. "If given a choice between conflict and resolution, I will always choose resolution," he remarked, stressing the need for cooperation among all stakeholders. He added that past rulers of the Mysore region had also prioritized farmers' welfare by setting aside differences and working towards common solutions.

tively for the benefit of farmers. He expressed hope that the Union Jal Shakti Ministry would soon come forward with a comprehensive plan to address the water-sharing concerns permanently. Revanth Reddy concluded by stating that the Tungabhadra meeting marks the first step toward achieving a lasting solution to inter-state water disputes and ensuring water security for future generations of farmers.

CM Urges Employees to Drive Growth



Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called upon government employees to contribute an additional hour of work every day to help accelerate the state's development and enhance government revenues. He emphasized that increased revenues would enable the government to further strengthen employee welfare initiatives and improve public services.

The Chief Minister reiterated that his government is committed to addressing employee grievances and urged staff members to bring their concerns directly to his attention. He criticized the previous BRS government, alleging that it had left the state burdened with massive debt and financial challenges. In contrast, he said, the present administration has ensured timely salary payments and is releasing retirement benefits in phases despite financial constraints.

Bhatti Reviews Welfare Institutions, Orders Swift Reforms

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Reaffirming that welfare remains the cornerstone of the Telangana government's governance agenda, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Thursday directed officials to expedite improvements in welfare institutions, ensure timely bill payments, and strengthen educational support systems for students belonging to Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Minister. Ministers Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Ponnampaluri Prabhakar also attended the meeting. Bhatti Vikramarka instructed officials to explore the possibility of relocating students currently staying in rented private buildings to Young India Integrated Residential Schools wherever feasible. He ordered that repair works in schools, hostels, and residential institutions under welfare departments be completed within one month. The Deputy CM also directed the Finance Department to clear pending repair bills worth approximately ₹7.5 crore that have remained unpaid since 2023. Emphasizing student wel-

fare, he instructed department secretaries to regularly submit bills related to hostel rent, diet charges, and other maintenance expenses to ensure uninterrupted funding. He warned that negligence in submitting student-related bills would not be tolerated. The Deputy Chief Minister also stressed the need to strengthen study circles to improve success rates in UPSC, Group Services, and other competitive examinations. He directed officials to submit all pending welfare department bills, assuring that the Finance Department would release funds promptly. As part of infrastructure

development, Bhatti Vikramarka called for a monthly action plan for the construction of the Ambedkar Tower and Babu Jagjivan Ram student hostels. He set April 14, 2027, as the target date for inaugurating the multi-storied Ambedkar building. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Rajiv Yuva Vikas self-employment scheme and the proposed electric scooter initiative. Officials were instructed to submit detailed reports and annual fund requirements for better planning. Highlighting the government's welfare initiatives, the Deputy CM noted that diet

charges in welfare institutions had been increased by 40 percent and cosmetic charges by 200 percent since the present government assumed office. Officials informed the meeting that nearly 1,000 candidates had secured selections through study circles after the current government took charge, contributing significantly to the total 1,810 selections recorded since 2014. Senior officials, including Principal Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Women and Child Development Secretary Anita Ramachandran, and SC Development Secretary Vijayendra Boyi, participated in the review meeting.

Urea Booking App Gains Farmer Trust During Kharif Season: Tummala

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has stated that the Urea Booking App, introduced as part of the state government's agricultural reforms, is receiving an encouraging response from farmers during the ongoing Kharif (Vanakalam) season. He urged opposition parties to refrain from creating unnecessary apprehensions among farmers regarding the app, emphasizing that the initiative was designed to ensure transparency and equitable distribution of subsidized fertilizers.



According to the minister, the app witnessed widespread acceptance during the previous Rabi (Yasangi) season, when 21.81 lakh farmers purchased 97.95 lakh bags of urea through the digital platform. During the current Kharif season, 11.71 lakh farmers have already booked 38.62 lakh bags of urea, of which nearly 34 lakh bags have been distributed, accounting for about 88 percent of total bookings. The state currently has a stock of 85.84 lakh urea bags available for farmers.

year, farmers have already purchased more urea than they had by the same period in 2025.

The minister attributed the surge in purchases partly to concerns generated by opposition criticism, which prompted many farmers to buy and store fertilizer in advance. He stressed that the app was introduced to eliminate long-standing irregularities in fertilizer distribution, including repeated purchases, black marketing, diversion to industries, and transportation of subsidized urea to other states.

To ensure benefits reach genuine cultivators, the government has linked urea bookings to landowners and registered cultivators. Special provisions have also been introduced for tenant farmers, illiterate farmers, and others facing technological challenges. These include OTP-based verification, phone-assisted booking services, volunteer support, and registration through Mee Seva centres.

Tummala further highlighted that over 85 percent of

Telangana's farming community comprises small and marginal farmers. The government is therefore supplying their full fertilizer requirement in a single installment, while larger farmers receive allocations in phases based on availability.

He also cautioned against excessive use of urea, particularly in maize cultivation, where some farmers reportedly apply up to ten bags per acre. Such practices, he said, harm soil fertility, reduce crop quality, and pose long-term environmental and public health risks.

The minister revealed that the Central Government has appreciated Telangana's model and has begun piloting a similar fertilizer distribution system in selected districts across the country. He maintained that isolated technical issues reported in a few cooperative societies should not be portrayed as a failure of the entire system, which is functioning smoothly through nearly 12,000 fertilizer retail outlets across the state.

Historic Insurance Protection Announced for Government Workforce

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

In a major welfare initiative for government employees, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the state government has approved a comprehensive accident and life insurance scheme providing substantial financial security to lakhs of employees and their families.

Describing the programme as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Bhatti Vikramarka said the Cabinet, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has cleared the scheme as part of its commitment to employee welfare. He emphasized that the insurance coverage would be provided free of cost to employees through arrangements with banks, ensuring that neither the government nor employees bear any additional financial burden.

Under the scheme, employees will receive accident insurance coverage of ₹1.25 crore in the event of death due to a general accident. In cases involving air accidents, the compensation will range between ₹2 crore and ₹3 crore. In addition, employees aged between 18 and 60 years will be eligible for life insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the scheme also includes financial assistance in cases of permanent total disability or partial disability resulting from accidents. Significantly, the benefits will extend beyond regular government staff to include contract



employees, outsourcing personnel, and other temporary workers whose salaries are paid through government records.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the government's objective is to ensure that families are not left financially vulnerable in the event of an unforeseen tragedy affecting the primary breadwinner. He said the initiative reflects the government's determination to stand by employees and provide a strong safety net for their families.

Highlighting another employee-friendly measure, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that the government has restored timely salary payments, ensuring that employees receive their salaries on the first day of every month. He contrasted this with previous years when salary delays often created financial difficulties, including problems related to loan repayments and credit scores.

The government is also preparing to introduce a

comprehensive cashless healthcare system for employees through a dedicated trust. According to Bhatti Vikramarka, the initiative is intended to provide a permanent solution to issues surrounding employee health cards and ensure access to quality medical treatment without upfront expenses.

The Deputy Chief Minister praised government employees for serving as the backbone of welfare delivery mechanisms, helping implement schemes such as Rajiv Arogyasri, fee reimbursement programmes, subsidized food distribution, and the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes.

Expressing gratitude to banking institutions that partnered in implementing the insurance programme, Bhatti Vikramarka called for collective efforts by employees, banks, and the government to realize Telangana's long-term economic vision and contribute towards transforming the state into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

BC Gurukuls Get Major Boost with New Reforms

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A series of significant reforms aimed at strengthening Backward Classes (BC) residential educational institutions in Telangana were approved at the sixth Board of Governors meeting of the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (MJPT-BCWREIS), held at the Secretariat on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar. The Board discussed key issues relating to student welfare, educational quality, infrastructure development, and administrative efficiency. Among the major decisions taken was the renaming of the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana BC Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society to the Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGWCWMPREIS), bringing it in line with the naming pattern of other educational societies in the state. In a significant welfare measure,

the Board approved an ex gratia payment of ₹2 lakh to the families of students studying in BC Gurukul institutions in the event of a student's death. The Board also approved budget allocations for schools, junior colleges, degree colleges, and Regional Coordination Offices under the society.

To encourage academic excellence, the Board decided to provide laptops to students from BC Gurukuls who secure admissions in prestigious national institutions such as IITs, NITs, and IIITs. The initiative is expected to support students as they transition to higher education and advanced technical learning environments.

The meeting also approved a proposal reserving admissions in the MJP agricultural college exclusively for students from MJP Gurukul institutions. Officials said the decision would create greater opportunities for Gurukul students to pursue higher education in agricultural sciences. To strengthen academic supervision, the Board resolved to form a committee to frame rules for engaging retired principals as academ-



ic consultants. The proposal aims to utilize their experience and expertise to improve educational administration and monitoring. Infrastructure enhancement also received attention, with approval granted for the purchase of desktop computers for BC Gurukul schools and the installation of Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs) in junior colleges. Speaking after the meeting, Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar said the government remains committed to providing quality education and better opportunities for BC students. He emphasized

that the reforms are designed to improve academic standards, boost success in competitive examinations, and increase admissions into premier educational institutions.

BC Welfare Special Chief Secretary Balamayadevi, MJP BC Gurukuls Secretary Saidulu, board members, and senior officials attended the meeting. The minister expressed confidence that the newly approved measures would further strengthen the Gurukul education system and benefit students across the state.

Tummala Stresses Quality Healthcare in Government Hospitals

Khammam, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday directed health officials to ensure that government hospitals provide quality healthcare services that meet public expectations and satisfaction. During a surprise inspection of the Government General Hospital in Khammam, the minister reviewed medical facilities, ongoing infrastructure projects, and patient care standards.

As part of his visit, Tummala inspected the construction works of the Critical Care Unit being developed on the hospital premises. He also interacted directly with patients and their attendants to gather feedback on the services being provided and to understand their concerns firsthand.

Emphasizing that there is no room for negligence when it comes to patient care, the minister sought detailed information from hospital authorities regarding healthcare services, infrastructure, sanitation, and the availability of medicines. He reiterated

that improving healthcare services in government hospitals remains one of the top priorities of the state government.

The minister instructed officials to ensure that patients receive timely treatment without any inconvenience. He stressed the importance of compassionate healthcare and advised doctors and medical staff to maintain regular communication with patients, helping them feel confident and reassured during treatment.

Tummala also reviewed sanitation conditions within the hospital campus and directed authorities to strengthen cleanliness measures. He instructed officials to prevent water stagnation, maintain a litter-free environment, and ensure hygienic surroundings for patients and visitors. He noted that cleanliness plays a crucial role in preventing infections and improving the overall healthcare experience. During the inspection, the minister directed officials to expedite the construction of the Critical Care Unit so that advanced medical services

can be made available to patients at the earliest. He also reviewed the condition of internal roads within the hospital premises and instructed authorities to repair damaged stretches and eliminate potholes to facilitate smooth movement for patients, ambulances, and visitors.

To improve the hospital's environment, Tummala suggested planting colorful saplings and ornamental plants along the main approach road leading to the hospital. He said such initiatives would enhance the appearance of the campus and create a more pleasant atmosphere for patients and their families. The inspection was attended by public representatives Rayala Nageswara Rao and Puvvalla Durga Prasad, Government General Hospital Superintendent Dr. Narendar, and senior officials from the Health Department. The minister directed all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure better healthcare services and improved infrastructure for the benefit of the public.

Urban Indiramma Housing Projects to Take Shape by July

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has announced that the state government is moving ahead with an ambitious plan to construct multi-storey Indiramma housing complexes within urban limits, ensuring that beneficiaries can continue their livelihoods without displacement. Addressing a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday, the minister said the government's primary goal is to fulfill the dream of homeownership for poor families while allowing them to remain close to their work-

places, schools, and social networks. He noted that, under the vision of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the state is planning to build 10-storey Indiramma residential complexes in urban areas, treating each Assembly constituency as a unit. The minister emphasized that the housing programme is designed to provide dignified living conditions without disrupting the daily lives of beneficiaries. By constructing homes within or near their existing localities, the government aims to safeguard employment opportunities, children's education, and family stability. During the meeting, officials reviewed the

progress of urban Indiramma housing projects, the construction of permanent buildings for Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) and Tahsildar offices, and development works related to the Bhadrachalam temple.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the government has set a target of constructing one lakh houses in urban areas during the current year. As part of the first phase, 500 houses will be built in each constituency on a pilot basis. He directed officials to finalize all project locations by June 28 and noted that around 20 sites have already been identified across 26 constituencies under the programme.



Officials were instructed to expedite the identification of remaining sites and complete the preparation of plans, designs, and construction models by the end of the month. The minister also revealed that a detailed brochure containing guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application procedures for the Indiramma Housing Scheme will be released during the first week of July. Highlighting the government's commitment to women's empowerment, he stated that housing projects are being developed on valuable government land in prime urban locations. Beneficiary women will receive ownership rights

through an undivided share arrangement, with the respective property registration executed in their names. The minister further directed officials to accelerate the construction of permanent RDO and Tahsildar office buildings across the state under a uniform design model being implemented by the Housing Corporation. Housing Assistant Engineers have also been instructed to inspect existing office buildings and submit proposals for necessary repairs. Revenue Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Housing Department Secretary V.P. Gautham, and senior officials attended the review meeting.



Congress Launches 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' Campaign for Students and Youth

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Friday launched its nationwide student outreach campaign, "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Voice of Students), at a press meet held at the Press Club in Somajiguda. The initiative aims to highlight issues faced by students and unemployed youth while seeking reforms in the education and employment sectors. The program was attended by Vikrant Bhuria as the chief guest. Also present were Mahesh Kumar Goud, Balmoor Venkat, NEET aspirants, students, and Congress leaders. During the event, campaign posters and pamphlets were unveiled, and details of the



nationwide movement were announced. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vikrant Bhuria alleged that the policies of the BJP-led Central Government had adversely affected the future prospects of students and youth. He claimed that recurring incidents such as examination paper leaks and issues related to employment opportunities had created uncertainty among young people across the country. He said that Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has initiated a nationwide

campaign to directly engage with students and unemployed youth, understand their concerns, and amplify their voices. As part of this effort, protest programs under the banner of "Chhatron Ki Goonj" will be organized in major cities across India. Calling upon students to actively participate, Bhuria said their aspirations and concerns are crucial to shaping the nation's future. He expressed confidence that the campaign would serve as a catalyst for educational reforms and improved opportunities for youth. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Balmoor Venkat described "Chhatron Ki Goonj" as a national movement rather than a political campaign. He

said the Congress believes that India can emerge as a global leader only when students and young people are provided quality education, employment opportunities, and equal access to growth. According to the campaign schedule, ground-level mobilization activities, including pamphlet distribution, student outreach, and corner meetings, will begin on June 30 in 28 cities. Throughout July, student engagement programs and Ambedkar Samvaad initiatives will be conducted. The campaign will culminate with simultaneous Collectorate Gheraos on August 1 and a Parliament march in Delhi on August 9, aimed at demanding reforms in education and employment policies.

Passport Fees Revised

replacement 36-page passport, applicants will now be charged 5,000, while the Tatkaal fee has been fixed at 7,500. Similarly, the fee for a replacement 60-page passport has been increased to 6,000, with Tatkaal applicants required to pay 8,500. Minors are also affected by the revised rates. A new 36-page passport for applicants below 18 years of age will now cost 1,750, while the Tatkaal fee has been fixed at 4,250. In cases where a minor loses a passport, the replacement fee will be 4,250, increasing to 6,750 under the Tatkaal category. Officials noted that passport issuance under the normal application process generally takes up to 45 days, while the Tatkaal scheme offers significantly faster processing and delivery. The revised fee structure is expected to increase the cost burden on applicants, particularly those seeking urgent passport services, while helping the government meet rising administrative and operational expenses associated with passport issuance.

