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Say No to Drugs - CM, Governor Appeal

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday appealed to people to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards creating a healthy and drug-free society.

On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, both leaders issued messages highlighting the need for awareness, collective responsibility, and public participation to tackle the growing menace of drug abuse.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged citizens to reject drugs and work together to build a society based on positive thinking and strong values, especially among the youth. He stated that drug abuse not only destroys the lives of individuals but also affects families and creates wider social problems.

The Chief Minister emphasized that awareness, constant vigilance, and social responsibility are essential to control drug abuse and prevent illegal drug traffick-



ing. He called upon people from all sections of society to extend their cooperation in achieving the vision of a "Drug-Free Telangana."

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also appealed to citizens to join hands in preventing drug abuse and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. He stressed the importance of collective efforts in building a safer environment for

future generations. Telangana Director General of Police C.V. Anand said that drug abuse causes serious harm not only to individuals but also impacts families and society as a whole. He called for coordinated efforts to spread awareness, support prevention measures, and encourage young people to choose a healthy way of life.

In a message shared on social media platform 'X', the DGP stated that the fight against drugs cannot be limited to police action alone. He described drug eradication as a social movement requiring active participation from every section of society.

"Let us join hands to spread awareness, support prevention, and encourage a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Together, we can build a safer and stronger Telangana," he said.

The DGP further urged citizens to remain alert, report drug-related activities, and become partners in the campaign against substance abuse. He reiterated that cooperation between government departments, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, parents, and the public is crucial to protecting the youth from the dangers of drugs.

The state government has been taking several measures, including awareness programmes and strengthening anti-drug enforcement mechanisms, to prevent drug abuse and promote a healthier future for Telangana.



Bhatti Announces Weekly MSME Meet to Boost Industry Growth

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has announced that he will dedicate one day every week to interact with entrepreneurs and understand issues faced by the industrial sector. He said the government's focus is not limited to attracting investments but also on protecting livelihoods and creating employment opportunities.

Speaking after inaugurating the 'Industrial Innovation and Technology Expo 2026' at HITEX on Friday, Bhatti Vikramarka said industrial development under the people's government goes beyond investment numbers. He stated that every industry represents jobs, families, and economic progress. He appreciated the role of FTCCI in connecting the government with the business community.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the expo is not just a display of machinery and products but a platform for exchanging ideas and building opportunities. He explained that small entrepreneurs can find new markets, manufacturers can access advanced technologies, and startups can connect with their first customers through such events.

Highlighting Telangana's industrial progress, Bhatti Vikramarka said the state has gained investor confidence since its formation and Hyderabad has emerged as a global destination in sectors such as IT, pharmaceuticals, and life sciences. However, he stressed that growth should not depend only on the services sector and called for strengthening manufacturing and MSMEs to increase their contribution to the economy.

He said the government is committed to extending the benefits of Ease of Doing Business to small industries, women entrepreneurs, and

rural businesses along with major companies. As part of this initiative, he announced that every Friday would be reserved for meetings with MSME associations and industrial representatives.

The Deputy CM appreciated the expo's focus on emerging technologies, including electric mobility, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence, and smart manufacturing. Recalling former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's contribution to India's computer revolution, he said technological advancement has always played a key role in economic transformation.

Speaking about electric vehicles, Bhatti Vikramarka said Telangana has provided 100 per cent exemption on road tax and registration charges for all categories of EVs. He said the government's aim is not only to promote electric vehicle usage but also to develop local supply chains and technology.

He stated that Telangana aims to achieve 34 gigawatts of solar power generation capacity by 2035. He also highlighted the state's early initiatives in pumped storage projects, noting that such technologies are now gaining global attention.

The Deputy Chief Minister said peak power demand in Telangana has increased from 15,000 MW to 18,500 MW in the last two-and-a-half years, yet quality electricity is being supplied without power cuts.

He added that the government is working towards expanding Telangana's economy to \$3 trillion by 2047 and will encourage investments through the Public-Private Partnership model.

He invited entrepreneurs, startups, and students to utilize opportunities created through projects like Future City, Musi River rejuvenation, and the Regional Ring Road.

Drug-Free Mission

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has called upon society, celebrities, and institutions to join hands with the government in building a drug-free Telangana. He said the future of children is directly linked to the progress and development of the state.

Speaking as the chief guest at a special programme held at Shilpakala Vedika to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Bhatti Vikramarka said the government is committed to preventing drug addiction among youth. He stated that there should be no scope for the sale or supply of drugs anywhere in Telangana. The Deputy CM said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the state cabinet have taken a firm resolve to protect the

younger generation from the dangers of substance abuse. He explained that the government is implementing strict measures and has established a specialised unit, 'Eagle Force', to fight the drug menace.

He said the government has provided the required funds, vehicles, and support systems to make Eagle Force effective. He also mentioned that special incentives are being considered for police personnel involved in tackling drug-related activities, recognising the risks involved in their duties.

Bhatti Vikramarka said every child's life is valuable and parents dream of seeing their children achieve success and contribute to society. He urged people to actively participate in the campaign by spreading the message of "Say No to Drugs."

He said awareness programmes are being conducted in government and private



schools and colleges to educate students about the harmful effects of drugs. He added that the police department is working with commitment to safeguard society and warned that strict action

would be taken against anyone involved in activities that threaten the future of children. The Deputy CM stressed that laws alone cannot eliminate the drug problem and that

social awareness is equally important. Comparing it with social reforms such as the fight against dowry, he said behavioural change among families and communities is necessary for long-term success.

He appealed to Tollywood celebrities, including actors, directors, and other influential personalities, to support the campaign by recording messages encouraging youth to stay away from drugs. He said even a short message from popular film personalities could influence many young people positively. Bhatti Vikramarka assured that the government would provide support for awareness campaigns through the Information and Cinematography departments. He said all departments, including police, Women and Child Welfare, Education, and Eagle Force, would work together to achieve the goal of a drug-free Telangana.

Major IAS Reshuffle Ordered

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has carried out a major administrative reshuffle involving several IAS and non-cadre officers, issuing orders for transfers, fresh postings, and additional charge arrangements across key departments.

The General Administration Department issued a Government Order announcing the changes, with several senior officers being assigned new responsibilities. The reshuffle aims to streamline administration and strengthen coordination across various departments. Senior IAS officer Sabyasachi Ghosh has been given additional charge as Special Chief Secretary for Handicrafts, Textiles, and Handlooms. He will continue to handle multiple responsibilities following the latest orders.

Shailaja Ramaiyer has been transferred and appointed as Secretary to the Government, Electronics, Science and Technology (EPS&T) Department. Ahmad Nadeem has been posted as Principal Secretary (Political) in the General Administration Department.

N. Sridhar has been appointed as Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, taking up a

key role in the Chief Minister's Office. Rahul Bojja, who returned from leave, has been posted as Principal Secretary for Disaster Management.

In other significant changes, M. Raghunandan Rao has been assigned additional charge of the Mines and Geology Department. B. Ajith Reddy has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest Telangana, a key body responsible for promoting investments in the state.

Md. Musharraf Ali Faruqui has been given additional charge in TGREDCO. Several other officers, including P. Katyayani Devi, K. Gangadhar, and T. Venkanna, have also been transferred and assigned new positions.

The orders were issued by Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao as part of the government's administrative restructuring exercise. The latest postings are expected to bring changes in the functioning of departments and improve implementation of government programmes. Officials stated that the reshuffle was part of routine administrative adjustments aimed at ensuring effective governance and better utilisation of senior officers' experience in important departments.

No Fertilizer Shortage: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy has assured that the Central Government is taking all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted fertilizer availability in Telangana during the ongoing Kharif season. He said the government is closely monitoring supplies despite global challenges, including geopolitical tensions, fluctuations in energy markets, and reduced exports from major fertilizer-producing countries. Kishan Reddy stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre

has adopted proactive measures to prevent any shortage of fertilizers in the country. He said domestic urea production has been strengthened by procuring natural gas from spot markets, helping maintain adequate availability for farmers. The Union Minister said sufficient stocks of key fertilizers, including urea, DAP, and NPK, are available across the country, including Telangana, due to timely imports and effective planning. He highlighted that the Centre has made supplies beyond the estimated requirement available for the upcoming Rabi

2025-26 season. According to Kishan Reddy, against the projected urea requirement of 10.40 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) for Rabi 2025-26, the Centre has provided 12.01 LMT. Similarly, against the requirement of 1.45 LMT of DAP, 2.55 LMT has been supplied, while against the estimated need of 7.00 LMT of NPK fertilizers, 9.47 LMT has been made available. He said the additional allocation reflects the Centre's commitment to ensuring that farmers do not face difficulties during agricultural operations. He added that continuous monitoring is being car-

ried out to maintain adequate fertilizer stocks during the current Kharif 2026 season as well. Kishan Reddy also stated that the issues previously faced by Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) have been resolved. He said the plant is now operating at full capacity, which will further support timely fertilizer supply to farmers in Telangana. Clarifying the responsibilities between the Centre and the state government, Kishan Reddy said the Union Government's role is to ensure sufficient allocation and availability of fertilizers,

while the distribution process at the field level falls under the responsibility of the state administration. He urged the Telangana government to ensure fair distribution of fertilizers across all districts and prevent diversion of subsidised fertilizers for non-agricultural purposes. He also called for strict action against illegal hoarding and black marketing so that genuine farmers receive fertilizers without delay. The Union Minister assured that the Centre will continue to monitor the situation and take necessary steps to support farmers throughout the crop season.

Drug-Free Telangana Drive Sanjay Jaju New CS

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has launched a renewed campaign against drug abuse, with officials stressing the need for public participation to create a drug-free society. The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking programme was organised at Shilpakala Vedika under the aegis of 'Eagle Force' and the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, and Transgender Persons. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attended the event along with DGP CV Anand, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Sandeep Kumar Shandilya, Anita Ramachandran, film actor Ram Potthini, actress Meenakshi Chaudhary, and other officials. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Telangana government established 'Eagle



Force' with full authority to control and prevent drug-related activities across the state. He said the initiative focuses particularly on protecting youth and securing the future of Telangana. He appealed to citizens to share information related to drug activities by contacting the helpline number 1908.

The minister said drug abuse is not only an individual problem but also affects families, society, and overall security. "Creating a drug-free society cannot be achieved by government efforts alone," he said, stressing that parents, teachers, educational institutions, and the public must

work together to guide youngsters away from substance abuse. Ponnam Prabhakar said the Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens, and Transgender Persons has been appointed as the nodal agency for implementing the pro-

gramme effectively in Telangana. He added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the government is taking strict measures to eliminate the drug menace. He said the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau, police department, education department, and other government agencies are coordinating efforts to identify and prevent drug-related activities. The programme aims to create awareness among students, prevent youth from becoming victims of substance abuse, and provide rehabilitation support to those affected. The minister stated that laws alone cannot completely solve the issue and collective responsibility is required from all sections of society. He urged students to protect their future by staying away from drugs and making responsible choices. Officials highlighted that the campaign will continue with awareness programmes and coordinated action to build a healthier and safer Telangana.

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana has appointed senior IAS officer Sanjay Jaju as the new Chief Secretary of the state. A 1992-batch IAS officer, Jaju will succeed the present Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, whose tenure is scheduled to end on June 30. Sanjay Jaju, who was serving as Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under the Central Government, was recently relieved from central service. He had been on central deputation for more than 15 years before returning to the state cadre. Jaju brings extensive administrative experience to the post. Earlier in his career, he served as Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad (MCH) before its transformation into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). He also worked as the District Collector of West Godavari and served as the Commissioner of Visakhapatnam. The decision to appoint Sanjay Jaju, a Telangana cadre officer, is seen as part of the state government's efforts to strengthen admin-

istration and ensure effective implementation of welfare and development programmes. His appointment comes at a crucial time as the government prepares for upcoming political challenges. Two other senior IAS officers from the 1992 batch were also considered for the top administrative position. Jayesh Ranjan, currently serving as Special Chief Secretary of the Metropolitan Area and Urban Development Department, was among the contenders. He is also handling additional responsibilities in the Sports and Tourism Departments. Vikas Raj, another 1992-batch officer, was also in the race. He is currently serving as Special Chief Secretary of the Transport, Roads and Buildings (TR&B) Department. However, the government selected Sanjay Jaju, who recently returned from central deputation, for the Chief Secretary's post. With his long administrative experience at both state and central levels, Jaju is expected to focus on improving coordination between departments and strengthening governance in Telangana.

Oil Palm Push in Telangana Bhadrachalam Temple Revamp Begins

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said oil palm cultivation has emerged as a major opportunity for farmers in Telangana and that the state has the potential to become the country's leading oil palm hub. He directed officials to speed up construction of the new oil palm processing factory at Kallurugudem and make it operational by August. The minister inspected the ongoing construction works of the oil palm factory at Kallurugudem in Vemsur Mandal of Sathupalli constituency, Khammam district, along with local MLA Matta Ragamayi on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Tummala said Telangana has achieved the top position in the country in terms of expansion of oil palm cultivation under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He stated that oil palm farming is providing a new source of income for farmers and supporting the state's agricultural growth. The minister explained that oil palm is currently cultivated on around 15 lakh acres across the country, but



expanding it to 70 lakh acres is necessary for India to achieve self-sufficiency in edible oil production. He expressed happiness that Telangana recorded a 36 per cent increase in oil palm cultivation area, making it the highest-growing state in the country. Tummala said he recently met Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi in Delhi and requested the Centre to increase the import duty on palm oil by 44 per cent. He said the move would

improve support prices for domestic farmers and help reduce dependence on imported edible oils. He pointed out that India spends nearly 21 lakh crore annually on edible oil imports and stressed the need to encourage domestic production. The minister also recalled his request to the Centre to fix a Minimum Guaranteed Price of ₹25,000 per tonne for palm oil fruit bunches, compared to the existing price of ₹23,852 per tonne. Tummala said oil palm processing units are already functioning

in Bhadradi Kothagudem district and Narmetta in Siddipet district. He added that new factories are being constructed in Kalluru, Gudum, and Konijarla in Khammam district, Beechpalli in Gadwal district, Incharla in Mulugu district, and other locations including Peddapalli and Wanaparthy. He instructed officials from Oilfed and the Horticulture Department to accelerate the works and ensure that farmers benefit from the facilities at the earliest. The minister said the

government would continue supporting oil palm farmers through initiatives under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Praja Palana programme, including schemes such as Rythu Bharosa, Rythu Bheema, and free power supply. He encouraged farmers to adopt oil palm cultivation as an alternative crop, stating that expanding cultivation to 10 lakh acres would increase Telangana's green cover and contribute significantly to the state's economic development.

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government will formally launch the redevelopment and expansion works of the historic Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Temple at Bhadrachalam on June 27. The ambitious project is being taken up with an allocation of ₹351 crore announced by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during his visit to the temple for Sri Rama Navami celebrations. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy reviewed the preparations for the launch of the renovation works at a meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday. The meeting was attended by officials from the Endowments Department and representatives of the Bhadrachalam temple administration. The minister directed officials to ensure that all development activities are carried out strictly according to Agama Shastra principles while respecting the traditions, beliefs, and sentiments of devotees. Srinivas Reddy stressed that the redevelopment should preserve the temple's spiritual importance, heritage, and traditional grandeur. He instructed officials to give priority to stone structures and architectural designs that reflect the temple's

ancient cultural and religious identity. The minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has envisioned a comprehensive development plan aimed at meeting the needs of devotees for the next 200 years while protecting the historical character of the temple for future generations. He directed the authorities to divide the project into multiple components and execute the works simultaneously to ensure speedy completion. The government has set a target to complete major development works before the next Sri Rama Navami celebrations scheduled for April 2027. The redevelopment plan is expected to improve facilities for devotees while enhancing the overall temple surroundings. Officials have been instructed to maintain a balance between modern requirements and the traditional architecture of one of Telangana's most important spiritual centres. The Bhadrachalam temple, dedicated to Lord Sri Rama, attracts devotees from across the country and is considered a major pilgrimage destination. The upcoming works are aimed at strengthening infrastructure and providing better facilities while preserving the temple's religious significance.

