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Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will launch the release of Rythu Bharosa financial assistance for the ongoing Kharif season from Hyderabad on Tuesday, with over 70 lakh farmers set to receive ₹6,000 per acre support. The programme venue was shifted from Khammam due to continuous heavy rains that made the originally planned meeting location unsuitable. Following discussions with ministers and senior officials on Monday, the Chief Minister decided to postpone the large-scale public meeting at Khammam and instructed officials to conduct the launch event at Shilpa Kalavedika in Hyderabad. The government said the decision was taken



considering the safety and convenience of farmers, public representatives, and participants. Officials have been directed to make arrangements at Rythu Vedikas across all districts to enable farmers to participate in the programme through video conferencing. The government is also preparing to deposit nearly ₹9,000 crore into farmers' bank accounts in phases over the next week as part of the Rythu Bharosa scheme. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who inspected the arrangements at the Khammam venue along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, said the postponement was necessitated by adverse weather conditions. He explained that continuous rainfall over the

RS.2,000 Crore Arrears
Released for Employees

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has released another ₹2,000 crore towards pending employee arrears, reaffirming its commitment to fulfilling the assurances given to state government employees. The funds were released by Principal Secretary (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Sultania on Monday following directions from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The latest release marks the second tranche of arrears cleared by the government. Earlier, the first installment of ₹2,000 crore was released on May 29. The government had assured employee Joint Action Committee (JAC) leaders that ₹6,000 crore in pending arrears would be cleared within 100 days, and the latest action is part of that commitment. P3

Rythu Bharosa Launch Shifted

Bhatti Targets BRS, Highlights Welfare Push

Jamalapuram, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka launched a strong attack on the previous BRS government, alleging that its decade-long rule damaged Telangana's financial and social progress. He claimed that the state was left with a massive debt burden and said the Congress-led "Indiramma" government was working with the principle of "Service to God is Service to Humanity." The Deputy Chief Minister, along with his wife, visited the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Jamalapuram in Errupalem Mandal on Monday and participated in the Maha Kumbhabhishekam and Dhawaja Stambham consecration programme. Temple priests and officials welcomed the couple with traditional Purna Kumbham honours. After offering prayers, Bhatti Vikramarka interacted with the media. He alleged that the BRS administration focused on the interests of a few individuals instead of the welfare of the people of Telangana. He accused the previous govern-

ment of misusing state resources and leaving behind debts of nearly ₹8 lakh crore. He also criticized what he described as a campaign of misinformation against the present government. Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was implementing welfare schemes based on public needs and constitutional values. He stated that democracy becomes meaningful only when governments work to fulfil the requirements of citizens. Highlighting welfare initiatives, the Deputy CM said the government had sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses across the state with an estimated expenditure of ₹22,500 crore. He added that free fine-quality rice was being provided to 1.06 crore families, with each eligible person receiving 6 kg of rice. He said free electricity up to 200 units was benefiting 53 lakh families, while the government was also providing free power to around 30 lakh agricultural pump sets by paying approximately ₹14,000 crore annually to DISCOMs. Speaking about women's wel-



fare, Bhatti said the free RTC bus travel scheme had helped women achieve greater financial independence. He stated that the government had paid around ₹10,600 crore to RTC under the scheme. He also mentioned plans to provide ₹20,000 crore in loans to women's groups through bank linkages, aiming to extend over ₹1 lakh crore in interest-free loans over five years. The Deputy CM said the Arogyasri health scheme coverage was increased from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh to support poor families. He also high-

lighted reforms in education, including increased diet and cosmetic charges for students, and the introduction of a free breakfast programme benefiting 27 lakh students. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was allocating ₹2,216 crore for temple development and taking up projects at important religious and tribal shrines, including Sammakka-Saralamma temple development. On employment, he accused the previous government of neglecting job seekers and said the Congress govern-

ment had reformed TSPSC, introduced a job calendar, and issued appointment letters to around 76,000 unemployed youth. He further stated that road projects worth ₹90,000 crore had been sanctioned through the Roads and Buildings Department and that HAM road works worth ₹13,000 crore had been initiated. He spoke about plans for Future City, Musi river rejuvenation, Regional Ring Road connectivity, and industrial clusters. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government's vision was to make Telangana the number one state by strengthening urban, industrial, and rural economies. He reiterated that the administration was focused on development and public welfare. State Seed Development Corporation Chairman Sunketa Anvesh Reddy, SUDA Chairman Puvvalla Durgaprasad, Ware housing Corporation Chairm an Rayala Nageswara Rao, DCC President Nuthi Satyan arayana, DCC Vice President Vemireddy Sudhakar Reddy, Madhira Market Committee Chairman Bandaru Naras imha Rao, and other leaders attended the programme.

Citizen Participation Drives
Sanitation Success



Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government has recognized Telangana as a leading example in citizen-driven urban sanitation under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0, highlighting the state's efforts in transforming public participation into sustained cleanliness initiatives. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs appreciated Telangana's structured Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, stating that the state's community-based approach has resulted in visible improvements in urban cleanliness, public health, and sustainable waste management. The Centre noted that while the Swachh Bharat Mission has grown into the world's largest behavioural change movement in sanitation, SBM-U 2.0 has further strengthened responsible waste management by encouraging citizens to actively participate in cleanliness programmes. Telangana has been praised for making sanitation a people's movement rather than limiting it to government-led campaigns. As part of this initiative, Telangana implemented a 100-day action plan from June 2 to September 10, 2025, across urban local bodies with a focus on sanitation, environmental protection, and public health. The campaign began with large-scale public participation, where 36,900 people joined rallies covering nearly 250 kilometres, reflecting strong community involvement. A major focus area was door-to-door awareness on source segregation of waste and home composting. The campaign reached around 27 lakh households across urban Telangana, encouraging residents to adopt environmentally sustainable waste management practices. The Centre also highlighted the state's 'Amrut Mitra -

Women for Trees' initiative, which linked environmental conservation with women's empowerment. Under the programme, 24,708 saplings were planted with the participation of 10,704 women from self-help groups. On World Environment Day, 13,488 citizens participated in rallies covering 113 kilometres to promote greener cities. The sanitation campaign also focused on the welfare of frontline workers. Health camps were organized for 25,386 sanitation workers, providing medical check-ups and healthcare support. In addition, 18,351 kilometres of stormwater drains and nalas were cleaned to reduce urban flooding risks and prevent water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Public health awareness formed another important component, with over 15.02 lakh households sensitized on seasonal disease prevention measures. The campaign also included cleaning of 621 overhead drinking water tanks to improve access to safe drinking water. The initiative supported economic empowerment by providing loans worth ₹1,045.04 crore to 8,546 women's self-help groups. Products made by these groups were promoted through street food festivals and melas, generating sales of ₹77.12 lakh. Building on these achievements, Telangana launched another 99-day action plan from March to June focusing on sanitation, water management, heat mitigation, governance reforms, and citizen participation. The campaign covered more than 6.5 lakh households through awareness programmes, along with cleanliness drives, Swachhata rallies, health camps, and citizen pledge campaigns. The Union Ministry stated that Telangana's sustained focus on behavioural change and community ownership has positioned the state as a successful model for implementing SBM-U 2.0 across the country.

Fuel Restrictions Lifted From July 1

New Delhi, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Central Government has announced a major relief for consumers and commercial fuel users by lifting restrictions on petrol and diesel purchases that were introduced amid concerns over global crude oil supply disruptions. The restrictions will be removed from July 1, allowing commercial buyers, including transport operators and industrial users, to purchase fuel directly from retail outlets without limitations. The decision comes after improvements in the international situation, including the easing of tensions in West Asia, reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and the restoration of oil supply channels following diplomatic developments involving the United States and Iran. The government stated that fuel availability in the country has returned to normal levels, making the temporary restrictions unnecessary. The restrictions were introduced in June after a sharp difference emerged between retail fuel prices and bulk supply rates. At that time, bulk diesel supplied to industrial consumers was reportedly priced significantly higher than fuel available at retail outlets. As a result, transport companies and industries began purchasing larger quantities from petrol



pumps, leading to a sudden rise in demand. To prevent possible fuel shortages, diversion of supplies, and hoarding, the government temporarily regulated sales at retail outlets. The move was aimed at ensuring that regular consumers continued to receive petrol and diesel supplies smoothly at reasonable prices. Officials explained that although India is a major exporter of refined petroleum products, the temporary measures were necessary to protect domestic availability during a period of uncertainty in international energy markets. With the latest decision, commercial consumers will regain unrestricted access to retail fuel stations. Transport operators, logis-

tics companies, and industries that depend heavily on diesel are expected to benefit from the move, as they can now procure fuel more conveniently. The government said it will continue monitoring global developments and domestic fuel availability. The lifting of restrictions is expected to ease concerns among businesses and consumers who faced uncertainty during the period of regulated sales. The announcement is also expected to bring stability to fuel distribution networks and support economic activities that rely on uninterrupted fuel supplies. With normal supply conditions restored, the government has decided to end the temporary restrictions and return to regular fuel sale procedures from July 1.

LPG Consumers Rush for
e-KYC Amid Subsidy Concerns



Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

With the deadline for LPG e-KYC verification approaching on June 30, several gas consumers across Hyderabad rushed to agencies to complete the process, fearing that failure to update their details could lead to the loss of government subsidy benefits. The sudden rush was triggered by messages circulated by oil marketing companies (OMCs) asking customers to complete e-KYC verification to continue receiving the ₹40 subsidy. Confusion increased as many consumers had already updated their details earlier during cylinder bookings but received repeated alerts regarding the requirement. Social media messages further intensified concerns among users. OMCs clarified that e-KYC

has been made mandatory for customers who wish to continue receiving the subsidy. However, officials said that non-completion of the process would not result in cancellation of LPG connections or disruption of cylinder supply. "Nearly 99 per cent of customers have already completed their KYC. The purpose of this exercise is to identify genuine beneficiaries and remove ineligible subsidy recipients. Panic is being created due to repeated messages and social media posts. Customers can verify their status through their bills, where e-KYC completion details are mentioned," said K. Narsimhulu, Assistant Manager of an HP Gas Agency in Vijaynagar Colony. Some consumers, however, alleged that P3

Musi Project to Transform City's Future

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the Musi Rejuvenation Project would become a landmark initiative in Telangana's development journey by transforming Hyderabad into a modern, sustainable city while balancing development with humanitarian concerns. The Minister stated that the project, envisioned by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, aims to rejuvenate the Musi River, improve the city's environment, and create better living conditions for people. He said the initiative would help Hyderabad emerge as a global city with opportunities in tourism, employment, and economic growth. On Monday, Ponguleti



Srinivasa Reddy conducted a detailed review meeting at his chamber in the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat regarding land acquisition, rehabilitation measures, and other key aspects related to the project. Revenue Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Inspector General of Stamps and

Registration Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu, Musi Riverfront Development Project MD E.V. Narasimha Reddy, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, and District Collectors of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri attended the meeting. Speaking during the review,

the Minister said the Musi project is not only an infrastructure development programme but also an effort to provide a safe, healthy, and eco-friendly environment for future generations. He said the government's objective is to address the long-standing issues caused by pollution in the Musi River and hardships faced by residents living along its banks. He explained that the project includes measures such as flood management, water purification, increasing greenery, and developing roads, parks, walking tracks, and recreational facilities along the riverfront. These initiatives, he said, would create improved urban spaces and enhance the quality of life for citizens. The Minister reiterated that the project would not be carried out against the interests

of any section of society. He said the government would proceed with a humane approach and ensure that vulnerable families are not affected adversely in the name of development. Directing officials to prioritize public welfare during the land acquisition process, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy instructed them to prepare and implement an action plan for providing double-bedroom houses to families who may lose their homes due to the project. He made it clear that the government would ensure statutory compensation and proper rehabilitation for people losing their lands or properties. The Minister emphasized that development and social responsibility would go hand in hand in the execution of the prestigious Musi Rejuvenation Project.



Minister Joins Farmers on Eruvaka Purnima Celebrations

Karimnagar, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar participated in Eruvaka Purnima celebrations at Kurella village in Koheda Mandal of Husnabad constituency, Siddipet district, by joining farmers in traditional agricultural activities. The Minister ploughed the field and sowed seeds, marking the beginning of the farming season. Agricultural Market Committee chairpersons, village Sarpanches, agriculture officials, and local representatives participated in the event. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar extended greetings to farmers on Eruvaka Purnima and said the festival represents the rich agricultural culture and traditions of Telangana. He noted that farmers worship Mother Earth on this day and begin cultivation activities with prayers for good rains, healthy crops, and prosperity. The Minister said farmers are the backbone of the nation and emphasized that the prosperity of the state depends on the well-being of the farming community. He stated that the government is implementing various initiatives aimed at strengthening agriculture through better irrigation facilities, quality seeds, fertilizers, and improved infrastructure. He urged farmers to adopt scientific farming methods, use high-quality seeds, conserve water, and choose crops based on changing climatic conditions. He also encouraged

aged the use of technology and eco-friendly practices to achieve higher yields. Later, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar inaugurated the newly constructed VO Mahila Samakhya (Village Organization Women's Federation) building at Ogulapur village in Chigurumamidi Mandal. The building was constructed at a cost of ₹10 lakh. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the building would serve as an important platform for women's empowerment, rural development, and village-level coordination. He explained that the facility would support meetings of women's groups, skill development programs, awareness campaigns on government schemes, and discussions on village development. He stated that the government is focusing on women's welfare, farmers' welfare, education, healthcare, and overall rural progress. He called upon officials and public representatives to work together to ensure that welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries. The Minister appreciated the donors who provided land for the construction of the building and assured continued government support for improving infrastructure facilities in Ogulapur, including roads, drinking water, electricity, education, and healthcare. Market committee chairpersons, Sarpanches, officials from various departments, and women's federation representatives attended the program.

Telangana, France Explore Tourism Partnership

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is exploring opportunities to strengthen tourism, cultural exchange, and heritage cooperation with France, with a focus on attracting more French tourists and promoting the state's rich historical legacy globally. French Consul General Marc Lamy and Deputy Consul Pascal Loreau met Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Monday. During the meeting, discussions were held on tourism development, cultural relations, heritage conservation, investments, and people-to-people connections between Telangana and France.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao highlighted Telangana's diverse cultural heritage and historical importance, stating that Hyderabad continues to preserve its traditional identity while developing into a modern global city. He invited the French government, Embassy representatives, and tourism organizations to collaborate in promoting Telangana's tourist destinations among French visitors. The Minister suggested strengthening cultural exchange programmes and encouraging reciprocal visits between Telangana and France. He proposed the formation of a joint team to explore common cultural elements, heritage conservation initiatives, and opportunities for cooperation in the tourism sector.