BRS Alleges Irregularities in Anganwadi Recruitment, Demands Revision of GO



Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday criticized the Telangana government's recruitment process for Anganwadi teachers and helpers, alleging that the newly issued guidelines could lead to favoritism and corruption in appointments. The allegations were made during a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad. Addressing the media, former minister Satyavathi Rathod accused the Congress government of failing to fulfill its promises to Anganwadi workers and job aspirants. She claimed that while the government had promised to create two lakh jobs annually, the recruitment process for Anganwadi posts was being structured in a manner that could compromise transparency. Rathod alleged that the new government order governing Anganwadi recruitment gives excessive discretionary powers to district authorities. She expressed concern over provisions that allow District Collectors to award additional marks during the selection process, arguing that such a system could open the door to political influence from MLAs, ministers, and other ruling party leaders. The former minister demanded a review and revision of the new recruitment guidelines and questioned how the government intended to ensure local representation in appointments. She also referred to previous recruitment procedures implemented during the BRS administration, claiming they were conducted transparently and without political interference. Rathod further stated that the previous government had upgraded Mini

Anganwadi centres and provided improved benefits to workers, including pay revisions. She alleged that despite announcements made by the present government regarding upgraded centres, several issues concerning salaries and implementation remained unresolved. Speaking on tribal welfare issues, she accused the Congress government of failing to safeguard the interests of the Lambada community and criticized its handling of reservation-related matters. She also alleged that attempts were being made to create divisions between Lambadas and Adivasis for political purposes. Former MP Maloth Kavitha echoed similar concerns, stating that Anganwadi workers play a vital role in implementing government welfare programmes at the grassroots level. She alleged that the current administration had introduced policies that could undermine transparency in recruitment and demanded that the existing government order be withdrawn. Former Zilla Parishad Chairperson Tula Uma also criticized the recruitment process, claiming that the proposed selection mechanism could result in political favoritism and reduce opportunities for deserving candidates. The BRS leaders urged the government to cancel the present recruitment guidelines and restore what they described as a merit-based selection process. They asserted that the party would continue to support Anganwadi workers and monitor developments related to the recruitment drive. Former TGPSC member Sumithranand, along with BRS leaders Moola Vijaya Reddy and Hari Rama Devi, was also present at the press conference.

Kishan Reddy Urges Public Not to Politicize SIR Process

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Union Coal and Mines Minister and Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy has appealed to political parties and the public not to politicize the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that it is a constitutional and statutory process aimed at ensuring a transparent and accurate voter list. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office on Friday, Kishan Reddy said the SIR exercise is being conducted across the country in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India. He emphasized that the process should not be viewed



through a political lens, as its primary objective is to safeguard the voting rights of eligible citizens while identifying and removing fake, duplicate, or illegal entries from electoral rolls. The Union Minister explained that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are carrying out the revision

process through door-to-door verification under the supervision of election authorities. He noted that the exercise is a routine democratic procedure designed to strengthen the electoral system and improve the accuracy of voter records. Kishan Reddy criticized certain political parties for allegedly spreading misinformation about the SIR process for political purposes. He expressed concern that misleading narratives were creating unnecessary confusion among both the public and officials involved in the exercise. Stating that electoral roll revisions have been conducted periodically across the country for many years, he pointed out that similar exercises were carried out during previous Congress governments as well. Questioning the reasons behind the current opposition to the process, he said there was no justification for portraying a constitutional exercise as a political issue. The BJP leader maintained

that a clean and error-free electoral roll is essential for the healthy functioning of democracy. He stressed that ensuring only eligible voters are included in the rolls helps strengthen public confidence in the electoral system. Calling for public participation, Kishan Reddy urged citizens to cooperate with Booth Level Officers during the verification process and provide accurate information whenever required. He said active cooperation from voters would help the Election Commission prepare a transparent and reliable electoral roll, thereby further strengthening democratic institutions and electoral integrity.

Seethakka Takes Praja Darbar to Villages

Mulugu, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Thursday said the state government is committed to taking governance closer to the people through Praja Darbar programmes, enabling the resolution of public grievances at the grassroots level. Participating in a Praja Darbar held at the Zilla Parishad High School in Rajupet village of Mangapet mandal, the minister, accompanied by District Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadeorao, received petitions from residents representing several villages in the mandal. People from Akkinapalli Mallaram, Brahmanapalli, Rajupet, Kathrigudem,

Nimmagudem, Domeda, Ramachandrapuram, Vadegudem, Ramanakkapet, Chunchupalli, and Vagudugudem gram panchayats submitted applications seeking solutions to civic issues, welfare concerns, and developmental needs. Addressing the gathering, Seethakka said the government is giving top priority to strengthening women's self-help groups and enhancing their economic independence. She noted that more than ₹61,000 crore has been extended as interest-free loans to women's groups across the state. The minister added that the loan ceiling for self-help groups has been increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, enabling women to undertake larger income-



generating activities and improve their livelihoods. She highlighted the crucial role played by self-help groups in strengthening the rural economy and said they are being given priority in managing dairy collection and procurement centres. Explaining the objective of the Praja Darbar initiative,

Seethakka said the programme was designed to ensure that villagers need not travel long distances to district headquarters for grievance redressal. Instead, government services and problem-solving mechanisms are being taken directly to villages. "Every petition received through the Praja Darbar programme will be examined carefully. A dedicated mechanism has been established to assess the feasibility of each request and resolve issues within a stipulated time frame," she said. The minister also spoke about the Indiramma Housing Scheme, stating that transparency is being maintained in the allotment process. She assured that homeless and economically

weaker families are being given priority and that eligible beneficiaries will receive housing assistance without discrimination. District Collector Hemant Sahadeorao said a special application format has been introduced to facilitate grievance submission. He added that petitions would be processed department-wise, monitored until disposal, and applicants would be informed if their requests could not be accommodated. Earlier, the minister and the collector laid the foundation stone for a new Mandal Parishad Office building at Mangapet, to be constructed at a cost of ₹1.5 crore. They also inaugurated a newly constructed science laboratory building at the Rajupet Zilla Parishad High School.

Bonalu Celebrations to Be Held on a Grand Scale

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar has directed officials from all departments to work in close coordination to ensure that this year's Bonalu celebrations are conducted on a grand scale across Telangana. He announced that the State Government has allocated ₹20 crore for the festival, which is regarded as a symbol of Telangana's rich culture, traditions, faith, and spiritual heritage. Chairing a high-level review meeting

with officials from various departments at the Dasarathi Auditorium in the Dr. MCR HRD Institute, the Minister reviewed arrangements for the Bonalu festivities scheduled to be held from July 16 to August 13 under the aegis of the Endowments Department in Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts. Addressing the officials, Ponnampati Prabhakar stated that Bonalu is not merely a religious event but a cultural identity that reflects the spirit of Telangana. With lakhs of devotees expected to

visit temples during the Ashada month, he instructed authorities to ensure smooth darshan facilities for every devotee. The Minister noted that the administration has extensive experience in managing large-scale events such as Bonalu, Ganesh festivities, Ramzan, and Moharram, and called for the same level of planning and coordination this year. As Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, ministers, elected representatives, senior officials, and large numbers of devotees are expected to participate, all depart-

ments were asked to discharge their responsibilities effectively. Highlighting the government's support to temples, he said financial assistance has steadily increased over the years, reaching a record level in 2025. Officials were instructed to ensure transparency in identifying eligible temples and distributing assistance based on requirements and devotee turnout. The Minister stressed the need for comprehensive arrangements, including uninterrupted power supply,

decorative illuminations, floral arrangements, drinking water, prasadam distribution, sanitation, queue management, CCTV surveillance, medical camps, emergency services, and fire safety measures. He also directed TGSRTC to operate special bus services for devotees, particularly women availing free travel. Special focus was placed on crowd management and security at major temples, including Golconda, Balkampet, Ujjaini Mahakali, Sabzi Mandi, and Akkanna-Madanna temples.

BJP Urges Public Support for Electoral Roll Revision Process

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao on Thursday appealed to citizens to actively cooperate with election officials during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, asserting that the exercise is a constitutional process aimed at ensuring transparency and accuracy in voter lists. Speaking to the media after inspecting the distribution of enumeration forms in Hyderabad, Ramchander Rao said the SIR programme had officially commenced across Telangana and was being

implemented on a large scale from the very first day. He noted that Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Revenue officials, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and political party representatives were working together to ensure a comprehensive verification of voters. The BJP leader clarified that the SIR is not a Central Government initiative but a process undertaken independently by the Election Commission as part of its constitutional responsibilities. According to him, the exercise is intended to main-

tain a clean and reliable electoral roll by identifying duplicate entries, fake registrations, and names of deceased voters. Ramchander Rao said similar voter roll revision exercises had been conducted multiple times in the country without attracting significant controversy. He accused the Congress and BRS parties of spreading misinformation and creating unnecessary apprehensions among voters by alleging that genuine names would be removed from the electoral rolls. He claimed that while opposition parties were publicly

criticizing the process, the seriousness with which the state government itself was participating in the exercise reflected its importance. He said a transparent electoral roll is essential for the functioning of a healthy democracy and that only genuine voters should remain on the rolls. Explaining the procedure, the BJP chief stated that officials appointed by the state government would visit households, collect family details, verify residents, and register eligible voters only after proper scrutiny. He emphasized that the exercise is not directed against any



particular religion, caste, community, or region. Ramchander Rao reiterated that Indian citizens residing in Telangana, including those who have migrated from other states, are fully

entitled to vote, provided they are registered in only one location. Registering in multiple constituencies, he noted, is a violation of election laws. The BJP leader urged party

workers, Booth Level Agents, and the general public to extend full cooperation to election officials and assist in maintaining accurate voter records. He also appealed to citizens to report any suspicious or fraudulent registrations to the Election Commission for verification. Concluding his remarks, Ramchander Rao maintained that the SIR process is a transparent and constitutionally mandated exercise designed to strengthen democratic institutions and ensure the integrity of the electoral system in Telangana.

Temple Renovation Works to Begin on June 27

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has announced that the long-awaited development and renovation works at the revered Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam will officially commence on June 27.

The minister made the announcement during a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday with officials from the Endowments Department and the temple administration. The meeting focused on the execution of the temple development project and the timelines for its completion. Describing Bhadrachalam as "Dakshina Ayodhya" or South Ayodhya, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy emphasized that all development works must strictly adhere to Agama Shastra principles



and preserve the temple's religious traditions and spiritual significance. He instructed officials to ensure that every aspect of the renovation respects the sentiments of devotees while enhancing facilities for pilgrims. The minister directed

authorities to prioritize stone-based structures and traditional architectural designs that reflect the temple's historic and cultural heritage. He stressed that modernization should not compromise the sanctity, grandeur, or aesthetic character of the centuries-old shrine.

According to the minister, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy envisions transforming the temple into a model spiritual destination capable of serving devotees for the next two centuries. Keeping this vision in mind, the government has decided to launch the renovation works formally on June 27 and execute them under a comprehensive development plan. Ponguleti stated that the state government has sanctioned ₹351 crore for the temple renovation and infrastructure enhancement project. The funds will be utilized to improve facilities, strengthen temple infrastructure, and undertake conservation measures while preserving the site's religious and cultural identity. The minister instructed officials to prepare a detailed action plan and divide the project into multiple components to facilitate simultaneous execution of works. He stressed that all departments involved should coordinate closely and complete the project within the timeline fixed by the government. Emphasizing the importance of timely completion, Ponguleti directed officials to carry out the works on a war footing so that major components of the renovation are ready before the next Sri Rama Navami celebrations, one of the most significant annual events at the temple. Senior officials from the Endowments Department and temple administration attended the review meeting and discussed strategies for expediting the project while ensuring compliance with traditional temple norms and architectural standards. The government expects the renovation initiative to further strengthen Bhadrachalam's status as one of the most prominent pilgrimage destinations in the country.

BJP Marks 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', Recalls Emergency Era

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday observed "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas" (Day of the Murder of the Constitution) at its state office, marking 51 years since the imposition of the Emergency in 1975. The event, organized as an "Anti-Emergency Day" meeting, was held with a pledge to uphold democratic values and constitutional principles.

Addressing the gathering, Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao described the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history. He alleged that the Emergency was declared to preserve political power following adverse court rulings and resulted in the suspension of civil liberties and democratic freedoms.

Ramchander Rao claimed that lakhs of political leaders, activists, and democracy supporters were imprisoned during the period, while press freedom was severely curtailed through censorship. He also referred to controversial measures implemented during the Emergency, including arrests under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) and other actions that drew widespread criticism. The BJP leader accused the Congress party of undermin-



ing constitutional values and argued that the party has yet to apologize for the events of the Emergency period. He also criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his references to the Constitution in contemporary political discourse.

Former Governors Ch. Vidyasagar Rao and Bandaru Dattatreya attended the programme as chief guests. Several BJP leaders, including MLC Malka Komuriah, former minister Peddireddy, former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, and senior party functionaries, also participated. Ramchander Rao urged the younger generation to learn about the Emergency era and remember the sacrifices made by leaders who opposed it. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to protecting constitutional rights, democratic institutions, and civil liberties while calling for greater public awareness of the historical events surrounding the Emergency.

Awareness Drive Launched for Voter Roll Revision

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A large-scale voter awareness campaign was launched in Hyderabad on Thursday as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls commenced across Telangana. State Minister for Hyderabad In-charge Affairs, Ponnampati Prabhakar, participated in an outreach programme at Venkateswara Colony on Road No. 7 in Banjara Hills under the Khairatabad Assembly constituency, urging citizens to actively participate in the voter verification and correction process.

The minister, accompanied by Booth Level Agents (BLAs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs), elected representatives, and local leaders, interacted with residents and explained the importance of updating voter

details to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the electoral rolls.

Addressing the gathering, Ponnampati Prabhakar said the Election Commission had officially begun the Special Intensive Revision process in Telangana from June 25. As part of the exercise, BLOs have started distributing enumeration forms door-to-door. Citizens were advised to carefully fill out and submit these forms so that their names remain on the voter list and any necessary corrections can be incorporated.

The minister stressed that voter awareness is essential and warned that negligence during the revision process could result in eligible voters losing their voting rights. He called upon residents to cooperate fully with election officials and complete the



verification process within the stipulated timeline. Highlighting the Congress party's efforts, he said BLAs had been appointed at nearly 35,000 polling stations across Telangana to work closely with BLOs and assist voters throughout the revision exercise. Their primary responsibility, he noted, is to ensure that every eligible voter is included in the electoral rolls and that no genuine vote is lost. Ponnampati Prabhakar also pointed out that similar voter revision exercises in some states had reportedly led to large-scale deletions of voter names, creating concern among political parties

and citizens. He emphasized that Telangana must avoid such a situation and ensure transparency and accuracy throughout the process.

The minister said the voter revision exercise would continue until July 24, after which a draft electoral roll would be published on July 31. He urged party workers and election volunteers at every level to compare the 2002 and 2025 voter lists wherever necessary and identify any discrepancies. Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Danam Nagender, senior officials, and other prominent leaders participated in the programme.

Officials reiterated that the objective of the exercise is to safeguard every eligible vote and strengthen the democratic process across Telangana.

MP Chamala Calls for Vigilance in Voter Revision Exercise

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir Lok Sabha MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has called upon Congress leaders and workers to remain vigilant during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, stressing that the month-long exercise should be taken seriously to ensure that eligible voters are not left out of the electoral process.

Addressing party representatives, the MP said the SIR process is currently being conducted in more than 36,000 polling booths across Telangana. He noted that the Congress party has already appointed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for all polling stations and instructed them to closely monitor the voter verification process.

Kiran Kumar Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed MLAs and constituency in-charges to actively oversee the exercise. He emphasized the need for Congress workers to coordinate with BLAs and ensure that eligible voters complete the verification process.

The MP claimed that large numbers of voter names had reportedly been removed during similar exercises in other states and cautioned party workers to remain alert. He pointed out that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are expected to visit households up to three times during the revision period and urged voters to cooper-



ate with them.

According to him, party workers should carefully verify voter details using the 2002 voter list, the 2025 electoral roll, and the list of unmapped voters to identify any discrepancies. He also advised individuals registered as voters in more than one location to rectify their records in accordance with election rules.

Kiran Kumar Reddy announced that the party is appointing supervisors for every ten polling booths and at the Assembly constituency level to monitor the process effectively. He urged Congress leaders to maintain constant communication with BLAs and ensure that the voter revision exercise is conducted thoroughly.

Stressing the importance of the electoral roll revision, the MP said safeguarding every eligible vote is essential for strengthening democratic participation and ensuring fair representation in future elections.