India's First Data Center City BrahMos Unit Hope Rises

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, already recognised as a major global technology destination, is preparing to enter a new phase of digital infrastructure development with the proposed establishment of India's first dedicated "Data Center City." The ambitious project is aimed at meeting the rapidly growing demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and digital services. The proposed Data Center City will be developed across 1,500 acres in Alur village of Chevella mandal in Vikarabad district, around 55 kilometres from Hyderabad. Unlike conventional IT parks, the facility will be designed as a specialised ecosystem for large-scale data operations, with advanced servers, cooling systems, power infrastructure, and high-

security zones. The project is being planned with future technologies such as AI and quantum computing in mind. Officials are preparing detailed plans for essential requirements, including electricity, water supply, transportation, and digital connectivity. The State IT and Industries Department has reportedly given in-principle approval for the project. The Data Center City will follow a plug-and-play model, allowing companies to begin operations quickly without separately arranging basic infrastructure. The campus will provide integrated facilities such as power substations, high-speed fibre networks, backup systems, cooling infrastructure, and security arrangements. A major focus of the project is environmental sustainability. Since data centres require continuous cool-

ing and large quantities of water, the government plans to use treated wastewater instead of fresh water. Around 530 million litres per day (MLD) of treated water from 41 sewage treatment plants managed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) is proposed to be supplied through dedicated pipelines to the data hub and nearby industrial areas. The importance of such facilities has increased with the rise of generative AI and machine learning technologies. "Modern AI-based systems require significantly higher computing power and electricity compared to traditional servers. To meet these requirements, uninterrupted power supply and open-access power options are being considered for companies. Hyderabad has

already emerged as a data centre hub with the presence of major technology companies and operators. Existing facilities have a capacity of around 150 to 200 megawatts, while several projects with a combined capacity of nearly 5 gigawatts are under development. Additional proposals in Telangana have a cumulative capacity exceeding 11 gigawatts. Along with Alur, areas such as Chandanvelly, Bharat Future City, and Fab City are also being developed as data centre clusters. The government aims to position Telangana as a national model by combining digital growth, industrial investment, and sustainable development. If successfully implemented, the Data Center City project could become a landmark initiative in India's digital infrastructure journey.

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The proposal to establish a BrahMos missile manufacturing unit in Palamuru district has gained fresh momentum following recent discussions between Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi. The proposed project has renewed hopes among local residents and officials, with expectations that a major defence-related facility could come up in the region. The possibility of setting up the prestigious unit in Mahabubnagar district has been under discussion for some time. Interest increased after earlier visits by officials and recent talks at the national level. Sources indicated that the Central Government is positively considering the proposal and a decision regarding the location may be taken soon. BrahMos Aerospace representatives had earlier met Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy and discussed expanding the company's operations to Telangana. During the meeting, the Chief Minister suggested that suitable government land was available in Devarakadra mandal of Mahabubnagar district, strategically located between Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Following the discussions, representatives inspected the proposed site and prepared a report. The identified location includes more than 400 acres of government land between Baswayipally and Chowdarpally villages. The site is considered suitable due to its infrastructure advantages. It is located between National Highway 44 and National Highway 167, providing strong road connectivity. The Shamshabad International Airport is also located around 100 kilometres away, which could support logistics and transportation requirements. Officials who inspected the location reportedly gave positive feedback, while other possible sites were also

examined. However, there are indications that the defence research team is showing interest in the Palamuru location due to its connectivity and availability of land. The proposed BrahMos facility has generated excitement among residents of Chowdarpally and Baswayipally villages. Locals believe that the establishment of a defence manufacturing unit would bring employment opportunities, boost economic activity, and put the region on the national map. Residents expressed hope that a missile manufacturing facility associated with India's defence capabilities would become a matter of pride for Palamuru. They are awaiting the final approval from the Central Government. If cleared, the project is expected to become a significant industrial and strategic development for Telangana, strengthening the state's role in the country's defence manufacturing sector.



Urea Supply Smooth: Tummala

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday criticised Opposition parties for allegedly creating unnecessary concerns among farmers over urea fertilizer availability. He said that minor technical issues reported with the fertilizer app at a few locations were being exaggerated and projected as a failure of the entire distribution system. In a statement, the minister said urea distribution was progressing smoothly through nearly 12,000 retail outlets across Telangana. He assured farmers that fertilizer supplies were being allocated and provided according



to their requirements. Tummala said the fertilizer app introduced by the Telangana government is also being adopted by the Central Government and is currently being implemented on a pilot basis in some districts. He explained that due to insufficient rainfall, crop cultivation has so far covered only around 14.78 lakh acres in the state. However, farmers purchased around 1.91 lakh tonnes of urea by June 24, which is higher compared to the 1.80 lakh tonnes purchased by the end of June last year. The minister said more than 85 per cent of Telangana farmers, who fall under the small and marginal category, are being supplied their complete urea

requirement at one time. For large farmers, fertilizer is being supplied in two or three phases based on the monthly quota allocated to the state by the Centre. "This is not discrimination, but a responsible approach to ensure fair distribution of limited resources among all farmers," Tummala said. He urged farmers not to believe rumours regarding fertilizer shortages and said the government is continuously monitoring supplies to ensure that agricultural activities are not affected. The minister stated that the administration is committed to supporting farmers and maintaining a transparent fertilizer distribution system across the state.



MP Raises Ram Temple Trust Allegations

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir Lok Sabha MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has raised allegations regarding the handling of donations collected for the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust and demanded transparency over the utilisation of funds. Responding to recent discussions surrounding the trust, the MP alleged that large-scale irregularities took place in the name of the Ayodhya Ram Mandir project. He questioned the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership and demanded that the details of donations received from devotees across the country be made public. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said millions of people contributed to the temple construction with devotion, irrespective of their financial conditions. He alleged that the money was donated for the cause of Lord Rama and not for personal benefit. The MP claimed that Trust Secretary Champat Rai had earlier denied any corruption allegations, but questioned the developments surrounding investigations and arrests reportedly linked to the matter. He alleged that merely removing individuals from positions would not resolve the issue and demanded a complete

inquiry. He also targeted the Uttar Pradesh government, stating that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should respond to the allegations as the matter concerns devotees across the country and not just one state. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath clarify the facts regarding the trust's financial matters and explain how the collected funds are being utilised. The MP also criticised the BJP over other political controversies, alleging that the party has protected leaders facing accusations in different matters. He referred to the NEET paper leak issue and made allegations against the handling of the investigation. He accused the BJP of using religious sentiments for political purposes and said people who donated to the Ram Mandir construction deserve complete accountability and transparency. The MP reiterated that public trust must be protected and urged authorities to provide clear information regarding the management and expenditure of the donations received for the Ayodhya temple project.

Jeevan Reddy Demands Fee Reimbursement Release

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister T. Jeevan Reddy on Friday criticized the Congress government over delays in releasing fee reimbursement funds and demanded the withdrawal of GO 09. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, he alleged that the government's decisions were creating hardships for students and affecting the education system. Jeevan Reddy said half of the government's term has already passed and only the remaining half of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's tenure is left. He alleged that despite coming to power with promises of improving education, the government has failed to address key issues faced by students. He said the formation of Telangana was achieved through the sacrifices of students and claimed that under the leadership of KCR, educational opportunities were



expanded during the previous government's two terms. He added that the fee reimbursement scheme introduced during former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure was continued by the previous government. The former minister alleged that the Congress government has failed to clear fee reimbursement dues amounting to around ₹10,000 crore. He said colleges are demanding fee payments from students during admissions due to pending reimbursements, causing difficulties for many families. Jeevan Reddy questioned the government's decision to issue GO 09 without settling pending payments to colleges. He said institutions established with government approval should have proper coordination with the government instead of putting pressure on students. He alleged that Revanth Reddy, who has been handling the Education portfolio for nearly 30 months, has failed to introduce meaningful reforms. He criticized the government's 'Young India Integrated Schools' initiative, claiming that existing residential schools are being

renamed instead of creating new institutions. He also alleged that the government is projecting renovated schools under previous schemes as new developments. He claimed that initiatives like 'Mana Ooru - Mana Badi' had already improved school infrastructure earlier. The former minister further criticized the government over employment generation and English-medium education, alleging that it has failed to create sufficient jobs and strengthen educational facilities. He said GO 09 has weakened the fee reimbursement system, which previously functioned without burdening students financially. Jeevan Reddy alleged that although ₹6,000 crore was allocated in the budget for fee reimbursement, no amount has been spent so far. Former MLA P. Shashidhar Reddy also participated in the press meet.

Urea App Row

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

TRS leader and former minister Boda Janardhan on Friday accused the Congress government of troubling farmers through the urea supply system and demanded the immediate removal of the urea app. He said farmers should be provided urea based on their passbooks instead of depending on the digital system. Addressing the media at the TRS office in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Janardhan alleged that the government

has failed to ensure adequate urea availability during the crucial crop season. He criticized both the state and central governments, claiming they were ignoring farmers' difficulties while praising each other. Janardhan said the urea app has become a burden for farmers as it functions only for limited periods and often shows no stock availability. He questioned how farmers without smartphones or those living in areas with poor network connectivity could access the system. He

said the government should explore alternative methods to prevent black marketing instead of putting the responsibility on farmers. He demanded that the app be scrapped immediately and urea distribution be restored through a passbook-based system. He warned that farmers have already suffered due to shortages in the past and are again facing problems at a time when agricultural operations are underway. The TRS leader alleged that the government's failures have caused

severe losses to farmers. He claimed that farmers were forced to burn crops spread across nearly 9 lakh acres due to procurement issues and lack of support. He criticized the government for not fulfilling its promises regarding paddy bonuses. Janardhan said the government initially promised bonuses for all paddy varieties but later restricted the benefit to fine-grain varieties and then further limited it to selected varieties. He accused the government of misleading farmers and

ignoring their struggles. He also questioned the Centre's appreciation of the state government, alleging that the administration has failed in protecting farmers' interests. Janardhan said his party would continue to fight for farmers and would pressure the government to take corrective measures. He warned that if the government does not address the urea supply problems and farmer issues, they would intensify their efforts to ensure justice for the farming community.



BJP Plans Major Political Push

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao said the party's national leadership is focusing on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level in Telangana with the aim of forming the government in the state in the future. Addressing a media conference at the BJP state office, Ramchander Rao announced that BJP national leader Nitin Nabin would undertake a three-day tour of Telangana from June 28. He said the visit reflects the importance of the national leadership in giving to the state and expressed confidence that it would energise party workers. The meeting was attended by BJP Telangana General Secretary Virender Goud, State Treasurer Devaki Vasudeva Rao, State Media In-charge and Chief Spokesperson N.V. Subhash, former MBC Corporation Chairman Tadori Srinivas, and other leaders. As part of the tour, Nitin Nabin will arrive at Shamshabad and virtually inaugurate new BJP offices in around 10 districts from the Ranga Reddy district party office. Later, he participated in a major meeting with booth-level presidents from the GHMC region at Hyderabad Exhibition Grounds. He will also hold discussions with BJP MPs, MLAs, and MLCs at the state party office. On the second day, Nitin Nabin is scheduled to inter-

act with students at VBIT Engineering College and later participate in programmes at Bhuvanagiri and Warangal. In Warangal, he will meet representatives of tribal communities, including Lambada, Koya, Chenchu, and Gond groups, followed by a meeting with booth presidents from the erstwhile Warangal district. On the final day, he will address the State Working Committee and office bearers' meeting at Ghatkesar before returning to Delhi. BJP leaders clarified that the visit is aimed at organisational strengthening and is not linked directly to elections. Meanwhile, BJP leaders also raised concerns over the Tungabhadra River water issue. They welcomed the proposed repair works on the river gates but demanded clarity from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Telangana's water share. They expressed concerns that projects in neighbouring states could affect Telangana's allocation and sought details of discussions held with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil. The BJP leaders also criticized Congress and MIM over the NRC and CAA debate, alleging that political parties were creating confusion among people for vote-bank gains. They said citizenship and voting rights are governed by constitutional and legal provisions and warned against spreading misinformation.

BRS MLA Slams CM Remarks

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan has criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's remarks suggesting that government employees should work an additional hour daily to increase revenue and reduce leakages. He said the statement reflected a lack of administrative vision and that Telangana requires effective governance rather than just longer working hours. Dr. Sravan said a clock only measures time, while visionary leadership should measure improvements in people's

lives. He argued that government efficiency depends on strong policies, transparent administration, proper implementation, and responsible decision-making rather than extending employees' working hours. The BRS leader alleged that the Congress government has pushed Telangana into financial difficulties due to policy failures, corruption, and poor priorities. He accused the government of attempting to shift the burden onto employees instead of focusing on economic reforms and measures to improve revenue generation. Dr. Sravan claimed that the

administration has been facing confusion due to what he described as policy uncertainty, political decisions, and lack of coordination. He alleged that these issues have affected the functioning of government departments and weakened the administrative system. Questioning the government's economic management, he asked why the state continues to face revenue challenges and increasing debt despite repeated claims about a "Rising Telangana." He said the government should review its policies and address finan-

cial issues before placing additional responsibilities on employees. "Revenue cannot be increased through slogans or by making employees work extra hours. It requires policies that encourage investment, public trust, transparency, and efficient administration," Dr. Sravan said. He alleged that the Congress government has failed to fulfil its promises and has spent more time on publicity than governance. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to focus on delivering results and addressing public concerns

instead of making announcements without effective implementation. Dr. Sravan said Telangana needs leadership with a clear vision, fiscal discipline, and long-term planning. He warned that people expect performance and accountability from the government and that political campaigns cannot replace effective administration. He called upon the Chief Minister to restore confidence in the state's financial and administrative systems, stating that the government should focus on development and fulfilling commitments made to the people.

Students Join Drug-Free India Drive

Kutbullapur, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The Dundigal police have called upon students and society to work together to protect the younger generation from drug abuse. As part of the Central Government's "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan" (Drug-Free India Campaign), the police conducted an awareness programme at Sri Chaitanya Junior College in Dundigal. Addressing students during the programme, police officials warned that drug addiction can severely impact the future of youth and lead to serious consequences. They explained that substance abuse not only affects physical and mental health but can also result in family disputes, social isolation, and involvement in criminal activities. Officials said that various forms of intoxicating substances are being used to attract young people and advised students to stay alert and avoid such harmful influences. They encouraged students to focus on education, sports, cultural activities, and creative pursuits to maintain a healthy and productive lifestyle. The police highlighted that



preventing drug abuse is not the responsibility of law enforcement agencies alone but requires active participation from parents, teachers, educational institutions, and the entire community. They urged students to act responsibly and spread awareness among their friends and families. Students were advised to immediately inform the

police about any information related to the sale, supply, or consumption of drugs. Officials said timely reporting can help authorities take strict action against those involved in illegal activities. The police reiterated that the objective of achieving a drug-free India can only be fulfilled through collective efforts and public cooperation. They urged students to become ambassadors of the campaign and contribute to building a healthier society. A large number of Sub-Inspectors and police personnel from Dundigal Police Station, along with college faculty members and students, participated in the awareness programme. Students and officials also

took a pledge to support the mission of creating a "Nasha Mukta Bharat" and protecting the future of the younger generation. The programme aimed to create awareness among students about the dangers of drug abuse and encourage them to make responsible choices for a safe and healthy future.