Jupally said such collaboration would help create long-term partnerships and provide greater international visibility for Telangana's tourism potential. He emphasized that cultural connections could also encourage investments and economic growth. French Consul General Marc Lamy said tourism plays a significant role in economic development, employment generation, and attracting global investments. He noted that France receives more than 100 million international tourists annually and said cooperation in tourism and culture could further strengthen relations between the two regions. Marc Lamy highlighted the strong partnership between India and France in sectors



such as defence, pharmaceuticals, and technology. He stated that around 200 French citizens are residing in Telangana and expressed France's willingness to enhance cooperation in tourism, culture, and heritage preservation. The French Consul General assured support in making

Hyderabad and other important tourist destinations in Telangana more accessible and attractive to French travellers. The meeting was seen as an important step towards expanding cultural diplomacy, tourism promotion, and investment opportunities between Telangana and France.

Vision 2034: \$1 Trillion Economy Goal Announced

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced the state government's ambitious economic roadmap, aiming to expand Telangana's economy to \$1 trillion by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047, coinciding with India's centenary of independence. In a recent video interview with a national English daily, the Minister said Telangana currently contributes around 5% to India's GDP and has set a target of increasing its contribution to 10% by 2047. He stressed that adoption of advanced technologies in governance, industries, and grassroots economic activities would be essential to achieving these targets. Highlighting women's participation in the state economy,

Sridhar Babu said nearly 65 lakh women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are playing a key role. He noted that SHGs received loans worth ₹21,000 crore this year, with non-performing assets remaining almost negligible. The Minister said investor confidence in Telangana is driven by policy stability and ease of doing business. He explained that the TSIPASS single-window system provides approvals within 21 days, while the new Ease of Doing Business 2.0 initiative uses technology for transparency and real-time monitoring of approvals. Sridhar Babu said Telangana's defence and aerospace sectors, developed on foundations laid decades ago, have grown significantly and surpassed IT and pharma exports in scale. He added



that improved connectivity would be extended beyond Hyderabad through infrastructure projects, including the Regional Ring Road and new airports at Warangal and Adilabad. He outlined the vision for "Bharat Future City", a

30,000-acre net-zero and pollution-free city project. The city will include an AI City spread across 200 acres, green pharma facilities, housing for different income groups, and the Young India Skills University. On MSME development, the

Minister announced a ₹600 crore allocation over five years and plans for industrial parks in every district. He said a new policy allowing leased industrial land instead of outright purchase would reduce financial pressure on small businesses. He added that one-fourth of space in upcoming industrial parks would be reserved for women entrepreneurs. The government has also introduced Industry Health Clinics to support MSMEs with financial access, technology adoption, and artificial intelligence solutions. Sridhar Babu said Telangana's approach is to act as a facilitator rather than a regulator, with strong infrastructure, digital preparedness, and stable policies aimed at attracting global investments.

Telangana Plans Global Rice Export Push

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is considering special incentives to promote large-scale rice exports and aims to transform the state into a global rice export hub. Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said on Monday. The Minister stated that Telangana's rice production has huge potential in domestic and international markets and emphasized the need to explore new opportunities through exports and value-added products. Uttam Kumar Reddy launched multi-vitamin rice products developed by KCP Nutri at a private hotel in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, he said the government was preparing a new policy framework to encourage rice exports as existing procurement mechanisms through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are mainly focused on domestic requirements. He said a special action plan is being prepared to connect

Telangana rice producers with national and international markets. The Minister assured that industries maintaining quality standards and engaging in exports would receive full support from the government, including faster approvals and necessary assistance. Highlighting the state's agricultural achievements, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana procured 81 lakh metric tonnes of paddy during the recent Yasangi (Rabi) season, while Andhra Pradesh procured 25 lakh metric tonnes during the same period. He attributed this growth to the efforts of farmers and government policies supporting agriculture. The Minister said ₹19,303 crore had already been directly transferred into farmers' bank accounts for Yasangi paddy procurement, describing Telangana as a state committed to transparent and timely payments. He added that combined rice production from Vanakalam (Kharif) and Yasangi seasons has crossed 300 lakh metric



tonnes, while annual consumption within the state is around 36 lakh metric tonnes. With surplus production, Telangana has emerged as one of the leading rice-producing states, he said. The Minister stressed that value addition would play a crucial role in increasing farmers' and rice millers' incomes. He said products such as fortified and multi-vitamin rice could attract international markets while

also improving public health. Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the rice industry to adopt modern technologies and focus on innovative products instead of depending only on local markets. He assured that the government would support efforts to take Telangana's agricultural products to other states and foreign countries. He also credited the expansion of irrigation facilities and modernization of irriga-

tion projects for the rise in grain production. According to him, continuous water availability and major investments in irrigation have strengthened Telangana's position as a major agricultural state. The Minister said the government's objective is to increase farmers' income, strengthen the rice milling sector, and establish Telangana as a recognized name in the global rice trade.

Rythu Ashirwada Sabha Venue Shifted Due to Rain

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The venue of the Rythu Ashirwada Sabha scheduled to be held in Madhira, Khammam district, on June 30 has been changed due to adverse weather conditions, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced on Monday. The Minister said the decision was taken considering the safety of farmers and the convenience of public representatives amid continuous rainfall across the state. He added that the Mega Rythu Mela planned in Madhira also could not be conducted due to the unfavorable weather. Tummala Nageswara Rao clarified that the Rythu Bharosa investment assistance programme will continue as per schedule without any change. He said the fund release programme will now be conducted from Shilpa Kalavedika in Hyderabad, where Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will formally launch the process of depositing funds into farmers' bank accounts. The Minister said farmers, public representatives, agriculture officials, and representatives of farmers' associations from across Telangana will participate through video conferencing from

Rythu Vedikas in their respective areas. He stated that the government will deposit Rythu Bharosa funds into the accounts of 73.32 lakh farmers across the state. In the first phase, ₹2,482.02 crore will be credited to 41.37 lakh farmers owning up to two acres of land. The first installment includes ₹878.94 crore for 14.65 lakh farmers with up to one acre and ₹1,603.08 crore for 26.72 lakh farmers with up to two acres. Remaining beneficiaries will receive the assistance in a phased manner. The Minister said the Rythu Bharosa scheme reflects the government's commitment to supporting farmers and reducing cultivation costs by providing financial assistance during the sowing season. He also informed that farmers who recently received new passbooks can submit their bank account details to Agriculture Extension Officers before July 5 to become eligible for the assistance. Tummala Nageswara Rao appealed to farmers, MLAs, MPs, public representatives, and agriculture department officials to participate in the programme through the nearest Rythu Vedikas in large numbers.

Youth Must Lead India's Journey Towards Development: Nitin Nabin

Warangal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

BJP National President Nitin Nabin interacted with students at the 'Viksit Bharat Students' Conclave' and addressed a wide range of questions on politics, youth participation, governance, India's global position, startups, sports, and nation-building. Responding to a question about becoming the BJP's National President at a young age, Nitin Nabin said his political journey began unexpectedly after the demise of his father. He stated that he started as an ordinary party worker and gradually rose through dedication, honesty, and consistent effort. He advised youth to believe in their individuality and avoid making life decisions only based on social pressure. On concerns over political promises and youth expectations, he said today's younger generation is more aware due

to technology and the internet. He stated that people now closely monitor whether promises made by leaders are fulfilled. According to him, the BJP focuses on making achievable commitments and working towards their implementation. Speaking about the period before 2014 and changes afterward, Nitin Nabin said the country earlier witnessed an atmosphere of uncertainty due to corruption, policy paralysis, and security challenges. He said the situation changed with decisive leadership and a clear national vision, adding that India is now moving towards the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. On India's global image, he highlighted the spread of yoga worldwide and said Indian culture and values have gained greater recognition internationally. He referred to India's role in global affairs and said the country has emerged as a



stronger voice on international platforms. Addressing the issue of fee reimbursement delays, Nitin Nabin said education should not become a victim of politics. He stated that students and educational institutions should not suffer due to government delays and assured that the BJP would raise the issue and fight for students' interests. When asked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that "you are my

success. On startups, Nitin Nabin said India has witnessed a major startup transformation and that Hyderabad has a strong ecosystem for innovation. He noted that the youth mindset has shifted from seeking jobs to creating employment opportunities. Discussing sports development, he highlighted initiatives like 'Khelo India' and said the focus is on identifying talent at the grassroots level and providing better training and infrastructure. He urged youth to stay away from drugs and contribute positively to society. He said the strength of India lies in its young population and called upon students to become active partners in building a 'Viksit Bharat'. Concluding his interaction, Nitin Nabin said there are no shortcuts to success and advised students to work with patience, dedication, and a long-term vision for the nation's progress.

RS.2,000 Crore Arrears Released for Employees

continued

The decision has brought relief and happiness among lakhs of government employees and retired personnel across the state. Despite financial challenges, the government has been taking steps to accelerate the settlement of pending dues, officials said. As part of its focus on employee welfare, the government has already cleared General Provident Fund (GPF) arrears related to retired employees and Zilla Parishad teachers. Officials stated that there are currently no pending GPF dues for retired employees. The government has also cleared commutation arrears payable to retired employees up to September 2025. In addition, all pending small-value bills below ₹10,000 have been settled. More than five lakh tokens under this category were identified and processed for payment. Employee union leaders welcomed the release of funds and appreciated the government's approach towards addressing long-pending issues. They said the decision reflects the administration's commitment to employee welfare and expressed confidence that the remaining arrears would also be cleared in a phased manner. The Finance Department has assured that efforts will continue to resolve pending financial matters related to employees while balancing the state's financial position. The latest fund release is expected to provide further confidence among government staff and pensioners regarding the settlement of outstanding dues.

LPG Consumers Rush for e-KYC Amid Subsidy Concerns

continued

certain agencies were refusing refills to those who had not completed e-KYC verification. A customer, Syed Ghouse, said he was asked to return with documents after bringing an empty cylinder for refill, as the agency cited pending KYC verification. Officials from OMCs said the government's objective is to ensure that subsidy benefits reach only eligible consumers. Telangana OMC State Coordinator Rohit Garg explained that subsidy cancellations for individuals with annual incomes above ₹10 lakh are being carried out under the long-running 'Give It Up' campaign based on income tax records. He stated that the process of identifying ineligible beneficiaries is a regular exercise and is not linked only to the current e-KYC deadline. Gas agencies have advised consumers not to panic and to complete verification through authorised channels if required. They also urged customers to check their subsidy status and KYC details before approaching agencies, to avoid unnecessary inconvenience. The e-KYC drive is aimed at improving transparency in the LPG subsidy system and ensuring that government assistance reaches intended beneficiaries.

Harish Rao Has Lost Balance, Says Ponguleti

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday strongly criticized senior BRS leader Harish Rao over his demand for dissolving the Telangana Assembly, stating that the people had given the Congress government a five-year mandate. Speaking to media representatives at the Secretariat, Ponguleti said Harish Rao's statements were surprising and questioned the need for an early Assembly dissolution when the government still has more than two years



of its term remaining. He said the people had already expressed their opinion through various elections held in the state. Responding to the challenge issued by BRS leaders, the Minister said such statements were merely political rhetoric and claimed that the

BRS was unable to accept the welfare and development initiatives being implemented by the present government. Ponguleti said the government has no intention of targeting individuals through political vendetta. He stated that electoral defeats themselves reflect public opinion and alleged that the people have repeatedly rejected the BRS in recent elections. The Minister also criticized BJP leaders, alleging that the party was aspiring to come to power in Telangana without sufficient public support. He said there was nothing wrong with political ambitions but accused the BJP of being

driven by greed. He questioned the party's stand on demands for inquiries into alleged irregularities related to Kaleshwaram and the thermal power sector. Addressing issues related to farmers, Ponguleti announced that Rythu Bharosa financial assistance would be credited into farmers' bank accounts within a week. He said the process would be completed two to three days earlier than the scheduled timeline. On the Indiramma housing scheme, the Minister said 23 sites across 18 constituencies have been identified so far for implementation. He added

that the government is working towards providing housing support to eligible beneficiaries. Ponguleti clarified that there are no plans to create new revenue divisions at present. However, he said the government is ready to correct any mistakes in land valuation where excessive rates have been fixed. He cited the correction made in Tandur as an example. The Minister reiterated that the government is focused on implementing welfare schemes and addressing public concerns while completing its full term based on the mandate given by the people.

Rythu Ashirvada Sabha Postponed Due to Rain

Khammam, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The Rythu Ashirvada Sabha scheduled to be held on June 30 has been postponed due to heavy rains, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced on Monday. He said the decision was taken to avoid inconvenience to farmers, the public, and Congress party workers attending the programme. Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the continuous rainfall over the past week had made the meeting venue at Jagannathapuram village in Chintakani Mandal muddy and unsuitable for conduct-



ing a large gathering. He said the postponement was necessary to ensure proper arrangements and the safety of participants. The Deputy Chief Minister, along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, inspected the proposed venue and reviewed the arrangements. Speaking to the media, he

said the government had planned to conduct the programme on a grand scale with the participation of lakhs of farmers and the entire state cabinet. He clarified that the event, which was initially planned as the launch programme, would now be conducted as a grand concluding ceremony after

completion of the 'Rythu Bharosa' distribution. The new date will be finalized by the Chief Minister and Cabinet after reviewing weather conditions. Bhatti Vikramarka said the district administration is collecting weather forecasts from the Meteorological Department to decide the suitable date. He mentioned that rainfall is expected until July 3 and 4, and officials have been instructed to monitor weather conditions for the following week. He said the meeting may be conducted on July 6, 7, or 8 depending on the weather situation

and arrangements. The Deputy CM added that local ministers, MLAs, and public representatives are working together to make the event successful. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Revenue Minister, Wyna MLA Ramdas Naik, Sattenapalli MLA Dr. Ragamayi, and other leaders are coordinating preparations. He expressed confidence that the Rythu Ashirvada Sabha would receive a strong response from farmers and people across the undivided Khammam district.

BRS Leaders Target Revanth

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Former minister G. Jagadish Reddy and other BRS leaders launched a strong attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his recent remarks during his Nalgonda visit, alleging that the government had failed to deliver development and was focusing only on criticism of opposition leaders. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Jagadish Reddy said the Chief Minister's meeting in Nalgonda did not bring any new projects or benefits to the district. He alleged that the event only resulted in expenses for officials and

claimed that people gained nothing from the programme. Jagadish Reddy accused the Congress government of failing to bring funds or initiate major development works in Nalgonda after coming to power. He said the previous BRS government had implemented several projects and claimed that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao could explain the development works done for Nalgonda within minutes. He alleged that the Congress government was concentrating on political attacks instead of governance and claimed that leaders were avoiding discussions on pub-



lic issues. Jagadish Reddy also criticized the Congress and BJP, alleging that both parties were not questioning each other strongly and were targeting BRS. The former minister highlighted irrigation, infrastructure, and welfare initiatives undertaken during the BRS regime. He claimed that KCR's development model for Telangana had gained national recognition. Former MLA Ravindra Kumar accused the Chief Minister of using personal

criticism instead of discussing achievements. He alleged that Congress leaders were more interested in land-related issues than completing pending development projects. He questioned the delay in works related to SLBC and Dindi projects. Former MLA Bhupal Reddy questioned the expenditure on the Nalgonda meeting and challenged Congress leaders for a public debate on development works carried out during different administra-

tions. He claimed that major improvements in drinking water and drainage systems in Nalgonda were completed during the BRS government. Former MLA Gongidi Sunitha also criticized Revanth Reddy's comments, alleging that Congress had not contributed to Nalgonda's development. She said farmers and people of the district would respond to the government's policies. Former MLAs K. Prabhakar Reddy and Gadari Kishore Kumar, along with BRS leaders Onteddu Narasimha Reddy, Palle Ravikumar, Ramachandru Naik, and others, participated in the press meet.