Police Use Sports to Spread Anti-Drug Message

Kutbullapur, June 25 | TPN Bureau

In a unique initiative to promote a drug-free society, the Jeedimetla Police organized a volleyball tournament on Thursday as part of the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Conducted under the theme "Yes to Sports... No to Drugs," the event combined sportsmanship with social awareness, encouraging youth to stay away from substance abuse. The tournament, held at the Jeedimetla Police Station premises, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 42 teams and around 260 players. Competitions were conducted in three categories—girls, boys, and citizens—with 10 girls' teams, 16 boys' teams, and 16 citizen teams taking part. Students



from government and private schools, along with local youth and residents, showcased their sporting talent and competitive spirit throughout the day. The event was organized with the support of school managements, headmasters, and Physical Education Teachers (PETs), whose efforts contributed significantly

to its success. Addressing the gathering, N. Koti Reddy, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Kutbullapur Zone, said that sports play a crucial role in shaping disciplined and responsible citizens. He noted that active participation in sports helps young people develop healthy habits and reduces

the risk of falling into drug abuse. He later presented trophies and prizes to the winners and runners-up. Assistant Commissioner of Police Bala Gangi Reddy stressed the importance of creating awareness among youth, pointing out that drug abuse has become a growing concern. He said sports cultivate discipline, perseverance,

teamwork, and self-confidence.

Jeedimetla Station House Officer Gaddam Mallesh stated that the police are committed not only to maintaining law and order but also to guiding society in a positive direction. He explained that the primary objective of the tournament was to educate young people about the dangers of drugs and inspire them to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The event concluded with all participating athletes taking an anti-drug pledge, reaffirming their commitment to staying away from narcotics. The initiative received appreciation from local residents, who lauded the police for using sports as a powerful tool to promote social responsibility and awareness among the youth.

Students' Voices Shape Tomorrow's India: Rohit Mudiraj

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Voice of Students) programme, organized by the Khairatabad District Congress Committee in Narayanaguda, provided a platform for students to share their ideas and perspectives on issues affecting the future of the country.

Addressing the gathering, Khairatabad District Congress Committee President Motha Rohit Mudiraj said that the thoughts and aspirations of today's students would play a crucial role in shaping the India of tomorrow. He emphasized the importance of encouraging youth participation in discussions related to education, employment, technology, and social development.

The event was attended by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President Mahesh Kumar Goud as the chief guest. Students actively participated in discussions



and presented suggestions on quality education, employment opportunities, transparency in examinations, and youth development. Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Mudiraj stated that the Congress party considers it its responsibility to create platforms where young people can freely express their views and contribute to public discourse. He expressed confidence that such initia-

tives would help nurture leadership skills, critical thinking, and a sense of responsibility among students. Several senior Congress leaders, party workers, and a large number of students attended the programme. The event concluded with a call to encourage greater youth engagement in shaping policies and strengthening the nation's future.

Hyderabad to Host Global SREDay Conference for the First Time

Hyderabad, June 24 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad is set to host the globally acclaimed Global SREDay Conference for the first time on June 27, bringing together technology professionals, researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders from across India and abroad. The event, organized by the SREHyderabad LinkedIn Community, is regarded as one of the leading gatherings focused on Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) and related emerging technologies. The conference has already generated significant interest, with more than 1,200 registrations received. Organizers expect around 500 participants to attend the event in person,

reflecting the growing enthusiasm for domains such as Site Reliability Engineering, Cloud Engineering, Observability, Artificial Intelligence, and Platform Engineering. Technology experts from major innovation hubs, including Pune, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Delhi, are expected to participate. Adding to the event's international profile, one of the co-founders of SREDay is scheduled to travel from London to attend the conference. More than 20 speakers and industry leaders will deliver presentations and share insights on current trends, technological advancements, and best practices. The conference will feature two dedicated technical

tracks covering a wide range of subjects, including SRE, AI, DevOps, automation, cloud infrastructure, monitoring, observability, and platform engineering. These sessions aim to provide participants with practical knowledge and exposure to the latest developments shaping the technology landscape. A key highlight of the event will be a leadership panel discussion featuring senior technology executives. Discussions will focus on future workforce skills, the transformative impact of artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure resilience, and the growing role of technology in business growth and innovation. Organizers noted that Global

SREDay is among the few large-scale technology conferences offered entirely free of cost, making advanced technical knowledge accessible to students and professionals alike. The event is being supported by leading technology organizations and communities, including Grafana Labs, NIIT StackRoute, CNCF Hyderabad, HydPy, Global AI Community, Grafana and Friends, Consistency AI, and RKIT Labs. Industry observers believe the conference will further enhance Hyderabad's standing as a major global technology hub by fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among technology enthusiasts and professionals.

Door-to-Door Voter Verification Drive Begins

Kutbullapur, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls commenced in Dundigal-Gandimaisamma Mandal on Thursday, marking the beginning of a month-long exercise aimed at ensuring that every eligible citizen is included in the voters' list.

As part of the programme, Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) Rajeshwar Reddy distributed survey and enumeration materials to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) at the Mandal Revenue Office and directed them to carry out the revision process efficiently.

Addressing the gathering, Rajeshwar Reddy said BLOs would conduct door-to-door



visits from June 25 to July 24 and distribute pre-printed enumeration forms in duplicate to voters. He explained that officials would assist residents in completing the forms and provide necessary guidance to ensure accurate voter registration and verification. The MRO stated that after collecting the completed forms, one copy would be retained for official records,

while the second copy would be returned to the voter with an acknowledgment receipt. He urged all eligible citizens to cooperate with election officials during the verification process. Special emphasis was placed on encouraging youth who have recently turned 18 to register themselves as first-time voters and participate in the democratic process.

Rajeshwar Reddy described voter registration as both a right and a responsibility, calling on residents to extend full support to BLOs to make the revision programme successful. He noted that the exercise is being undertaken by the Election Commission of India to ensure a clean, accurate, and updated electoral roll.

Revenue Inspectors Rajinikanth and Ravikumar, GPOs Prakash, Sandeep, Bhaskar, and Viresh, Computer Operator Srinivas, along with other officials and staff of Dundigal Mandal, participated in the programme. The voter verification drive is expected to continue across all villages and urban localities in the mandal over the coming weeks.

Man Arrested Over Alleged Links to Pakistan-Based Operatives

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A 22-year-old man, Zaid Khan, has been arrested by Medchal police following allegations that he was in regular contact with individuals suspected of having links to Pakistan-based intelligence operatives.

According to investigators, Zaid Khan, a native of Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, arrived in Hyderabad in February this year in search of employment and later began working as a server at a restaurant in the Medchal area. During his free time, he was reportedly active on social media platforms, particularly Instagram, where he regularly created and shared video content.

Police said their investigation revealed that some of his videos, including those featuring toy guns, attracted significant attention online.

Authorities allege that individuals identified as Habib and Rana Hussain established contact with him through social media interactions before moving conversations to private channels. Investigators suspect that these contacts were acting on behalf of a Pakistan-based network.

Officials stated that the communication gradually intensified, with promises allegedly being made to provide real weapons. Preliminary questioning reportedly indicated that Zaid Khan had maintained contact with the individuals over several months. The case came to light after central security agencies reportedly monitored suspicious online activity and alerted local police. Following his detention, officers searched his accommodation and seized two replica firearms and a mobile phone.

According to police, an examination of the device uncovered WhatsApp chats, voice calls, and screenshots allegedly linked to individuals connected to a Pakistan-based network. The phone has been sent for forensic analysis to gather additional evidence and determine the nature and extent of the communications.

A local court remanded Zaid Khan to 14 days of judicial custody, after which he was shifted to Cherlapally Jail. Investigators are continuing to examine whether the accused had links to any other extremist or terrorist organizations and whether additional individuals may be involved.

Officials emphasized that the investigation remains ongoing and that further details will emerge based on forensic findings and subsequent inquiries.

CI Urges Students to Stay Away from Drugs

Kutbullapur, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Suraram Circle Inspector Sudheer Krishna has called upon students to remain vigilant against the growing threat of drug abuse, warning that the drug culture is increasingly targeting young people and posing a serious challenge to society.

Speaking as the chief guest at a drug awareness seminar organized at Krushi High School in Suraram Colony on Thursday, the CI emphasized the importance of making responsible choices during student life. He noted that many youngsters are being lured into harmful addictions at an early age and cautioned that decisions made for temporary pleasure can have lifelong consequences. "Today's students are tomorrow's citizens. The future of the nation rests in the hands



of the youth," he said, urging students to stay completely away from narcotic substances and avoid suspicious groups that promote drug use. He stressed that discipline, punctuality, and good habits are essential for building a successful future and earning respect from family and society. Sudheer Krishna also appealed to parents to

closely monitor their children's behavior and encouraged teachers to play an active role in instilling moral values and social responsibility among students. Addressing the gathering, Shyam Prasad said the institution regularly conducts awareness programmes to help students make informed decisions. He emphasized that

education should be accompanied by values, responsibility, and social awareness. The seminar was attended by M. Raju, teachers, parents, and a large number of students. The programme concluded with participants taking a pledge to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthier and safer society.

Fire Breaks Out, Promptly Controlled

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

A fire broke out on Thursday in the Surya Kiran Building located in Secunderabad, triggering panic among residents and office-goers in the area. The incident occurred on the first floor of the building, situated adjacent to the well-known Swapnalok Complex.

According to officials, thick smoke and flames were seen emanating from the building, causing concern among people in the vicinity. Upon receiving information about the incident, fire department personnel rushed to the spot and launched firefighting

operations. The blaze was brought under control before it could spread to other sections of the building. The fire led to heavy smoke accumulation on several floors, prompting emergency evacuation measures. Fire and rescue teams safely evacuated occupants from the premises and ensured that no one remained trapped inside. No casualties or major injuries were reported at the time of filing this report. Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire may have been caused by a short circuit. However, officials stated that the exact cause would be confirmed only

after a detailed inquiry. The incident has once again brought attention to fire safety preparedness in commercial buildings in the area. The latest fire comes in the backdrop of a major blaze that had occurred at the nearby Swapnalok Complex in the past, raising concerns about adherence to safety standards and emergency response mechanisms. Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident and are examining whether all required fire safety measures were in place. Further details are expected after the completion of the official inquiry.

Food Safety Officials Find Violations at Restaurant

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Food Safety Department officials conducted a surprise inspection at The Food Planet restaurant in the Chandanagar-Lingampally area under Cyberabad limits and identified multiple food safety and hygiene violations. During the inspection, the restaurant secured only 51 marks out of 100 in the food safety assessment. Officials stated that an improvement notice would be issued to the management, directing it to rectify the shortcomings within the stipulated timeframe. Inspecting teams found several hygiene-related deficiencies across the premises. Grease accumulation was observed on exhaust systems, ceilings, and pipelines, indicating inadequate maintenance and cleaning practices. Officials also seized spoiled mutton found on the premises and destroyed it immediately to prevent any potential risk to consumers. Additionally, curd stored without proper labeling was confiscated. Food safety authorities emphasized that proper labeling and storage practices are mandatory to ensure traceability and consumer safety. The inspection also revealed the absence of key records, including medical fitness certificates for food

handlers and documentation related to pest control measures and water quality testing. Officials noted that such records are essential for maintaining food safety standards and regulatory compliance. Further irregularities were found in the maintenance of refrigerators used for storing non-vegetarian food items. Inspectors observed lapses in temperature control and storage management, which could compromise food quality and safety. Food handlers were also found violating basic hygiene protocols. Several workers were not wearing proper aprons, while some were seen handling food with untrimmed nails, raising concerns about contamination risks. Officials directed the restaurant management to immediately improve sanitation, strengthen food handling practices, maintain proper records, and strictly follow labeling requirements. They warned that failure to comply with food safety norms could attract further regulatory action. The Food Safety Department has intensified inspections across Hyderabad to ensure restaurants and food establishments adhere to prescribed hygiene and food safety standards, safeguarding public health and consumer interests.

ED Intensifies Probe Into Bhoodan Land Case

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

The controversial Bhoodan land issue in Telangana has taken a fresh turn with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoning senior IAS officer and former Ranga Reddy District Collector Amoy Kumar for further questioning in connection with alleged irregularities involving valuable land transfers in the Maheshwaram region. According to sources, the ED has already conducted multiple rounds of questioning and recorded statements from the officer as part of its ongoing money-laundering investigation. Following the latest summons, Amoy Kumar appeared before officials at the agency's regional office in Hyderabad on Wednesday for further examination. The investigation stems from a case registered at the Maheshwaram police station and focuses on allegations surrounding the transfer of nearly 42 acres of Bhoodan land. Authorities are examining whether established procedures were bypassed during the transfer of land that was originally earmarked for social welfare purposes. The probe is also looking into allegations that the land was subsequently transferred to private individuals. A key aspect of the investigation relates to sus-

pected financial transactions linked to the land deals. The ED is reportedly scrutinizing whether any illegal financial gains were generated through the transactions and whether public officials misused their authority during the process.

Investigators are also examining developments related to the '22-A' prohibited properties list. Allegations have surfaced that certain parcels of land were removed from the restricted list before registrations were carried out in the names of private parties. Officials are assessing whether the removal complied with legal procedures.

Another focus area is the alteration of land records on the Dharani portal. Authorities are reviewing changes to ownership details, issuance of new passbooks, and registrations involving lands that were previously classified as restricted properties. Reports suggest that some modifications were made within a short period, prompting concerns over possible procedural violations. The ED is coordinating with state investigative agencies to verify documents, financial records, and land transactions connected to the case. Officials are expected to continue questioning individuals linked to the matter as the investigation progresses.

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Eurogrip Tyres, one of India's leading two- and three-wheeler tyre brands from TVS Srichakra Ltd., has strengthened its retail network in Telangana with the launch of five new exclusive stores in Hyderabad. Three of these outlets have been established through franchise partnerships in collaboration with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

The new store openings mark another milestone in Eurogrip's nationwide expansion strategy aimed at bringing quality products and customer-centric services closer to riders. The inauguration was attended by Silvio Montanari, Design Head of Eurogrip's Milan facility. Speaking on the occasion, T.K. Ravi said Hyderabad remains a key market for the company due to its rapidly growing two-wheeler community. He noted that the new outlets would provide customers with convenient access to the brand's complete tyre portfolio along with professional support and after-sales services. The newly launched stores offer Eurogrip's full range of tyres and tubes catering to a wide variety of vehicles,



including scooters, commuter motorcycles, performance bikes, adventure touring motorcycles, and superbikes. The company aims to provide a comprehensive one-stop solution for riders with diverse mobility needs. Apart from tyre sales, the outlets will offer services such as professional tyre fitment, tyre maintenance, puncture repairs, air pressure checks, and assistance with warranty-related requirements. The initiative is designed to enhance customer convenience and ensure a seamless ownership experience. The Hyderabad expansion

forms part of Eurogrip's broader plan to strengthen its branded retail footprint across major Indian markets. The company has recently opened stores in Panipat, Bahraich, Ludhiana, Delhi, and Alappuzha, while also operating retail experience centres in cities including Chennai, Mysuru, Patna, Farrukhabad, Ahmedabad, and Rajkot. Industry observers believe the expansion will further reinforce Eurogrip's presence in the fast-growing two-wheeler market and improve accessibility to premium tyre solutions for customers across the region.

Fuel Prices Rise Again, Adding to Inflation Worries

Hyderabad, June 25 | TPN Bureau

Petrol and diesel prices have witnessed another significant increase across the country, further burdening consumers already grappling with rising living costs and inflation. Public sector oil marketing companies revised fuel prices upward, increasing petrol by ₹2.84 per litre and diesel by ₹2.86 per

litre, with the new rates coming into effect from 6 a.m. on Thursday. The latest revision follows a series of recent fuel price hikes. Industry reports indicate that petrol and diesel prices have been increased multiple times since mid-May, with cumulative hikes crossing ₹7 per litre in many regions. In Hyderabad, the revised

prices have pushed petrol to around ₹115.73 per litre and diesel to ₹103.82 per litre, intensifying concerns among motorists and transport operators. The continued rise in fuel costs is expected to have a ripple effect across the economy, particularly on transportation and logistics expenses. Economists warn that higher fuel prices often translate

into increased freight charges, which can eventually lead to higher prices for essential commodities and consumer goods. As a result, the latest hike is expected to place additional pressure on household budgets, especially those of middle-income and lower-income families. The recent fuel revisions come amid volatility in global crude oil markets and sup-

ply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions. Oil marketing companies have cited rising international crude prices and financial pressures as key reasons for the successive increases. Market analysts note that fuel prices have been revised several times over the past few weeks as companies attempt to offset mounting losses. Despite the increases,

reports suggest that oil marketing firms continue to face under-recoveries due to elevated procurement costs. There is also uncertainty regarding future fuel prices. Experts say further revisions may depend on international crude oil trends, currency fluctuations, and developments in global energy markets. While some industry observers expect prices to

stabilize if crude oil costs soften, consumers remain concerned that additional hikes could further strain their finances. The latest increase has once again brought fuel pricing and its impact on inflation to the forefront of public discussion, with many hoping for relief in the coming weeks.