Transparent Voter Revision

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar (IAS) directed officials to ensure that the voter list revision process is carried out transparently and without errors. He said the objective is to safeguard voting rights for every eligible citizen. As part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme, Pinkesh Kumar conducted a field inspection in Jeedimetla Circle on Thursday. During the visit, he reviewed the door-to-door survey, verification of voter details, and registration process for new voters being conducted by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and supervisors. The Zonal Commissioner instructed officials to ensure that no eligible person is left out of the

electoral roll. He emphasised the need for proper coordination among field-level staff and warned against negligence during the revision process. He said accurate voter lists are essential for strengthening the democratic system and urged officials to complete the verification process carefully while addressing any issues faced by citizens. Jeedimetla Circle Deputy Commissioner D. Shankar Singh, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Uday Kumar, BLO Supervisor Jawaharlal, and Booth Level Officers participated in the inspection programme. Officials informed that the revision exercise is aimed at updating voter details, including inclusion of new eligible voters and correction of existing records, to ensure a reliable electoral database.

BJP Focuses on Booth Strength

Kutbullapur, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The BJP has intensified preparations to strengthen its booth-level organisation ahead of party leader Nitin Nabin's visit to Telangana. A preparatory meeting was held under the aegis of the Dundigal Circle BJP to ensure the success of the booth presidents' meeting scheduled to be held on June 28 at Nampally Exhibition Grounds. Addressing party workers, District General Secretary Vigneshwara Chari said strengthening booth committees is the key to expanding the party's presence at the grassroots level. He urged workers to function with coordination and dedication while following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

slogan, "My Booth - The Strongest of All." Chari called upon party members to take the welfare initiatives of the Central Government to the people and explain the benefits of schemes such as free ration distribution, Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Mudra loans. He advised workers to regularly interact with beneficiaries and strengthen public support for the party. He also asked party workers to highlight what he described as the failures of the state government in fulfilling its promises and encouraged them to raise local public issues. The district leader stressed the importance of ensuring full participation from booth presidents, Shakti Kendra in-



charges, senior leaders, and party workers during Nitin Nabin's programme. He said the visit should motivate workers and help further strengthen the party organisation across the state. The meeting was attended by

Baurampet Division President Peesari Krishna Reddy, District Kisan Morcha President Malleth Yadav, District Tribal Morcha President Venkatesh Naik, State Tribal Morcha leaders Shyam Rao, Srinivas Yadav, Sitaram Reddy, Akula Vijay, Embari Anjaneyulu, Roja, and other party leaders. The BJP leaders said the focus would remain on improving booth-level coordination and ensuring active participation of workers in upcoming organisational activities.

Rain Relief for Telugu States

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has brought relief to people across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, who have been facing intense heat and humid weather conditions. The meteorological centres in Amaravati and Hyderabad have forecast widespread rainfall in both states until June 30 due to the active Southwest Monsoon. According to the weather department, light to moderate rainfall is expected in most areas over the next few days, while some places may receive heavy showers accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. Gustly winds with speeds ranging from 30 to 50 kmph are also likely in several regions. Officials stated that the rainfall activity is expected to bring down daytime temperatures by around 2 to 5 degrees Celsius, providing relief from the prevailing hot conditions. Several districts in Telangana have already witnessed heavy rainfall. Areas including Mulugu, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Ranga Reddy, Kamareddy,

and Jagtial received significant showers under the influence of the monsoon system. In Andhra Pradesh, heavy rains were reported in districts such as Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, and Visakhapatnam. Weather officials attributed the rainfall activity to cyclonic circulations developing over the Bay of Bengal, which have strengthened monsoon conditions in the region. The IMD advised people to remain cautious during thunderstorms and avoid open areas during lightning activity. Farmers and livestock owners have been specifically warned to take precautions against lightning strikes and strong winds. Agricultural officials said the rainfall is expected to benefit farming activities, especially in areas where sowing operations are underway. However, farmers have been advised to monitor weather updates before carrying out field activities. Authorities are closely observing the weather developments and have asked district administrations to remain prepared for any situation arising from heavy rainfall and wind activity.

Water Leakage Hits New Road

Kutbullapur, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Krushi Colony Road No. 5 in Saibaba Nagar Division, Kompally Circle, have expressed anger over water leakages affecting a newly constructed CC road. Locals alleged that negligence during road construction work resulted in damage to Manjeera water pipelines, leading to continuous water wastage. According to residents, the road contractor carried out JCB excavation work during the construction process,

which reportedly damaged underground water pipelines. They claimed that despite bringing the leakage issue to the contractor's notice several times, no corrective action was taken and the road works continued. Residents said water is now flowing onto the newly laid CC road, raising concerns that the road may get damaged over time. They also expressed fears that drinking water supply could be affected if the pipeline issue is not resolved immediately. After residents brought the

matter to the attention of senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar, he responded and took up the issue with Water Works officials. He called Water Works official Muneer to the spot, explained the seriousness of the problem, and requested immediate repairs. Locals criticised the lack of coordination between contractors and government officials during development works. They said public infrastructure projects should not create additional problems for residents and demanded



that authorities ensure proper monitoring of such works. Residents urged officials to repair the damaged pipelines at the earliest and provide a permanent solution to prevent further leakage and damage to the road.

Former President Bairish Goud, General Secretary Kishore Mudiraj, senior leaders Rajkumar Mudiraj, Ramu, Yedukondalu, and others participated in the programme and supported the residents' concerns.

Gold Seized at Airport Anti-Drug Committees Mandatory in Institutions

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Customs officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport have seized 2.271 kg of 24-carat gold valued at around ₹3.36 crore from two passengers who arrived from Kuala Lumpur. The seizure was made on June 24 during routine security checks at the airport. According to officials, the gold was allegedly smuggled in paste form and concealed inside specially stitched pouches hidden in the waistbands of the passengers' trousers. The customs authorities intercepted the passengers during screening and recovered the concealed gold. The seized material was examined and identified

as 24-carat gold. Both passengers have been arrested in connection with the smuggling case. Officials said further investigation is underway to identify possible links and gather more details regarding the illegal transportation of gold. Customs officials have intensified surveillance and checking procedures at the airport to prevent smuggling activities. They stated that strict action will be taken against those involved in illegal import of gold and other prohibited goods. The latest seizure adds to the continuing efforts by customs authorities to curb gold smuggling through international travel routes.

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Police have announced strict measures to prevent the growing use of drugs among students and have made the formation of Anti-Drug Committees (ADCs) mandatory in all educational institutions. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh issued orders directing schools, colleges, universities, professional institutions, residential campuses, sports academies, coaching centres, private hostels, paying guest facilities, and co-living spaces to take preventive measures against drug-related activities. As per the notification, every educational institution must establish an Anti-Drug Committee with a minimum of five members. The committee should include representatives from the management, faculty, students, hostel administration, and, wherever possible, parents. Institutions have also been instructed to appoint a nodal

officer to coordinate with police officials. The police directed institutions to create awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the legal consequences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Boards and posters highlighting the dangers of drugs and punishments under the law should be displayed on campuses. Officials instructed institutions to conduct awareness programmes at the beginning of every academic year involving teachers, hostel wardens, student representatives, parents, and local police personnel. Anti-Drug Committees have also been asked to organize seminars, workshops, and counselling sessions regularly. The police advised students and institutions to remain alert and immediately inform authorities if they notice any suspicious activities related to drug use, sale, transportation, or smug-

gling. Information can be shared through Dial-112 or Cyberabad Police helpline numbers. The Commissioner stated that educational institution management must fully cooperate with police investigations and support efforts to eliminate drug-related activities. Details of committee meetings, awareness programmes, and actions taken should be properly recorded. Cyberabad Police warned that strict action will be initiated against individuals involved in drug-related offences under the NDPS Act-1985. Legal action will also be taken against educational institutions that deliberately fail to follow the issued guidelines. The orders came into effect from June 26, 2026, and will remain in force until further instructions. Police officials said the initiative aims to protect students from substance abuse and create a safer educational environment across the Cyberabad region.

Hyderabad, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Two people died in a road accident at Gachibowli on Friday morning after a scooterer travelling in the wrong direction collided with a motorcycle on the AMB Mall flyover. The two-wheeler accident left both scooter riders dead on the spot, while the motorcycle rider suffered minor injuries. According to police, the accident occurred around 7:30 AM when Vinod was travelling on his motorcycle from Gachibowli towards Hafeezpet. At the same time, Srikanth and Vittal were riding a scooter from Hafeezpet towards Gachibowli in the opposite direction on the flyover. The two vehicles collided with great force, causing serious injuries to the scooter riders. Despite the impact, the motorcycle rider escaped with minor injuries. The

scooter riders could not be saved and died at the accident spot. After receiving information, the Gachibowli police immediately reached the location and began rescue and investigation efforts. The bodies of the deceased were shifted to Osmania Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police registered a case regarding the accident and started an investigation to determine the exact circumstances that led to the collision. Preliminary information suggests that travelling in the wrong direction on the flyover may have resulted in the fatal crash. Authorities are examining further details, including road conditions and witness accounts, as part of the investigation. Police have urged motorists to follow traffic rules and avoid dangerous driving practices to prevent such accidents.

Four Family Members Murder Case Solved

Nalgonda, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda police have arrested four accused in connection with the murder of four members of the same family in Telangana Colony, Nalgonda town. District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar, IPS, said the investigation revealed that the murders were allegedly carried out due to personal grudges and a plan to steal money and gold ornaments.

The incident came to light on June 22 when locals informed police about a foul smell coming from a house on Sagar Road. Police found the bodies of four family members in a decomposed condition. The victims were identified as Haseena, her husband Sultan, and Sultan's children Muzammil and Afkura. Following the incident, seven special teams were formed under the supervision of DSP K. Sivaram Reddy. The teams examined CCTV footage, gathered technical evidence, questioned residents, and conducted a detailed investigation to identify the suspects. Police apprehended the accused near the Narkatpally flyover based on reliable information. During questioning, the



accused allegedly confessed to the crime. The arrested accused were identified as Syed Aslam (28), his wife Tabassum (28), Mohammed Sohail (26), and Hemanth Kumar (28). Police said Aslam, a taxi driver, was facing financial difficulties and had developed a plan to target Haseena, from whom he had borrowed money earlier. According to police, Aslam allegedly developed a grudge after Haseena refused to provide another loan and demanded repayment of the previous amount. The investigation also revealed an earlier dispute involving Haseena and Tabassum's family. Police stated that Aslam allegedly planned the crime after learning about gold and cash kept at Haseena's house. He reportedly reached Nalgonda with a knife and entered the house during the night. Police alleged that he attacked the

family members one after another and later stole gold ornaments, cash, and documents. The accused allegedly handed over the stolen gold to Hemanth Kumar of Sri Balaji Jewellery Shop in Hyderabad through Sohail. Police recovered cash, melted gold, the murder weapon, a Mahindra Marazzo vehicle, mobile phones, blood-stained clothes, and property documents from the accused. The seized items include

₹30.04 lakh cash, five tolas of melted gold, a knife allegedly used in the crime, three mobile phones, and land and bank documents. SP Sharath Chandra Pawar appreciated the efforts of DSP K. Sivaram Reddy, inspectors, CCS personnel, and other police teams for solving the case within three days using technology and investigation methods. The accused were produced before the court and remanded.

Venkanna New GWMC Commissioner

Warangal, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has appointed T. Venkanna as the new Commissioner of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) as part of the latest administrative reshuffle.

Venkanna, who was serving as Joint Metropolitan Commissioner of the Core Urban Region and Metro Rail Division at the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), has been transferred and posted as GWMC Commissioner.

The government also relieved Hanamkonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, IAS, from the additional responsibility of GWMC Commissioner. She had been handling the post under Full Additional Charge (FAC) arrangements.

Venkanna is expected to take charge as the GWMC Commissioner shortly. His appointment comes at a time when the municipal corporation is focusing on urban development, infrastructure improvement, and civic services in the Warangal region. Officials said the latest administrative changes are part of the government's efforts to streamline governance and strengthen departmental functioning. Venkanna's experience in urban administration and metropolitan development is expected to support the implementation of various civic development initiatives in the city. The GWMC oversees several key areas, including sanitation, road infrastructure, urban planning, and public service delivery across Greater Warangal.

Drug-Free Drive

Nalgonda, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Yadadri-Bhongir Superintendent of Police Akshansh Yadav has appealed to youngsters to stay away from drugs and lead healthy, responsible lives. He said drug abuse not only damages physical and mental health but also affects families and society.

The district police organised a 2K awareness rally in Bhongir on Friday to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The rally started from the old bus stand and passed through major junctions across the town, creating awareness among the public about the dangers of substance abuse. Addressing the participants, SP Akshansh Yadav said the fight against drugs requires collective efforts from police, students, parents, and society. He urged youth to avoid harmful habits and focus on education, personal development, and contributing positively to society. He appealed to citizens to

immediately inform the police about any information related to drug smuggling, sale, or consumption. The SP assured that strict action would be taken against those involved in illegal drug activities.

As part of the programme, police officials administered a pledge to students and youngsters, encouraging them to work towards making Yadadri-Bhongir a drug-free district. The participants pledged to spread awareness and support efforts to prevent drug abuse among youth.

Additional SP Lakshminarayana, DSP Ravinder, DSP (Traffic) Prabhakar Reddy, police personnel, students, and members of the public participated in the awareness rally. The police officials stated that regular awareness programmes will be conducted across the district to educate youngsters about the harmful effects of drugs and encourage a healthier lifestyle.

Agency Health Crisis

Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 26 | TPN Bureau

Despite changes in governments, residents of agency areas continue to face challenges due to poor medical infrastructure and lack of emergency services. A recent incident in Pinapaka Mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district has highlighted the difficulties faced by people seeking urgent healthcare. Kaliveti Sandhya, a pregnant woman from Amararam village in Pinapaka Mandal, experienced severe labour

pains during the night and suddenly went into labour. As it was her first delivery, her family faced a critical situation and immediately tried to contact the 108 ambulance service. However, the ambulance was reportedly unavailable as the vehicle assigned for tribal areas had been sent to another location. With no immediate medical transport available, the family was forced to hire an auto-rickshaw to take Sandhya to the Janampet Primary Health Centre

(PHC). The family's hopes for medical assistance were shattered when they reached the PHC and found it locked. As they continued their journey towards the Pinapaka PHC, Sandhya delivered the baby inside the moving auto-rickshaw. The family members said Sandhya suffered extreme pain and heavy bleeding during the delivery. Fortunately, both the mother and newborn are currently safe and receiving treatment at the

100-bed hospital in Manuguru. The incident has sparked anger among local residents, who questioned the availability of basic healthcare services in agency regions. They expressed concern over PHCs remaining closed during night hours and the shortage of emergency ambulance facilities. Residents said tribal and remote communities often depend on government healthcare centres and demanded immediate steps

to improve medical services. They appealed to the District Collector to ensure that ambulances remain available round the clock and that PHCs provide emergency medical care at all times. Locals stated that better healthcare infrastructure, regular staff availability, and emergency services are essential to prevent such incidents in the future. They urged authorities to take immediate action to strengthen medical facilities in agency areas.