Kavitha Raises Questions Over SIR Voter Revision

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha raised several questions over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging discrepancies in voter registrations and seeking clarification from the Election Commission. Addressing the media in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Kavitha alleged that thousands of duplicate voter entries exist in Kodangal Assembly constituency and claimed that around 11,000 voters from Karnataka's

Sedam constituency are also registered as voters in Kodangal. She questioned whether the Election Commission has an effective mechanism to identify and remove inter-state duplicate votes. Kavitha alleged that Kodangal had around 22,000 duplicate votes and claimed that the number was close to the winning margin of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the constituency. She demanded clarity from the Election Commission on the voter verification process. She also raised concerns over voter deletions in



Bodhan constituency, stating that around 7,000 names were removed within one-and-a-half years. She questioned whether those names were removed due to migration, deaths, or duplicate reg-

istrations and asked the Election Commission to provide details. Kavitha said that under election rules, notices should be issued before deleting a large number of voters from a constituency. She sought information on whether such notices were issued and demanded transparency in the process. She questioned the reference date being used for the SIR exercise and said the Election Commission should clarify the methodology adopted for the revision. She also raised concerns over alleged multiple voter

registrations across states and stressed the need for a system to prevent duplication. Kavitha said the SIR process, reportedly involving a major expenditure, would serve its purpose only if it eliminates duplicate entries and ensures fair elections. She suggested the need for a "One Nation, One Election, One Vote" approach and urged the Election Commission to address issues related to inter-state migration, nomadic communities, and proper polling booth allocation for families.



Warangal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Monday highlighted the development works taken up in Warangal under the Narendra Modi-led Central Government, stating that projects worth nearly ₹17,000 crore have been sanctioned for transforming the city despite the BJP not holding political power in the region. Addressing a gathering in Warangal, Kishan Reddy criticized Congress and BRS leaders for questioning the Centre's contribution to Telangana and Warangal. He alleged that both parties failed to focus on the city's development during their respective tenures and challenged their leadership for an open debate on the issue. The Union Minister released a detailed report card outlining the works undertaken by the Central Government. He said the establishment of the Kazipet Railway Coach Factory was a major achievement and stated that 90% of the construction work has been completed. He added that coach manufacturing is expected to begin by January 2027. Kishan Reddy announced that work on a new railway terminal spread over 30 acres would begin soon. He also highlighted the modernization of Warangal railway station and said ₹2,909 crore has been sanctioned for the Kazipet-Ballarshah third railway line. He added that progress is underway on the Kazipet-Vizianagaram third line. The Minister said the Warangal airport project is progressing and expressed confidence that flight operations would begin soon. He

added that he would be the first passenger once services commence. Highlighting industrial development, Kishan Reddy said Warangal was selected among seven locations across the country for a mega textile park sanctioned by the Centre. He also mentioned the upcoming Sammakka-Saralamma Tribal University, for which the Prime Minister is expected to participate in the foundation ceremony. He stated that 77 PM SHRI schools have been sanctioned for the district along with an MSME Technology Centre to support skill development and industries. On healthcare infrastructure, Kishan Reddy said a Critical Care Block worth ₹108 crore has been completed, while another facility costing ₹130 crore is under construction to improve medical services. He also highlighted road and transport projects, stating that the Hyderabad-Warangal and Warangal-Karimnagar highways are being developed. He said ₹999 crore has been sanctioned for cement road projects and works worth ₹1,250 crore are underway between Warangal and Karimnagar. The Minister added that 50% of the Warangal Ring Road project, estimated at ₹500 crore, has been completed. He also mentioned the sanction of 50 new buses for city transport. Under Smart City Mission and Urban Challenge Fund initiatives, Kishan Reddy said 70 projects worth ₹1,380 crore have already been completed, while another 40 projects worth ₹414 crore are in progress.

Metro Expansion Delay Sparks Political Attack

Kutbullapur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Kutbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekananda on Sunday accused the Congress government of failing to take concrete steps towards the long-pending Metro rail expansion project in the Medchal, Kompally, and Kutbullapur regions. He alleged that the government was engaging in political blame games instead of addressing the concerns of people facing traffic problems. Speaking at a press conference held at his camp office in Kompally along with members of the Medchal Metro Rail Sadhana Samithi, Vivekananda said the Congress government

had spent two years making promises but had failed to bring any visible progress on the Metro expansion. He alleged that the government did not make sufficient efforts to secure funds from the Centre and was delaying the project by focusing on political issues. He questioned the government's commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations of residents who have been demanding better connectivity for years. Vivekananda also criticized the public statements made over alleged differences between Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, claiming that such disagreements were



only political posturing. He alleged that leaders behave differently before the public while maintaining coordination elsewhere. The MLA said the Metro project, which was earlier expected to move forward under L&T, was brought to a standstill after the government took

Malkajgiri, no major development initiative had been completed for the constituency. He accused him of focusing more on publicity than solving public issues. Vivekananda announced that the public movement for Metro expansion would be strengthened in coordination with the Metro Sadhana Samithi and other organizations. He said an action plan would be prepared to intensify the campaign until the government responds to the demand. Members of the Metro Sadhana Samithi, BRS division presidents, senior leaders, and party activists attended the programme.

CC Road Development Works Begin



Kutbullapur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Protocol & Coordination Vice Chairman Bongunuri Kishore Reddy laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new cement concrete (CC) road in Green Hills Colony of Bahadurpally Division (294), marking a significant step towards improving local infrastructure.

The development comes after residents of the colony faced difficulties for several years due to the lack of proper road facilities. Understanding their concerns, Kishore Reddy took initiative to address the issue and ensured approval for the CC road project, bringing relief and renewed hope among residents. Speaking at the foundation stone ceremony, Kishore Reddy said that addressing public issues by staying connected with people is his responsibility. He stated that the completion of the long-pending demand of Green Hills Colony residents would improve transportation facilities and reduce hardships, especially during the rainy

season. Residents appreciated Kishore Reddy's efforts, recalling that he had earlier visited the colony and personally observed their problems during a morning walk conducted at the request of local residents. They said his approach of identifying issues directly and taking steps for their resolution has strengthened public confidence. The new CC road is expected to provide better connectivity within the colony and improve the daily commuting experience for residents. The project is part of ongoing efforts to enhance basic amenities and address infrastructure needs in residential areas. Senior Congress leader A.R. also attended the programme along with Sadu Yadav, Doddurahul, Colony President Amar Patel, and Treasurer Raji Reddy. Colony residents Chandrayya, Ravinder, Ravishankar, Venkatesh Goud, Rajanna, Ramanjaneyulu, Akhili, Radha Gupta, Shyam Prasad, Chandramouli, and others were present on the occasion.

CM Relief Fund Aid Reaches Five Families

Kutbullapur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Financial assistance from the CM Relief Fund has provided support to five families in the Kutbullapur constituency facing difficulties due to medical expenses. The aid was secured through the initiative of MLA K.P. Vivekananda as part of efforts to help residents in need. BRSV senior leader Korra Praveen Naik distributed CM Relief Fund cheques to beneficiaries from Dundigal Thanda-2 and Gagilapur Thandas on Sunday. A total amount of ₹1.47 lakh was provided to the affected families.

ies. The beneficiaries included Korra Sonibai, who received ₹33,000, Vankodth Rahul with ₹27,000, Korra Shantha with ₹20,000, Ajmera Nani with ₹17,000, and Jadav Ravan with ₹50,500. Speaking during the cheque distribution programme, Korra Praveen Naik said that supporting people during difficult situations reflects MLA K.P. Vivekananda's commitment towards addressing public concerns. He stated that the CM Relief Fund has been playing an important role in extending financial assistance to poor and needy families.



ies facing health-related challenges. He added that such support helps families manage the burden of medical treatment

expenses and provides timely relief during emergencies. Former Bowrampet Councillor Srinivas Reddy and other local leaders participated in the programme.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude for the assistance provided through the relief fund initiative.

Illegal Liquor Sale Busted

Quthbullapur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Police conducted a surprise raid in Dulapally under the jurisdiction of Pate Basheerabad Police Station and seized illegally stored liquor. A person allegedly involved in the illegal sale of liquor was taken into custody.

According to police officials, acting on credible information about liquor being sold from a house in Dulapally, patrol personnel reached the location late on June 28 night. The inspection was carried out in the presence of two mediators.

During the search, police found and seized 23 litres of liquor bottles that were allegedly being stored and sold illegally from the premises. The accused, identified as Om Prakash, was detained and taken to the police station for further action.

Police seized the liquor stock and registered a case against the accused. Officials stated that an investigation is underway to gather further details regarding the illegal activity. Police officials reiterated that strict action would continue against those involved in unauthorized liquor sales and other illegal activities.



Mahesh Goud Pays Tribute to D. Srinivas

Nizamabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud paid tribute to former PCC President D. Srinivas by garlanding his statue at Kanteswar Bypass crossroads in Nizamabad city on Monday. Remembering the services of the late leader, Mahesh Kumar Goud said D. Srinivas played a significant role in strengthening the Congress party and dedicated his life to public service. He stated that following the ideals and principles shown by D. Srinivas would be the real tribute to his legacy. Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted the contributions made by D. Srinivas as a senior Congress leader and recalled his efforts in serving the people and building the party organization. Congress public representatives, party leaders, activists, and admirers participated in the programme. They paid floral tributes to the late leader and remembered his association with the party and his contributions to public life. The gathering recalled D. Srinivas's role in Telangana politics and expressed respect for his long-standing service. Party leaders said his commitment and leadership would continue to inspire future generations.



GHMC Chief Reviews SIR Process

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan conducted a surprise inspection of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process at Goshamahall Assembly Constituency on Monday to review the progress of voter-related activities.

The inspection was carried out at Ward No. 51, Polling Station No. 153, located at Osmanshahi, Gowliguda, near the Old Bus Depot. The Commissioner reviewed the arrangements and ongoing work at the polling station as part of the SIR exercise. During the visit, R.V. Karnan interacted with officials involved in the revision process and examined the implementation of activities at the field level. He personally handed over SIR forms to local residents and encouraged them to participate in the revision process. The Commissioner reviewed the progress of form distribution and other related activities at the polling station. Officials



briefed him on the steps being taken to ensure smooth completion of the SIR programme.

The inspection was attended by Election Registration Officer (ERO) Smt. Uma Prakash, Assistant Election Registration Officer (AERO) Shri Mahesh Kulkarni, AERO and In-charge ACP Shri B. Mahender, Supervisor Shri Balakrishna, and Booth Level Officer (BLO) Shri Arvind Kumar. The officials accompanying the Commissioner assured that necessary measures are being taken to ensure effective implementation of the SIR activities and public participation in the process.

Youth Congress Reviews Activities, Plans Student Protest

Hyderabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A meeting of the Telangana Youth Congress State Executive was held at Indira Bhavan, Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of State Youth Congress President Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy. Youth Congress State In-charge Khalid and Co-in-charges Roshini Jaiswal and Bhavya attended the meeting. During the session, leaders reviewed programmes conducted by the Youth Congress across different districts and discussed strategies for upcoming activities. Speaking at



the meeting, Jakkidi Shiva Charan Reddy announced that the Youth Congress would organize the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Voice of Students) programme on a large scale in protest against the NEET paper leak issue. He said the programme was being conducted following the call given by opposition leader Rahul Gandhi and under the guidance

of National Youth Congress President Uday Bhanu Chib. He directed Youth Congress leaders and workers across the state to coordinate effectively and ensure the success of the programme. The State President also explained the new rules and guidelines introduced by the National Youth Congress and instructed members to strictly follow them. He further directed leaders to complete the formation of division and village-level committees by July 15 after consultations with respective MLAs or constituency in-charges.

NIT, CBIT Sign MoU for Academic Collaboration

Warangal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The National Institute of Technology Warangal (NIT Warangal) and Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) have entered into a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote academic and research collaborations between the two institutions. The MoU was formally exchanged by the Director of NIT Warangal and the Principal of CBIT in the presence of Prof. Venkaiah Choudary, Dean (Academic), NIT Warangal, and Dr. S.

Siva Priyanka, Assistant Director, Industrial and International Collaborations (IIC), CBIT, who coordinated the initiative from both institutions. The signing ceremony was attended by senior officials and faculty members from both institutes, including Prof. V. Barla, Advisor, IIC, CBIT; Prof. Sirish, Dean (R&D), CBIT; Prof. Krishna Reddy, Director (R&D), CBIT; Prof. Rashmi Rajan Rout, Head of the Computer Science and Engineering Department, NIT Warangal; and Prof. N.L.N. Reddy, CDC, CBIT. The newly established



collaboration aims to strengthen cooperation in several key areas, including academic excellence, research and development, innovation, faculty development programs, student

engagement activities, and industry-focused initiatives. Officials stated that the partnership will provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, joint research activities, and enhanced

interaction between students and faculty members of both institutions. The collaboration is expected to encourage innovation-driven projects and create stronger links between academia and industry. The MoU marks an important step towards building a long-term association between NIT Warangal and CBIT, with a focus on advancing education, technology, and research opportunities. Both institutions expressed their commitment to working together to create impactful academic and professional development initiatives.

100-Foot Road Expansion Plans Begin



Kutbullapur, June 29 | TPN Bureau

Officials from Dundigal have intensified action against encroachments on public spaces in Mallampet and Bowrampet areas, launching a special drive to remove illegal structures and protect government lands. As part of the operation, officials identified and demolished sheds and temporary structures that had occupied footpaths in Mallampet. The move was aimed at restoring public spaces and ensuring smoother movement for pedestrians and residents. Officials are also focusing on the proposed widening of the 100-foot road in Mallampet to address increasing traffic congestion. During the inspection, road markings were reviewed, and officials began preparing estimates required for the expansion project. In Bowrampet's Indiramma

Colony, officials took immediate action after receiving information about illegal shop constructions being carried out on the ground reserved for Bathukamma celebrations. The town planning team reached the spot, stopped the construction activity, and warned that encroachment of open spaces meant for public use would not be tolerated. Officials stated that strict action would continue against those occupying public areas without permission. They emphasized that protecting community spaces and maintaining proper infrastructure facilities remain key priorities. The special drive was conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Dr. S. Venkat Mani Karan. Assistant City Planner Srinivas along with town planning staff participated in the operation.