Editorial

Climate Extremes Are the New Normal Across Continents

Heatwaves that break records, floods that drown entire cities in hours, and erratic rainfall patterns are no longer isolated warnings of climate change—they are becoming the lived reality across continents.

According to global climate assessments, the past decade (2015–2024) has been the warmest on record, with average global temperatures already about 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels.

The economic and human costs are escalating sharply. The World Meteorological Organization estimates that climate-related disasters have increased fivefold over the last 50 years, with over 90% of disasters now linked to weather extremes.

Infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Nearly 70% of cities worldwide are not fully climate-resilient, according to urban risk studies.

India reflects this global pattern sharply. States across the country are witnessing simultaneous extremes—heatwaves above 45°C in summer, followed by cloudbursts and urban flooding during monsoon months.

The challenge is no longer just environmental—it is economic, social, and political. Climate resilience must move from policy documents into real infrastructure: heat-resistant cities, flood-smart drainage systems, climate-adaptive agriculture, and early warning technologies.

The planet is not just warming—it is destabilising. And unless adaptation matches acceleration, extremes will no longer be exceptions. They will define the new global normal.

Editor

The Silent Epidemic: Why Loneliness Is Becoming Humanity's Greatest Challenge

Dr Vangeepuram Sreenatha Chary



Consultant Psychologist 9848023090

People are surrounded by contacts but starved of connection. Loneliness is not the absence of people—it is the absence of meaningful human connection.

A young professional scrolling endlessly through social media at midnight. An elderly parent waiting for a phone call that never comes. A student surrounded by classmates yet feeling completely alone.

Humanity has achieved extraordinary progress. We can communicate instantly across continents, participate in virtual meetings from our homes, and maintain connections with hundreds or even thousands of people through social media platforms.

Yet, paradoxically, many people today feel more alone than ever before. In an age of unprecedented digital connectivity, loneliness has emerged as one of the most serious yet least discussed challenges confronting humanity.

Unlike many illnesses, it leaves no visible scars. Yet its impact can be profound, affecting mental health, physical well-being, productivity, relationships, and even longevity. Never before in human history have people been so connected digitally and yet so disconnected emotionally.

Loneliness is often misunderstood. Many assume that it affects only elderly people living alone. The reality is far more complex. A person can be surrounded by colleagues, neighbours, friends, or even family members and still experience deep loneliness.

At its core, loneliness is not the absence of people; it is the absence of meaningful human connection. It

is the painful gap between the relationships people desire and the relationships they actually experience.

The scale of the problem is alarming. Health experts across the world increasingly view loneliness as a major public health concern. Various international studies and global health experts increasingly recognise loneliness as a major public-health concern affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

If even one-fourth of the world's population experiences serious loneliness, the number could approach two billion people—roughly equivalent to the combined populations of India and the United States.

Contrary to popular belief, loneliness affects people across all age groups. Many young people today spend hours online every day and remain connected to social media around the clock. Yet surveys frequently reveal that young adults report some of the highest levels of loneliness.

The consequences of chronic loneliness extend far beyond emotional discomfort. Research has consistently linked prolonged loneliness with increased risks of depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, cardiovascular problems, cognitive decline, and reduced overall well-being.



health impact of chronic loneliness may be comparable to other significant health risk factors. The effects are not limited to individuals alone. Families, workplaces, communities, and healthcare systems all bear the indirect costs of growing social isolation.

India has traditionally been known for strong family bonds, close-knit communities, and vibrant social relationships. For generations, people found emotional support through joint families, neighbourhood interactions, cultural activities, and community gatherings.

However, rapid urbanisation, migration, demanding work schedules, changing lifestyles, and increasing dependence on digital communication are gradually transforming the social landscape. Many elderly parents now live separately from their children.

Addressing loneliness requires collective effort. Families must consciously create opportunities for meaningful interaction. Educational institutions should place greater emphasis on emotional intelligence, empathy, and interpersonal skills.

Workplaces must recognise that employee well-being involves more than financial compensation. Communities should encourage participation, volunteering, and social engagement. Individuals, too, must invest time and effort in nurturing relationships, listening actively, and reaching out to those who may be struggling in silence.

Perhaps the most important step is to revive the forgotten art of listening. In a fast-paced world where everyone is eager to speak, genuine listeners have become rare. Yet many people do not need immediate solutions to their problems. They simply need someone willing to listen without judgment and understand without interruption.

Perhaps the most important step is to revive the forgotten art of listening. In a fast-paced world where everyone is eager to speak, genuine listeners have become rare. Yet many people do not need immediate solutions to their problems. They simply need someone willing to listen without judgment and understand without interruption.

Sometimes the greatest gift one human being can offer another is not advice, but attention. The greatest paradox of our age is that humanity has never been more connected technologically, yet so many people feel disconnected emotionally.

Loneliness may be silent, but its consequences are loud. It affects mental health, physical well-being, family life, workplace productivity, and social harmony. As the world continues to invest heavily in artificial intelligence, space exploration, and technological innovation, it must not neglect one of the most fundamental human needs—the need to belong. People do not merely need information; they need understanding. They do not merely need communication; they need connection. They do not merely need company; they need companionship.

The greatest wealth a person can possess is not a larger network, but a deeper human connection. In the race to connect our devices, let us not forget to connect our hearts. (The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Rehabilitation Professional (RCI), Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca and India Book Records Holder.)

From Classroom to Career: Reimagining the Path to Inclusive Education

Ram Kamal



Social Engineer

The primary outcome of the roundtable was a unified consensus: true inclusion is never achieved through isolated interventions. It requires a highly coordinated system seamlessly connecting basic schools, higher education institutions, health systems, and social welfare departments.

To successfully move beyond mere policy aspirations, our entire education system must undergo a fundamental shift in mindset, infrastructure, and coordination to meet new generational demands. Practitioners thoroughly discussed the urgent need for tailored curricula, modernized examination practices, teacher capacity building, resource centres acting as vital bridges, and technology's role in easing the critical transition from high school to university.

Vijaya Sreekumar affirmed the government's resolute determination to make inclusive education a reality, citing the 125 new Autism Support Centres opening this year as a prime example. He firmly promised to leave no stone unturned to provide equitable, high-quality education to these children, explicitly calling for interdepartmental handholding alongside vital Ministry of Health support.



Stop for a moment and feel the weight of this silence. You are living through the final years of humanity as it has always existed. We stand at a precipice—not of extinction, but of a transformation so unimaginable that by 2030, which started in 2020, just four short years from now, the world will be unrecognizable.

Children born today will enter a fundamentally altered reality where the concept of being "alone with your thoughts" or "not knowing" a piece of information will be over. We are the last generation of "pure humans," witnessing the imminent dawn of the posthuman era. From our origins as peasant gatherers relying on knowledge passed down through one-to-one connections, we are now accelerating into the artificial intelligence, synthetic reality, and neurobiological connectivity revolutions.

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking—2026 Theme

Prof. Madhusudha Reddy Burra



Education expert 9949700037

The "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" or "World Drug Day" is marked on 26 June annually since 1988 to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, healthcare, and alternative livelihoods—the building blocks of sustainable resilience.

Issues of Drug Abuse in India:

Drug abuse in India is a growing crisis, driven by geographical vulnerability, increasing availability, and early-age initiation. The rising cases of drug abuse, geographic risk, substance use statistics, regional variations, and their impacts are becoming threats to Indian youth. Government initiatives include Nasha Muk

Bharat Abhiyan, NAPDDR, drug de-addiction programmes, NCB, legal frameworks, capacity building, and regional cooperation.

Consequences of Drug Abuse:

The physical and mental health consequences of drug abuse lead to heart diseases, stroke, lung cancer, respiratory damage, risk of HIV and Hepatitis, nasal damage, liver and kidney diseases, oral cancer, gum problems, fatal overdose, weight loss, depression, memory issues, insomnia, sleep disorders, aggressive behaviour, delusions, brain dysfunction, anxiety, confusion, tuberculosis, and addiction.

The main goals of this day are to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, educate people on how to prevent drug use, support those who are addicted, encourage countries to cooperate and share solutions, and promote stronger laws and better treatment options.



Overall Crime & Trends

- Total cognisable crimes: 58.85 lakh (6% from 2023)
Crime rate: 418.9 per lakh population (lowest since 2019)
Cybercrime surged by 17%, emerging as the fastest-growing category
Emerging Threats
Over 1 lakh cybercrime cases reported
Fraud accounts for 70%+ of cyber offences
Rise of "digital arrest" scams and AI-enabled frauds
Drug Abuse & Related Data
Drug overdose deaths increased by 50% in 2024

- Around 978 overdose deaths were reported
Tamil Nadu recorded the highest overdose deaths
Vulnerable Groups
Crimes against children: 15.9%
Crimes against senior citizens: 116.9%
Juvenile crime: 11.2%
State-wise Highlights
Telangana: Among the highest crime rates (per lakh population)
Uttar Pradesh: High per capita crime indicators
Nagaland: Lowest crime rate in India
Kerala: Highest charge-sheeting rate (94.5%)

Global / International Data (UN & Global Trends)

- Drug Problem Overview
Around 296 million people used drugs globally (UNODC estimate)
Drug use increased by 23% over the last decade
Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide
Health Impact
Over 39 million people suffer from drug use disorders globally
Millions lack access to treatment and rehabilitation services
Drug use linked to: HIV infections

- Hepatitis
Mental health disorders
Trafficking & Crime
Drug trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar global illegal industry
Strong links with: Organised crime networks
Terror financing
Human trafficking
Emerging Challenges
Rise of synthetic drugs (meth, fentanyl)
Increasing online drug trade (dark web)
Youth are becoming more vulnerable globally

(Note: IN India (NCRB Latest Data – 2024/2026 Insights)

Regional Parties Face Internal Turmoil Amid Political Realignment

Sreeja Rachabatu

The political landscape across several Indian states is witnessing significant shifts as regional parties that once dominated state politics face internal dissent, defections, and organizational challenges. These developments have sparked renewed debates about the future of regional political formations and their role in national politics.

In West Bengal, the ruling Trinamool Congress has reportedly been confronted with growing internal discontent following recent political developments. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who has remained one of the most influential regional leaders in the country for nearly two decades, is facing challenges from within her own party ranks. Reports of legislators and senior leaders expressing dissatisfaction have fueled speculation about the party's internal stability.

A similar situation appears to be unfolding in Telangana. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), led by former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara



Rao (KCR), has witnessed a series of defections since its electoral setback. Several legislators and party leaders have moved to rival political formations, raising concerns about the party's ability to retain its political influence. Internal disagreements and leadership-related issues have further added to the uncertainty surrounding the party's future.

Tamil Nadu has also witnessed political turbulence. As preparations for future electoral contests intensify, reports of dissatisfaction and factionalism within major regional parties have emerged.

Political observers note that changing voter preferences, leadership transitions, and emerging political forces are contributing to the evolving dynamics in the state.

Maharashtra's political scenario has likewise been marked by divisions within regional parties. The fragmentation of established political organizations has altered alliances and reshaped electoral calculations, reflecting broader changes taking place across the country.

While critics often attribute the weakening of regional parties to the growing influence of the Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP), analysts point out that internal factors have also played a major role. Dynastic politics, inadequate leadership succession planning, weakening grassroots structures, factional rivalries, and the pursuit of power have all contributed to organizational instability in several regional parties.

The developments have also posed challenges for the INDIA alliance, as many of its constituent regional parties grapple with internal crises. Political commentators argue that maintaining unity and strengthening organizational structures will be crucial for opposition parties seeking to present a credible challenge in future elections.

As India moves toward another electoral cycle, the struggles of regional parties underscore the importance of strong internal democracy, transparent leadership, and cohesive political organization. The coming years will determine whether these parties can overcome their challenges and reclaim their influence in the nation's evolving political landscape.

Jairam Ramesh Opposes Return of Congress Leaders Who Joined BJP

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday strongly opposed the idea of welcoming back former party members who left the Congress to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), particularly younger leaders who rose through the party ranks before switching allegiance.

Speaking in an interview with PTI Videos, Ramesh said it would be inappropriate for the Congress to consider re-inducting leaders who benefited from positions of power and responsibility within the party but later chose to leave.

Clarifying that he was expressing a personal view, Ramesh stated that many of those who departed had enjoyed significant opportunities and recognition in the Congress before aligning themselves with a political party whose ideology, he argued, is fundamentally different from that of the Congress.

His remarks came in response to a question regarding several prominent Congress leaders who joined the BJP over the past decade, including Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasad, Milind Deora and RPN Singh. These leaders were once considered part of the Congress's next generation of leadership and were seen as close associates of senior party leader Rahul Gandhi.

Ramesh noted that the past



12 years had tested the commitment of party members, emphasizing that those who remain in the Congress today have stayed despite the party not being in power at the Centre. According to him, this demonstrates ideological commitment and loyalty to the organization.

He expressed disappointment over the departure of younger leaders who had been entrusted with key responsibilities within the party structure and had occupied important public positions. Ramesh argued that their decision to join a party with contrasting ideological principles raised questions about their long-term commitment to the values they once represented.

While maintaining that his

opinion was personal and not an official party position, Ramesh reiterated that such leaders should not be brought back into the Congress fold.

Several former Congress leaders who joined the BJP have since praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and have been critical of their former party. Their exits over the years have been viewed as significant setbacks for the Congress, which has been striving to strengthen its organizational base and rebuild its political fortunes.

Ramesh's comments are likely to reignite discussions within political circles about party loyalty, ideological commitment, and the challenges faced by opposition parties in retaining influential leaders.

First Commercial Sea Shipment of Banganapalle Mangoes Reaches Singapore

India has achieved a significant milestone in agricultural exports with the successful completion of the first commercial sea shipment of premium Banganapalle mangoes to Singapore. The initiative was facilitated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow.

The consignment, comprising five metric tonnes of Banganapalle mangoes, was exported by Osum Food Solutions LLP on June 11 and reached Singapore on June 24. The successful delivery demonstrates the growing potential of sea freight as a cost-effective and sustainable transportation option for India's horticultural exports. The mangoes were sourced from Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)-certified or-

chards in Andhra Pradesh and were processed and packed at an APEDA-recognized packhouse in Karnataka. The entire export process adhered to the stringent quality and phytosanitary standards required by Singapore, ensuring the produce met international import regulations.

Upon arrival, the importer, EC-Links Pte Ltd, expressed satisfaction with the quality of the fruit. The mangoes were praised for their sweetness, uniform ripening, excellent shelf life, and compliance with phytosanitary requirements. The successful shipment highlighted the effectiveness of scientific post-harvest management practices and efficient cold-chain logistics in preserving fruit quality during sea transportation.

The export also delivered substantial economic benefits to farmers. While Banganapalle mangoes fetched between 25 and 26 per kilogram in do-



mestic markets, the export consignment realized nearly 50 per kilogram. This nearly doubled farm-gate returns, providing growers with significantly higher income and demonstrating the value of access to international markets.

Industry experts view the achievement as a major step toward expanding India's agricultural exports through sustainable logistics solutions. Compared to air freight, sea transport offers lower costs, greater scalability, and a re-

duced environmental footprint, making it an attractive option for exporters of fresh fruits and vegetables. Banganapalle mangoes, renowned for their golden-yellow colour, rich sweetness, pleasant aroma, and fibreless pulp, enjoy strong demand in international markets. The successful shipment is expected to open new opportunities for expanding exports of the variety to destinations across Asia and beyond. APEDA has been actively promoting sea freight for fresh produce through infrastructure development, market expansion initiatives, and exporter training programs. Officials believe the success of this shipment will encourage wider adoption of maritime transport for horticultural exports, strengthen India's position in global agricultural markets, and contribute to the government's objective of enhancing farmers' incomes through increased export opportunities.

Fuel Prices Remain Unchanged Despite Sharp Decline in Global Crude Oil Rates

Retail petrol and diesel prices across India remained unchanged on Thursday despite a significant decline in international crude oil prices, prompting expectations that consumers could eventually benefit if the downward trend in global markets continues.

Global oil benchmarks have fallen sharply in recent weeks, reversing much of the surge triggered by geopolitical tensions earlier this year. Brent crude is currently trading around \$72-73 per barrel, while US crude prices have slipped below \$70 per barrel. These levels are close to those seen before the escalation of tensions in the Middle East, which had briefly pushed crude prices toward \$120 per barrel.