Mee Seva Goes Paperless

Siddipet, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The era of paper receipts at MeeSeva centres in Siddipet district has come to an end, with the administration introducing a digital receipt system as part of its move towards transparent, faster, and paperless governance. Following instructions from the Commissioner of Electronic Service Delivery (MeeSeva), the new system was implemented from June 19. Officials have directed all

192 MeeSeva centres in the district to stop issuing printed receipts for certificate applications. Strict action will be taken against operators who continue the old practice. Under the new digital process, applicants must provide their mobile numbers while submitting applications at MeeSeva centres. Once the application is completed, a hyperlink will be sent through SMS to the registered mobile number. The digital receipt will con-

tain complete details, including the application number, name of the service requested, and the fee paid. Applicants can use the link to view, download, or print the receipt whenever required. Officials advised citizens to preserve the SMS until their certificates are received. Authorities clarified that applicants need not worry if the SMS is accidentally deleted or lost due to technical reasons. A resend facility has been made available through

the MeeSeva application. Applicants can approach the concerned MeeSeva operator for assistance in receiving the notification again. Officials said the new system will benefit nearly 6,000 applicants in Siddipet district every month who apply for services such as caste certificates, income certificates, and other government documents. The administration stated that the paperless initiative aims to reduce paperwork, improve efficiency, and provide better service to citi-

zens. MeeSeva operators will continue scanning applicants' documents and uploading applications online, while officials will verify the details digitally and issue certificates within the prescribed time. Authorities also clarified that applicants are not required to submit physical copies of documents at government offices. The digital process is expected to make certificate services more convenient, transparent, and accessible for the public.

Job Scheme Extortion Allegations

Lakshmanachanda (Nirmal), June 26 | TPN Bureau

Allegations have surfaced in Lakshmanachanda mandal of Nirmal district that workers under the Employment Guarantee Scheme are being asked to pay weekly amounts ranging from ₹200 to ₹300. Workers alleged that they are being told their full wages will be credited only if the money is paid. Some workers claimed that those who question the practice face reduced attendance records, affe-

cting their wage payments. Local discussions suggest that pressure on Mates (work supervisors) and field assistants may be linked to the alleged collections. The issue has reportedly become a major concern among workers across the mandal. Workers also alleged that in some areas, attendance is being prioritised over actual work. They claimed that some beneficiaries are being asked to appear for photographs in the morning and evening as

proof of attendance, even when proper work is not carried out. According to them, some workers accept the arrangement due to concerns over receiving their wages. The difficulty in monitoring worksites such as tanks, canals, and forest areas has reportedly raised concerns over proper implementation of the scheme. Locals have demanded a detailed inquiry into the allegations. According to website statistics, Lakshmanacha

nda currently has 10,893 Employment Guarantee Scheme workers during the financial year. Locals stated that collecting ₹300 from each worker every week could amount to lakhs of rupees, and over a 100-day employment period, the total could potentially run into crores. Responding to the allegations, Lakshmanachanda APO Pramila said that some lower-level staff were found involved in irregularities and had already been

removed. She said corrective action would be taken if complaints regarding incorrect attendance entries or non-crediting of wages were brought to her notice. She added that if concrete evidence is provided against anyone involved in wrongdoing, appropriate action would be initiated. Officials stated that measures would be taken to ensure transparency and proper implementation of the employment scheme.

Bhavani Shanker Gets One-Year Extension

Nalgonda, June 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has extended the tenure of J. Bhavani Shanker as Executive Officer of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Yadagirigutta for another one year. The officer, who was scheduled to retire on June 30, will continue in the post from July 1, 2026. The government issued G.O. Rt. No. 896 approving his re-employment for a period of one year. Bhavani Shanker, a 2019-batch IAS officer, was appointed as the Executive Officer of the temple on January 17, 2026.

The extension comes at a time when several major development works are being planned at the famous temple shrine. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy recently laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹99.55 crore at Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple. The proposed works include the establish-

ment of a Veda Pathashala, construction of a Nitya Kalyana Mandapam, and development of infrastructure facilities for devotees. A roof covering over the staircase route from Vaikuntha Dwaram to the hilltop is also planned as part of the project.

Additionally, steps leading towards the Mada Veedhis near the Rathashala will be constructed to improve accessibility and enhance facilities around the temple premises. Officials said the continuation of Bhavani Shanker's services will help maintain administrative continuity and support the execution of the ongoing development projects at the temple.

The Yadagirigutta temple, one of Telangana's prominent spiritual destinations, has been witnessing major infrastructure development aimed at improving facilities for devotees and strengthening the pilgrimage experience.

Editorial

Climate Change Awareness From Global Urgency to Local Responsibility

Climate change has moved from scientific debate to lived reality. Across the world, rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, heatwaves, floods, and shrinking biodiversity are no longer isolated warnings but recurring events. Global institutions like the IPCC and UN agencies stress that the crisis is accelerating faster than mitigation efforts, driven by fossil fuel dependence, deforestation, and unsustainable consumption patterns. 1.1°C warming reshapes climate; 57% Indian districts face heat risk; 90% Telangana farmers worry about water scarcity; India may lose 35M jobs; 45% mandal vulnerability.

India stands at a critical intersection of development and vulnerability. While contributing relatively less to historical emissions, it faces severe climate risks due to geography, dense population, and agrarian dependence. Heat stress in cities, unpredictable monsoons, and coastal erosion are already visible. India's climate commitments—net-zero by 2070 and renewable energy expansion—signal intent, but implementation and behavioural change remain key challenges. At the state level, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana face overlapping risks. Telangana shows ~1.5°C higher heat, repeated heatwave alerts, and rising agricultural stress, with 28-45% of mandals projected to be vulnerable. Andhra Pradesh remains a cyclone-prone coastal risk zone, driving resilience and adaptation planning. Groundwater depletion, urban flooding, and crop stress further intensify vulnerability. Yet, climate communication and awareness among professionals and the public remain uneven. Government departments are adopting climate-resilient planning, but awareness rarely translates into everyday behaviour or professional practice. The gap lies in communication design. Climate change is still presented as policy jargon rather than a daily survival issue. Infographics, dashboards, and regional climate maps can make the crisis tangible—showing rainfall shifts in Rayalaseema, heat islands in Hyderabad, and cyclone paths along the coast. Professional bodies—engineers, urban planners, journalists, educators, and healthcare workers—must act as climate communicators, not passive observers. Schools and universities in Telugu states should integrate localised climate infographics into learning to build early awareness. Ultimately, climate action depends on local understanding. Without clear, visual, and consistent communication, even strong policies risk remaining disconnected from public behaviour.

Editor

Half a Century On, Bonded Labour Still Haunts India



BVS Kumar

Former Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, Krishna district.

Bonded labour is an inherited social evil prevalent for centuries in India. Upper sections dominated our society until 1960, leaving the weaker sections in poverty. This poverty made it difficult for them to sustain their families with sufficient food and shelter. They were forced to depend on borrowings from the upper sections, who were relatively wealthy and exploited their situation and vulnerability. Lacking any property, weaker sections used to mortgage their services and meagre assets, if any, for loans at abnormal rates of interest and harsh conditions. These loans could not be repaid within their lifetime and were passed on to the next generations. Generations worked for their creditors under pitiable living conditions.

On representations made by social workers and NGOs, the Government of India enacted "The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976" on 9th February 1976, which was brought into force from 25th October 1975. The main aim of this Act was to abolish the bonded labour system to prevent economic and physical exploitation of weaker sections.

This Act extinguished all liabilities to repay bonded debts, nullified all suits pending in civil courts for recovery, and relieved bonded labourers from service obligations and mortgaged properties.

Any violation of the Act is pun-

ishable with imprisonment of up to three years and a fine under Section 9, Sub-section 2 of the Act. The Act also enabled state governments to establish Vigilance Committees from the village level to the state level to monitor and rescue bonded labourers. The government is also required to provide rehabilitation to rescued persons, including financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 20,000 for immediate relief.

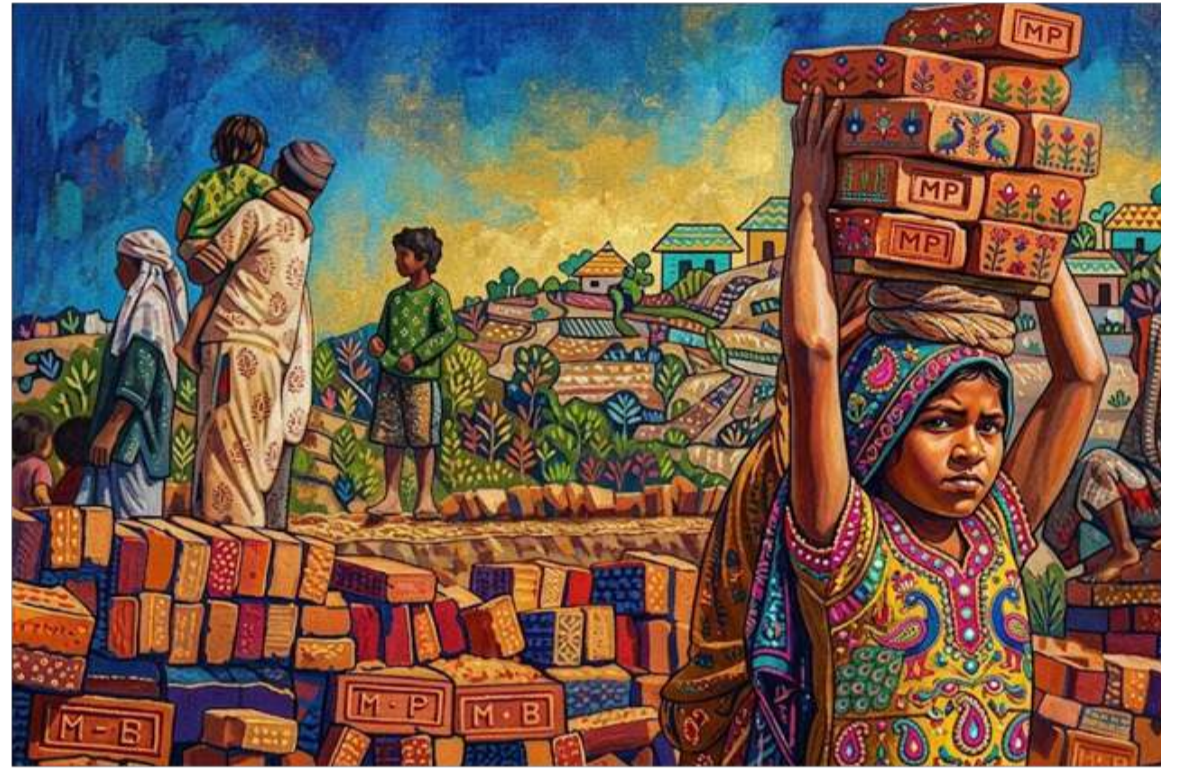
Even after 50 years of enacting this Act, bonded labour still exists in states like Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) reported around 1.17 crore bonded labourers in India in 2014. By December 2018, about 3.13 lakh persons had been rescued and rehabilitated by the government. This bonded labour system contributes to human trafficking, including for sexual exploitation and child labour in many cases.

Unfortunately, the conviction rate in bonded labour cases remains very low due to delays in courts. Most rescued labourers are migrant workers who are sent back to their native districts, making it difficult for authorities to locate them for court proceedings. If offenders are not convicted, it encourages repetition of the crime and emboldens others.

To mitigate this social evil, the government should:

- Empower district and sub-di-



sional Vigilance Committees with adequate funds and mandatory training to systematically map and identify victims.

- Establish specialized fast-track courts to try perpetrators swiftly under the Act, ensuring higher conviction rates and strict penalties.

- Conduct surprise, periodic inspections in high-risk informal sectors like brick kilns, stone quarries, mining, and agriculture.

- Amend procedures to ensure criminal prosecution of employers begins immediately upon rescue of victims.

- Bridge administrative delays by providing immediate interim

financial assistance and linking survivors to welfare schemes like PDS, housing, and health insurance.

- Offer market-aligned vocational and technical training to safeguard individuals from exploitative contracts.

- Provide accessible, low-interest microfinance and banking options in rural areas to reduce dependence on exploitative moneylenders.

- Ensure strict implementation of rural employment schemes like MGNREGA to guarantee sustainable wages.

- Provide land titles to vulnerable landless communities, especially Dalits and Adivasis.

- Enforce mandatory school enrollment in high-risk areas to eliminate child labour and break generational poverty cycles.

Timely justice and higher conviction rates are essential to eradicate this social evil. Very recently, the Trump government threatened India with a 12.5% tariff on Indian goods due to India's failure to eradicate bonded labour, stating that the USA cannot import goods produced through bonded labour.

A country that has eliminated or minimized bonded labour—a primary form of forced labour and modern slavery—is rated highly across global human rights, legal, and economic indices.

Civilizational Compass: India's Timeless Role in the World's Geopolitical Architecture



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There is a particular kind of geography that does not merely house a civilization; it shapes one. India is that kind of geography. Cradled between the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean, flanked by the Arabian Sea to the west and the Bay of Bengal to the east, the subcontinent has never been peripheral to the world's story. It has, more often than not, been its quiet, enduring centre.

Understanding today's geopolitical currents requires us to look not at the last decade, but at the last five millennia.

A Civilization Built for Exchange

Around 3300 BCE, along the banks of the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers, one of humanity's earliest urban experiments took shape, the Harappan civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization. What makes it remarkable, beyond its standardized brick sizes and sophisticated drainage systems, is evidence of commerce. Harappan seals have been found in ancient Mesopotamia, in present-day Iraq, pointing to active trade networks that predate many geopolitical frameworks we now consider foundational.

This aligns with what scholars like Andre Gunder Frank argued in *ReOrient* (1998), that Asia, and the Indian Ocean world in particular, was the engine of global economic activity long before the Atlantic trade routes of the 15th century emerged. India sat at the very heart of that engine.

The Harappan example is not merely archaeological nostalgia. It establishes a pattern: India as a node of exchange, a civilization whose power flowed not from conquest alone but from connectivity.

Maritime Mastery and the Silk Road's Southern Cousin

By the time of the Mauryan Empire (322-185 BCE), India's geopolitical footprint had grown considerably. Chandragupta Maurya and his grandson Ashoka governed one of the most administratively sophisticated empires of the ancient world. Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador to the Mauryan court, documented a society of remarkable organization and openness.