BRS Leader Extends Support to Defeated Sarpanch Candidate

Devarakonda, June 29 | TPN Bureau

BRS Devarakonda constituency leader Vadthya Ramesh extended financial assistance to Nenavath Amar Singh, the BRS candidate for Gudi Thanda Sarpanch post in Kondamallepalli Mandal, who lost the recent local body election by a narrow margin. Responding to concerns raised by local party leaders regarding Amar Singh's financial difficulties, Vadthya Ramesh provided financial support following a request from former BRS MPPTC member Nenavath Shankar Naik and former vil-



lage unit president Bala Naik. The assistance was handed over to Amar Singh in the

presence of BRS leaders and supporters. Later, Vadthya Ramesh was felicitated with a shawl by party members as

a mark of appreciation for extending support to the candidate. The programme was attended by several BRS lead-

ers and workers, including former Pendlipakala MPPTC member Nenavath Shankar Naik, former village unit president Bala Naik, Ganesh, Venkatesh, Ravi, Rahul, Pandu, Kumar, Basha, Ashok, Chitti Babu, Srinu, Prema, Vamsi, Vikram, Peddisetti Satyanarayana, former Vadthya Thanda Sarpanch Vadthya Balam Naik, Jagru Bhavoji, Kotes, and others. Party members said the gesture reflected the support extended by local leadership towards party workers and candidates during difficult circumstances.

Ponnam Prabhakar Performs Temple Consecration Rituals



Chigurumamidi, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the idol consecration ceremony of the newly constructed Peddam ma Temple at Chi gurumamidi Mandal headquarters and performed special rituals as part of the religious programme. The temple inauguration ceremony was conducted with traditional rituals and devotional activities in the presence of priests, local representatives, and devotees. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar offered prayers and took part in the sacred proceedings during the consecration of the temple idols. The event witnessed the participation of several local leaders and public representatives. Market committee chairpersons, Sarpanches, and key leaders from the area attended the programme and extended their support to the temple celebrations. The newly constructed Peddamma Temple is expected to serve as an important spiritual centre for devotees in the region. The consecration ceremony was held according to traditional customs, with priests conducting special prayers and rituals for the well-being and prosperity of the people. Speaking on the occasion, leaders highlighted the importance of preserving cultural traditions and developing places of worship that bring communities together. Devotees gathered in large numbers to witness the religious ceremony and seek blessings. The participation of Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and local representatives added significance to the event, which concluded with devotional programmes and community participation.

Ponnam Prabhakar Attends Yellamma Bonalu Celebrations



Karimnagar, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the Yellamma Bonalu celebrations held at Godishala village in Saidapur Mandal of Karimnagar district. During the religious programme, the Minister offered special prayers to Goddess Yellamma and participated in the traditional festivities along with devotees and local representatives. The celebrations were conducted with spiritual fervour, with villagers gathering to seek the blessings of the deity. Market committee chairpersons, Sarpanches, public representatives, local leaders, and community members attended the event. The participants extended their greetings to the devotees and joined the celebrations. The Bonalu festival is traditionally celebrated with devotional offerings and prayers to Goddess Yellamma, with communities coming together to observe the rituals and cultural practices. The participation of the Minister and local leaders added significance to the celebrations, which concluded with religious programmes and community involvement.

NSUI Protests BJP Chief Over Student Issues

Warangal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) staged a protest in Warangal against BJP National President Nitin Nabin as part of the "Chhatron Ki Goonj" (Voice of Students) agitation, raising concerns over issues affecting students. Congress student wing leaders and activists intercepted Nitin Nabin when he arrived in Warangal to participate in a BJP programme. Protesters questioned the Central Government over various student-related issues, including alleged question paper leaks, unemployment, high education fees, and problems in the examination system. The NSUI leaders expressed strong opposition to the alleged NEET question paper leak and accused the Centre of failing to take adequate steps to protect the interests of students. They demanded accountability and reforms to ensure transparency in competitive examinations. During the protest, student leaders highlighted the difficulties faced by young people due to rising education costs and limited employment opportunities. They said the government should focus on solving student concerns instead of ignoring their demands. The agitation was organized as part of the nationwide student outreach programme aimed at highlighting issues related to education, examinations, and employment. NSUI activists stated that they would continue to raise their voice on matters affecting students. The protest created a tense situation for some time as student leaders attempted to confront the BJP leader during his visit. Police personnel intervened to manage the situation and maintain order.

Free Cancer Screening Camp

Karimnagar, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A free mouth and throat cancer screening camp will be conducted at Keshava ENT Hospital in Karimnagar on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, to create awareness about early detection and prevention of cancer-related diseases. Satavahana Lions Club senior leader Lion Dr. CH Ramanachary announced that free screening tests for mouth and throat cancer will be organized under the leadership of club President Secretary Treasurer Lion Marripalli Mahender, Lion Narla Venugopal, and Lion Mukul Praveen Kumar. Dr. Ramanachary said that increasing use of harmful substances such as paan, gutka, alcohol, smoking, and drugs is leading to serious health problems among people. He warned that many individuals are suffering from mouth, throat, and larynx cancers due to these habits, with some losing their lives because of delayed diagnosis. He appealed to people to make use of the free screening facility and undergo tests for early identification of health issues. Those interested in participating in the camp can visit Keshava ENT Hospital, located at Savaran Street, Karimnagar, between 8 am and 10 am on July 1. For further information and registration details, people can contact 8074093923. Organizers stated that the initiative aims to promote health awareness and encourage timely medical check-ups among the public.

Minister Reviews RTC Bus Accident

Wanaparthi, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed concern over the RTC Express bus accident that occurred near Rangapur on National Highway-44. The bus belonging to Wanaparthi depot, bearing registration number TG 32 Z0015, met with an accident while travelling from Kurnool to Wanaparthi. Following the incident, the Minister directed officials to ensure that all injured passengers receive proper and timely medical treatment. He spoke with the District Collector, Superintendent of Police, and senior RTC officials over the phone to obtain details regarding the accident and the situation of the passengers. Officials informed that two passengers suffered minor injuries in the incident. The Minister instructed authorities to closely monitor their health condition and provide regular updates. Ponnam Prabhakar appreciated the immediate response of RTC officials, police personnel, and ambulance teams, who reached the spot quickly and shifted the injured passengers to the government hospital for treatment. The Minister directed RTC officials to conduct a detailed inquiry into the reasons behind the accident and submit a comprehensive report. He also emphasized the need to strengthen safety measures and ensure strict implementation of preventive steps to avoid similar incidents in the future. The Minister wished the injured passengers a speedy recovery and assured that necessary steps would be taken based on the inquiry report.

Mahesh Goud Expresses Concern Over RTC Accident

Wanaparthi, June 29 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed concern over the RTC Express bus accident that occurred on National Highway-44 near Rangapur in Wanaparthi district. Reacting to the incident, Mahesh Kumar Goud directed officials to ensure that passengers injured in the accident receive the best possible medical treatment. He said immediate attention should be given to their health and recovery. According to reports, two passengers sustained minor injuries in the accident. The TPCC president instructed officials to continuously monitor their health and provide necessary assistance. Mahesh Kumar Goud appreciated the prompt response of RTC officials, police personnel, and ambulance teams, who acted quickly and shifted the injured passengers to the government hospital for medical care. He emphasized the need for stronger implementation of road safety measures to prevent such incidents in the future. He also urged authorities to take all necessary precautions to ensure passenger safety. The TPCC president wished the injured passengers a speedy recovery and expressed hope that they would return to normal health soon.

Mahesh Goud Calls for Olympic Spirit Among Youth

Nizamabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud called upon youngsters to embrace the spirit of the Olympic Games by promoting discipline, unity, peace, and a healthy lifestyle. He was speaking after participating as the chief guest at the 40th Olympic Day Run-2026 organized by the District Olympic Association in Nizamabad. Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud said sports play a crucial role in developing both physical fitness and mental strength. He encouraged youth to actively participate in sporting activities and work towards bringing recognition to Telangana and the country through their achievements. He appreciated the efforts of the District Olympic Association in identifying and encouraging talented athletes and promoting sports culture among people. Later, Mahesh Kumar Goud formally flagged off the Olympic Day Run and encouraged participants by running alongside them for a short distance. His participation motivated athletes and sports enthusiasts who took part in the event. District Olympic Association Secretary Bobbili Narasayya, City Mayor Umarani, MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana, Akula Lalitha, Kesha Venu, Chandrashekar Goud, and several other leaders and officials attended the programme.



BJP Leaders Attend Students Conclave

Medchal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

BJP National President Nitin Nabin, BJP Telangana State President Ramchander Rao, and Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender participated in a tree plantation programme at Vignana Bharathi Engineering College in Aushapur, Ghatkesar Mandal, Medchal district. The leaders planted saplings on the college premises as part of an environmental initiative. Later, they attended the 'Viksit Bharat Students Conclave' organized at the engineering college. The event brought together students, party leaders, and representatives for discussions related to youth participation and development initiatives. The leaders interacted with participants during the programme. College management, students, and local representatives were present during the event.



Ponnam Reviews Voter Revision Drive

Karimnagar, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inspected the ongoing SIR voter revision process in Elabotharam village of Saidapur Mandal under the Husnabad constituency in Karimnagar district. During his visit, the Minister reviewed the door-to-door enumeration programme and interacted with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to understand the progress of the voter revision exercise. He enquired about the distribution of enumeration forms, voter registration updates, and challenges being faced by field-level staff. Ponnam Prabhakar directed officials to ensure that every eligible voter is included in the electoral rolls and that no genuine voter is left out during the revision process. He instructed authorities to make sure that enumeration forms reach every household and that the process is carried out effectively by referring to the 2002 and 2025 voter lists. The Minister later interacted with villagers and explained the importance of verifying voter details carefully. He appealed to residents to complete and submit their enumeration forms along with the required sup-



porting documents within the stipulated time. He urged citizens to actively participate in the voter revision programme, stating that public cooperation is essential for preparing an accurate and comprehensive voter list. Officials accompanying the Minister briefed him about the progress of the revision work and the steps being taken to ensure smooth completion of the exercise at the village level.

Seethakka Raises Telangana Concerns Over VB-G RAM G Act

New Delhi, June 29 | TPN Bureau

A high-level meeting on the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act began in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, with state Rural Development ministers and senior officials participating. Telangana Rural Development Minister Seethakka attended the meeting representing the state government and presented Telangana's concerns regarding the proposed legislation. During the meeting, she handed over a letter to



Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighting the state's objections and seeking consideration of Telangana's views. The meeting focused on discussions related to the implementation framework of the VB-G RAM G Act, with representatives from various states sharing their opinions and concerns. State minis-

Dazzle Cloth Store Opens

Medchal, June 29 | TPN Bureau

The newly established Dazzle Cloth Store was inaugurated in Medchal division with a grand opening ceremony on Sunday. Local MLA Malla Reddy inaugurated the store, while MP Etela also attended the event as a chief guest. The store management welcomed the dignitaries with flower bouquets and honored them with shawls. Later, MLA Malla Reddy toured the showroom, reviewed the clothing collections, and conveyed his best wishes to the management for the new venture. Store owner Kranthi Kumar said that Dazzle Cloth Store was launched with the objective of providing quality garments to customers at affordable prices. He stated that the store offers a wide variety of modern clothing options, particularly catering to the needs of youth. He explained that customers can find a range of apparel including shorts, nightwear, track pants, T-shirts, raincoats, and other daily-use garments. He added that special arrangements have been made to provide better customer service along with



attractive offers and affordable pricing. The management expressed confidence that the store would become a preferred shopping destination for people in Medchal by offering quality products and a diverse collection. The inauguration programme was attended by several local leaders and public representatives, including former Library Chairman Bhaskar Yadav, former co-op member Akiti Naveen Reddy, Yellampet Municipality Chairperson Sridevi, Councilor Saddi Nishitha Reddy, along with business representatives, prominent personalities, fans, and a large number of local residents.

Ponnam Reviews Development Works

Husnabad, June 29 | TPN Bureau

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inspected the progress of the statue installation works of Sardar Sarvai Papanna Goud and other development activities in Sarvai village of Saidapur Mandal under Husnabad constituency. During his visit, the Minister reviewed the ongoing works and enquired with officials about the progress of the statue installation and various development projects being carried out in the village. Ponnam Prabhakar



gave suggestions regarding the quality and standards of the works. He instructed officials to ensure that all development activities are completed efficiently and within the stipulated time. The Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining quality while executing

public works and directed officials to speed up the pending projects for the benefit of local residents. Officials briefed the Minister on the current status of the works and assured that necessary steps would be taken for timely completion.

BJP's Strategy for 2029... Where is Congress Headed?

Chennu Peddiraju
Senior Journalist

Although the next Lok Sabha elections are still three years away, Indian politics has already begun revolving around the 2029 general elections. While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appears to be moving with a well-defined long-term strategy, the principal opposition party, the Congress, seems to be on a journey without a clear destination.

Over the past three decades, national parties have gradually lost ground in Indian politics. According to the Election Commission of India, only six political parties currently enjoy national party status. Among them, the BJP, the Congress, and the CPI(M) are the most prominent, while the other three—the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), and the National People's Party (NPP)—remain largely confined to specific regions. Consequently, regional parties have emerged as decisive players in India's political landscape. However, many of these regional parties are now facing internal crises, splits, or organisational decline, significantly altering the country's political equations. There is little doubt that the BJP has been able to capitalise on these changing dynamics more effectively than any other political party.

The BJP's vision of a "Devel-

oped India by 2047" extends beyond economic aspirations. Politically, the party appears determined to establish long-term dominance. Whether its objective is to expand Hindutva politics, strengthen its ideological base, or remain in power until 2047, weakening its political rivals seems to be an integral part of its broader strategy. Political observers believe that this explains the BJP's increasing focus on regional parties such as the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in Maharashtra, the Janata Dal (United) in Bihar, and several other influential regional forces. The underlying assumption appears to be that any weakening of regional parties would ultimately benefit the BJP, directly or indirectly. The party also seems to be viewing issues such as the Women's Reservation Bill and the proposed delimitation of parliamentary constituencies through the lens of long-term electoral gains. The political outcomes witnessed in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir following delimitation are often cited as examples of this strategy, with analysts suggesting that similar approaches may be considered elsewhere.