Despite the decline, state-owned fuel retailers have not reduced retail fuel prices. Petrol and diesel prices had earlier been increased by about 7.50

per litre each during the period of elevated global oil prices. Industry sources indicate that oil marketing companies are closely monitoring price trends before making any adjustments.

Officials from state-run fuel companies noted that petrol sales are presently generating healthy marketing margins, while diesel continues to yield modest losses. They also pointed out that retail fuel prices are generally not revised based on daily fluctuations in crude oil markets. Instead, pricing decisions are typically influenced by average international oil prices over a fortnight or a month.

As a result, any benefit arising from the recent decline in crude oil prices may take time to reach consumers, particularly if global prices remain stable at lower levels for an extended period.

The fall in crude oil prices is

being viewed as a positive development for the Indian economy. As the world's third-largest importer of crude oil, India depends on imports for more than 88 percent of its oil requirements. Lower crude prices help reduce the country's import bill, narrow the current account deficit, and ease inflationary pressures.

Economic analysts believe that sustained lower fuel costs could support consumer spending and provide relief to households and businesses. Reduced transportation and logistics expenses may also contribute to lower prices for goods and services across various sectors.

The recent correction in oil prices has been attributed in part to the normalization of tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global shipping route through which nearly one-fifth of the world's oil supplies pass. Ship-



ping flows have reportedly returned to near pre-conflict levels, helping ease concerns about supply disruptions.

With global crude prices now significantly below their recent peaks, market observers expect pressure to build on fuel retailers and policymakers to pass on some of the benefits to consumers if current trends continue. However, any decision on retail fuel price reductions is likely to depend on the sustainability of lower international oil prices in the coming weeks.

Rising Crimes in the Name of Love Raise Concerns

A series of shocking crimes linked to romantic relationships has sparked a wider debate on changing social values, family relationships, and the growing need for mental health awareness in society. Recent incidents across the country have raised concerns among parents, educators, psychologists, and law enforcement agencies about the consequences of obsessive relationships and unchecked emotional instability.

The latest case, involving a young woman accused of killing members of her own family over a relationship dispute, has sent shockwaves through the public. The incident has reignited discussions about the thin line between genuine love and destructive obsession. While society increasingly recognizes an individual's right to choose a life partner, experts argue that personal freedom should never come at the cost of violence or the loss of innocent lives.

Observers point out that many modern relationships are being shaped by intense emotional dependency, possessiveness, and an inability to cope with rejection. In several recent cases reported from different states, disputes involving romantic partners have resulted in murders, suicides, and family breakdowns, leaving lasting trauma for relatives and communities.

Social analysts emphasize that the issue goes beyond economic status or educational background. Tragic incidents have occurred in both affluent and middle-class families, suggesting that financial prosper-



ity alone cannot ensure emotional maturity or ethical decision-making. They argue that qualities such as empathy, self-control, respect for others, and conflict resolution must be nurtured from an early age.

The changing structure of families has also become a topic of discussion. Many experts believe that increasing work pressures, reduced family interaction, and excessive dependence on digital communication have weakened emotional bonds between parents and children. As a result, young people may struggle to discuss personal challenges openly or seek guidance during difficult phases of life.

Mental health professionals stress the importance of teaching children how to handle disappointment, rejection, and emotional stress. They note that obsession, uncon-

trolled anger, jealousy, and a desire to dominate others can sometimes escalate into dangerous behavior if left unaddressed. The role of media and entertainment has also come under scrutiny. Critics argue that the sensational coverage of violent crimes and repeated dramatization of criminal acts may contribute to unhealthy fascination rather than encouraging reflection and prevention.

Experts are calling for greater collaboration between families, schools, counselors, and community organizations to promote emotional well-being and responsible decision-making. They believe that strengthening family communication, encouraging mental health support, and fostering respect for human life are essential steps toward preventing such tragedies and building a healthier society.

Tamil Nadu Ammonia Leak Death Toll Rises to 11

The death toll in the ammonia gas leak incident at a private seafood processing facility in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district has risen to 11, while dozens of workers continue to receive medical treatment. The tragedy has sparked serious concerns over industrial safety standards after a high-level government probe uncovered multiple lapses in emergency preparedness and worker welfare.

The incident occurred on June 21 at St Peter & Paul Seafoods Exports Private Limited near Periyapalayam. According to the Tamil Nadu government, 83 workers were affected by the leak, with 67 individuals still un-

dergoing treatment at various hospitals across Chennai and surrounding areas.

A high-level committee comprising senior officials from the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), and the Public Health Department submitted its findings to the Chief Secretary. The report revealed that the factory's emergency alarm system failed to function during the gas leak, delaying evacuation efforts and exposing workers to greater risk.

Investigators also found that many employees lacked basic emergency response training, raising questions about safety

compliance at the facility. The report further highlighted poor living conditions in worker dormitories located within the factory premises. The accommodations, primarily occupied by young women migrant workers, were described as cramped and unhygienic.

The deceased include nine workers from Odisha and two from Assam. Authorities have coordinated with the respective state governments to transport the bodies of the victims to their native places. Several bodies have already been airlifted, while arrangements are underway for the remaining victims after completion of legal

formalities.

Health officials reported that among the 67 workers still under medical care, 16 remain on ventilator support, 21 are receiving oxygen assistance, and 30 are in stable condition. Five workers have been discharged following treatment. The affected workers belong to Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal.

Following the incident, workers experienced symptoms including breathlessness, eye irritation, respiratory distress, persistent coughing, and chest discomfort. Medical teams continue to monitor patients closely.

The findings have prompted the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to consider stricter regulations for hazardous industries. Proposed measures include mandating worker accommodation outside factory premises and establishing safety buffer zones around industrial units handling dangerous chemicals.

The tragedy has renewed calls for stronger enforcement of industrial safety norms and better protection for migrant workers. Authorities have assured that further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation to prevent similar incidents in the future.



PM Modi to Visit Seychelles for Golden Jubilee National Day Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-day state visit to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, during which he will participate as the Guest of Honour at the country's Golden Jubilee National Day celebrations and hold high-level talks aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit comes at the invitation of Seychelles President Patrick Herminie and is expected to reinforce the longstanding friendship between the two nations. The visit marks Prime Minister Modi's first trip to Seychelles since 2015 and highlights the strategic importance New Delhi places on its partnership with the Indian Ocean island nation.

During the visit, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral discussions with President Herminie to review the entire spectrum of India-Seychelles cooperation. The talks are expected to cover areas such as maritime security, economic collaboration, development partnerships, capacity building, climate resilience, and regional issues of mutual interest.

A special highlight of the visit will be Modi's participation in Seychelles' 50th National Day celebrations. An Indian Armed Forces contingent, along with two Indian Navy ships, will take part in the com-



memorative events, underscoring the close defence and security cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to address the National Assembly of Seychelles and interact with members of the Indian community residing in the country. These engagements are expected to further strengthen people-to-people ties, which have long formed a key pillar of bilateral relations.

India and Seychelles share deep historical and cultural links, supported by a vibrant Indian diaspora and decades of developmental cooperation. India has been a key partner in sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure development, maritime surveillance, and disaster management.

The MEA noted that Seychelles occupies a special place in India's Vision MAHAsGAR (Mutual and Holistic Ad-

vancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), which emphasizes cooperation, security, and sustainable development across the Indian Ocean region. The island nation is also considered an important partner in India's broader engagement with countries of the Global South.

Diplomatic observers view the visit as an opportunity to deepen strategic cooperation in the Indian Ocean amid evolving geopolitical dynamics. The discussions are expected to further enhance collaboration in maritime security and regional stability while opening new avenues for economic and developmental partnerships between the two friendly nations.

The visit is expected to reaffirm the enduring partnership and shared commitment of India and Seychelles to advancing mutual growth, security, and prosperity.

Powerful Twin Earthquakes Devastate Venezuela, Death Toll Rises to 164

Venezuela is grappling with one of the deadliest natural disasters in its recent history after two powerful earthquakes struck the country, leaving at least 164 people dead and 971 others injured. Rescue operations are continuing as authorities fear the casualty count could rise further, particularly in the hardest-hit coastal regions.

The earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, struck within minutes of each other on Wednesday evening. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the epicentres were located near the Caribbean coast west of Caracas, with relatively shallow depths that intensified the impact on populated areas.

The disaster caused widespread destruction across several states, with La Guaira emerging as the worst-affected region. Acting President Delcy Rodriguez declared a nationwide state of emergency and described parts of La Guaira as a "disaster zone." Dozens of



buildings collapsed, trapping residents under rubble and prompting large-scale rescue efforts.

Television footage showed emergency workers and volunteers searching through debris in a race against time to save survivors. In one dramatic rescue, three children were pulled alive from the remains of a collapsed structure. Authorities said many roads were blocked by debris, while damaged power lines and disrupted communications complicated relief operations.

The tremors were felt across much of northern South America. Buildings were evacuated in Brazil's Amazon region, more than 1,700 kilometres from Caracas, while residents in parts of Colombia also reported strong shaking. In the Venezuelan capital, frightened residents rushed out of swaying buildings as walls crumbled and clouds of dust filled the air.

The earthquakes also caused major disruptions to public services. Parts of Caracas experienced power outages and mobile network failures. Subway opera-

tions were suspended, natural gas supplies were shut off as a precaution, and classes were cancelled for several days. Some schools are being converted into temporary shelters and relief centers for displaced families.

International support began arriving soon after the disaster. Several countries offered humanitarian assistance, rescue teams, and medical aid. The United States announced the deployment of emergency response personnel, while Ecuador, Qatar, Mexico, and El Salvador pledged support for ongoing rescue and recovery efforts. Although Venezuela lies near several geological fault lines, earthquakes of this magnitude are rare in the country. Seismologists described the twin quakes as among the strongest to strike Venezuela in more than a century.

As rescue teams continue searching for survivors, authorities have urged residents to remain alert for aftershocks and follow safety instructions issued by emergency services.

Amazon Announces \$48 Billion Investment in India After CEO Meets PM Modi



US e-commerce and technology giant Amazon has announced plans to invest \$48 billion in India between 2026 and 2030, reinforcing its long-term commitment to one of its fastest-growing global markets. The announcement came after Amazon Chief Executive Officer Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday.

A significant portion of the planned investment will be directed toward expanding artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud infrastructure across the country. Amazon revealed that it will invest an additional \$13 billion in AI and cloud technologies by 2030, taking its total planned investment in these sectors to more than \$21 billion over the next five years.

The company said the investment would strengthen the capabilities of Amazon Web Services (AWS) in India through the expansion of data centre infrastructure in Mumbai and Hyderabad. The enhanced facilities are expected to provide startups, businesses, developers, and government organiza-

tions with access to advanced cloud computing services, AI tools, custom AI chips, and secure digital infrastructure.

Speaking after the meeting, Andy Jassy highlighted India's growing importance in Amazon's global strategy. He noted that the company has witnessed strong growth across its e-commerce, cloud computing, and AI businesses in the country over the past decade.

Jassy stated that the planned investments align with India's development goals and would help accelerate digital transformation, innovation, and economic growth. He also expressed support for Prime Minister Modi's vision of a developed and self-reliant India, emphasizing Amazon's commitment to being a long-term partner in the country's progress.

According to the company, Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010 through 2030 will exceed \$88 billion. Over the years, the company has played a major role in supporting India's digital economy by helping millions of

small businesses expand their reach through online platforms.

Amazon reported that it has digitized more than 12 million small businesses in India, enabled over \$20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, and supported approximately 2.8 million jobs. Additionally, the company has trained over 10 million individuals in cloud-related skills to prepare them for opportunities in the digital economy.

Looking ahead, Amazon has set ambitious targets for the Indian market. The company plans to support 3.8 million jobs, facilitate \$80 billion in cumulative exports, extend AI-driven benefits to 15 million small businesses, and provide AI education to four million government school students.

Industry experts view the announcement as one of the largest foreign investment commitments in India's technology sector, underscoring the country's growing role as a global hub for digital innovation, cloud services, and artificial intelligence.

India Resumes Travel Visas for Bangladesh

India's newly appointed High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, officially assumed office on Thursday and announced the resumption of travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals, marking a significant step toward improving bilateral engagement between the two neighbouring countries.

Trivedi, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Union minister, presented his credentials to Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban presidential palace in Dhaka. With the formal presentation of diplomatic papers, he began his tenure as India's envoy to Bangladesh, becoming the first politician to hold the position.

A ceremonial guard of honour was accorded to the new High Commissioner by the President Guard Regiment before the official proceedings. Shortly after the ceremony, Trivedi visited the Indian Visa



Centre in Dhaka, where he made his first major announcement regarding the restoration of travel visas.

Speaking to officials and members of the public, Trivedi said that visa applications for general travel purposes would be accepted from June 28. He noted that visa services would be available through all five Indian visa centres located in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, and Khulna.

The decision is expected to benefit thousands of Bangladeshi citizens seeking to travel

to India for tourism, family visits, education, and business purposes. Trivedi also confirmed that urgent medical visas would continue to be processed on humanitarian grounds.

Travel visas for Bangladeshi nationals had been suspended nearly two years ago amid heightened security concerns and strained diplomatic relations during the tenure of the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus. The resumption of services is being viewed as a positive develop-

ment in efforts to normalize people-to-people exchanges.

A day before assuming office, the Government of India conferred upon Trivedi the status of a Union minister for ceremonial functions through an official memorandum issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Trivedi succeeds career diplomat Pranay Kumar Verma, whose four-year tenure witnessed major political changes in Bangladesh, including the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government during a student-led uprising in 2024 and the subsequent deterioration in India-Bangladesh relations.

Bangladesh later held national elections, resulting in the formation of a new government under Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. Political observers believe Trivedi's appointment and the restoration of visa services signal a renewed effort to strengthen bilateral ties and promote cooperation between the two countries in the coming years.

US Pursues Iran Deal While Reassuring Gulf Allies on Regional Security

The United States has reiterated its commitment to pursuing a diplomatic agreement with Iran while making it clear that any deal will not come at the expense of the security and stability of its Gulf allies. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio delivered the message during a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Bahrain on Thursday as negotiations between Washington and Tehran continue following a preliminary agreement to end months of conflict.

Rubio emphasized that the United States seeks a lasting and meaningful agreement but would not accept terms that compromise the interests of its regional partners. He assured Gulf nations that Washington remains committed to preserving peace, prosperity, and security throughout the region.

The ongoing negotiations follow a major conflict that began in February with a large-scale US-Israeli military campaign against Iran. A preliminary understanding reached between Washington and Tehran has

halted active hostilities and opened the door to discussions on key issues, including Iran's nuclear programme, sanctions relief, and the future of energy shipments through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

One of the most sensitive issues under discussion is navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies pass. During the conflict, Iran imposed restrictions on traffic through the waterway and later proposed introducing maritime service fees for commercial vessels.

Rubio firmly rejected the idea of tolls or fees, stating that international waterways must remain open and accessible to all nations. He stressed that freedom of navigation is a fundamental principle of international law and essential for global economic stability.

The situation has prompted regional diplomatic efforts. Oman recently announced a



temporary shipping route near its coastline to facilitate safe maritime movement, while Gulf countries have initiated discussions with Iran regarding the future management of the strait. Reports suggest Gulf nations are advocating unrestricted navigation, while Iran may seek compensation through environmental and security-related service charges.

Despite tensions, diplomatic engagement between the United States and Iran is expected to continue. Technical-level talks are likely to resume in the coming days, with mediators working to bridge differences on key

issues. Meanwhile, Iran has projected confidence following the conflict, describing the preliminary agreement as a strategic victory. At the same time, NATO's support for the United States during the conflict has drawn criticism from Tehran, which has accused the alliance of involvement in what it calls an unlawful war.

Observers believe the coming weeks will be crucial in determining whether negotiations can evolve into a comprehensive agreement capable of reducing regional tensions and ensuring long-term stability in the Gulf.

Meloni Recalls Warm India Welcome, Highlights Personal Diplomacy in New Book

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has shared fond memories of her visits to India in 2023, recalling the enthusiastic reception she received in New Delhi and revealing how personal connections often play a key role in international diplomacy. The reflections appear in her newly released book, *Giorgia's Vision*, based on conversations with journalist Alessandro Sallusti.

In the book, Meloni recounts how roads in New Delhi were lined with posters carrying her photograph and messages welcoming her to India during her

visits for the Raisina Dialogue in March 2023. Similar posters thanking her for the visit were displayed when she departed the country.

Describing the experience, Meloni said the overwhelming public display prompted Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani, who accompanied her on the trip, to joke that she would secure "a million votes" if she contested an election from a New Delhi constituency.