But it was India's maritime identity that deserves special attention. The Indian Ocean, what historian K.N. Chaudhuri called a "world-system" in his landmark 1985 work *Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean*, was, for centuries, an Indian lake in all but name. Indian merchants, navigators, and priests sailed to Southeast Asia, East Africa, and Arabia, carrying with them cotton, spices, iron, and something more durable: culture. The Spice Route, often overshadowed by the more celebrated Silk Road, was equally transformative. Indian pepper, cardamom, and turmeric reached Roman dinner tables and Egyptian pharmacies. In return, gold, horses, and ideas flowed inward. This bidirectional exchange gave India a civilizational depth that no



purely military power could replicate. Nicholas Spykman's *Rimland Theory* (1944), which argued that the coastal peripheries of Eurasia are strategically decisive, inadvertently described what India had been practicing for millennia, a civilizational rimland, projecting influence across vast maritime distances through trade and culture rather than force. The Cultural Gravitational Pull (India's soft power, to borrow Joseph Nye's 1990 formulation, is perhaps the oldest recorded instance of that concept in practice. Buddhism, born in the foothills of the Himalayas, spread eastward through Central Asia, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast

Asia. Hinduism and Indian artistic traditions shaped the temple architecture of Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Prambanan in Indonesia. The Sanskrit language and its literary traditions became the Latin of Asia, the tongue of courts, scriptures, and scholarship from Bali to Bukhara. This was not imperial imposition. It was civilizational gravity. People moved toward Indian ideas because those ideas offered meaning, aesthetic richness, and intellectual rigour. Geopolitical theorist Zbigniew Brzezinski, in *The Grand Chessboard* (1997), identified the Eurasian landmass as the arena of global power. India, positioned at the juncture of

South Asia, Central Asia, and the Indian Ocean world, occupies what might be called the subcontinental pivot, a position that gives it unique leverage across all of Brzezinski's identified strategic axes. The Present Inherits the Past. Today, India's geopolitical relevance is once again ascending, not as a novelty, but as a restoration. The ancient logic of Indian Ocean centrality has found modern expression in initiatives like India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region), its leadership in the International Solar Alliance, and its role as one of the world's largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions. The Indo-

Pacific, a framework now central to 21st-century strategic discourse, is in many ways a rediscovery of the oceanic geography that Indian merchants and navigators understood intuitively two thousand years ago. Halford Mackinder's *Heartland Theory* (1904) privileged the landlocked interior of Eurasia. But history has repeatedly vindicated the maritime alternative, and India has always been its most eloquent advocate.

A Legacy Worth Carrying Forward

What India's long arc of history tells us is that durable geopolitical influence is built not on dominance, but on in-

dispensability. A civilization that makes itself useful, as a trade partner, as a cultural interlocutor, as a source of ideas, tends to outlast those that make themselves feared.

The Harappan merchant who once sealed a clay tablet with a unicorn motif and sent it across the Persian Gulf could not have imagined a world of satellites and supply chains. And yet the logic animating that transaction, connection, exchange, mutual benefit, is the same logic India brings to its contemporary relationships. Some geographies are accidental. India's is not. It was always meant to be where the world's conversations happen.

Tharoor Seeks Legal Recognition of Passport, Aadhaar as Citizenship Proof

Senior Congress leader and Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor has called for amendments to India's legal framework to make both passports and Aadhaar cards valid and conclusive proof of citizenship, unless explicitly cancelled by the government.

The demand comes amid a controversy sparked by recent remarks from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that an Indian passport is primarily a travel document and not definitive proof of citizenship. Tharoor argued that the clarification has created confusion among citizens, as passports have long been regarded as the most reliable identity document after undergoing extensive verification procedures.

In a statement posted on social media, Tharoor described the situation as a "legal paradox," questioning how a docu-



ment issued after rigorous citizenship checks could fail to serve as proof of nationality. He also noted that the Supreme Court has previously ruled that Aadhaar is only proof of identity and residence, not citizenship.

To address the issue, Tharoor proposed a legislative overhaul that would formally recognize passports and Aadhaar as citizenship documents.

He suggested that the Unique Identification Authority of India issue a visually distinct Aadhaar card for non-citizen residents, enabling clear differentiation between citizens and foreign residents.

According to Tharoor, such a system would simplify verification processes, reduce bureaucratic disputes, and provide citizens with legal certainty regarding their na-

tionality. He said it would also help avoid controversies during electoral roll revisions and other administrative exercises. The debate intensified after government sources cited Section 20 of the Passports Act, 1967, which allows passports to be issued to non-citizens in exceptional cases deemed to be in the public interest. Officials emphasized that this legal position has existed for decades and is not a recent policy change.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission clarified that passports remain one of the accepted supporting documents for voter verification. The issue has triggered political exchanges between the ruling NDA and opposition parties, with critics alleging that the ambiguity could lead to disputes over citizenship and voter eligibility in the future.

Shah Announces NDPS Act Amendments to Target Drug Networks

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday announced that the Centre will amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act to eliminate loopholes allegedly exploited by drug trafficking syndicates and strengthen the country's fight against narcotics.

Addressing the 10th apex-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) in New Delhi, Shah called for a tough and uncompromising approach against drug peddlers, suppliers, and organized narcotics networks. He urged state governments to submit suggestions on the proposed amendments being prepared by the Finance Ministry to make the law more effective in combating the drug trade.

Highlighting the government's anti-drug efforts, Shah said enforcement agencies have significantly increased seizures of narcotic substances over the past decade. According to him, around 26 lakh kilograms of synthetic drugs were seized between 2004 and 2014, while the quantity seized from 2014 to 2026 rose to approximately 1.18 crore kilograms.

The Home Minister also pointed to the value of seized drugs as an indicator of intensified enforcement. He noted that narcotics worth nearly 40,000 crore were seized during 2004-2014, compared to approximately 1.84 lakh crore worth of drugs confiscated between 2014 and 2026.

Describing these figures as



evidence of the government's expanding crackdown, Shah said the country is steadily moving toward success in its campaign against drug trafficking. He emphasized that legal reforms under the NDPS Act would further strengthen the ability of agencies to dismantle drug networks and prevent traffickers from exploiting procedural gaps.

Shah also stressed the importance of real-time information sharing among states and cen-

tral agencies. He said the Narcotics Control Bureau has developed several digital platforms for intelligence sharing and case monitoring. He urged Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police across states to upload crime-related information promptly to facilitate coordinated action and better policy responses. The Home Minister further called for making NCORD meetings more result-oriented. While acknowl-

edging the increase in the

number of meetings being held, he stressed that the focus should be on effective implementation of decisions, regular reviews, and rigorous analysis of outcomes.

He said sustained cooperation between the Centre and states, coupled with stronger laws and coordinated enforcement, would be crucial in achieving the government's objective of creating a drug-free India and dismantling the operations of narcotics syndicates across the country.

Power to Reach Siachen, Key Ladakh Border Areas

Ladakh is set to witness a major transformation in its power infrastructure, with electricity soon reaching some of the country's most remote and strategically important regions, including the Siachen Base Camp and border areas adjoining Pakistan and China. The development is expected to enhance both civilian life and national security while reducing dependence on diesel-powered generators in high-altitude regions.

Officials said three flagship transmission projects being implemented under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) are scheduled for completion by September. The projects aim to provide uninterrupted electricity to remote regions such as Zaskar and Nubra, extending reliable power supply to the Siachen Base Camp, often referred to as the world's highest battlefield.

Once completed, six of Ladakh's seven districts will be connected to the power grid, leaving only Changthang



to be integrated through a separate transmission network. The projects were recently reviewed by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, who emphasized timely completion and close coordination among all implementing agencies.

The key components include a 189-kilometre 220 KV transmission line from Drass to Padum and a 79-kilometre 220 KV line from Phyang to Disket. Together, these projects involve an investment of nearly

1,925 crore and are expected to significantly improve power connectivity in strategically sensitive regions.

In Zaskar, four substations are being established to ensure last-mile delivery of electricity across the valley. In the Nubra sector, substations at Siachen Base Camp and Partapur will anchor the distribution network. Plans are also underway to strengthen power infrastructure in Changthang through an extensive 66 KV

transmission system supported by eight substations at locations including Durbuk, Phobrang, Chushul, Nyoma, Korzok, Hanle, Koyul and Chumathang.

Officials noted that reliable electricity will improve education, healthcare, tourism, digital connectivity and livelihood opportunities in these remote areas. The shift from diesel-based generation is also expected to support the vision of a carbon-neutral Ladakh by reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

Describing the initiative as a milestone in Ladakh's development journey, the administration said the projects will not only strengthen strategic preparedness in border regions but also promote inclusive growth by improving living standards and creating new economic opportunities for local communities. The government has directed agencies to ensure that the benefits of round-the-clock electricity reach households and institutions without delay.

Japan PM Takaichi to Visit India for Annual Summit

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will undertake a three-day official visit to India from July 1 to 3 to participate in the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Takaichi's visit comes at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi and marks her first official visit to India since assuming office. The summit is expected to focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation across key sectors, including trade, investment, defence, technology, infrastructure, and people-to-people ties. The two leaders are also expected to exchange views on regional and global developments of mutual interest, reflecting the growing strategic



importance of the India-Japan partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

The visit follows Prime Minister Modi's trip to Tokyo in August 2025 for the 15th India-

Japan Annual Summit. Officials said the upcoming meeting underscores the commitment of both nations to further deepen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

India and Japan have steadily expanded cooperation in areas such as high-speed rail, manufacturing, defence exchanges, clean energy, and supply-chain resilience. The summit is expected to review the progress of ongoing projects and explore new avenues for collaboration.

Diplomatic sources view the visit as significant amid evolving regional security and economic challenges, with both countries seeking closer coordination on issues affecting the Indo-Pacific and global economy.

Fort Re-Enactment Conducted in Pune Murder Probe

Investigators on Friday carried out a dramatic crime scene reconstruction at Lohagarh Fort as part of the probe into the death of businessman Ketan Agarwal, who allegedly was thrown into a deep gorge by his fiancée and her alleged lover.

Police used a human-sized dummy and dropped it nearly 400 feet from the same location where Agarwal fell to his death on June 18. The exercise was conducted to determine the exact trajectory of the fall and establish the individual roles of the accused, Siya Goyal and Chetan Chaudhary.

According to investigators, the reconstruction was aimed at verifying whether Goyal physically pushed Agarwal or whether Chaudhary carried out the act after receiving a signal from her. Police believe the results of the simulation will help clarify the sequence of events and the degree of involvement of each accused.

The case has drawn widespread attention after police alleged that Goyal and Chaudhary viewed Agarwal as an obstacle to their relationship. The two were reportedly en-



gaged in February, while Goyal was allegedly continuing a relationship with Chaudhary.

Investigators have also recovered mobile phones belonging to the accused and sent them for forensic examination. Preliminary findings indicate that thousands of messages exchanged between the pair were deleted after the incident. Authorities are attempting to recover the data to establish motive and planning.

During questioning, both accused have reportedly blamed each other for masterminding the crime. Police are additionally examining a possible blackmail angle, investigating

whether Chaudhary allegedly pressured Goyal by threatening to expose their relationship and private communications.

Forensic teams have spent the past two days collecting evidence from the fort area. Officials believe the crime scene recreation and digital evidence recovery will play a crucial role in determining how the murder was executed and who played the leading role in the alleged conspiracy.

The investigation remains ongoing, with police awaiting forensic reports and further evidence to strengthen the case.

India Approves First Hydrogen-Powered Train

Indian Railways has approved the operation of the country's first hydrogen fuel cell-powered train, marking a major milestone in India's transition toward cleaner and greener transportation. The train is set to operate on the Jind-Sonapat section of Northern Railway in Haryana and is being hailed as the world's longest and most powerful hydrogen-powered train running on a broad-gauge network.

With the project, India joins a select group of nations, including Germany, Japan, China and the United States, that are exploring hydrogen-based rail transport as a sustainable alternative to conventional fuel-powered trains.

The hydrogen train will consist of ten coaches and will be powered by a 1,200-kW hydrogen fuel cell propulsion system. It will operate at a commercial speed of up to 75 kmph, while trial runs are expected to be conducted at speeds reaching 120 kmph. The train features two Driving Power Cars, each generating 1,200 kW of power, giving the train a combined output of 2,400 kW.

The remaining eight coaches will be used for passenger travel. Specially designed compartments have been incorporated to accommodate hydrogen storage cylinders, fuel cell systems, batteries and control equipment. On a single refuelling, the train can travel approximately 250 kilometres.



Hydrogen fuel cell technology generates electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen. Unlike diesel engines, the process produces only water vapour and heat as by-products, making it a zero-emission transportation system. This significantly reduces environmental pollution and supports India's broader clean-energy goals.

Safety measures have been a key focus in the project. The train is equipped with 54 hydrogen cylinders, with 27 installed at each end. A dedicated hydrogen production, storage and refuelling facility has been established at Jind. The facility has received all necessary approvals from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

Advanced safety mechanisms, including hydrogen leak detectors and flame detection systems, have been installed throughout the storage and refuelling infrastructure. Backup compressors and maintenance systems have also been provided to ensure un-

interrupted operations. The train has been developed entirely in India under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The design was prepared by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in Lucknow, while manufacturing was undertaken by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai.

Indian Railways selected the Jind-Sonapat route as a pilot corridor to test the technology. Since nearly the entire broad-gauge rail network has already been electrified, hydrogen trains are expected to be deployed primarily on routes where electrification is difficult, including remote and heritage sections.

The project, known as "Namo Green Rail," showcases India's growing capability in indigenous innovation and sustainable transportation technology. It is expected to pave the way for future hydrogen-based mobility solutions and strengthen the country's commitment to environmentally friendly public transport.

Baby at Climate Talks Highlights Sweden's Family-Friendly Policies

A routine meeting of European Union climate ministers turned into a memorable event when Swedish Climate Minister Romina Pourmokhtari arrived with her three-month-old son, Adam, at the EU Council meeting in Luxembourg. The move drew attention across Europe and sparked discussions about parental leave, workplace flexibility, and gender equality.



Pourmokhtari said she brought her infant son to demonstrate that parents, particularly women, should not be forced to choose between professional responsibilities and family life. She emphasized that supportive family policies and shared parenting responsibilities make it possible for parents to balance both roles successfully.

was the first known occasion on which a baby had attended a formal meeting of EU ministers. While the presence of the infant initially surprised delegates, participants described the situation as smooth and unproblematic.

The minister credited Sweden's generous parental leave system and the support of her husband for making the arrangement possible. Under Swedish law, parents receive approximately 16 months of paid parental leave, with a portion reserved exclusively for each parent. These non-transferable leave periods are designed to encourage fathers to take an active role in childcare.

Pourmokhtari, who became Sweden's youngest-ever cabinet minister when appointed in 2022, recently returned from parental leave. Her husband, currently on leave himself, accompanied the trip and cared for the child during the proceedings.

According to EU officials, it

The Swedish minister argued that family-friendly policies should go beyond extended leave benefits and include flexible arrangements and affordable childcare services. She said such measures not only support families but also

contribute to healthier workplaces and long-term economic productivity by reducing stress and burnout among working parents.

Support for the initiative came from fellow delegates, including Poland's Deputy Climate Minister Krzysztof Bolesta, who described the baby's presence as a natural part of life rather than an obstacle to official work.

The unusual scene at the climate talks has reignited debate across Europe about work-life balance and the importance of creating policies that enable parents to remain active in both family and professional life. The event also highlighted Sweden's reputation as a global leader in parental welfare and gender-equality initiatives.

Massive Rescue Effort After Twin Quakes Devastate Venezuela

Rescue teams raced against time across Venezuela on Thursday after two powerful earthquakes struck near the capital, leaving hundreds dead, trapping scores under collapsed buildings, and causing widespread destruction in several regions of the country.



According to the United States Geological Survey, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck about 160 kilometres west of Caracas on Wednesday evening, followed less than a minute later by a stronger 7.5-magnitude tremor. The second quake was reported to be the most powerful to hit the country in more than a century.

Authorities said at least 235 people had died, while hundreds remained trapped beneath rubble. More than 250 buildings were reported damaged or destroyed, including hospitals, government facilities, and diplomatic missions.

Thousands of families were displaced as rescue workers searched through collapsed structures amid continuing aftershocks. The coastal state of La Guaira, adjacent to the capital, emerged as one of the worst-affected regions. Entire neighborhoods suffered ex-

tensive damage, and power outages disrupted communication and emergency operations. The main airport serving Caracas was temporarily closed after sustaining structural damage.