The Congress, on the other hand, faces challenges that go



far beyond electoral defeats. Out of more than 4,000 Assembly seats across the country, the party now holds only a few hundred. In several states, its presence has become almost negligible. Its weak position in politically crucial states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Odisha raises serious questions about its long-term prospects. More importantly,

the Congress appears to have made opposition to the BJP—and particularly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi—its primary political agenda. While the party is attempting to attract young voters and expand its presence on social media, its efforts to rebuild the organisation from the grassroots have fallen short of expectations. Critics argue that in-

stead of conducting serious introspection into the reasons behind repeated electoral defeats, the party continues to focus mainly on criticising the Union Government.

The fragmentation of regional parties is not a new phenomenon. Similar developments occurred even when the Congress was in power. The experience of the Praja Rajy-

am Party remains a reminder that leadership rivalries, personal ambitions, dynastic politics, and the pursuit of power have often been the principal causes behind political splits.

The internal challenges confronting the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana, the developments within the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra,

growing signs of dissatisfaction within the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, and the changing political equations in Tamil Nadu all point towards a new phase in Indian politics. In Tamil Nadu, 25 AIADMK legislators reportedly revolted against the party leadership and extended support to Vijay's TVK government after it assumed office. In West Bengal, following the Assembly elections, more than 50 Trinamool Congress legislators and senior leaders reportedly rebelled against Mamata Banerjee, claiming to represent the "real" party and even passing a resolution to remove her as party president. In Telangana, after the BRS lost power, ten MLAs and six MLCs crossed over to the Congress, while the party president's daughter floated a separate political outfit. Political analysts attribute the weakening of the BRS largely to internal family conflicts.

Meanwhile, parties such as the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Jharkhand, the BRS in Telangana, and the DMK in Tamil Nadu appear to be reassessing their future political strategies. They face important questions: Should they align with the NDA, continue within the INDIA alliance, or pursue an independent political course? Looking at these developments, the 2029 electoral battle may not simply be a contest between the BJP and the Congress—it could increasingly become a contest between the BJP and the broader opposition.

Social Media is a Double-Edged Sword: Be Careful, Netizen

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Social media is the order of the day. It connects and informs billions of people around the globe. Thanks to the digital revolution for transforming this world into a global village. From a just-born Alpha Generation baby to the Silent and Baby Boomers, all are enjoying the taste of social media through pictures and videos. Reconnecting with classmates, peer groups, past associates, friends, relatives, physically unknown online friends, and others is a valuable part of social media. Family members spread across the globe have made social media a meeting place for sharing their thoughts and news. From connecting friends and family across distances to transforming marketing and commerce, social media has reshaped how we interact. No longer just for sending messages and connecting people, social media is now a primary marketplace where consumers can search for their existing needs and discover new products.

World Social Media Day-2026:

World Social Media Day is observed annually on 30 June to bring awareness about the impact of social media on society in both positive and negative ways. Social media has been redefining how people interact, communicate, and share with friends, family members, and the global population. Established in 2010 by Mashable, this annual event celebrates the impact of digital platforms on global communication, community building, and cultural changes. Approximately 5.79 billion people are actively using social media platforms globally, spending an average of 2 hours and 27 minutes daily on these networks. Gen Z youth spend over 54 percent more time than the average consumer per day on social

media platforms watching user-generated content, and 26 percent less time watching TV and movies. Social media users now make up a "supermajority," with over five billion users out of the world's population of over eight billion. The 2026 World Social Media Day marks the 17th global celebration recognizing how social media has influenced society, both poor and rich.

Theme of World Social Media Day-2026:

The theme of World Social Media Day-2026 is "Uniting the Digital World," focusing on highlighting how digital platforms connect people, cultures, and communities across the globe. This day matters because it gives professionals, creators, and ordinary users a moment to celebrate what social media has made possible while encouraging better, healthier, and more honest use of platforms. Social Media Day is celebrated in many ways, such as thanking creators, reconnecting with old friends, trying a new platform, sharing your own story or positive messages, engaging in online discussions, promoting a small business or charity, taking a partial break, talking to young people, spreading awareness about the benefits and adverse effects of these platforms, educating yourself and others, and auditing your feedback.

Important Social Media Platforms:

The most important partners and brands for Social Media Day are Meta, Hootsuite, Sprout Social, TikTok, LinkedIn, X (Twitter), Mashable, etc. SixDegrees is considered the first social media site launched in 1997. Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder of Facebook in 2004, is considered a key figure in the rise of social media. The first modern social media plat-



form was Friendster in 2002. LinkedIn was launched in 2003 and MySpace in 2004, the same year as Facebook. YouTube launched its video-sharing platform in 2005, followed by Twitter in 2006. Instagram was launched in 2010. Social media has become a huge source of news, shopping, finding influencers for businesses, and general entertainment. The 17th Social Media Day celebration comes in an era defined by AI, creators, and social commerce. Monthly Facebook users exceed 3 billion, Instagram has over 2 billion users, WhatsApp has 2 billion users, TikTok has 1.5 billion users, and WeChat has 1.3 billion users. China alone accounts for more than one billion social media users, India has 870 million users, the US has 313 million, and Europe has 731 million.

Social Media Etiquettes:

There are a few etiquettes to be followed as responsible netizens at every stage of life. Be yourself when you interact online. We must like, comment on, and share content to build connections, but not spread destructive news. Always use a

polite personal or professional tone when communicating online. Give proper credit to the source when sharing content. Use hashtags to expand your reach or that of the content source. Create valuable content to grow your audience organically. Refrain from engaging in negative online arguments or cyberbullying. To ensure social media acts as a positive tool rather than a curse, take control of your digital habits by setting time boundaries, curating your feed, checking the authenticity of information, and taking breaks through scheduled digital detoxes to reconnect with the physical world.

Social Media: Is it a Boon or Bane?

Social media is a double-edged sword. It can be a boon if used for connection, education, and business. It can be a bane when it leads to addiction, cyberbullying, viewing objectionable content, or spreading misinformation. The advantages of social media include connectivity, collaboration, branding, job opportunities, reforming education, and erasing distances. Ul-

timately, its impact depends entirely on an individual's usage, self-discipline, and digital literacy. It is a boon by empowering global connectivity, sharing knowledge and information, providing economic opportunities, and ensuring freedom of expression. It becomes a bane if used negatively. Social media addiction may lead to fear of missing out, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Fake news spreads faster, manipulating public opinion and creating polarizing "echo chambers." The dopamine loop of "likes" and algorithmic scrolling is highly addictive, directly reducing productivity and focus. It may also lead to cyberbullying and invade privacy. The dark side of social media includes its impact on physical and mental health, privacy concerns, the spread of fake news, addiction, and lower cognitive skills. No matter what a person thinks about social media or its influence on society, it is a fact that social media has had one of the biggest influences of any technology developed over the past century.

(On the occasion of "World Social Media Day" on June 30)

When Bookstores Fade, Reading Culture Follows

K Murali Krishnamraju
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The quiet decline of bookstores is more than a business story—it is a cultural warning. Once vibrant spaces filled with curious students, passionate readers, and thoughtful conversations, bookstores are now struggling to stay afloat. The pressures are mounting: rising operational costs, the complexities of GST, and relentless competition from online platforms have pushed many traditional booksellers to the brink.

At their core, bookstores are not mere retail outlets. They are intellectual hubs that nurture curiosity, support education, and sustain a community's reading culture. For generations, they have ensured that students, especially in smaller towns and rural areas, have access to textbooks, exam materials, and literature. Their decline risks creating a gap that digital convenience alone cannot fully bridge.

The challenges they face are both structural and immediate. Increasing rents, wages, and utility costs have made survival difficult. At the same time, online retailers, with deep discounts and doorstep delivery, have transformed consumer habits. While digi-

tal platforms offer convenience, they often do so at the cost of local economies and personalized service that bookstores uniquely provide.

The impact extends beyond shop owners. Thousands of families depend on this ecosystem, including publishers, distributors, and transport workers. A weakening bookstore network threatens this entire chain, potentially leading to widespread economic and cultural consequences.

What is needed now is timely and thoughtful intervention. Policy support, fair taxation, and measures to regulate predatory pricing practices can help restore balance. Encouraging institutions to source books locally and offering targeted financial relief can provide immediate respite. Ultimately, saving bookstores is about preserving access to knowledge and safeguarding a culture of reading. In an age of rapid digital consumption, the tactile experience of books and the community around them remain irreplaceable. If bookstores disappear, society risks losing not just shops, but spaces that shape minds and inspire generations.





Centre Assures Support to Assam and Arunachal Amid Flood Crisis: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday assured the governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh of all possible assistance from the Centre as both northeastern states continue to battle severe floods triggered by heavy rainfall. Shah said the Central government is closely monitoring the situation and remains committed to providing every necessary resource for relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Speaking to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu over the phone, Shah reviewed the flood situation and enquired about the ongoing rescue and relief operations. He assured both leaders that the Narendra Modi-led government stands firmly with the affected states during this difficult time.

In a post on social media platform X, the Home Minister said he had spoken to the two chief ministers and reiterated the Centre's commitment to extending all required support. He also prayed for the safety and well-being of the people affected by the floods.

Continuous heavy rainfall over the past several days has caused rivers in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to overflow, inundating vast areas and disrupting normal life. Thousands of people have been affected as floodwaters entered residential areas, damaged

roads, bridges and agricultural land, and forced many families to move to safer locations.

State disaster response teams, along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other agencies, have been carrying out rescue operations in the worst-hit districts. Relief camps have been set up to provide shelter, food, drinking water and medical assistance to displaced families.

The Assam government has intensified relief measures while continuously monitoring river levels and weather forecasts. In Arunachal Pradesh, authorities are working to restore road connectivity in several areas where landslides and flash floods have disrupted transport and communication.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast continued rainfall in parts of the Northeast, prompting authorities to remain on high alert. Residents living in low-lying and flood-prone areas have been advised to follow official advisories and take necessary precautions.

The Centre has assured that all necessary assistance, including financial support and deployment of additional rescue teams if required, will be provided to help the two states manage the crisis and speed up relief and rehabilitation efforts.



Stalin Urges DMK Cadre to Stay Election-Ready

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin has asked party workers to remain fully prepared for elections, saying polls could be announced at any time. Addressing party functionaries at a district-level meeting, Stalin urged the cadre to strengthen the party at the grassroots and maintain constant contact with the public.

His remarks come amid increasing political activity in the state ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections and the emergence of actor Vijay's Tamilaaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) as a new political force. Without naming any party directly, Stalin said the DMK should not underestimate its rivals and must remain vigilant and united.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the party's focus should be on taking the government's welfare schemes and achievements to every household. He called upon workers to intensify public outreach programmes and en-

sure that people are aware of the government's development initiatives.

Stalin also reminded party members that elections can be announced unexpectedly, making organisational preparedness essential. He stressed the importance of discipline, unity and hard work to ensure the DMK remains electorally strong.

The statement is being viewed as an effort to energise the party organisation amid changing political dynamics in Tamil Nadu, where the entry of Vijay's TVK has generated significant public interest. Political observers believe the DMK leadership is keen to consolidate its support base well ahead of the Assembly elections.

With political parties gradually shifting into campaign mode, Stalin's message signals the DMK's intent to remain prepared for any electoral challenge while reinforcing its organisational strength across the state.

National Study on Low Gram Sabha Participation to Be Released Today

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will release the National Study Report on "Low Participation in Gram Sabha across States and Union Territories" on June 30, 2026, in New Delhi. The report will be unveiled by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member, NITI Aayog, in the presence of Shri Vivek Bhadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, along with senior government officials, representatives from the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), academicians, researchers, and other stakeholders associated with Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Prepared by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the report is based on an extensive field study conducted across 26 States and Union Territories. The survey covered around 7,790 respondents from nearly 400 Gram Panchayats, including PESA (Pan-

chayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) and women-led Gram Panchayats, making it one of the most comprehensive studies on Gram Sabha participation in the country.

The study examines the key factors influencing public participation in Gram Sabha meetings. These include awareness among citizens, communication and information-sharing mechanisms, inclusiveness, institutional responsiveness, governance practices, availability of infrastructure, and people's perceptions regarding the functioning of Gram Sabhas. The objective is to identify the reasons behind low participation and suggest practical measures to encourage greater citizen involvement in local governance.

The report aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers to strengthen Gram Sabhas and improve the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions. It

is expected to serve as an important reference for developing policies that promote transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making at the grassroots level.

Gram Sabha, established under Article 243A of the Constitution, is regarded as the foundation of participatory democracy in rural India. It provides a platform where all registered voters of a village can directly participate in planning, decision-making, and monitoring of local development activities.

By identifying the challenges that limit public participation and recommending actionable solutions, the National Study Report seeks to make Gram Sabhas more vibrant, inclusive, and responsive. The findings are expected to contribute significantly to strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering rural communities through more effective and participatory local self-governance.

UDF Changes Stand on Kerala Labour Cooperative After Corruption Allegations

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala has come under political scrutiny after praising the work of the Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society (ULCCS), a cooperative it had earlier accused of corruption while in the Opposition.

Speaking in the Kerala Assembly, Public Works Minister P.K. Basheer said ULCCS has consistently delivered quality work, leading to an increase in projects awarded to the cooperative. He also stated that the government had found no irregularities in contracts awarded to ULCCS or in project cost estimates over the past decade.

The remarks mark a significant departure from the UDF's earlier position. During the 2026 Assembly election campaign, senior Congress leaders, including K.C. Venugopal, had alleged that ULCCS was at the centre of corruption under the



previous CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and had promised a detailed investigation if voted to power. Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, while Leader of the Opposition, had also accused the LDF of favouring the cooperative.

The ruling LDF welcomed Basheer's statement, saying it vindicates ULCCS's reputation. CPI(M) leader and former Co-operation Minister V.N. Vasavan said the cooperative had

always maintained high standards despite repeated allegations from the Congress.

Established over a century ago, ULCCS is one of Kerala's largest cooperative construction agencies, executing highways, bridges and other major infrastructure projects. The UDF government's latest endorsement is expected to trigger fresh political debate over its changed stance on the cooperative.

Reliable Data Key to Achieving Viksit Bharat: Dr. P.K. Mishra

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr. P.K. Mishra on Monday emphasised the importance of reliable data in driving India's development while addressing the 20th Statistics Day 2026 celebrations. He said the vision of Viksit Bharat, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, can be achieved only through data-driven governance and evidence-based policymaking.

Dr. Mishra said the government is updating the base years for key macroeconomic indicators, including the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP), to better reflect the country's evolving economy. These revisions, he noted, will improve the accuracy of official statistics and strengthen policy formulation. Highlighting the role of quality data, he stressed that credible, timely and transparent



statistics are essential for effective governance, efficient public service delivery and optimal use of resources. He also recalled the government's efforts to establish robust institutional frameworks that ensure high standards of data quality, privacy, transparency and independence. Dr. Mishra described India's rapidly expanding digital administrative data as a strategic national asset, saying its effective use can significantly enhance governance, planning

and policy decisions. He also called for greater adoption of technology, innovation and advanced analytics to strengthen the country's statistical system.