The Italian leader visited India twice in 2023—first for the Raisina Dialogue and later for the G20 Summit. During these

visits, she developed a warm rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading social media users to popularize the term "Melodi" to describe their friendly interactions.

In her book, Meloni argues that successful diplomacy often extends beyond formal meetings and official protocols. She writes that finding a personal connection through shared interests, stories, or informal conversations can significantly strengthen relationships between world leaders.

The Prime Minister illustrates this philosophy through

a series of anecdotes involving international leaders. She recalls how a simple cigarette break helped establish a strong working relationship with Tunisian President Kais Saied. During a lengthy bilateral meeting, an informal conversation over coffee and cigarettes transformed the atmosphere and laid the foundation for future engagement.

Meloni also speaks warmly of Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, whom she describes as one of the most spontaneous leaders she has met. She notes that Rama frequently exchange

messages with her on current affairs and maintains a close friendship.

Other personal moments highlighted in the book include receiving orange roses from Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on her birthday, a large Hello Kitty doll for her daughter from former Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and a special Uzbek translation of her memoir gifted by Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Published by Rupa Publications, *Giorgia's Vision* explores themes such as leadership, family values, national identity,



meritocracy, faith, and the future of Western civilization. The book's foreword has been written by US Vice President J.D. Vance.

Through personal stories and diplomatic experiences, Meloni

presents a portrait of modern leadership that emphasizes human relationships alongside traditional statecraft, offering readers a glimpse into the personal side of international diplomacy.

Leveraged ETFs Intensify Volatility in Samsung and SK Hynix Shares

South Korea's leading semiconductor companies, Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, have experienced significant share price fluctuations in recent days as investors reassess their positions in the rapidly evolving artificial intelligence (AI) sector. Market analysts say the growing popularity of leveraged exchange-traded funds (ETFs) linked to these stocks has played a major role in amplifying the volatility.

Leveraged ETFs are financial products designed to deliver two or three times the daily performance of an underlying

stock or index. These funds have become increasingly popular among retail investors seeking higher returns from short-term market movements. However, their structure can also magnify losses and contribute to larger swings in the prices of the stocks they track.

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, both major beneficiaries of the global AI boom due to their dominance in memory chip manufacturing, have attracted substantial investor attention over the past year. As sentiment around AI-related stocks shifts, leveraged ETFs

tied to these companies have intensified buying and selling activity in the market.

According to market data, investors have poured billions of dollars into leveraged ETF products worldwide. Globally, leveraged ETFs now manage more than \$290 billion in assets, with approximately \$45 billion coming from Asian markets. Among the largest single-stock leveraged funds is the CSOP SK Hynix 2x ETF, whose assets have surged dramatically, reaching \$16.8 billion as of this week.

These funds achieve ampli-

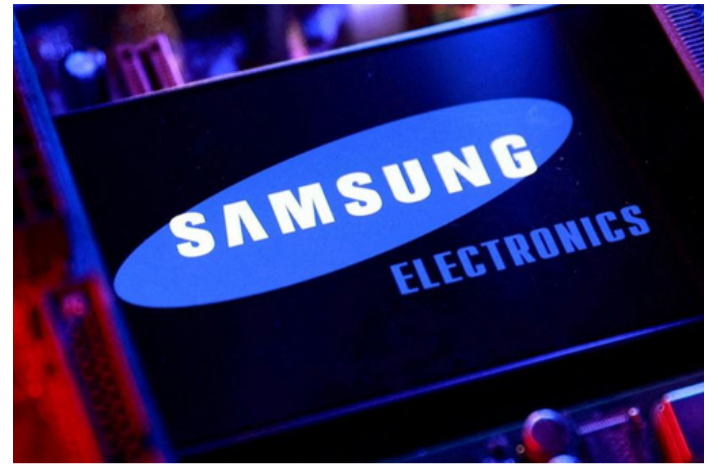
fied returns through complex financial instruments such as swaps, derivatives, and hedging strategies. For example, if a stock gains 2 percent in a single trading session, a 2x leveraged ETF tracking that stock aims to generate a 4 percent return for the same day. Conversely, losses are also magnified when stock prices decline.

A key feature of leveraged ETFs is their daily rebalancing process. Fund managers adjust holdings at the end of each trading session to maintain the targeted leverage ratio. This often results in additional buying

when markets rise and additional selling when markets fall, creating a feedback loop that can further increase market volatility.

Analysts note that trading activity in these products is largely driven by the objective of matching daily performance targets rather than evaluating company fundamentals. As a result, substantial inflows and outflows can influence share prices regardless of long-term business prospects.

With AI-related stocks continuing to attract global attention, market participants are



closely monitoring the impact of leveraged ETFs on trading patterns, liquidity, and broader

market stability, particularly within South Korea's benchmark KOSPI index.

Staying Invested Beats Market Timing, Says WhiteOak Study on SIP Performance

A comprehensive study by WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund has reinforced a key principle of investing: long-term discipline often delivers better results than attempting to time the market. Based on nearly 28 years of historical data, the study found that investors who consistently remained invested through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) significantly improved their chances of earning positive returns.

The analysis examined SIP investments in the BSE Sensex Total Return Index (TRI) from August 1996 to May 2026. According to the findings, SIPs generated positive returns in 100 percent of observations for investment periods of eight years or longer. The study highlighted that long-term investing helped investors navigate market volatility and benefit from the power of compounding.

For 10-year SIP investment horizons, annualized returns ranged between 4.57 percent and 29.8 percent, with an average return of 15.55 percent. These figures demonstrate the potential of disciplined investing even during periods marked by economic uncertainty, market corrections, and global financial crises.

The report also challenged the widely held belief that investors should wait for market downturns before beginning their investment journey.



While many investors attempt to identify the perfect entry point, the study found that delaying investments in anticipation of lower market levels can often result in missed opportunities.

To illustrate this point, the report compared two hypothetical investors. One investor started a monthly SIP of 10,000 in January 2008, close to a major market peak before the global financial crisis. Despite entering the market at a seemingly unfavorable time, this investor accumulated a corpus of 71.63 lakh by May 2026 through total investments of 22.10 lakh.

In contrast, another investor waited until March 2009, when markets had fallen sharply and were near their bottom. Although this investor entered at a lower valuation and invested 20.70 lakh in total, the accu-

mulated corpus reached 61.48 lakh by May 2026—significantly lower than that of the investor who started earlier. The findings highlight the importance of time in the market rather than timing the market. Financial experts often emphasize that regular investments through SIPs help investors average out purchase costs across market cycles while reducing the emotional impact of short-term volatility.

The study concludes that patience, consistency, and a long-term perspective remain critical ingredients for wealth creation. As market fluctuations continue to influence investor sentiment, the report serves as a reminder that disciplined investing and staying committed to financial goals can often prove more rewarding than trying to predict market highs and lows.

Metal Stocks Extend Losses as Global Commodity Prices Slide

Metal stocks continued their downward trend for the third consecutive trading session on Thursday, reflecting weakness in global commodity markets. Shares of major metal producers, including Vedanta, National Aluminium Company (NALCO), and Hindustan Zinc, came under selling pressure as investors reacted to a sharp decline in base metal prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

The Nifty Metal index extended its losses, with several heavyweight stocks witnessing profit booking after a strong rally in recent months. NALCO, Hindustan Zinc, and Vedanta were among the biggest losers, declining by as much as 3.5 percent during the session.

Market experts attributed the weakness primarily to falling international metal prices. Base metals on the LME witnessed a broad-based correction amid easing concerns over supply disruptions, a strengthening US dollar, and growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve may maintain a tighter monetary policy stance.

Higher US interest rates generally strengthen the dollar and increase borrowing costs across global markets. Since most industrial metals are priced in US dollars, a stronger greenback makes commodities more expensive for buyers using other currencies. This often reduces demand and exerts downward pressure on metal prices.

According to market data, aluminium prices on the LME declined more than 3 percent, while zinc and copper also recorded losses of around 2 percent each. The weakness in global prices has directly impacted investor sentiment toward metal-producing companies, which are highly sensitive to fluctuations in commodity markets.

Analysts noted that the recent decline also reflects profit booking by investors after the strong gains witnessed by metal stocks earlier this year. Many companies in the sector had benefited from expectations of robust industrial demand, infrastructure spend-



ing, and a recovery in global manufacturing activity.

Despite the current correction, market participants remain divided on the medium-term outlook for the sector. Some analysts believe that continued investments in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and infrastructure projects could support long-term demand for industrial metals. Others caution that uncertainty surrounding global economic growth and monetary policy may keep commodity prices volatile in the near term.

For investors, experts recommend maintaining a selective

approach rather than reacting to short-term market swings. Companies with strong balance sheets, low production costs, and diversified revenue streams may be better positioned to withstand periods of commodity price weakness.

As global markets continue to monitor economic data and central bank decisions, metal stocks are expected to remain sensitive to developments in international commodity prices and currency movements. Investors will be watching closely for signs of stabilization in both metal prices and global demand trends.

Auto Stocks Drive Market Higher as Sensex, Nifty End Volatile Session in Green



Indian equity benchmark indices extended their gains for a second consecutive session on Thursday, supported by strong buying in automobile, FMCG, and realty stocks. However, profit booking in the latter half of the trading day erased a significant portion of the intraday gains, resulting in a subdued close.

The BSE Sensex ended 109.25 points, or 0.14 percent, higher at 77,100.47, while the NSE Nifty 50 gained 34.35 points, or 0.14 percent, to settle at 24,056. During the session, the Nifty touched an intraday high of 24,261.60, its highest level in more than a month, before retreating amid late selling pressure.

Market sentiment remained positive for most of the day, aided by easing crude oil prices and optimism in select domestic sectors. Auto stocks emerged as the standout performers, with the Nifty Auto index surging more than 2 percent. FMCG shares also attracted investor interest, with the sectoral index rising 0.7 percent, while the Realty in-

dex added 0.3 percent.

On the other hand, metal, information technology, energy, media, and oil & gas stocks weighed on the broader market. The Nifty Metal index remained under pressure due to weakness in global commodity prices, while IT stocks faced profit booking after recent gains.

Among the top gainers on the Nifty were InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra, Max Healthcare, Maruti Suzuki, and Tata Consumer Products. Major losers included ONGC, Power Grid Corporation, Hindalco Industries, Bharat Electronics, and Tech Mahindra.

Broader markets underperformed the benchmark indices, with both the Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices declining around 0.5 percent. Despite this weakness, market breadth remained active, with nearly 150 stocks touching their 52-week highs on the BSE. Notable names included Emcure Pharmaceuticals, Belrise Industries, Minda Corporation, Pidilite In-

dustries, Adani Enterprises, Federal Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, and ACME Solar Holdings.

In stock-specific developments, Lodha Developers gained about 1 percent following a major block deal involving nearly 1.98 crore shares. Emcure Pharmaceuticals also advanced over 2 percent after a large block transaction involving approximately 19.39 lakh shares.

ICICI Bank rose nearly 1 percent after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India to increase its stake in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. Meanwhile, shares of Life Insurance Corporation fell more than 3 percent following the resignation of its Chief Financial Officer, Sunil Agrawal.

The Indian rupee strengthened for a second straight session, appreciating 25 paise to close at 94.40 against the US dollar. Markets will remain closed on Friday on account of Muharram, ending the week with modest gains in both the Sensex and Nifty.

Vijaya Diagnostic Shares Rally as Emkay Reaffirms 'Buy' Rating

Shares of Vijaya Diagnostic Centre gained more than 3 percent on Thursday after brokerage firm Emkay Global Financial Services reaffirmed its positive outlook on the healthcare diagnostics company and maintained a target price of 1,400 per share.

The stock emerged as one of the top performers on the Nifty 500 index during the session. Vijaya Diagnostic shares climbed as much as 5 percent to an intraday high of 1,375.30 before trading at 1,358.80 in afternoon trade, reflecting strong investor interest following the brokerage's bullish assessment.

Emkay reiterated its "buy" recommendation after hosting the company's senior management team during a non-deal roadshow in Singapore. Following interactions with management, the brokerage stated that it had gained greater confidence in the company's future growth prospects, citing strong demand trends, expanding volumes, and improving operational efficiencies.

According to the brokerage, Vijaya Diagnostic's business fundamentals remain robust across key markets. Emkay noted that the company's core market of Hyderabad continues to deliver strong double-digit growth, supported by increasing market share and expansion into newer clusters across the city. The brokerage believes that the Hyderabad market will remain a significant growth driver for the company over the next three to four years.

The report also highlighted the company's ongoing network expansion strategy, which is expected to strengthen its presence in existing markets while creating opportunities in new regions. Analysts believe the company's focus on diagnostic services, preventive healthcare, and customer accessibility is helping it maintain a competitive edge in a rapidly growing healthcare sector. Emkay projected a healthy growth trajectory for the company over the coming years. The brokerage estimates



that Vijaya Diagnostic's revenue and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) will grow at compound annual growth rates (CAGR) of 19 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Such growth expectations are underpinned by rising test volumes, improved utilization of diagnostic centers, and operational leverage.

Market participants also view the diagnostics sector favorably due to increasing healthcare awareness, higher spending on preventive health check-ups, and growing demand for quality diagnostic

services across urban and semi-urban areas. The positive commentary from Emkay has reinforced investor confidence in Vijaya Diagnostic's long-term growth story. Analysts believe the company is well-positioned to benefit from expanding healthcare demand while maintaining healthy profitability margins.

With strong performance in its core markets and continued expansion initiatives, Vijaya Diagnostic remains a closely watched healthcare stock among investors seeking exposure to India's growing diagnostics industry.

CSM Technologies IPO Gains Momentum on Day 2

The initial public offering (IPO) of CSM Technologies witnessed increased investor interest on the second day of bidding, with subscription levels improving across several categories. By 3:42 pm on June 25, the issue had been subscribed 0.59 times, reflecting growing participation from retail investors, high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), and institutional buyers.

According to data available on the NSE, the IPO received bids for approximately 65.97 lakh shares against the 1.11 crore shares offered. The overall demand showed a marked improvement compared to the first day, indicating rising confidence among investors ahead of the final subscription day.

The non-institutional investor (NII) category emerged as the strongest segment, achieving full subscription at 1.04 times. Within this category, the portion reserved for high-value investors applying for more than 10 lakh worth of shares witnessed particularly strong demand and was subscribed 1.37 times. However, the segment reserved for investors

bidding between 2 lakh and 10 lakh was subscribed 0.31 times.

Retail investor participation also picked up pace during the session. The retail individual investor (RII) category was subscribed 0.71 times, showing steady interest from small investors. Meanwhile, the employee reservation portion was subscribed 0.86 times, indicating healthy participation from eligible employees.

Another notable development on the second day was the entry of qualified institutional buyers (QIBs). The QIB portion was subscribed 0.29 times, marking the beginning of institutional participation in the issue. Market experts note that institutional investors often place large bids on the final day of an IPO, making early interest from this category a positive sign for the offering.

The improving subscription figures suggest that investors are gradually warming to the issue as they assess the company's business prospects and growth potential. Strong participation from high-value investors is often viewed as a



sign of confidence in the company's future performance and market positioning.

Market analysts believe the final day of subscription will be crucial in determining the overall response to the IPO. Historically, many public issues witness a significant surge in bids during the closing hours, particularly from institutional investors and retail participants seeking to

capitalize on potential listing gains.

With one day of bidding remaining, market participants will closely watch subscription trends across all investor categories. The response from QIBs, in particular, is expected to play a key role in shaping overall sentiment toward the issue and determining the final subscription numbers for the CSM Technologies IPO.