Interim President Delcy Rodriguez described La Guaira as a "disaster zone" and said emergency resources were being mobilized to accelerate rescue operations. Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello stated that around 70,000 families had been affected in the state alone. In several locations, volunteers joined emergency crews in searching for

survivors, often using their bare hands to clear debris. Residents reported shortages of food, drinking water, medicines, and shelter as relief efforts struggled to keep pace with the scale of destruction.

A missing-persons database shared by opposition groups listed more than 46,000 individuals as unaccounted for, though officials have not independently verified the figure. Experts warned that the death toll could rise significantly as rescue operations continue.

The disaster triggered a global response, with several countries and international organizations offering assistance. The United Nations announced coordination of international rescue teams, while the United States pledged logistical and emergency support. Communications provider SpaceX also announced free Starlink services in affected areas to help restore connectivity. Despite the devastation, officials reported that Venezuela's key oil infrastructure had largely escaped major damage, allowing energy operations to continue uninterrupted.

Hezbollah Rejects Normalisation, Demands Full Israeli Withdrawal

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem on Friday firmly rejected any possibility of normalising relations with Israel and insisted that Israeli forces must withdraw unconditionally from all Lebanese territory they occupy.



Addressing tens of thousands of supporters during Ashura commemorations in Lebanon, Qassem declared that Israel had "no option" other than a complete withdrawal from Lebanese land. He stressed that Hezbollah would not accept any arrangement that allows Israel to retain a presence in disputed areas or gain political concessions in exchange for withdrawal.

drawal from Lebanese territory without conditions.

The remarks come at a sensitive time as Lebanese and Israeli officials are engaged in diplomatic discussions in Washington aimed at reducing tensions and addressing unresolved border and security issues. While details of the talks remain limited, regional observers view them as part of broader efforts to prevent renewed conflict along the Israel-Lebanon frontier.

The Hezbollah chief also claimed that Israel would eventually be compelled to leave "humiliated and defeated," reflecting the movement's continued resistance-based approach toward its southern neighbour. His speech was met with chants and demonstrations of support from thousands gathered for the annual religious event.

Qassem reiterated Hezbollah's long-standing position that relations with Israel cannot be normalised under current circumstances. He stated that the group rejects any proposal involving recognition, normalization, or an end to the state of hostility between the two sides. According to him, any settlement must begin with a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory

Tensions between Israel and Hezbollah have remained high since the escalation of regional conflicts in recent years. Cross-border exchanges of fire, military operations, and security concerns have repeatedly raised fears of a wider confrontation. International mediators, including the United States and several regional actors, have sought to encourage dialogue and prevent further escalation.

Qassem's comments underscore the significant challenges facing diplomatic efforts to improve relations between the two countries. With both sides holding deeply entrenched positions on territorial disputes and security concerns, prospects for normalization remain distant despite ongoing international mediation efforts.

Hezbollah, one of Lebanon's most influential political and

military groups, continues to view Israel as an occupying force and maintains that armed resistance remains necessary to defend Lebanese sovereignty. Israel, meanwhile, regards Hezbollah as a major security threat and has repeatedly called for the group's military capabilities to be curtailed.

The latest statement highlights the continued volatility of the Israel-Lebanon relationship and the complexities surrounding efforts to achieve lasting stability along their shared border.

Russia Tightens Internet Controls Amid Growing Public Resistance

Russia's expanding internet restrictions and media controls have drawn increasing criticism from activists, journalists, and ordinary citizens, who argue that the measures are limiting free expression and access to independent information.



At the center of the controversy is Roskomnadzor, Russia's communications watchdog, which oversees internet regulation and media censorship. Critics claim the agency has become a key instrument for enforcing government narratives and restricting dissent, particularly since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Russian authorities have intensified efforts to promote domestic digital platforms, including the state-backed messaging application Max. The platform has reportedly been made mandatory on many newly sold devices, while some public-sector employees, teachers, and students have been encouraged or required to use it. Critics have raised concerns about privacy and potential surveillance, though Russian officials deny such allegations.

The restrictions have also affected access to several international platforms and media outlets. Services associated with [Meta Platforms] (https://about.meta.com?utm_source=chatgpt.

com), along with various foreign news organizations, have faced blocks or limitations in Russia. Independent media outlets have encountered mounting pressure, while several foreign journalists have been restricted from operating within the country.

Under wartime legislation, criticism of military operations can result in severe penalties. Human rights advocates argue that these laws have significantly narrowed the space for public debate and political opposition.

Despite the restrictions, many Russians continue to seek alternative ways to communicate. Sales of walkie-talkies, pagers, and printed maps

have reportedly increased as disruptions to mobile internet, GPS services, and messaging platforms become more frequent. Small businesses have also reported losses due to reduced online accessibility.

The growing restrictions have sparked public frustration. Some citizens have resorted to humor on social media, while others have voiced concerns about the impact on daily life, healthcare monitoring, education, and business operations. Technology professionals and entrepreneurs warn that further internet controls could encourage skilled workers to leave the country.

Reports have also emerged of small protests against the restrictions, with activists submitting petitions calling for the restoration of broader internet freedoms. However, many participants acknowledge the challenges of dissenting in an increasingly restrictive environment.

Observers note that the debate over internet freedom has become a broader struggle over access to information, privacy, and civil liberties in Russia. As authorities continue to tighten digital controls, questions remain over how citizens, businesses, and independent voices will adapt to the changing online landscape.

US Supreme Court Clears Way to End Protections for Haitian, Syrian Immigrants

The United States Supreme Court has allowed the administration of President Donald Trump to move forward with ending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Haiti and Syria, a decision that could have far-reaching consequences for nearly 1.3 million migrants from multiple countries.

that the Department of Homeland Security has the authority to determine when TPS protections should end. The ruling could also influence ongoing legal challenges involving TPS beneficiaries from countries including Venezuela, Honduras, El Salvador, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, and several others.

Syria remain unstable. Haiti continues to struggle with widespread gang violence and humanitarian challenges, while Syria is recovering from years of civil conflict and political turmoil. Lawyers representing TPS holders contend that the government failed to adequately assess conditions on the ground before deciding to end protections.

Legal experts note that the ruling is not expected to take effect immediately. Supreme Court decisions generally become operative after a period of about 32 days, meaning affected individuals are likely to retain their work authorization until late July while lower courts implement the judgment.

The Trump administration has argued that TPS was significantly expanded during the presidency of Joe Biden and that many beneficiary countries are now safe enough for citizens to return. Officials have already moved to terminate protections for about one million people from 13 countries.

Immigration advocates strongly disagree, arguing that conditions in Haiti and

Advocacy groups warn that many TPS holders could face difficult choices in the

coming months. Some may seek alternative immigration pathways such as asylum claims or employment-based visas, while others could face deportation proceedings if no other legal protections apply.

Many TPS recipients have lived in the United States for years or even decades, raising families and building careers. Advocates fear that ending the program could separate families, disrupt communities, and create economic hardship for thousands of households.



The decision marks a significant development in U.S. immigration policy and is expected to intensify the ongoing national debate over humanitarian protections, border security, and the future of long-term immigrant residents in the country.

Volkswagen Plans Massive Job Cuts Amid Global Challenges

German automotive giant Volkswagen AG is reportedly preparing a sweeping restructuring plan that could eliminate up to 100,000 jobs and close several factories as it seeks to improve competitiveness in an increasingly challenging global market.

According to reports, Volkswagen Chief Executive Officer Oliver Blume presented the proposals during a recent management board meeting. The measures are aimed at addressing mounting pressures from US tariffs, weakening demand in China, and growing competition in the European automobile sector.

The company, which owns premium brands including Audi and Porsche AG, currently employs around 657,000 people worldwide. The reported plan would double previously announced workforce reduction targets, making it one of the largest restructuring exercises in the company's history.

As part of the proposed strat-



egy, Volkswagen intends to reduce general overhead costs by approximately 11 billion by the end of the decade. The company is also considering closing four German manufacturing facilities, including Audi's plant in Neckarsulm and Volkswagen factories in Hanover, Zwickau, and Emden.

The restructuring initiative is expected to be presented to the supervisory board next month. However, significant changes may still occur during

discussions, as employee representatives hold half the seats on the board and traditionally advocate strongly for job protection.

Reports also suggest that Volkswagen is exploring broader structural reforms, including the possible separation of certain component manufacturing operations and even organizational changes involving its core Volkswagen passenger vehicle brand. The company's flagship brand has struggled in

recent years with comparatively low profit margins despite its strong global presence.

The proposed overhaul reflects the growing challenges confronting major European automakers as the industry undergoes a transition toward electric vehicles, digital technologies, and more cost-efficient production models. Chinese manufacturers have expanded aggressively in global markets, while economic uncertainty and fluctuating demand have added further pressure on traditional automotive companies.

If implemented, the measures would mark a significant transformation for Volkswagen, which has long been regarded as one of Germany's largest employers and a cornerstone of Europe's automotive industry. The coming months are expected to be crucial as management, labour unions, and shareholders debate the future direction of the company.

RBI Proposes Wider Access to Money Markets

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed expanding participation in India's money markets by allowing a wider range of financial institutions and companies to access short-term funding, a move aimed at deepening financial markets and improving liquidity.

In draft guidelines released on Thursday, the RBI said non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies and other shadow banking institutions, would be permitted to participate in the term money market as both borrowers and lenders. At present, participation in the term money market is largely restricted to banks and standalone primary dealers, subject to prudential regulations.

The proposal is part of the central bank's broader efforts to strengthen financial market efficiency and diversify sources of short-term funding. The RBI had first outlined the initiative in its monetary policy statement issued in April and has now invited public comments on the draft framework until July 17, 2026.

Under the proposed rules, companies will also be allowed to lend in the term money market, providing additional liquidity to the financial system. However, the central bank



has proposed excluding smaller non-banking finance companies from participation, citing regulatory and risk management considerations.

The term money market is a key segment of the financial system where institutions borrow and lend funds for periods extending beyond overnight transactions. Broader participation is expected to enhance market depth, improve price discovery, and provide greater flexibility for financial institutions in managing short-term funding requirements.

Market participants believe the move could help reduce reliance on traditional banking channels and create a more di-

versified funding ecosystem. It may also provide NBFCs with additional avenues to raise funds, supporting credit growth across sectors of the economy. The draft proposal reflects the RBI's ongoing efforts to modernize India's financial markets and align them with evolving market requirements. Following feedback from stakeholders, the central bank is expected to finalize the framework later this year.

Financial experts say the proposed reforms could contribute to a more resilient and efficient money market while improving liquidity management for a broader range of institutions operating within India's financial system.

Chinese AI, Chip Firms Fuel IPO Revival

China's technology sector is witnessing a strong revival in stock market listings, driven largely by artificial intelligence and semiconductor companies as Beijing intensifies efforts to achieve technological self-reliance amid growing competition with the United States.

According to market data, technology firms have raised approximately \$3.1 billion through initial public offerings (IPOs) on Chinese exchanges between January and June 18, 2026. The figure represents a more than fivefold increase compared to the same period last year, highlighting renewed investor interest in the country's high-tech industries.

The resurgence in technology listings comes as Chinese authorities continue to support domestic innovation in strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, robotics, and advanced manufacturing. Policymakers view these industries as critical to reducing dependence on foreign technologies and



strengthening China's long-term economic competitiveness.

Nearly 50 companies, including robotics startups and semiconductor manufacturers, have submitted applications for IPOs on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges. Collectively, these firms are seeking to raise at least 126.1 billion yuan (about \$18.7 billion), according to estimates based on regulatory filings.

Among the most closely watched listing candidates is ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT), one of China's leading memory-chip produc-

ers. The company is reportedly preparing a 29.5 billion yuan IPO in Shanghai, which would become the largest public offering in China this year. If completed, the deal could help push overall IPO fundraising to its highest level in three years.

Industry analysts say the growth in Chinese technology offerings reflects a broader global surge in artificial intelligence investments. China and the United States have emerged as the two dominant markets shaping the global AI landscape, with governments and investors pouring signifi-

cant resources into next-generation technologies.

The strong pipeline of upcoming IPOs also signals improving sentiment in China's capital markets after a period of slower fundraising activity. Investors are increasingly focusing on sectors aligned with national development priorities, particularly those linked to advanced computing, AI applications, and semiconductor manufacturing.

Experts believe the momentum could continue through the second half of the year if regulatory support remains stable and market conditions remain favorable. Successful listings by major technology firms would not only provide fresh capital for innovation but also reinforce China's strategy of building a robust domestic technology ecosystem capable of competing on the global stage.

The rebound in technology IPOs underscores the growing importance of AI and semiconductor industries as key drivers of China's economic and industrial transformation.

Markets Shut for Muharram, Trading to Resume Monday



Trading activity across India's major stock exchanges remained suspended on Friday on account of Muharram, with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) observing a market holiday.

According to exchange schedules, trading in equities, equity derivatives, securities lending and borrowing (SLB), currency derivatives, and interest rate derivatives remained closed for the day. However, commodity derivatives trading was suspended only during the morning session and resumed in the evening session from 5:00 PM onward.

Normal trading across all segments will resume on Monday, June 29.

The market holiday comes after benchmark indices extended gains for a second consecutive session on Thursday. The Sensex ended 109.25

points higher at 77,100.47, while the Nifty gained 34.35 points to close at 24,056.20. Investor sentiment was supported by easing global crude oil prices and buying interest in automobile, FMCG, and realty stocks.

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

Sector-wise, the auto index surged more than 2 percent, while FMCG and realty stocks also posted gains. However, weakness in IT, energy, media, metal, and oil & gas stocks limited the overall market advance. Market analysts noted that the Nifty faced resistance near the 24,200 level. HDFC Securities' Senior Technical Re-

search Analyst Nagaraj Shetti said the formation of a small negative candle with a long upper shadow on the daily chart indicates resistance at higher levels. He observed that while the near-term trend remains positive, the market may witness consolidation or a minor correction in the coming sessions.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee strengthened by 25 paise to close at 94.40 against the US dollar on Thursday. Currency analysts attributed the gain to stable domestic equities, softer crude oil prices, and easing geopolitical concerns amid progress in US-Iran negotiations.

Experts expect the rupee to trade in the range of 94.10 to 94.80 in the near term, with global economic developments, monsoon progress, and US interest rate expectations likely to influence market sentiment.

Oil Slides as Hormuz Supply Concerns Ease

Global crude oil prices fell nearly 2% on Friday and were set for significant weekly losses as fears of supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz eased amid growing optimism over a potential agreement between the United States and Iran.

Brent crude futures dropped \$1.47, or 1.95%, to \$73.79 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude declined \$1.44, or 2%, to \$70.48 per barrel during early trading. The decline reflects improving market confidence that oil supplies from the Middle East will remain stable in the coming weeks.

Market sentiment improved after indications emerged that negotiations between Washington and Tehran were progressing positively. Traders expect that any breakthrough in talks could pave the way for increased Iranian crude exports, boosting global supply and reducing pressure on oil markets.

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most strategically important maritime



routes, carries nearly one-fifth of global oil shipments. Concerns over possible disruptions in the waterway had previously driven crude prices sharply higher. However, recent developments have eased those fears, leading to a correction in prices.

Industry reports indicate that tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has increased steadily in recent days. Several vessels that were delayed due to security concerns have resumed normal operations, helping restore confidence among traders and

shipping companies.

In addition to improving conditions in the Gulf region, rising crude exports from major oil-producing regions such as the Middle East and West Africa have further eased supply concerns. Increased availability of crude in international markets has reduced the likelihood of shortages and helped stabilize global energy supplies.