Statistics Day is observed every year on June 29 to mark the birth anniversary of renowned statistician Professor P.C. Mahalanobis, recognising his contributions to India's statistical framework and promoting the role of data in national development.

Yasin Malik Named Mastermind in 1989 Murder of Kashmiri Pandit

A Jammu court has named jailed separatist leader Yasin Malik as the alleged mastermind in the 1989 murder of Sarla Bhat, a Kashmiri Pandit nurse, nearly 36 years after the crime. The court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to further investigate Malik's alleged role in the case and submit a detailed report.

Sarla Bhat, a nurse at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, was abducted from her residence on April 13, 1989, by militants. She was allegedly gang-raped and later murdered, in one of the earliest targeted attacks on members of the Kashmiri Pandit community before the mass exodus from the Valley.

The court observed that material placed before it indicated Malik's alleged involvement in planning the crime



and said a deeper investigation was necessary to establish the full conspiracy. The CBI has been asked to examine all evidence, identify other accused if any, and take appropriate legal action.

Malik, chief of the banned Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), is currently serving a life sentence in Delhi's Tihar Jail after being convicted in a terror funding case by the National In-



vestigation Agency (NIA) in 2022.

The fresh development has brought renewed attention to one of the most brutal crimes committed during the early years of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. The court's direction is expected to reopen investigations into the decades-old case and could lead to further legal proceedings based on the CBI's findings.



Mallikarjun Kharge Reappointed Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was formally reappointed as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha on Monday after taking oath as a re-elected member of the Upper House. The recognition came from Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, restoring Kharge to the post with effect from June 26.

Kharge's earlier term as a Rajya Sabha member ended on June 25, following which he automatically ceased to hold the position of Leader of the Opposition. After being re-elected to the Upper House from Karnataka, he was once again recognised as the LoP under the provisions of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat issued an official bulletin confirming his reappointment.

The oath of office was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan in his chamber at Parliament House. Several senior Congress leaders, including Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, were present during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Kharge expressed gratitude for the opportunity to contin-

ue serving in the Upper House. In a post on social media platform X, he described taking oath again as a "matter of immense pride and responsibility." He thanked the Congress leadership, especially Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, fellow party MPs, workers and supporters for their continued faith in him throughout his political career.

Kharge also acknowledged the support extended by the Rajya Sabha Chairman and Deputy Chairman Harivansh in ensuring the smooth functioning of the House. He thanked leaders of various opposition parties, particularly members of the INDIA bloc, for their cooperation and expressed confidence that they would continue working together to hold the government accountable during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

A veteran parliamentarian and senior Congress leader, Kharge has been serving as the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha since 2021. His reappointment ensures continuity in the Congress party's leadership in the Upper House and is expected to strengthen coordination among opposition parties as Parliament prepares to debate several key legislative and policy issues during the forthcoming session.



Maharashtra Plans India's First Offshore Airport

Maharashtra is set to build India's first offshore airport near Kore Beach in Palghar district, marking a major step in the state's aviation and infrastructure development. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has directed officials to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and examine extending the Uttan-Virar Sea Link to provide direct connectivity to the proposed airport.

Unlike conventional airports built on land, an offshore airport is constructed on reclaimed land or artificial islands in the sea. Countries such as Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea have successfully adopted this model to overcome land shortages and expand aviation capacity.

The proposed airport is designed to handle around 90 million passengers annually and is expected to complement major infrastructure projects such as the VadHAVAN Port, new road networks and high-speed rail connectivity. Together, these projects are ex-

pected to transform the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and create a new economic growth corridor in northern Maharashtra.

The project is also expected to boost industrial growth, logistics, tourism and real estate development in Palghar and neighbouring regions. According to experts, improved connectivity and the upcoming VadHAVAN Port could generate significant employment opportunities and attract large-scale investments. The airport is expected to ease pressure on Mumbai's existing airports while supporting the region's growing air travel demand.

The state government believes the offshore airport will play a crucial role in strengthening Maharashtra's economy and enhancing its position as a global business and logistics hub. Once the DPR is completed and necessary approvals are obtained, the project is expected to become one of India's most ambitious aviation infrastructure initiatives.

Five Killed in Germany Shooting; Police Detain Suspect

At least five people were killed in a shooting in the northern German town of Stade on Monday, triggering a large-scale police operation and leaving residents in shock. Authorities confirmed that a male suspect has been taken into custody, while investigators continue to probe the motive behind the deadly attack.

The incident occurred in the town of Stade, located in Lower Saxony, where emergency services and heavily armed police rushed to the scene following reports of gunfire. Officials cordoned off the affected area and urged residents to avoid the vicinity while security personnel carried out their operation.

Police later confirmed that five people had lost their lives in the shooting. Although the suspect was apprehended without further violence, authorities have not yet disclosed the identities of the victims or clarified whether they had any connection to the accused. The



circumstances leading to the attack are still under investigation.

Law enforcement agencies stated that there is currently no indication of an ongoing threat to the public. However, investigators are examining all possible angles, including the suspect's background, personal relationships and any potential motive. Officials have appealed to witnesses and anyone with relevant information to assist the investigation.

The shooting prompted a significant emergency response,

with police, paramedics and forensic teams deployed to the scene. Roads surrounding the area were sealed off as officers gathered evidence and conducted searches. Residents were advised to stay indoors and follow official instructions until the situation was fully secured.

German authorities have not classified the incident as an act of terrorism at this stage. They stressed that it is too early to speculate about the motive and urged the public to rely on verified information rather than

rumours circulating on social media. The tragedy has once again drawn attention to incidents of gun violence in Germany, where such attacks are relatively rare due to the country's strict firearm regulations. Nevertheless, isolated shootings have periodically raised concerns over public safety and mental health issues.

Political leaders and local officials expressed condolences to the families of the victims and thanked emergency responders for their swift action. Support services have also been made available for witnesses and those affected by the incident.

As investigators continue their work, authorities are expected to release further details about the victims, the suspect and the circumstances surrounding the attack once the initial inquiry progresses. For now, the focus remains on supporting the victims' families and establishing the events that led to the fatal shooting.

Europe Heatwave Turns Deadly as France Reports 1,000 Excess Deaths



A relentless heatwave sweeping across Europe has turned increasingly deadly, with France reporting around 1,000 excess deaths in just a few days as record-breaking temperatures continue to grip the continent. Health officials warned that the death toll could rise further as more data becomes available from hospitals, care homes and private residences.

According to French public health authorities, the majority of the victims were elderly people aged 65 and above, many of whom were living alone or suffered from pre-existing health conditions. Most of the deaths occurred in homes rather than hospitals, highlighting the vulnerability of isolated and ageing populations during prolonged periods of extreme heat.

The intense heat has pushed temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius in several parts of Europe, shattering long-standing records in countries including Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Meteorologists have described the current episode as one of the most severe heatwaves ever experienced in Europe, driven in part by climate change, which has increased the frequency and intensity of such extreme weather events.

The scorching conditions

have placed enormous pressure on healthcare systems and public infrastructure. Hospitals have reported a surge in patients suffering from heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, heatstroke and respiratory complications. In Paris, mortuaries have struggled to cope with the sudden rise in deaths, forcing authorities to arrange additional storage facilities for bodies.

The heatwave has also disrupted transport and energy networks across Europe. Rail services have been delayed due to buckled tracks, while low river levels have affected power generation and agriculture in several countries. Emergency services have responded to numerous incidents, including wildfires and drownings as people sought relief from the extreme temperatures.

The World Health Organization has warned that Europe is warming at roughly twice the global average, making heatwaves an increasingly serious public health emergency. Experts have urged governments to strengthen climate adaptation measures, improve early warning systems and better protect vulnerable populations from extreme weather.

Although cooler conditions have begun returning to parts of Western Europe following thunderstorms, forecasters say high temperatures are expected to persist in several central and eastern European countries. Authorities continue to advise people to remain hydrated, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during peak afternoon hours and regularly check on elderly relatives and neighbours until the heat subsides.

Article 5 at Heart of Renewed US-Iran Tensions Over Strait of Hormuz

A key provision in the recently signed US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has emerged as the main flashpoint behind renewed tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, threatening to derail a fragile peace agreement reached after months of conflict. Article 5 of the agreement, which outlines the reopening and management of the strategic waterway, is now being interpreted differently by Washington and Tehran, leading to fresh military confrontations.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important maritime routes, carrying nearly 20 per cent of global oil shipments during normal times. Shipping through the narrow passage was severely disrupted after Iran imposed a blockade following the outbreak of the US-Iran conflict earlier this year. The June 17 MoU sought to restore commercial navigation while creating a framework for long-term management of the waterway.



Article 5 specifically calls for the immediate reopening of the Strait to commercial shipping and states that Iran will hold consultations with Oman and other Gulf nations to determine the future administration and maritime services of the waterway in accordance with international law. However, the agreement does not clearly define how ships should operate during the transition period or who should oversee navigation until a permanent arrangement is established.

These ambiguities have become the source of a major dispute. The United States argues

that commercial vessels should be allowed to resume pre-war navigation practices and transit freely through internationally recognised shipping lanes without being subject to unilateral control. Washington has also proposed routing ships closer to Oman's waters, describing it as a safer alternative while regional security remains uncertain.

Iran, on the other hand, insists that the agreement recognises its authority over operations in the Strait during the ongoing clearance process. Tehran has directed vessels to use the northern shipping cor-

ridor within Iranian territorial waters and maintains that it will oversee maritime traffic for the next 30 days while normal operations are gradually restored.

The differing interpretations have already triggered fresh hostilities. A commercial vessel was struck while transiting the Strait, prompting US military strikes on Iranian targets. Iran denied responsibility for the attack but accused Washington of violating the peace agreement. Both sides have since agreed to temporarily halt military action and resume talks in Doha, Qatar, in an effort to prevent further escalation.

Analysts warn that unless both countries reach a common understanding of Article 5, the Strait of Hormuz will remain a potential flashpoint. With global energy markets closely watching developments, the outcome of upcoming negotiations could prove crucial for regional stability and uninterrupted international trade.

Venezuela Earthquake Death Toll Climbs as Thousands Remain Missing



The death toll from the devastating earthquakes that struck Venezuela has continued to rise as rescue teams race against time to locate thousands of people still feared trapped beneath collapsed buildings. Authorities say the disaster has claimed nearly 1,500 lives, while more than 3,000 people have been injured and tens of thousands remain unaccounted for, making it one of the country's worst natural disasters in decades.

Two powerful earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude, struck Venezuela's northern coastal region within seconds of each other, causing widespread destruction in La Guaira state and parts of the capital, Caracas. Hundreds of residential buildings, schools, hospitals and commercial establishments were either destroyed or severely damaged, leaving thousands of families homeless.

Rescue operations are continuing around the clock despite difficult conditions. Emergency workers, military personnel and volunteers from several countries are searching through mountains of debris, often using heavy machinery as well as manual tools to reach survivors. More than 2,600 international rescue personnel have joined local teams

in the massive humanitarian effort.

Officials estimate that around 50,000 people remain missing, although authorities caution that some may be displaced or unable to communicate because of damaged infrastructure. Rescue teams have managed to pull several survivors from the rubble, including children, providing moments of hope amid the tragedy. However, hundreds of aftershocks have complicated search efforts and increased the risk for rescue workers. The earthquakes have also severely disrupted essential services across affected regions. Electricity, water supply and telecommunications remain partially restored, while hospitals are struggling to treat the large number of injured. Temporary shelters have been established for thousands of displaced residents, and relief agencies are distributing food, drinking wa-

ter and medical supplies.

The disaster has drawn an international response, with several countries sending search-and-rescue teams, medical personnel and humanitarian aid. Relief agencies have warned that the coming days will be critical, as the chances of finding survivors decrease with time. Meanwhile, authorities have urged residents to remain alert because aftershocks continue to shake the affected areas.

As Venezuela mourns the lives lost, investigators and emergency officials continue to assess the full extent of the destruction. The government has pledged to intensify rescue operations and provide support to affected communities, while the international community has called for sustained humanitarian assistance to help the country recover from the catastrophic disaster.

China Rejects India's Concerns Over Teesta Project

China has dismissed India's concerns over its growing co-operation with Bangladesh on the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project (TRCMRP), insisting that the initiative is purely aimed at improving livelihoods and restoring the river ecosystem. Beijing stressed that its partnership with Dhaka is not directed against any third country and should remain free from external interference.

Responding to questions about India's objections, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China-Bangladesh cooperation is based on mutual development goals and respects Bangladesh's sovereign right to choose its development partners. "China-Bangladesh cooperation does not target any third party and should be free from third-party influence," he said during a media briefing in Beijing.

The Teesta River flows through the Indian state of Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh, making it a strategically and economically important transboundary river. The proposed restoration project includes river



dredging, embankment construction, erosion control, irrigation improvements and flood management measures aimed at improving water resources and agricultural productivity in northern Bangladesh.

India has expressed reservations because the Teesta basin is located close to its sensitive northeastern region. Officials in New Delhi are reportedly concerned that increased Chinese involvement in infrastructure projects near the border could have long-term strategic implications. The is-

sue has gained prominence following recent agreements between Bangladesh and China to deepen cooperation on water management and other infrastructure initiatives.

Defending the project, China described the Teesta restoration programme as an important livelihood initiative for Bangladesh. Guo said Beijing is prepared to provide technical and developmental support to help improve river management and strengthen cooperation in areas such as water conservancy, trade and public welfare. He added that China is

willing to align its development strategies with Bangladesh to promote mutually beneficial projects.

The remarks come days after Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman met Chinese leaders in Beijing, where both sides agreed to expand cooperation on the Teesta project and other infrastructure initiatives. The visit resulted in several agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, including discussions on river management, economic cooperation and connectivity projects.

The Teesta project has become a key issue in the evolving geopolitical dynamics of South Asia, where Bangladesh is seeking to balance its relations with both India and China. While Dhaka maintains that its partnerships are driven by development priorities, India continues to monitor Chinese involvement in strategically significant projects near its borders. Analysts believe the Teesta initiative will remain an important diplomatic issue as regional powers compete for influence while Bangladesh pursues infrastructure development and economic growth.

Biden Calls Trump 'A Loser', Accuses Him of Corruption and Incompetence



Former US President Joe Biden launched one of his sharpest attacks yet on President Donald Trump, calling him "a loser" and accusing him of corruption, incompetence and putting personal ambition above the interests of the American people. The remarks came during a keynote speech at the Maryland Democratic Party's annual gala in Hanover, where Biden urged party workers to intensify efforts ahead of the upcoming midterm elections.

During his 10-minute address, the 83-year-old former president criticised several of Trump's high-profile projects in Washington, DC. Biden mocked the demolition of the White House's East Wing to make way for a ballroom, attempts to rename the John F. Kennedy Center, plans for a triumphal arch and the costly renovation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which was later plagued by an algae bloom. Referring to these initiatives, Biden remarked, "What a loser," drawing applause from the audience.