Ancient Bathing Ghat Unearthed Near Nalanda Points to Gupta-Era Urban Design

A significant archaeological discovery near the ancient Nalanda University site has brought fresh attention to the region's historical and cultural legacy. A well-structured bathing ghat, estimated to be around 1,600 years old, has been unearthed during desilting operations at Pansokhar Pokhar in Surajpur village, located close to the Hiuen Tsang Memorial, northwest of the

Nalanda ruins. The excavation, carried out by the district administration using earthmovers, revealed a carefully constructed ghat made of burnt bricks and lime plaster—materials commonly associated with advanced construction techniques of the Gupta period. Officials said the structure's design indicates planned civic infrastructure, suggesting the water body may

have served both ritualistic and utilitarian purposes. Pansokhar Pokhar, a large reservoir measuring about 850 metres in length and 175 metres in width, is believed to have historical significance linked to the ancient Nalanda settlement. Along with the ghat, several artefacts were recovered from the site, including pottery fragments, a copper coin suspected to belong to the

Gupta era, and a metal alloy coil measuring approximately 25 millimetres in diameter. Preliminary assessments by local authorities and historians suggest that the site may have been part of a larger water management or community bathing system associated with the ancient university or nearby settlements. Experts note that the use of lime plaster points to efforts to ensure wa-

ter resistance and durability, indicating a sophisticated understanding of engineering and urban planning. The discovery has prompted calls for a detailed archaeological survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to scientifically document and preserve the findings. Officials have indicated that further excavation and analysis will be required to determine the ex-



act age, purpose and extent of the structure. Historians believe such findings reinforce Nalanda's status not only as a global centre of learning but also as a hub of advanced infrastructure and civic planning in ancient India. The unearthed ghat and associ-

ated artefacts are expected to provide valuable insights into the daily life, cultural practices and technological capabilities of the Gupta period. Authorities are now considering measures to protect the site and explore its potential as a heritage attraction.

Rising Travel Costs Push Tourists to Look Beyond Domestic Destinations

A recent online discussion has reignited concerns over the rising cost of domestic tourism in India, with travellers comparing expenses in popular destinations like Rishikesh to international options such as Sri Lanka. The debate began after a social media post highlighted how high hotel and travel prices within India are prompting some tourists to reconsider their plans and opt for overseas trips that appear more affordable and better organized.



According to the post, travellers planning a trip to Rishikesh reportedly found mid-range hotel stays priced between 9,000 and 15,000 per night. When combined with flight fares, especially from major cities like Mumbai to Delhi, the total cost of a domestic holiday quickly escalates. In contrast, similar budgets were shown to stretch much further in Sri Lanka, where premium sea-facing accommodations were available at significantly lower

nightly rates. This price difference has sparked conversations about whether domestic tourism is becoming less value-for-money.

Many users participating in the discussion expressed frustration over the increasing cost of travel within India. Beyond accommodation and transport, several pointed to issues such as inconsistent service quality, overcrowding, and lack of cleanliness in popular tourist

spots. These concerns, they argue, further reduce the appeal of domestic travel, especially when comparable or better experiences are available abroad at similar or even lower costs.

Some travellers also highlighted structural issues in the tourism ecosystem, including inflated pricing during peak seasons and a lack of regulation in certain areas. Complaints about unreliable transport services and uneven

hospitality standards were also commonly mentioned, with some describing these challenges as major deterrents for repeat visits.

However, others suggested that India still holds strong tourism potential if infrastructure and service quality improve. They emphasized that destinations like Rishikesh, known for their natural beauty and spiritual significance, could attract more visitors if pricing becomes more reasonable and tourist experiences are enhanced through better management and cleanliness.

The ongoing debate reflects a broader concern about balancing affordability and quality in India's tourism sector. While domestic destinations continue to attract millions of visitors each year, rising costs and uneven service standards may gradually influence traveller preferences, especially among younger and budget-conscious tourists seeking better value globally.

Mumbai Teen Excels from Robotics to Securing CA Rank 3

A Mumbai-based student, Tirth Jain, has drawn nationwide attention after securing All India Rank 3 in the Chartered Accountancy Intermediate examinations, proving that academic excellence can go hand in hand with diverse interests and real-world experience.



In the May 2026 CA Intermediate exams, he scored 519 out of 600 marks, achieving an impressive 86.5% in one of the most competitive professional tests in the country. With only a small fraction of candidates clearing both groups, his achievement stands out as a remarkable feat of consistency and dedication.

What makes his success story unique is not just the rank, but the wide range of skills he developed alongside his academic journey. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in technology and innovation. He participated in robotics competitions during school and later taught himself programming languages such as Java. This curiosity led him to develop an Android applica-

tion while still in his teenage years.

Along with Java, he also built proficiency in Python, data visualization tools, advanced spreadsheets, and accounting software. This blend of technical and commerce-oriented skills helped him bridge two very different worlds—technology and finance—seamlessly.

His academic record has been equally strong throughout his schooling. He scored 99 percent in his Class 10 ICSE

examinations and later achieved over 96 percent in junior college, ranking among the top students. He also secured a national rank in the CA Foundation examination, setting the stage for his later success in the Intermediate level.

Beyond academics, he gained valuable professional exposure by working with a business content platform during his junior college years. There, he contributed to content research, social media

strategy, and audience engagement, gaining real-world experience in digital media operations at an early age.

Leadership has also been a defining part of his journey. As the president of his college's Insight Club, he managed a team of over 60 students and played a key role in organizing inter-collegiate events. He also actively participated in debates, public speaking, and academic competitions, earning several awards.

His talents extend into sports as well. He represented his school in skating at the district level and earned medals in athletics and skating competitions, even receiving an "Athlete of the Year" recognition.

Tirth Jain's journey highlights how combining discipline with curiosity across multiple fields can lead to extraordinary achievements. His story stands as an example of how modern students can balance academics, technology, leadership, and creativity to reach top national ranks while building a versatile skill set for the future.

"Sushila Didi" Turns Cleaning Job into a Creative Branding Lesson

A unique and humorous resume created by a domestic worker known as "Sushila Didi" has gone viral on social media, surprising users with its corporate-style presentation and creative storytelling. The resume, which is being widely shared on platforms like Instagram and LinkedIn, has sparked discussions about personal branding, creativity, and how skills can be presented in unconventional ways.



In the viral document, Sushila Didi introduces herself in a playful yet confident tone, even referring to herself as a "SAF-AI agent," blending the Hindi word for cleanliness with the concept of artificial intelligence. The resume highlights her daily work in a structured format, describing household tasks such as cleaning floors, utensils, and clothes as part of her "3Cs" service model.

What caught the attention of netizens was the way she reframed routine work into measurable achievements. Instead of listing responsibilities traditionally, the resume presents impact-based statements, humorously claiming service across thousands of households and helping clients manage their busy lives more smoothly. The creative tone,

combined with corporate-style language, made the resume stand out as both entertaining and clever.

The document also highlights customer satisfaction in an exaggerated but humorous format, mentioning thousands of "five-star ratings" and positioning her as a highly trusted service provider. This blend of satire and professionalism has been widely appreciated online, with many users praising the idea of presenting everyday work with confidence and creativity.

Reports suggest that the viral resume is part of a marketing initiative linked to a service platform, where printed versions were distributed along with customer deliv-

ies. The campaign appears to aim at showing how even traditional household services can be reimagined through branding and storytelling.

While the resume is lighthearted in tone, it has sparked a broader conversation about how individuals in any profession can showcase their skills more effectively. Career observers note that the example demonstrates the importance of communication, self-presentation, and thinking beyond conventional formats when highlighting one's work.

The "Sushila Didi" resume continues to trend online, not just for its humour, but also for its creative take on professional identity in the modern digital age.

Nepal's Hills Grow the Secret Ingredient Behind Japan's Currency Notes



A fascinating cross-border agricultural partnership between Nepal and Japan has drawn global attention, where a special plant grown in the Himalayan hills plays a key role in producing Japanese currency notes.

The plant, locally known as "Argeli" and called "Mitsumata" in Japan, is scientifically identified as *Edgeworthia chrysantha*. Its bark fiber is considered essential for producing high-quality traditional Japanese paper, known as "washi," which is also used in printing currency notes due to its durability and unique texture.

Although Japan has used this plant for centuries, domestic production has sharply declined in recent years due to an ageing farming population and reduced agricultural workforce. To address this shortage, Japan turned to Nepal, where the plant grows naturally in suitable Himalayan climatic conditions.

Over time, Nepal has be-

come a major supplier of Mitsumata, with organized cultivation projects expanding across rural regions. What started as small-scale experimental farming in the 1990s has now developed into a structured supply chain supported by Japanese and Nepali cooperation. Training programs introduced scientific harvesting and processing methods, improving both quality and output.

A major boost came in 2016 when the Japan International Cooperation Agency supported the initiative, helping streamline regulations, improve farming practices, and expand local participation. As a result, annual production reportedly increased from around 30 tons to over 100 tons, ensuring a steady supply of raw material for Japan's printing requirements, including advanced security-feature banknotes introduced in recent years.

Beyond its industrial importance, the project has had a

strong social impact in Nepal. The cultivation and processing work requires basic skills and is well-suited for rural households, especially women. Many families have found a stable source of income through this activity, which has helped support children's education and reduce migration in search of employment.

Experts note that the initiative represents a successful model of international cooperation, where one country's natural resources complement another's technological needs. With Japan preparing to mark major milestones in its diplomatic relations with Nepal, the Mitsumata project stands as an example of how sustainable partnerships can benefit both economies while empowering local communities.

The story of "currency growing in the hills" continues to attract interest for its unusual yet impactful blend of nature, industry, and global collaboration.

Kai Trump White House Vlog Sparks Debate

A recent social media vlog by Kai Trump, the 17-year-old granddaughter of US President Donald Trump, has triggered widespread discussion online after it offered an unusually personal look inside the White House's private residential spaces.



The video reportedly showcased areas of the historic residence that are not typically accessible to the public, including recreational and private facilities such as a bowling alley, a gym, a golf simulator room, and personal living quarters. Kai also mentioned staying in the Lincoln Bedroom, a space known for its historical significance and limited access.

The behind-the-scenes tour quickly went viral, drawing millions of views and sparking sharply divided reactions across social media platforms. Supporters praised the content for providing a rare and engaging glimpse into one of the world's most iconic residences. Many users described the vlog as a unique form of storytelling that brings historical spaces closer to the public in a modern, relat-

able format.

However, the video also faced significant criticism. Some viewers questioned whether it was appropriate for a teenager with no official public role to share extensive access to sensitive and high-profile areas of the White House. Critics argued that such visibility raises concerns about privilege, boundaries, and the blending of personal influence with institutional spaces. The debate has since expanded beyond the vlog itself,

touching on broader questions about how social media is changing public perception of political institutions. Observers note that platforms like Instagram and YouTube are increasingly shaping how historic and government spaces are presented, often through informal, influencer-style content rather than official communication channels. While some see this as a positive shift toward transparency and engagement, others worry it risks blurring the line

between public heritage and private access. The discussion also highlights ongoing tensions around celebrity influence, political families, and the role of digital media in shaping narratives around power and privilege.

As the video continues to circulate online, it remains a focal point in conversations about modern storytelling, access, and the evolving relationship between public institutions and social media culture.

Vaibhav's Entry Sparks Selection Puzzle as India Faces Tough Batting Order

The upcoming two-match T20I series against Ireland has already created significant buzz, largely due to the expected international debut of 15-year-old batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi. His rapid rise through domestic cricket and the IPL has placed him firmly in contention for a spot in the playing XI, but his inclusion has also triggered a complex selection headache for Team India management.

Vaibhav is widely expected to open the innings if he makes his debut, a role he has consistently fulfilled at both domestic and franchise levels. His aggressive batting style and ability to dominate the powerplay make him a strong candidate for the top order. However, his entry creates immediate competition for existing openers, particularly Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson, both of whom have established themselves in recent matches.

Abhishek Sharma has been in exceptional form and is currently regarded as one of the most explosive batters in T20 cricket, maintaining an impressive strike rate and consistent scoring ability. On the other hand, Sanju Samson has cemented his place as a reliable top-order batter with multiple match-winning performances, including centuries in the format. Both players bring significant value, making the decision of who partners Vaibhav extremely challenging.

The middle-order scenario adds another layer of complexity. With players like Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan, and Tilak



Varma already occupying key positions, fitting Vaibhav into the lineup without disturbing the balance becomes a tactical challenge. Ishan Kishan's versatility allows him to bat in multiple positions, while Shreyas Iyer is expected to anchor the middle order. Tilak Varma continues to be a crucial link between the top and lower order, further tightening the available slots. The all-rounder combination is equally competitive, with Axar Patel, Shivam Dube, and emerging players like Suryansh

Shedje vying for limited spots. Their inclusion depends heavily on team balance, pitch conditions, and the overall combination strategy adopted by the management. In the bowling department, selections appear relatively more stable, with specialist spinner Ravi Bishnoi almost certain to feature alongside pacers such as Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

Selectors may also face a final choice between additional pace options, with only one among Prince Yadav or Prasadh Krish-

na likely to make the cut depending on conditions and form.

Overall, while Vaibhav Suryavanshi's potential debut is an exciting development for Indian cricket, it has also created a selection puzzle that forces the management to rethink batting positions and team composition. The Ireland series could therefore play a crucial role in shaping India's lineup not just for this tour, but also for upcoming high-profile assignments.

Rangareddy Risers Collapse After Double Blow in One Over

In a thrilling TG20 League encounter, the Rangareddy Risers suffered a dramatic collapse after losing two crucial wickets in a single over, allowing Hyderabad E Champions to seize full control of the match. What began as a dominant batting performance by Rangareddy quickly turned into a struggle in the death overs, as Hyderabad's disciplined bowling and sharp fielding changed the course of the game.

After being asked to bat first, Rangareddy Risers made a confident start. Their openers, Aaron Varghese and Avaneesh, provided early momentum by rotating strike well and punishing loose deliveries. The pair built a strong foundation, taking the score close to 40 runs without loss in the early overs. Avaneesh looked particularly in fine form, timing the ball cleanly and finding boundaries with ease, while Aaron played the supporting role effectively.

The partnership continued to grow steadily, with the team crossing the 70-run mark for the first wicket. Avaneesh soon reached a well-deserved half-century, displaying a mix of aggression and control. However, Hyderabad E Champions found their breakthrough when spinner Shanmukh Ashwin struck at a crucial moment. Avaneesh attempted an ambitious shot but mistimed it, resulting in a catch near the



boundary, ending a dangerous opening stand.

Despite the setback, Rangareddy maintained their attacking intent. Captain Tanay Thyagarajan joined Aditya Jawwaji at the crease, and the duo worked together to rebuild the innings. Aditya played a particularly explosive knock, targeting the bowlers with aggressive stroke play and accelerating the scoring rate. The pair pushed the team past the 100-run mark and looked set for a strong finish.

However, the momentum shifted dramatically in the final phase of the innings. Hyderabad's bowlers tightened their lines and executed their plans effectively under pressure. The turning point of the match came in a single over, where Rangareddy lost two key wickets in quick succession. First, Captain Tanay attempted a big shot but was caught at

the boundary. Moments later, Aditya, who was in excellent form, also fell while attempting another aggressive stroke, handing Hyderabad a crucial double breakthrough.

This double blow completely disrupted Rangareddy's rhythm. The remaining overs saw Hyderabad E Champions maintaining strict control over the scoring rate. Their fielders backed up the bowlers with sharp stops and well-judged catches, ensuring that no further momentum was regained by the opposition.

Rangareddy, who once looked set for a powerful total, were eventually restricted to a below-par finish after the late collapse. The match clearly highlighted how quickly momentum can shift in T20 cricket, with one decisive over proving to be the turning point in favour of Hyderabad E Champions.

Team India Pacer Akash Deep Marries Akshita Raj



Indian cricket team pacer Akash Deep entered a new phase of life as he tied the knot with his long-time friend Akshita Raj in a grand wedding ceremony held in Varanasi. The wedding, which took place at a luxury hotel in the city, was celebrated with traditional rituals and attended by close family members and a few friends from the cricket and entertainment circles.

The celebrations reportedly began several days before the main ceremony, with pre-wedding rituals held at the groom's ancestral village. These traditional customs reflected the cultural roots of the family and set the tone for the grand wedding festivities that followed in Varanasi.

The main wedding ceremony was conducted in a private setting, ensuring that only close relatives and invited guests

were present. The event maintained a blend of traditional customs and modern arrangements, making it a memorable occasion for both families. The bride, Akshita Raj, originally hails from Rohtas district in Bihar. She is academically accomplished, having completed her BCA and MCA from a reputed institution.

The wedding was attended by a few notable personalities, including Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh and cricketer Mukesh Kumar, who joined the celebrations to bless the couple. Their presence added a touch of glamour to the otherwise intimate ceremony.

Akash Deep, known for his pace bowling skills and contributions to the Indian cricket team, has been steadily rising in international cricket. His wedding marks a significant personal milestone, drawing at-

tention from fans and cricket followers across the country.

While the ceremony was largely private, visuals and reports from the event quickly gained traction on social media, with fans and well-wishers extending their congratulations to the newly married couple. The couple's wedding reflects a balance of tradition, simplicity, and celebration, rooted in cultural values.