Analysts noted that geopolitical tensions had added a substantial risk premium to oil prices earlier this year. As diplomatic efforts gain mo-

mentum and fears of supply interruptions recede, that premium is gradually being removed from the market.

The decline in crude prices is expected to benefit major oil-importing countries, including India. Lower international oil prices can help reduce import costs, ease inflationary pressures, and support economic growth by lowering fuel and transportation expenses.

Market participants will continue to closely monitor developments in US-Iran negotiations and shipping activity in the Strait of Hormuz. Any significant breakthrough in diplomatic talks could lead to further downward pressure on crude prices, while renewed tensions may once again trigger volatility in global energy markets.

For now, improving supply prospects and easing geopolitical concerns have shifted market sentiment, pushing oil prices lower and providing relief to consumers and economies dependent on imported energy.

Micron Surges on AI Boom, Challenges Tech Giants

A powerful rally in artificial intelligence-related stocks propelled memory chipmaker Micron Technology to briefly surpass tech giants Meta Platforms and Tesla in market capitalisation, highlighting the growing investor enthusiasm surrounding AI infrastructure and semiconductor demand.

Micron shares soared as much as 18.4 percent during trading on Thursday after the company issued a stronger-than-expected revenue forecast for the current quarter. The stock eventually closed 15.8 percent

higher, marking one of its strongest single-day performances in recent years.

The surge followed Micron's optimistic guidance for the fourth quarter ending in August. The company projected quarterly revenue of approximately \$50 billion, significantly above analysts' expectations of \$43.2 billion. The forecast underscored robust demand for high-bandwidth memory chips and advanced storage solutions used in artificial intelligence applications. At the height of trading, Micron's

market value briefly exceeded those of Meta and Tesla, reflecting investors' confidence that AI-driven demand will continue to fuel growth across the semiconductor industry. By the close of trading, Micron's market capitalisation stood at approximately \$1.37 trillion, compared with \$1.38 trillion for Meta and \$1.41 trillion for Tesla.

The development marks another milestone in the global AI investment boom, which has transformed semiconductor manufacturers into some of the most valuable compa-

nies in the world. Demand for AI infrastructure has surged as technology firms continue investing heavily in data centres, cloud computing facilities, and advanced computing systems capable of supporting generative AI applications.

Investors have increasingly focused on memory chip producers because modern AI models require vast amounts of high-speed memory to process and store data efficiently. As a result, companies supplying critical AI components have witnessed substantial growth in

revenue, profitability, and market valuation.

The latest rally also helped ease concerns that spending by major technology firms, often referred to as hyperscalers, could slow after years of aggressive investment in AI infrastructure. Micron's strong outlook suggests that demand remains healthy and that technology companies continue expanding their AI capabilities.

Market analysts believe the company's performance reflects a broader trend in global technology



markets, where semiconductor firms are becoming central beneficiaries of the AI revolution. The strong earnings outlook has reinforced expectations that memory chips will remain a critical component of future AI systems. With artificial intelligence con-

tinuing to reshape industries worldwide, investors are expected to closely monitor semiconductor companies such as Micron for further indications of the sector's growth trajectory and the sustainability of the ongoing AI-driven investment cycle.

First-Time Visitor Calls South India “Calm, Clean and Peaceful”

A recent travel experience shared by a 27-year-old man from North India has gone viral after he described South India as “calm, clean and less chaotic” during his first visit. The observations were reported after his trip to Chennai, where he highlighted the region’s public behaviour, cleanliness, and overall environment.

The traveler noted that the surroundings, especially around railway stations, were noticeably cleaner compared to what he had experienced in other major cities like Delhi and Bhopal. He particularly appreciated the sense of order and discipline in public spaces, mentioning that people appeared more relaxed and followed basic civic etiquette such as walking in lanes and avoiding unnecessary rush.

According to his account, the overall atmosphere in Chennai felt peaceful and well-organized. He described the city as less noisy and more structured, which contributed to a smoother travel experience. The calm nature of daily life and the cooperative behavior of people left a strong impression on him during his stay.

The comments quickly gained attention on social media, where users engaged in discussions about regional differences in cleanliness, urban planning, and public behavior across India. Many users agreed with his observations, while others pointed out that such experiences can vary depending on specific areas and conditions.

Travel-related posts like these often spark wider conversations about civic sense and infrastructure development in Indian cities. In this case, the traveler’s perspective highlighted how first-time experiences can significantly shape perceptions of a region.



American Traveller Shares Heartwarming Story of Stranger’s Kindness



A video shared by an American woman stranded in Delhi has gone viral on social media after she recounted an unexpectedly warm and compassionate experience with a local stranger who stepped in to help her during a stressful travel disruption.

The woman, identified on social media as Sierra Liliann, said her journey to Rishikesh took an unfortunate turn when a sleeper bus she had booked broke down twice on the way. Forced to abandon the trip, she arranged for a cab to continue her travel plan. However, her situation worsened when her phone battery died while she was waiting for the cab, leaving her alone in an unfamiliar location without access to communication or navigation.

Feeling anxious and unsure of what to do, she said she was approached by a local man who noticed her distress and offered assistance. He invited her into a nearby office space where she could sit safely and recharge her phone. He also provided her with tea, helping her regain composure during the uncertain moment.

Once her phone was powered on, the man further assisted her by helping coordinate with the cab driver to ensure she could continue her journey without confusion or delay. What began as a moment of panic gradually turned into an experience of relief and reassurance. During the wait, she said the man went beyond basic assistance, engaging her in conversation and showing her parts of his surroundings. He took her to see a nearby cattle shed where a calf had been born just hours earlier. He also invited her to a small local temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman, and briefly showed her a plant nursery he maintained.

Bengaluru Cab Driver’s Suicide Confession Shocks Passenger



A Bengaluru cab ride turned into a deeply emotional and unsettling conversation when a passenger spoke to a 32-year-old driver who revealed the harsh realities of his life. The driver, who works long hours in the city to support his family, shared that he earns around 1,200 a day while being the sole breadwinner for his household of five, including his wife, three children, and his elderly mother.

What began as a routine trip gradually turned into a rare moment of honesty and vulnerability. The driver reportedly explained that before becoming a cab driver, he had worked multiple jobs in an attempt to make ends meet, but none provided enough stability to support his growing responsibilities. Driving, he said, became the only viable option left, even though it demands long hours and constant pressure on the road.

During the conversation, he also shared that small joys keep him going, such as occasionally taking his family out for a simple meal, something he considers a luxury rather than a regular experience. Despite his continuous efforts and determination, he admitted that the financial strain has taken a heavy toll on his mental health.

Rs 80,000 Holiday in India vs Cheaper Vietnam Trip



A social media post comparing the cost of domestic travel in India with an international holiday in Vietnam has gone viral, triggering a wider discussion on affordability and the competitiveness of India’s tourism sector.

The post, shared on X by user Pankaj Arora, claims that a colleague initially planned a short four-day holiday in a popular Indian hill station but eventually chose Vietnam after comparing overall expenses. The comparison has reignited debate on whether domestic tourism in India is becoming too expensive for middle-class travellers.

According to the post, the traveller first explored well-known Indian destinations, but found hotel tariffs ranging from 10,000 to 18,000 per night during peak season. Added to this were estimated taxi costs of 3,000 to 5,000 per day, along with return flight tickets for a couple priced around 15,000 to 20,000. When all expenses were combined, the total cost for the short domestic holiday reportedly reached between 60,000 and 80,000.

Faced with these figures, the traveller is said to have reconsidered the plan and instead looked at international options. Vietnam emerged as a more budget-friendly alternative, with comparatively lower airfare and accommodation costs. The post noted that discounted return flights were available, while comfortable hotels near major tourist attractions were priced significantly lower than equivalent stays in Indian hill stations.

Indian Musician Sets World Travel Record After Visiting 245 Countries

Bengaluru-based musician Benny Prasad has captured global attention after achieving an extraordinary travel milestone by visiting 245 countries and territories across the world. His journey, completed over a span of 6 years, 6 months, and 22 days, is being widely discussed after a viral video showed him displaying his collection of 16 Indian passports filled with visas, stamps, and travel records from nearly every corner of the globe.

The video, shared on social media, shows Prasad carefully flipping through his passports, each one packed with entry and exit stamps from multiple continents, including remote and challenging destinations such as Antarctica. Many viewers expressed amazement at the sheer scale of documentation involved, noting that each page reflects years of planning, patience, and perseverance through complex visa procedures.

Prasad, who is also a professional guitarist and gospel musician, has long combined his passion for music with his love for travel. According to accounts of his journey, he has performed in numerous countries while simultaneously continuing his global exploration. His lifestyle reflects a rare blend of artistic pursuit and extreme travel ambition, making him a distinctive figure in the world of modern travel achievers.



FIFA World Cup 2026 Breaks All-Time Records in Goals and Attendance



The FIFA World Cup 2026 has already entered the history books by setting unprecedented records in both goal scoring and fan attendance, even before the knockout stages begin. The tournament, co-hosted across multiple nations, has showcased an extraordinary level of attacking football and global fan engagement.

One of the biggest highlights of this edition is the record-breaking number of goals scored. With matches producing high-scoring encounters almost daily, the tournament has officially surpassed the previous record held by the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The milestone was achieved during the 59th match itself, making it the fastest World Cup in history to reach such a scoring benchmark. As games continued, the total number of goals kept rising, reflecting the highly aggressive and attacking style

of play adopted by most teams. Football analysts believe that the expansion of the tournament format from 32 to 48 teams has played a major role in this scoring surge. With more matches added to the schedule, teams have had greater opportunities to compete, experiment, and push forward in attack. The increased number of fixtures has also contributed to a wider range of matchups, often leading to unpredictable and

entertaining results. In addition to goal-scoring records, the 2026 edition has also set a new benchmark for stadium attendance. Millions of fans have already filled stadiums across host cities, breaking the previous record set during the 1994 World Cup in the United States. On several match days, stadiums have witnessed packed crowds, creating a festival-like atmosphere across venues. The energy from fans has been described as one of the defining features of this tournament.

Gianni Infantino, the President of FIFA, expressed his delight over the historic achievements, stating that the tournament's success reflects the global passion for football. He highlighted how the expanded format has not only increased opportunities for fans but also enhanced entertainment value for fans worldwide. According to him, the record-breaking attendance demonstrates football's unique power to unite people across cultures and continents.

With several matches still left to be played, expectations are high that even more records could be shattered before the tournament concludes. Experts believe that the 2026 World Cup may ultimately be remembered as one of the most entertaining and statistically remarkable editions in football history.

BCCI Shares Vaibhav Suryavanshi Stuns in Nets Video



Young cricket sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi has once again grabbed attention after delivering an impressive batting display during Team India's net practice session ahead of the first T20I against Ireland in Belfast. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a video of his practice, which quickly went viral among cricket fans.

The 15-year-old batter was seen training alongside senior Indian players, confidently facing top-quality bowling in the nets. Despite his age, Vaibhav showed remarkable composure and fearlessness, playing a range of aggressive shots. His ability to clear the boundaries with ease stood out, making him one of the most talked-about young names in the camp.

Team India is currently preparing intensively for the opening match of the series, and the practice sessions have been closely watched by fans and analysts. While Vaibhav's inclusion in the final playing XI has not been confirmed, his presence in the senior team environment itself is being seen as a major opportunity for development at such a young age.

The BCCI's shared footage highlights Vaibhav taking on experienced bowlers without hesitation, showcasing timing, power, and confidence beyond his years. His stroke play, particularly his big-hitting ability, has drawn praise from cricket followers on social media, with many calling him a future star in the making.

Coaches and team members reportedly observed his technique closely, focusing on his adaptability and shot selection. Training with the national squad at just 15 is considered a significant milestone, reflecting the selectors' interest in nurturing young talent for the future of Indian cricket.

Fans have also been excited about his fearless approach, especially his willingness to take on senior bowlers during practice. Such exposure is often seen as a crucial stepping stone for young cricketers aiming to transition into international cricket.

As India gears up for the T20I series, Vaibhav Suryavanshi's net session has added a fresh talking point to the squad's preparations. Whether or not he features in the match, his performance in the nets has already made a strong impression and positioned him as one of the most promising young prospects in Indian cricket.

AB de Villiers Flags Delhi Capitals Chaos Amid Rishabh Pant Trade Talk

Former South African star AB de Villiers has shared his candid views on the high-profile trade involving Indian wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, while also raising concerns over the frequent structural changes within the Delhi Capitals setup in the Indian Premier League.

Pant, who recently became one of the most expensive players in IPL history, has returned to his former franchise, Delhi Capitals, after a stint with Lucknow Super Giants. He was initially acquired by Lucknow for a record fee of 27 crore and even handed the captaincy. However, his performances reportedly did not meet expectations, leading to a major trade decision. As part of the revised agreement, Pant has also taken a significant reduction in salary, with Delhi Capitals reportedly paying him 15 crore.

Commenting on the situation, AB de Villiers said that Pant's move was not entirely surprising. He suggested that there were early signs of discomfort during Pant's time with Lucknow Super Giants, including indications of dissatisfaction with the team management and coaching structure. According to him, such factors often play a crucial role in high-pressure leagues like the IPL, where player comfort and communication with management are key to performance.

De Villiers also highlighted a broader issue within the Delhi Capitals franchise. He pointed out that constant changes in ownership influence, coaching staff, and team leadership can create instability. He noted that the return of key figures like Sourav Ganguly as director and the involvement of Yuvraj Singh as batting coach may bring fresh energy, but could also add

to transitional challenges if not managed smoothly. The former batter emphasized that successful IPL teams are not built solely on star players but on consistency in management and coaching structures. He suggested that frequent changes in leadership can disrupt team balance and make it harder for players to adapt, potentially affecting on-field performance.



The Delhi Capitals franchise, co-owned by major corporate groups, has undergone multiple shifts in decision-making structures over recent seasons. AB de Villiers noted that such transitions, while sometimes necessary, may lead to uncertainty within the squad if not handled with stability and long-term planning.

As the IPL continues to evolve with high-profile trades and strategic reshuffles, Pant's return to Delhi Capitals is being closely watched by fans and analysts alike. With expectations running high, the focus will now be on how the team manages its internal structure and whether it can translate talent and experience into consistent results on the field.

Iyer's B'day Story Goes Viral Ahead of T20 Captaincy Debut

Indian cricketer Shreyas Iyer has sparked widespread discussion after revealing a deeply emotional detail on social media just ahead of his first assignment as India's new T20 captain. The middle-order batter updated his Instagram bio with a surprising entry: "Second Birthday: 25.12.2025", leaving fans curious about the meaning behind it.

The update came just hours before India's T20 match against Ireland in Belfast, where Iyer is set to begin his journey as captain. While his official date of birth is 6 December 1994, the addition of a "second birthday" has drawn attention across the cricketing community, with many interpreting it as a personal milestone linked to his recovery from a serious injury. According to reports and widespread speculation, the date 25 December 2025 represents the day Iyer considers his "rebirth" after surviving a life-threatening injury earlier in his career. He had suffered a severe abdominal injury during an international match in Australia, which required intensive medical care and a long recovery period. The injury not only kept him away from cricket for months but also had a significant physical impact on his fitness and weight. His eventual return to the sport is being seen as a powerful comeback story, and the symbolic "second birthday" appears to reflect that emotional journey.