Biden argued that these projects reflected a broader pattern of poor governance rather than isolated decisions. He accused the Trump administration of unprecedented corruption, alleging that a no-bid federal contract linked to a Trump donor

was awarded for the Reflecting Pool renovation. "It's the corruption — the brazen, blatant corruption. Corruption on a scale never seen before in American history," Biden said, claiming that public resources had been used to benefit political allies.

The former president also criticised Trump's foreign policy, saying it had weakened America's global standing and undermined the NATO alliance. He questioned Trump's approach towards Russian President Vladimir Putin and argued that US leadership on the world stage had suffered significantly under the current administration. "He's diminished our standing in the world more than any president in history," Biden told the gathering.

Biden further criticised proposals to compensate individuals convicted

over the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot, saying taxpayers' money should not be used for such purposes. He insisted that those responsible for the attack should face legal consequences rather than receive financial support.

The speech marked exactly two years since Biden's widely criticised debate performance against Trump in June 2024, which ultimately led him to withdraw from the presidential race. Trump later returned to the White House after defeating then Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 election. Despite stepping away from elected office, Biden has recently re-emerged on the campaign trail, encouraging Democratic supporters to remain politically active and work towards regaining control of Congress in the midterm elections.

Markets End Lower as Nifty Slips Below 24,000, Snapping Two-Day Winning Run

Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Monday, bringing an end to their two-session winning streak as profit booking and weak global cues weighed on investor sentiment. The NSE Nifty 50 closed below the crucial 24,000 mark, while the BSE Sensex also finished in the red after a volatile trading session.

Selling pressure was visible across several key sectors, with the automobile index emerging as the biggest laggard, declining nearly 2 percent. PSU Banks, Media, Information Technology, and Oil & Gas stocks also witnessed losses of around 1 percent each. In contrast, the Metal, Pharma, and Healthcare sectors bucked the broader trend, posting modest gains and limiting the overall market decline.

Among the Nifty stocks, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Adani Enterprises, and InterGlobe Aviation featured among the top losers. On the gaining side, Max Healthcare, Coal India, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Eternal, and Trent managed to end the day with positive returns despite the weak market sentiment.

The broader market delivered a mixed performance. While several mid- and small-cap stocks continued to attract investor interest, the benchmark indices remained under pressure due to selling in heavy-weight stocks. Market participants preferred to book profits after the recent rally while closely monitoring global developments and upcoming domestic economic triggers.



Analysts believe the decline was primarily driven by caution among investors amid uncertainty in global markets. Rising geopolitical concerns and fluctuating commodity prices have prompted traders to adopt a wait-and-watch approach, resulting in increased volatility during the session. Despite Monday's decline, market experts maintain that the broader trend remains constructive. They note that the Nifty continues to hold above important medium-term support levels, suggesting that the current weakness may be a temporary correction rather than the beginning of a sustained downtrend. Investors are expected to closely watch foreign institutional investor activity, corporate earnings updates,

and macroeconomic data for further direction. Technical analysts indicate that the 24,000 level remains a key psychological barrier for the Nifty. A sustained move above this mark could revive bullish momentum, while failure to reclaim it may lead to additional short-term consolidation. Support is expected around lower technical levels, where buying interest could re-emerge.

With market volatility likely to continue in the coming sessions, investors are advised to remain selective in their stock choices and focus on fundamentally strong companies. The coming days are expected to provide greater clarity on market direction as domestic and global factors continue to influence investor sentiment.

Persistent's Mega Nagarro Acquisition Raises Investor Concerns Despite Strategic Benefits

Persistent Systems' decision to acquire German IT services company Nagarro in a 1.27 billion deal has sparked mixed reactions in the market. While analysts acknowledge the strategic value of the acquisition, investors remain cautious about the challenges associated with integrating the two companies and the potential impact on profitability.

The acquisition is one of the largest undertaken by an Indian mid-tier IT company in recent years. Once completed, the combined entity is expected to become India's seventh-largest IT services company by revenue, strengthening Persistent's position in the rapidly evolving global technology services market.

The deal significantly expands Persistent's presence in Europe while enhancing its capabilities in artificial intelligence, cloud computing and digital engineering. Industry experts believe the acquisition aligns with the growing trend of consolidation in the IT sector, where companies are pursuing scale and advanced technology expertise to meet rising enterprise demand.



Despite the long-term strategic advantages, the announcement triggered a sharp decline in Persistent Systems' share price. Investors expressed concerns over the premium paid for Nagarro and the possibility of near-term pressure on earnings. Market participants are also closely watching how effectively Persistent manages the integration process, which is considered critical to the success of the transaction.

Another factor weighing on investor sentiment is the difference in operating margins between the two companies.

Nagarro's profitability is lower than Persistent's, leading analysts to expect some margin dilution in the short term. In addition, the acquisition will require significant financing, increasing the company's debt burden and reducing financial flexibility during the integration phase.

Brokerage firms have highlighted that although the valuation appears expensive, the transaction could deliver meaningful benefits if Persistent successfully leverages cross-selling opportunities, expands its client base and improves Nagarro's operational

efficiency over time. Achieving these synergies will be essential to justify the acquisition cost. The deal also reflects a broader trend within the Indian IT industry, where companies are increasingly relying on mergers and acquisitions to strengthen AI capabilities, expand geographically and compete with larger global rivals. Similar strategic acquisitions by other mid-sized IT firms indicate that consolidation is becoming a key growth strategy across the sector.

For Persistent Systems, the acquisition represents both a significant opportunity and a substantial challenge. While the expanded global footprint and enhanced technology portfolio could drive long-term growth, investors will closely monitor execution, cost management and profitability in the coming quarters.

The company's ability to integrate Nagarro smoothly, retain key talent and improve margins will ultimately determine whether this landmark acquisition becomes a transformational success or a costly gamble.

Bajaj Auto Buyback Opens July 1; Stock Falls Over 2% Despite Premium Offer

Shares of Bajaj Auto ended lower after the company announced that its 5,632.8 crore share buyback will open for eligible shareholders on July 1. The stock declined more than 2% during Monday's trading session as investors reacted to the latest development, even though the buyback price offers a significant premium over the prevailing market value.

The company has fixed the buyback price at 12,000 per share, well above the stock's recent trading levels. The tender offer will remain open from July 1 to July 7, allowing eligible shareholders to tender their shares during the five-working-day window.

Bajaj Auto plans to repurchase up to 46.94 lakh equity shares, representing around 1.68% of its total paid-up equity capital. The total value of the buyback stands at approximately 5,632.8 crore, making it the largest buyback programme in the company's history.

The record date to determine shareholder eligibility was June 24. Investors who held Bajaj Auto shares before the record date will be eligible to participate in the buyback. The company has also clarified that its promoters and promoter group entities do not intend to participate in the offer, which could improve the acceptance ratio for public shareholders.

Despite the attractive buyback premium, the stock came under selling pressure during the session. Analysts believe the decline reflects profit booking as well as broader market weakness rather than concerns over the company's fundamentals. Investors also continue to assess recent developments, including the company's disclosure of a ransomware attack that affected certain IT systems, though Bajaj Auto has stated that it acted swiftly to contain the incident.

The automaker remains fundamentally strong after delivering robust financial results in the previous quarter. Growth in domestic sales, exports and its electric vehicle



business contributed to higher revenue and profitability, reinforcing confidence in the company's long-term prospects.

Market experts note that buyback offers generally provide shareholders with an opportunity to exit at a premium. However, the final benefit depends on the acceptance ratio, which is determined by the number of shares tendered relative to the total shares the company plans to repurchase.

With the buyback window set to open on July 1, eligible investors will now evaluate whether to participate based on market prices, expected acceptance ratios and their long-term investment outlook. The programme is expected to remain a key focus for Bajaj Auto shareholders over the coming weeks.

Netweb Technologies Shares Tumble 11% Ahead of Board Meeting on Fund-Raising Proposal

Shares of Netweb Technologies witnessed heavy selling pressure on Monday, recording their steepest single-day decline since January 2025, after the company announced a board meeting to consider raising fresh capital. The stock fell as much as 11% during the session before closing significantly lower, making it one of the biggest losers in the broader market.

The company's board is scheduled to meet on July 1 to evaluate various fund-raising options. According to the company, it may consider raising capital through equity shares, preference shares, convertible or non-convertible debentures, warrants, or other equity-linked securities. The proposal could involve one or more of these instruments, depending on the board's final decision.

While companies often raise funds to support expansion plans, strategic investments or working capital requirements, the announcement appeared to trigger caution among investors. Market participants were concerned about the possibility of equity dilution if the company opts for issuing fresh shares. The uncertainty surrounding the size, pricing and structure of the proposed fund raise also contributed to the sharp decline in the stock.

Apart from the fundraising announcement, the broader weakness in technology and



artificial intelligence-related stocks added to the selling pressure. Netweb Technologies, which specializes in high-performance computing, AI infrastructure and data centre solutions, has been one of the standout performers in the AI segment over the past year. However, its premium valuation has made the stock vulnerable to profit booking whenever investor sentiment weakens.

Despite Monday's correction, analysts believe the company's long-term growth prospects remain intact. Netweb continues to benefit from in-

creasing demand for AI servers, high-performance computing systems and enterprise data centre infrastructure. The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence across industries has created significant opportunities for companies operating in this segment.

Investors will now closely monitor the outcome of the July 1 board meeting for clarity on the company's capital-raising plans. The method of fundraising, the amount proposed and the intended use of proceeds are expected to play a crucial role in determining future investor sentiment.

Market experts note that fundraising announcements often lead to short-term volatility, particularly when details remain limited. Once the company discloses the final structure of the proposed capital raise, the market is likely to reassess the stock based on its impact on earnings, shareholder value and future growth.

For now, Netweb Technologies remains in focus as investors await further announcements that could shape the company's next phase of expansion in India's rapidly growing AI and digital infrastructure ecosystem.

Jefferies Turns Bullish on Liquor Stocks, Picks Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders as Top Bets

Global brokerage firm Jefferies has initiated coverage on India's alcoholic beverages sector with a positive outlook, recommending 'Buy' ratings for Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders & Distillers. The brokerage believes the industry's long-term growth will be driven by premiumisation, improving consumer affordability and favourable demographic trends.

Jefferies has set a target price of 4,500 for Radico Khaitan and 780 for Allied Blenders & Distillers. It assigned a 'Hold' rating to United Spirits with a target price of 1,560. Among the three companies, Radico Khaitan has emerged as Jefferies' top pick due to its strong premium portfolio and consistent execution.

According to the brokerage, India's alcoholic beverage market remains one of the fastest-growing globally. A rising population of legal drinking-age consumers, increasing disposable incomes and a growing preference for premium spirits are expected to support sustained industry expansion over the coming years. Jefferies also noted that the India-UK Free Trade Agreement could become an additional catalyst for growth by benefiting premium liquor



manufacturers.

The brokerage highlighted the impressive performance of Radico Khaitan and Allied Blenders over the past few years. Between FY22 and FY26, both companies recorded strong growth in their Prestige and Above (P&A) product segments, significantly outperforming larger competitors in terms of premium volume growth. Their continued focus on innovation and premium brand launches is expected to strengthen their market position further.

Jefferies believes premiumisation will remain the key driver of profitability for the sector. As consumers increasingly shift toward premium spirits, companies are likely to benefit from higher margins and stronger earnings growth. The brokerage expects this trend to continue, supported by expanding product portfolios and favourable

regulatory developments in several states.

While Radico Khaitan is viewed as the sector's strongest growth story, Allied Blenders has also received positive attention for its ongoing turnaround. Jefferies believes the company has considerable upside potential if it continues to execute its premiumisation strategy successfully and improves operational performance.

Overall, the brokerage remains optimistic about the Indian spirits industry, citing strong structural growth drivers and attractive long-term opportunities. With premium products expected to account for an increasing share of sales, companies focused on brand building and innovation are likely to remain well-positioned to benefit from evolving consumer preferences and deliver sustained earnings growth.

Astrology Prediction Keeps 28-Year-Old Techie Away From the Driver’s Seat, Sparks Online Debate

A 28-year-old software engineer has become the centre of an intense social media discussion after it emerged that his family has never allowed him to drive because of an alarming prediction made in his birth chart, or kundli. The unusual story has reignited conversations about the influence of astrology on personal decisions in modern India.

The incident came to light after entrepreneur Pritesh Lakhani shared the story on social media. According to him, the IT professional, despite being married and the father of a toddler, has never learned to ride a bicycle or drive any vehicle. The reason,

he claimed, is that an astrologer had predicted in the man's kundli that he could one day be responsible for someone's death while driving.

As a result, the man's family reportedly decided years ago that he should never operate a vehicle. Even today, his father drops him at work every day, a routine that has continued into adulthood. The engineer has accepted the family's decision and has never attempted to learn driving.

Lakhani described the experience as surprising and remarked that fear created by horoscope predictions can significantly shape a person's



life. In a light-hearted comment, he joked that he was tempted to ask the man's father what the kundli had to say about artificial intelligence.

The post quickly gained traction online, with users expressing a wide range of opinions. Many questioned whether major life decisions should be based solely on astrological forecasts, especially when they restrict an individual's independence. Others defended the family's choice, saying that personal beliefs and traditions deserve respect, even if they appear unusual to outsiders.

The discussion also high-

lighted the enduring role of astrology in many Indian households. While some people view kundlis as a source of guidance rather than certainty, others believe such predictions should not determine important aspects of life without rational consideration.

The story has once again drawn attention to the delicate balance between faith, family traditions and scientific thinking. Whether one believes in astrology or not, the incident illustrates how deeply personal beliefs can influence everyday choices, shaping lives in ways that extend far beyond the stars.

Mother Leaves Daughter Behind After Passport Blunder, Internet Divided Over ‘Tough Love’



A US mother's decision to continue with an international vacation after her 21-year-old daughter forgot her passport has sparked a heated debate online, with many calling it an example of "tough love" while others questioned whether the choice was too harsh.

The incident was shared by Cheryl Maguire, who had planned a nostalgic trip to the Turks and Caicos Islands with her daughter. The pair intended to revisit a favourite holiday destination and recreate cherished family photographs during a special resort reopening event. However, their plans took an unexpected turn when the daughter realised she had left her passport behind at her

apartment in New York City.

The two were scheduled to depart from Boston, and despite trying to find a way to retrieve the passport before the flight, time ran out. Since the vacation coincided with a once-in-a-lifetime event that could not be rescheduled, Maguire made the difficult decision to travel alone while her daughter stayed behind.