With this new beginning, Akash Deep joins the list of Indian cricketers who have recently celebrated important personal milestones, even as they continue to focus on their professional commitments on the field.

Overall, the wedding in Varanasi stood out as a graceful and culturally rich celebration, marking a memorable chapter in the life of the Indian fast bowler.

Shubman Gill Climbs to No.2 in ICC ODI Rankings



Indian captain Shubman Gill has made a significant rise in the latest ICC ODI batting rankings, moving up to the second position after a series of outstanding performances in recent matches. The young opener's consistent run-scoring form has further strengthened his reputation as one of the most reliable batters in international cricket today.

Gill's jump of three places in

the rankings comes on the back of his impressive performance in the recent series against Afghanistan, where he played two exceptional innings. He scored an unbeaten 84 in one match and followed it up with a brilliant 154-run knock in the next. These performances not only helped India dominate the series but also boosted his individual rating significantly, pushing him closer to the top spot.

Despite Gill's rise, New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell continues to hold the number one position in the ODI rankings. However, the gap between the top two has narrowed, setting up an interesting competition in the coming matches. Gill's current form suggests that he could soon challenge for the top position if he maintains consistency in the upcoming series.

The rankings also reflect the

strong presence of Indian batters in the global ODI circuit. Former captain Virat Kohli remains steady at third place, while Rohit Sharma continues to hold the fourth position. This highlights India's dominance in the batting department, with three of its top players featuring among the top four in the world.

Gill's rise is particularly significant as he is also leading the Indian side, adding responsibility alongside performance. His ability to convert starts into big scores and maintain a high strike rate has made him a key figure in India's ODI setup. Cricket experts believe his maturity and leadership qualities are evolving rapidly, making him a long-term asset for Indian cricket.

In the bowling rankings as well, India continues to maintain a strong presence. Jasprit Bumrah remains at the top of the Test bowling rankings with an impressive rating, while New Zealand's Matt Henry shares the top spot, reflecting intense competition at the highest level of the game.

Overall, Shubman Gill's rise to the second position in the ICC ODI rankings underlines his growing stature in world cricket. With several important series ahead, he now has a strong opportunity to push for the coveted number one ranking and further cement his place among the elite batters of the modern era.

England Held to Shock Goalless Draw by Ghana in FIFA World Cup Clash

In a surprising FIFA World Cup Group match, England were held to a 0-0 draw by Ghana, a result that shocked many given the significant gap in world rankings between the two teams. Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances, England failed to convert their superiority into goals, while Ghana executed a disciplined defensive performance to secure a valuable point.

England, ranked among the top teams in world football and considered a strong contender for the title, controlled the game for large stretches. They maintained nearly 72% possession and constantly pressed Ghana's defensive line. How-

ever, their finishing let them down at crucial moments. Several scoring opportunities were wasted, including a major chance in the closing stages when Harry Kane missed from close range after a rebound inside the penalty area.

Ghana, on the other hand, focused heavily on defensive organization and counter-pressure tactics. Their strategy was clear from the start: disrupt England's rhythm, stay compact at the back, and frustrate their opponents. The plan worked effectively, as England struggled to break through despite sustained pressure and multiple set-piece opportunities.

A major talking point of the



match was a controversial refereeing decision in the second half. Ghana appealed for a penalty after a challenge inside the

box, but the referee waved play on and the VAR system did not intervene. This incident sparked strong reactions from

Ghana's players and coaching staff, who believed they were denied a clear penalty opportunity. The controversy added

tension to an already intense encounter and became a key discussion point after the match.

England's midfielders admitted frustration after the game, acknowledging that despite controlling possession and territory, they could not find a way past Ghana's defensive setup. The result meant England had to settle for a point, though they remain in a strong position in the group standings with qualification to the knockout stage within reach.

Elsewhere in the group, Croatia kept their qualification hopes alive with a narrow 1-0 victory over Panama, thanks to a second-half goal that proved decisive. Panama's early exit

from the tournament was confirmed after a second consecutive defeat.

In another group fixture, Colombia continued their strong run with a 1-0 win over DR Congo, securing their place in the knockout stage. A late goal and disciplined defensive performance helped them maintain a perfect record in the group so far.

Overall, the match between England and Ghana stood out for its tactical discipline, missed opportunities, and refereeing controversy, highlighting how even dominant teams can struggle against well-organized defensive opponents in high-stakes tournament football.

NTR and Allu Arjun Fans React Strongly to Chiranjeevi's Remarks



Megastar Chiranjeevi has found himself at the center of a fresh controversy in Tollywood following comments he made at the success meet of Peddi, starring Ram Charan. His remarks have sparked intense debate on social media, with fans of N. T. Rama Rao Jr. and Allu Arjun expressed their displeasure.

Speaking at the event, Chiranjeevi said, "Whether Charan gets an award or not is not a big issue. There are many ways for awards to come." These comments have particularly upset Allu Arjun's fans, who believe the statement indirectly referred to the actor's National Award win for his performance in Pushpa: The Rise.

Following the speech, social media platforms were flooded with reactions from fans questioning the intent behind Chiranjeevi's remarks. Many argued that the comments appeared to undermine the credibility of prestigious awards. Some Allu Arjun supporters asked, "Does this mean that everyone who has won a National Award

achieved it through other means?" while criticizing the veteran actor online.

Meanwhile, fans of NTR also joined the discussion, claiming that the comments had unnecessarily triggered controversy among fan groups. Several hashtags related to Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun, NTR, and Peddi began trending as the debate intensified across social media.

On the other hand, supporters of Chiranjeevi have defended the actor, arguing that his statement was taken out of context. According to them, he was merely expressing confidence in Ram Charan's talent and emphasizing that awards are not the sole measure of an actor's success.

As the controversy continues to gain attention, many are waiting to see whether Chiranjeevi or his team will issue a clarification regarding the remarks. For now, the comments have become one of the most talked-about topics in Tollywood circles.



Lokesh Leads Grand Launch of Balakrishna's NBK 112 in Amaravati

A grand film launch ceremony for Nandamuri Balakrishna's 112th film, NBK 112, was held in the people's capital, Amaravati, on Thursday, with Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh attending as the chief guest and performing the ceremonial clap.

The event, held at the BITS Pilani grounds in Velagapudi, marked the first major film launch in Amaravati. Nara Lokesh participated in traditional rituals and officially launched the project, while Balakrishna's daughter Tejaswini switched on the camera.

Speaking on the occasion, Lokesh said it was his first time attending a film launch and thanked his "beloved un-

cle" Balakrishna for the opportunity, raising the slogan "Jai Balayya." He said the government aims to promote the film industry and the broader "creator economy" in Amaravati, in line with the vision of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He described Amaravati as a "sacred land" and expressed hope that more film projects would be launched from the capital in the future.

Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, who also attended the event, termed the launch a strong foundation for establishing the Telugu film industry in Andhra Pradesh. He said the government is focusing on building key infrastructure, including film studios,

recording and re-recording theatres, and dubbing facilities.

Durgesh noted that the Film Development Corporation executive body, led by Chairman Bharat Bhushan, was recently constituted with the support of Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Balakrishna. He expressed confidence that NBK 112, directed by Koratala Siva and produced by Cherukuri Sudhakar and Mikkilineni Sudhakar, would achieve major success.

Prominent personalities, including Daggubati Suresh, MLAs Tenali Sravan Kumar and MS Raju, and several film industry members attended the ceremony.

Samantha Advises Think Twice Before Choosing a Partner

Popular actress Samantha, who had stayed away from Telugu cinema for nearly three years, has finally made a strong comeback with her latest film Maa Inti Bangaram. Directed by Nandini Reddy, the family entertainer was released on June 19 and has received an overwhelming response from audiences. With Samantha's powerful performance and the film's emotional family elements striking a chord with viewers, Maa Inti Bangaram reportedly crossed the 50 crore mark within its first week, emerging as a major box-office success.

To celebrate the film's impressive performance, the makers organized a grand success celebration event in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Samantha, director Nandini Reddy, Raj Nidimoru, Sreemukhi, Himank Duvvuru, and other members of the film's team. While the celebrations highlighted the movie's success, it was Samantha's comments on relationships that became the biggest talking point of the evening. During an interaction at the event, the anchor remarked that there is often a woman behind every successful man and noted that Samantha had achieved a major success after a significant person entered her life. The anchor then asked what ad-



vice she would give to young women who often struggle when choosing a life partner in today's generation.

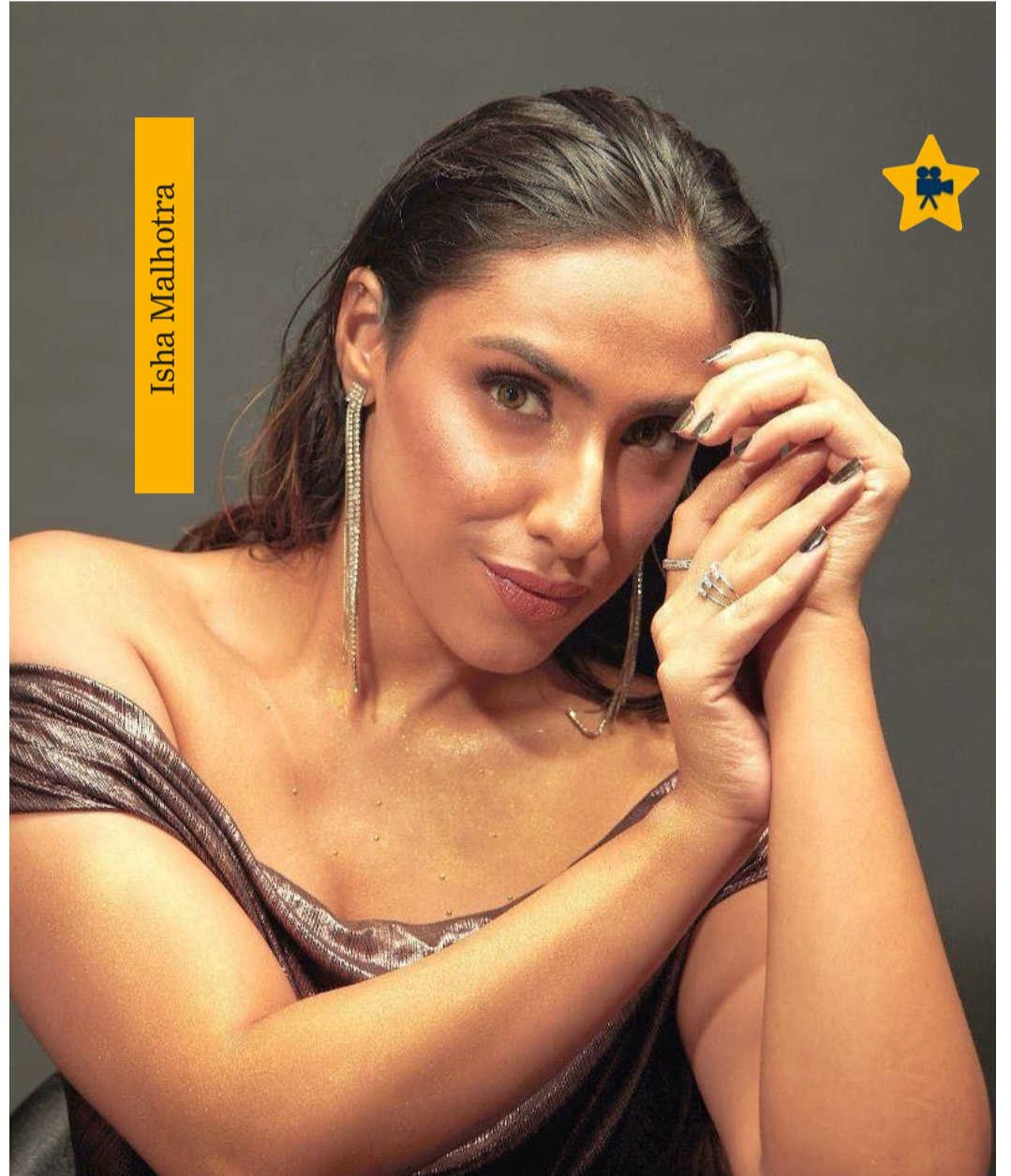
Responding thoughtfully, Samantha said that people should think very carefully before entering a relationship. She explained that career decisions are largely within an individual's control, and even if mistakes happen, they can often be corrected through hard work and determination. However, relationships are different because they involve another person, emotions, trust, and long-term commitment.

Samantha emphasized that selecting the right partner is one of the most important decisions in life and should never be made in haste. She advised young women to take sufficient time to understand a person's character, values, and intentions before making a commitment. According to her, patience and clarity are essential in building a healthy and lasting relationship.

Her candid remarks resonated with many attendees and quickly went viral across social media platforms. Fans praised Samantha for speaking honestly about a subject

that affects many young people today. Several users appreciated her mature perspective, saying her words reflected lessons learned through personal experiences and professional growth.

With Maa Inti Bangaram enjoying a successful run at the box office and Samantha's inspiring comments attracting widespread attention, the actress has once again found herself in the spotlight. Both her comeback film and her thoughtful relationship advice have become major topics of discussion among fans and industry observers alike.



Isha Malhotra

Re-Releases Take Centre Stage Amid Box Office Lull

With no major fresh releases hitting theatres in the last week of June, re-releases are stepping in to keep cinema halls active. The postponement of anticipated films has created a temporary lull, prompting filmmakers to bring back popular titles to attract audiences.

Currently, Samantha's Maa Inti Bangaram continues its strong run at the box office, emerging as one of the biggest performers in recent weeks. The film has not only sustained momentum but is also inching towards the 50 crore mark, surprising trade analysts with its consistency.

Amid this, several re-releases are lining up to fill the gap. Mahesh Babu's cult classic Okkadu is returning to theatres yet again, proving its enduring appeal. Despite multiple re-runs over the years, the film continues to draw crowds, especially among nostalgic fans.

Joining the list is Raj Tarun's Cinema Chupistha Mawa, which had enjoyed a successful theatrical run earlier. Meanwhile, Manchu Vishnu's Kannappa is also set for a re-release, with the team banking on audience curiosity, particularly due to Prabhas' cameo.

Adding to the mix, the 3D version of HanuMan is hitting screens, of-



fering an enhanced visual experience. With improved technology, the makers are hopeful of recreating the original film's success.

Interestingly, the planned re-release of Gabbar Singh has been postponed to avoid clashing with upcoming releases. With limited new content, the coming weekend will test whether nostalgia and upgraded formats can successfully pull audiences back to theatres



Idupu Kayitham Heroine's 15 Rules Create Buzz

The upcoming Telugu film "Idupu Kayitham" has officially begun its journey with a traditional pooja ceremony, drawing attention for its unique title and interesting behind-the-scenes revelations. The film, which features actor Priyadarshi in the lead role and introduces folk singer Naga Durga as the female lead, is being produced under the presentation of Sukumar Writings and produced by Bunny Vasu. The film is directed by Vamsi Reddy Dondapati.

The launch event was held recently, marking the formal beginning of the project. The title "Idupu Kayitham" has already created curiosity among audiences, as it is a colloquial Telangana term meaning "divorce document." The makers suggest that the story revolves around relatable family issues that exist in many households, making it a subject that will emotionally connect with a wide range of viewers.

Producer Bunny Vasu, speaking at the event, shared several interesting insights about the film. He stated that good stories have no boundaries and can appeal to audiences across regions. Accord-



ing to him, "Idupu Kayitham" is designed as a global-level story that will resonate with audiences even if released outside Telugu states. He added that every family has common relationship challenges, and this film presents those realities in an entertaining yet emotional manner.

One of the most talked-about highlights of his speech was the revelation about the film's female lead, Naga Durga. Bunny Vasu mentioned that when she was approached for the role, she reportedly placed 15 conditions before agreeing to act in the film. Rather than being discour-

aged, the team was impressed by her clarity and confidence. He appreciated her professionalism, saying it reflects the mindset of a determined young woman who knows exactly what she wants.

The producer further emphasized that audiences will strongly connect with the story, especially couples and families. He humorously remarked that if a wife takes her husband to watch this film, both may leave the theatre with a better understanding of relationships. This statement added more curiosity and buzz around the project.

Sukumar's wife Thabitha also expressed confidence in the film, stating that projects coming from Sukumar Writings always carry strong storytelling value. She believes "Idupu Kayitham" will stand as another milestone in their banner's journey.

With its unique title, strong emotional theme, and intriguing casting choices, "Idupu Kayitham" has already started generating discussion even before going on floors. The team is confident that the film will strike a chord with audiences when it reaches the big screen.