Beyond this personal revelation, Iyer's appointment as India's T20 captain marks a major milestone in his career. Known for his calm leadership and dependable batting in the middle order, he has previously demonstrated strong captaincy credentials in franchise cricket, leading multiple IPL teams to significant achievements and finals appearances. His ability to guide teams under pressure has been widely appreciated by selectors and analysts. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly focusing on building a young and dynamic squad with an eye on future ICC tournaments, including the next T20 World Cup. Iyer's leadership is seen as part of this long-term strategy, aimed at blending experience with emerging talent. One of the notable inclusions in the squad is young batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a 15-year-old prodigy who has already begun attracting attention for his fearless batting in training sessions with the national team.

As India prepares for the opening match of the series, all eyes are on Shreyas Iyer—not just for his captaincy debut, but also for the inspiring personal journey that he has now shared with fans. His "second birthday" has added a unique emotional layer to an already significant moment in his career, making his leadership chapter one of the most closely watched stories in Indian cricket today.

The match itself ended in a 1-1 draw between Japan and Sweden, with both teams securing qualification to the knockout stage. Japan displayed strong control in midfield and took the lead through a well-worked team move in the second half, while Sweden quickly responded with an



Yuto Nagatomo Makes World Cup History

Veteran Japanese defender Yuto Nagatomo has etched his name in football history by becoming the first Asian player ever to appear in five editions of the FIFA World Cup 2026.



The milestone came during Japan's Group F match against Sweden at the Dallas Stadium, where the 39-year-old featured once again on football's biggest stage. With this appearance, Nagatomo has now competed in the 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, and 2026 World Cups, showcasing remarkable longevity and consistency at the highest level of international football.

This achievement places him among an elite group of global legends who have participated in five or more World Cup tournaments. The list includes icons such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Luka Modrić, Luis Suárez, Manuel Neuer, Lothar Matthäus, Andrés Guardado, Rafael Márquez, and Antonio Carbajal. Nagatomo's inclusion in this prestigious group highlights his endurance and importance in modern football history.

Japan's growing influence in world football. Over the years, he has been a symbol of consistency, adaptability, and professionalism, representing his country across multiple generations of players and tactical eras.

Despite the competitive nature of the game, Japan showed composure and tactical discipline throughout the match. They managed possession effectively and created several promising opportunities, while their defence remained organized under pressure. Sweden, on the other hand, capitalized on key moments to stay in the game and eventually secure the draw needed for progression.

Nagatomo's historic appearance adds another chapter to

equaliser to level the contest. Nagatomo's record-breaking achievement stands out as one of the defining personal milestones of the 2026 World Cup so far.



Akaisha Vats



RISING STAR

Lokesh Kanagaraj Launches Priyadarshi's Idupu Kayitham

The upcoming Telugu film *Idupu Kayitham*, starring Priyadarshi in the lead role, was launched with much fanfare through a traditional pooja ceremony. Backed by Sukumar Writings and Bunny Vas Works, the film is being produced by Bunny Vas and acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar. Directed by young filmmaker Vamsi Reddy Dondapati, the film is billed as an entertaining family drama deeply rooted in Telangana culture. Telangana folk artist Nagadurga makes her debut as the female lead.

The launch event turned into a star-studded affair with celebrated Tamil filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj gracing the occasion as the chief guest. He unveiled the first-look poster of the film, while veteran producer Allu Aravind gave the ceremonial clap for the muhurtham shot. Prominent personalities, including Dil Raju, Naveen Yerneni, KL Da-

modar Prasad, SKN, Bapineedu, Dheeraj Mogilineni, Meher Ramesh, Chandoo Mondeti, Sai Rajesh, Venu Udugula and Sai Marthand, attended the event and extended their best wishes to the team.

The film boasts an ensemble cast featuring Shivajyothi, Jordan Sujatha, Chandravva, Mounika Reddy, Racha Ravi, Bithiri Sathi, Abhai Bethiganti, Mime Madhu and several other talented actors. Speaking at the launch, members of the cast expressed confidence that the film's emotional storyline and strong family values would resonate with audiences. They described it as a heartfelt story that reflects the relationships, emotions and traditions found in every household.

Music director Suresh Bobbili said the story has the potential to touch audiences across regions and believes the film will become a memorable cinematic experience. Director Vamsi Reddy Dondapati

thanked producers Sukumar, Bunny Vas and Tabitha Sukumar for trusting his vision and supporting the project from the very beginning.

Producer Tabitha Sukumar revealed that the story instantly reminded her of her childhood and family values, convincing her that it deserved to be made under the Sukumar Writings banner. Producer Bunny Vas praised the universal appeal of the script, stating that despite being rooted in Telangana culture, its emotions would connect with audiences everywhere. He also expressed confidence in newcomer Nagadurga, saying her performance and a special song featuring her would become major highlights.

Making her debut as a heroine, Nagadurga thanked the makers for believing in her talent and allowing her to portray the emotionally significant role of Srilatha. Priyadarshi said he was proud to headline



a story that reflects the language, culture and traditions of Telangana while conveying emotions that are universal. He added that although the film is regionally rooted, its theme belongs to every family and every home.

With a strong emotional core, an impressive ensemble

cast and the backing of reputed production houses, *Idupu Kayitham* has generated considerable curiosity from its very launch. The makers are confident that the film will emerge as a memorable family entertainer celebrating relationships, culture and human emotions.

Mirzapur Teaser Promises an Explosive Big-Screen Spectacle

The much-awaited teaser of *Mirzapur* Movie has finally been unveiled, sending excitement soaring among fans of the blockbuster franchise. After becoming one of India's most celebrated crime dramas on OTT, *Mirzapur* is now set to make its grand debut on the big screen, promising an even bigger, bolder, and more intense cinematic experience.

The film continues the gripping timeline that began with the first season in 2018, taking the story into an untold chapter created exclusively for theatres. While preserving the raw intensity, power struggles, and gripping storytelling that made the series a massive success, the movie expands the universe with larger-than-life action, stunning visuals, and a grand cinematic scale.

The teaser marks the return of several iconic characters who have become synonymous with the *Mirzapur* legacy. All

Fazal reprises his role as Gudu Pandit, while Pankaj Tripathi returns in his unforgettable avatar, setting the stage for another fierce battle for power. One of the biggest highlights is the return of the beloved Bablu Pandit, now portrayed by Jitendra Kumar, bringing fresh intrigue to the story and adding an exciting new twist for fans.

Joining the franchise is Ravi Kishan, whose powerful presence introduces a new layer of intensity to the *Mirzapur* universe. The story also expands its canvas beyond the familiar streets of Purvanchal to the deserts of Rajasthan, promising a visually spectacular journey packed with action, drama, and unexpected turns.

The film boasts an impressive ensemble cast featuring Abhishek Banerjee, Rasika Dugal, Mohitt Maalik, Sheeba Chadha, Rajesh Tailang, Pramod Pathak, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Harshita Shekhar

Gaur, Shweta Tripathi, and Sonal S. Chauhan. Together, they bring to life an epic new chapter that builds upon the legacy of one of India's most loved crime franchises.

Presented by Amazon, MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment, the film is directed by Gurmeet Singh and written by Puneet Krishna. It is produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under the Excel Entertainment banner, with Kasmir Jagmagia and Vishal Ramchandani serving as co-producers. Scheduled for a grand theatrical release on September 4, 2026, *Mirzapur* will arrive in cinemas in both Hindi and Telugu, bringing its trademark "bhaukaal" to audiences across the country. With a powerful cast, gripping narrative, and an ambitious cinematic vision, the film is poised to be one of the biggest theatrical releases of the year, offering fans an unforgettable return to the world of *Mirzapur*.

Baahubali 3 Buzz Grows Stronger After Viral Hints in The Torchbearer Documentary

Speculation surrounding a possible third instalment in the blockbuster *Baahubali* franchise has resurfaced after a series of intriguing moments in the newly released documentary, *Baahubali: The Torchbearer*. Fans of the epic saga believe subtle hints dropped by Prabhas, Rana Daggubati and Anushka Shetty may be pointing towards the long-awaited *Baahubali 3*, although the makers have not made any official announcement.

The four-part documentary, which premiered on June 26, explores the making of the *Baahubali* films, their cultural impact and their phenomenal success across the globe. However, it was one particular sequence featuring the lead actors that has become the biggest talking point among fans.

In the documentary, Rana Daggubati says, "The world may not be ready yet, but *Baahubali*..." Before he completes the sentence, Prabhas

smiles and raises three fingers, a gesture that many interpreted as a playful indication of a third film. Standing beside him, Anushka Shetty also smiles, further fueling speculation among viewers. The documentary concludes with the message, "And the legacy continues," adding yet another layer of excitement for fans eager to revisit the fictional kingdom of Mahishmati.

The video clip quickly went viral on social media, with thousands of fans sharing screenshots and theories suggesting that *Baahubali 3* could already be in the planning stages. Many believe the gestures and closing message were carefully included to tease the possibility of continuing the franchise, while others feel the actors were simply having fun without revealing any concrete plans.

Despite the growing excitement, neither director S.S. Rajamouli nor the film's producers have confirmed the



development of a third instalment. There has been no official statement regarding a new film, leaving the speculation entirely based on the documentary's subtle moments and fan interpretations.

Released in 2015, *Baahubali: The Beginning* revolutionized Indian cinema with its grand visuals, compelling storytelling and record-breaking box office performance. The sequel, *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion*, released in 2017, became one of the biggest commercial successes in Indian film history and established Prabhas as a

pan-India superstar. The franchise also earned global recognition for raising the standards of Indian filmmaking.

With the documentary bringing the iconic saga back into the spotlight, anticipation among fans has reached new heights. Whether the recent hints truly signal the arrival of *Baahubali 3* or are simply a tribute to the franchise's enduring legacy remains to be seen. Until an official announcement is made, the mystery surrounding the future of *Baahubali* continues to keep audiences eagerly guessing.

Hrithik Roshan Completes Shoot for 'Jailer 2' Cameo



The much-awaited sequel to Superstar Rajinikanth's blockbuster *Jailer 2* has already begun making headlines, and the latest update has further amplified the buzz. Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan has reportedly completed shooting for his special appearance in the film, marking a high-profile crossover moment in Indian cinema.

Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, *Jailer 2* is the sequel to the action entertainer that became a massive success across languages. Hrithik Roshan's involvement in the project has been kept under wraps for a long time, with reports now confirming that his portions have been successfully wrapped up. The actor is said to be appearing in a powerful guest role, designed to elevate key moments in the narrative.

The collaboration between Rajinikanth and Hrithik Roshan has generated significant excitement among fans, as it brings together two of India's most celebrated screen icons for the first time in a full-fledged cinematic universe. Interestingly, this is not the first time the two actors have been associated in cinema history. Decades ago, Hrithik appeared as a child artist in the 1986 film *Bhagwaan Dada*,

which featured Rajinikanth in an important role. That early connection adds a nostalgic layer to their present-day collaboration.

The makers are reportedly aiming for a grand theatrical release on September 11, and expectations are already sky-high given the success of the first instalment. With a larger scale, more intense action sequences, and expanded character arcs, *Jailer 2* is being positioned as a major pan-Indian event film.

Sources suggest that the sequel continues the style of high-energy storytelling that made the original film a box-office sensation. Rajinikanth's iconic screen presence, combined with Nelson Dilipkumar's commercial filmmaking approach, is expected to be one of the key attractions. Hrithik Roshan's cameo is believed to add a fresh dimension to the film's narrative and boost its appeal across northern markets.

As post-production work progresses, *Jailer 2* continues to dominate discussions in the entertainment industry. With its mix of star power, action spectacle, and cross-industry collaboration, the film is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

Rajamouli Reveals 'Varanasi' Shoot Nears Completion



SS Rajamouli has shared an exciting update for fans eagerly awaiting his ambitious adventure film *Varanasi*, starring Mahesh Babu in the lead role. Speaking during an interaction with international media at the Ancey International Animation Festival in France, the celebrated filmmaker revealed that the film's shooting is entering its final phase and is expected to wrap up within the next four months.

According to Rajamouli, the production has already completed filming all of its large-scale action sequences, which are expected to be among the movie's biggest highlights. The team is now focusing on shooting smaller scenes that connect the narrative and ensure a

seamless flow of the story. If everything proceeds as planned, the entire shoot is likely to conclude by the end of September or the first week of October this year. The director also spoke about presenting *Varanasi* in the IMAX format. He clarified that the film's story was never altered to suit IMAX screens. Instead, the production team made technical adjustments to ensure the visuals would look spectacular in both IMAX and traditional CinemaScope formats. Rajamouli explained that the crew initially had to adapt to a new style of framing, but once they understood the technical requirements, the filming process became much smoother.

Known for pushing the

boundaries of cinematic storytelling, Rajamouli emphasized that the objective was to preserve the film's visual grandeur regardless of the screen format. By carefully planning every frame, the team has ensured that audiences will enjoy an immersive experience whether they watch the film in IMAX or conventional theatres. The highly anticipated project stars Mahesh Babu in a never-before-seen role, with Priyanka Chopra playing the female lead. The film has already generated massive buzz among movie lovers due to its scale, international locations, and Rajamouli's reputation for delivering visually spectacular blockbusters.

Adding to the excitement, actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, who plays the character Kumbha in the film, recently revealed that Rajamouli demanded extraordinary perfection while filming certain scenes, with some shots reportedly requiring nearly 90 takes before the director was satisfied. His comments further reinforced the filmmaker's meticulous approach to filmmaking.

Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on April 7 next year, *Varanasi* is widely expected to be one of Indian cinema's biggest releases. With filming now approaching its final stages and post-production set to begin soon, anticipation among fans continues to grow for what promises to be another cinematic spectacle from Rajamouli.

Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna and Venkatesh Reunite at Khushbu's Daughter's Grand Wedding



A star-studded celebration unfolded in Goa as veteran actress and politician Khushbu Sundar witnessed one of the most memorable moments of her life—the wedding of her elder daughter, Avantika Sundar. The lavish ceremony brought together some of the biggest names from the Indian film industry, creating a nostalgic and heartwarming atmosphere for fans and guests alike.

Avantika tied the knot with Chennai-based businessman Shriram Srinivasan in a grand ceremony held at a luxury resort in Goa. The wedding was attended by several prominent personalities from the worlds of cinema, business, and public life. Elegant décor, traditional rituals, and the presence of celebrated stars made the event one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings of the year.

One of the biggest highlights of the occasion was the presence of Telugu cinema legends Chiranjeevi, Akkineni Nagarjuna, and Daggubati Venkatesh. The three actors attended the wedding along with their spouses, adding glamour and warmth to the celebrations. Dressed in elegant traditional attire, the veteran stars were seen interacting with guests, posing for photographs, and blessing the newlyweds.

Photos and videos from the event quickly spread across social media platforms, delighting fans who were

thrilled to see the iconic trio together in a single frame. Their reunion sparked a wave of nostalgia among movie lovers who have followed their illustrious careers for decades. Many fans described the moment as a rare gathering of Telugu cinema royalty.

The wedding also attracted several notable personalities from other film industries. Veteran Bollywood actors Anil Kapoor and Jackie Shroff were among the distinguished guests, while actress Trisha Krishnan added further star power to the celebrations. The presence of artists from different generations and industries transformed the event into a grand reunion of Indian cinema.

Khushbu shares a long-standing friendship with Chiranjeevi, Nagarjuna, and Venkatesh, built over decades of working together in the film industry. Her association with each of them extends beyond professional collaborations and has evolved into a strong personal bond. Their presence at her daughter's wedding reflected enduring friendship and mutual respect.

As images from the ceremony continue to captivate audiences online, the wedding has become a memorable celebration not only of a new beginning for the couple but also of lasting friendships that have stood the test of time in the entertainment industry.