Although she admitted feeling guilty, the mother explained that her daughter had a long history of forgetting important items. Over the years, she had often stepped in to rescue her daughter by bringing forgotten belongings such as school supplies and sports equipment. This time, however, she believed allowing her daughter

to face the consequences would be an important life lesson. During the trip, Maguire initially struggled with disappointment but gradually embraced the experience. She met fellow travellers, enjoyed activities that were not originally part of their shared plans, and discovered that many people had similar stories of forgotten or expired passports disrupting vacations. By the end of the trip, she felt the experience had reinforced the importance of personal responsibility.

After returning home, the mother helped her daughter develop strategies to avoid similar mistakes in the future. She advised keeping passports in a fixed location,

checking expiry dates regularly and setting reminders well before travelling. The daughter, though upset by the incident, reportedly accepted the lesson and is already looking forward to planning another trip—this time with her passport safely packed.

The story quickly went viral, drawing mixed reactions on social media. While many users applauded the mother's decision as a valuable lesson in accountability, others argued that family vacations are about spending time together and should have been postponed. The incident has since become a talking point on parenting styles, responsibility and the fine balance between compassion and discipline.

Fitness Coach Reveals 3 Simple Habits That Helped Him Shed 25 Kg Without Crash Diets



A fitness coach has inspired thousands online after revealing how he transformed his health by losing an impressive 25 kilograms in just 24 weeks. Instead of relying on fad diets, extreme workouts or weight-loss supplements, he credits his success to three simple lifestyle habits that anyone can follow consistently.

The coach, who reduced his weight from 101 kg to 76 kg, shared his journey on Instagram, explaining that sustainable changes—not shortcuts—made all the difference. His transformation has resonated with fitness enthusiasts looking for realistic and long-term weight-loss strategies.

The first habit he prioritised was getting enough sleep and staying well-hydrated. According to him, quality sleep plays a vital role in recovery, hormone balance and controlling food cravings, while proper hydration supports metabolism and overall health. He stressed that many people underestimate the importance of these two basic habits when trying to lose weight.

The second rule was sticking to a consistent daily routine. Rather than making drastic changes every few weeks, he maintained regular meal timings, workout schedules and

sleeping hours. This consistency helped him develop healthy habits that became part of his lifestyle instead of feeling like temporary sacrifices. He believes discipline and routine are more effective than chasing quick results through restrictive diets.

The third and perhaps most important habit was ensuring adequate protein intake. Protein helped him stay full for longer, reduced unnecessary snacking and preserved muscle mass while losing fat. By including sufficient protein in every meal, he found it easier to maintain his calorie deficit without constantly feeling hungry.

The coach emphasised that his transformation was not achieved through starvation, detox plans or expensive supplements. Instead, it was the

result of making practical, repeatable choices every day. He encouraged people to focus on building sustainable habits rather than seeking overnight success.

His story has struck a chord on social media, where many users praised his realistic approach to fitness. Several people commented that the advice was refreshing because it focused on long-term health instead of unrealistic promises.

Health experts also agree that lasting weight loss is best achieved through balanced nutrition, regular physical activity, adequate sleep and consistency. While every individual's fitness journey is different, the coach's experience serves as a reminder that simple habits, followed consistently, can lead to remarkable and lasting results.

‘₹2 Crore for a 2BHK’: Delhi Couple’s Viral Post Highlights Housing Affordability Crisis

A Delhi couple earning a combined monthly salary of around 2 lakh has sparked a widespread online discussion after revealing that buying a modest two-bedroom apartment in the national capital still feels financially impossible. Their post has resonated with thousands of working professionals who say soaring property prices are pushing homeownership beyond the reach of the middle class.

The couple shared their concerns on Reddit, explaining that they had been searching for a 2BHK apartment in neighbourhoods that are safe, well-connected and close to parks. However, they found that flats in areas such as Dwarka and Pitampura were priced between 2 crore and 2.5 crore—well beyond the amount they could comfortably finance through a home loan. Without financial support from parents or inherited wealth, they admitted that owning a home in Delhi now seems like an unattainable dream.

Their post quickly went viral, prompting a flood of responses from people facing similar challenges. Many users argued that even households with above-average salaries are struggling to purchase homes in major metropolitan cities due to the rapid rise in real estate prices.



Several commenters blamed developers for aggressively marketing projects as “luxury” residences, while others pointed to speculative investments and stagnant salary growth as key reasons behind the widening affordability gap.

Some social media users suggested that renting may currently be a more practical financial choice than purchasing a property. They noted that the monthly EMI on a 2 crore home loan could consume a significant portion of household income, leaving little room for

savings or other expenses. Others recommended looking at emerging suburbs or Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, where property prices remain comparatively affordable and offer better value for money.

One commenter, who had recently purchased a home worth nearly 3 crore after including registration and renovation costs, said that despite earning 4.5 lakh per month, loan repayments still account for more than a third of the family's income. The user advised prospective buyers to rent for as long as

possible unless they are financially prepared for the long-term commitment of homeownership.

The viral discussion has once again highlighted the growing disconnect between rising property prices and salaried incomes in India's biggest cities. For many aspiring homeowners, the dream of owning a home is increasingly being replaced by difficult financial calculations, raising important questions about housing affordability and the future of urban living.

From Salon Employee to Successful Entrepreneur: Dubai Nail Artist Now Earns ₹10 Lakh a Month

A 32-year-old Vietnamese entrepreneur has become an inspiration for aspiring professionals after transforming her passion for nail art into a thriving business in Dubai. Nguyen Phuong Anh, popularly known as "Fullah", now earns up to 10 lakh a month and owns her own beauty salon, proving that skill, determination and consistent hard work can pave the way to financial success.

Fullah moved to Dubai six years ago in search of better career opportunities. She began her journey as a salaried nail technician at a small salon, earning around Dh3,500 (approximately 80,000) per month. While the salary provided stability, she believed she could achieve more by building her own clientele and establishing a personal brand.

After gaining experience and confidence, she switched to freelancing—a move that significantly changed her career. Through long working

hours, social media promotion and exceptional customer service, she steadily built a loyal customer base. At the peak of her freelance career, she was earning between Dh30,000 and Dh40,000 (around 7 lakh to 10 lakh) every month, making her one of the successful independent professionals in Dubai's beauty industry.

Encouraged by her success, Fullah recently fulfilled another dream by launching her own salon, Beauty by Fullah, in Dubai's Jumeirah Village Circle. Although she currently draws no personal salary, she is reinvesting her earnings into expanding the business, improving services and creating a premium experience for her clients. She believes this strategy will help build a stronger and more sustainable brand in the long run.

Despite her impressive income, Fullah remains focused on careful financial planning. She revealed that her ultimate

ambition is not simply to earn more money but to achieve financial independence. Her long-term goal is to retire within the next 20 years and spend her later years living peacefully on a farm surrounded by animals and homegrown vegetables.

Her inspiring journey has attracted widespread attention on social media, with many praising her perseverance and entrepreneurial mindset. Users admired how she turned a specialised skill into a profitable business while remaining grounded and focused on the future.

Fullah's story highlights the growing opportunities within the beauty industry, where talent, dedication and smart business decisions can create remarkable success. Her journey serves as a reminder that with persistence and a clear vision, even a modest beginning can lead to extraordinary achievements.



Gambhir Faces Fresh Criticism After India's Shock Defeat to Ireland

India's unexpected defeat to Ireland has triggered sharp criticism of head coach Gautam Gambhir, with former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar questioning the team's recent performances and decision-making. The loss has intensified scrutiny over India's approach, particularly after a series of inconsistent displays that have raised concerns among fans and experts alike.

Ireland produced a disciplined performance, making the most of crucial moments to outplay the visitors. Their bowlers kept India's batting



lineup under constant pressure, while the batters showed composure during the chase, capitalizing on scoring opportunities to complete a memorable victory.

Following the defeat, Manjrekar expressed disappointment over India's inability to respond under pressure. He pointed out that a team with India's depth and experience should not be losing matches against lower-ranked opponents, regardless of the conditions. According to him, the result reflected broader issues that need immediate attention

rather than being dismissed as an isolated setback.

The former cricketer also stressed that the coaching staff and team management must take responsibility for the repeated shortcomings. He suggested that tactical decisions, player selections, and execution on the field should all come under review as India prepares for future assignments.

Gautam Gambhir, who has been leading the team's transition after taking over as head coach, has faced increasing scrutiny in recent months. While he has backed young

players and emphasized building a balanced squad, critics believe the team has struggled to maintain consistency against both strong and emerging opponents.

Ireland, meanwhile, received widespread praise for their spirited display. Their bowlers executed their plans effectively, while the batters remained calm in a pressure situation, underlining the steady progress the team has made in international cricket. The victory was seen as another significant milestone for Irish cricket and highlighted their growing abil-

ity to compete with established nations.

The defeat serves as a timely warning for India, with expectations remaining high ahead of upcoming international commitments. The team management is likely to reassess its strategies and combinations to address weaknesses exposed during the match. While one loss does not define a team's future, the result has reignited debate over India's direction under Gambhir and the improvements required to regain consistency on the international stage.

India's Ireland Defeat Sparks Debate Over Selection Strategy and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's Absence

India's disappointing T20I series defeat to Ireland has reignited the debate over team selection, with many questioning whether the decision to delay teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's international debut exposed deeper issues within the squad.

The Indian team management opted to retain its experienced top-order batters despite growing calls to hand the 15-year-old prodigy an opportunity. The move was intended to avoid placing excessive pressure on a young player, but the batting unit failed to justify the

faith shown in them. India's top order struggled to adapt to the challenging Irish conditions, where seam movement and swing troubled the batters throughout the series.

The experienced trio found it difficult to replicate the aggressive approach that had brought success on flatter subcontinent pitches. Instead of adjusting their game to suit overseas conditions, the batters continued with an attacking mindset, resulting in frequent dismissals and an inability to build meaningful partnerships. The defeats highlighted the impor-

tance of technique and adaptability in unfamiliar conditions.

The absence of Sooryavanshi became one of the biggest talking points after the series. Although several former cricketers and fans believed the youngster deserved a chance, the coaching staff maintained that introducing him immediately would have been unfair to players who had already earned their places in the side. The management reiterated that his development would be handled carefully rather than being accelerated because of



public demand.

However, the disappointing performances of the established batters have intensified scrutiny of India's selection policy. Critics argue that if senior players fail to deliver consistently, the team must be willing to introduce fresh talent capable of changing the game's momentum. Others believe protecting a promising youngster from early pressure remains the wiser long-term strategy.

Ireland, meanwhile, deserved full credit for their disciplined performances. Their

bowlers exploited local conditions effectively, while their batters displayed composure during crucial phases to secure a memorable series victory.

For India, the series serves as an important lesson ahead of tougher assignments. Beyond the debate surrounding Sooryavanshi's debut, the defeats exposed concerns over adaptability, team balance and tactical planning. Addressing those shortcomings will be essential if India hopes to bounce back quickly and maintain its status as one of the world's leading T20 sides.

Ashwin's '24-Carat Pitch' Remark Highlights India's Batting Woes After Ireland Whitewash

India's shocking 2-0 T20I series defeat to Ireland has sparked intense debate over the team's batting approach, with veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin offering a blunt assessment of the reasons behind the collapse. The former India all-rounder suggested that many Indian batters have become too accustomed to the batting-friendly surfaces of the Indian Premier League (IPL), making it difficult for them to adjust to more demanding overseas conditions.

India endured one of its most disappointing T20I series

in recent years, losing the opening match by 34 runs before suffering a heartbreaking one-run defeat in the second game. Despite chasing manageable totals in both matches, the visitors failed to build substantial partnerships and repeatedly lost wickets at crucial stages.

Reacting to the series, Ashwin remarked that the "24-carat batting pitches" commonly seen in the IPL were absent in Ireland. He explained that while the IPL has helped improve India's aggressive batting style, international cricket often presents different

challenges, especially on pitches offering seam movement and assistance to bowlers. According to Ashwin, players must prove themselves on such surfaces to establish their true value at the highest level.

Several of India's attacking batters, including Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, found it difficult to cope with the conditions. Although Abhishek played an explosive knock in the opening match, he failed to make an impact in the second game, reflecting the inconsistency that plagued India's batting throughout the series.

Captain Shreyas Iyer also admitted that Ireland deserved full credit for the victory. He praised the hosts for understanding the conditions better and executing their plans with discipline. Iyer acknowledged that India's bowlers performed well enough to keep the team in the contest, but the batting unit failed to assess the nature of the pitch and missed opportunities by not rotating the strike effectively.

For Ireland, the historic series triumph marked another significant milestone in their rise as a competitive international side. Their disciplined

bowling, sharp fielding and composed batting under pressure exposed weaknesses in India's approach and underlined the importance of adapting quickly to unfamiliar conditions.

As India prepares for its upcoming T20I assignments, the series has served as a timely reminder that success in franchise cricket does not automatically translate to international dominance. Ashwin's comments have reinforced the need for greater adaptability if India hopes to regain consistency on challenging overseas pitches.



Michael Vaughan Questions Ben Stokes' Retirement Timing After Shock England Announcement

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has questioned the timing of Ben Stokes' surprise decision to retire from international cricket, saying the announcement has overshadowed England's ongoing Test against New Zealand and left the cricketing world searching for answers.

Stokes, one of England's most influential all-rounders and Test captains, revealed that he would bring the curtain down on his international career immediately after the conclusion of the third Test at Trent Bridge. The unexpected announcement came while the

match was still in progress, catching teammates, fans and former players by surprise.

Reacting to the development, Vaughan acknowledged Stokes' immense contribution to English cricket but admitted he was puzzled by the timing of the announcement. He wondered why the decision had been made public during an active Test match instead of waiting until the series had concluded. According to Vaughan, the focus should have remained on the contest against New Zealand rather than shifting to retirement discussions.

Despite raising questions about the timing, Vaughan praised Stokes for transforming England's fortunes since taking over as captain. Under his leadership, England adopted an aggressive and fearless brand of Test cricket, popularly known as "Bazball", alongside head coach Brendon McCullum. The approach revived the team's performances and made England one of the most entertaining sides in world cricket.

Stokes leaves behind a remarkable international career spanning 15 years. He played pivotal roles in England's tri-



umphs at the 2019 ODI World Cup and the 2022 T20 World Cup, while his unforgettable innings at Headingley during the 2019 Ashes remains one of the greatest knocks in Test history. His ability to deliver in high-pressure situations earned him a reputation as one of England's finest all-rounders. Explaining his decision, Stokes admitted that the physical and emotional demands of international cricket had taken a significant toll. He said he no longer had the energy required to continue competing at the highest level and believed stepping away was the

right choice for both himself and the team. Stokes added that he intends to continue playing domestic cricket for Durham while focusing on his well-being.

Although Vaughan's comments have sparked debate, there is little disagreement over Stokes' legacy. His leadership, match-winning performances and fearless attitude have left a lasting impact on English cricket, ensuring he will be remembered as one of the country's modern-day greats, regardless of the circumstances surrounding his retirement announcement.

Ambati Rayudu Backs India's Decision to Delay Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's T20I Debut

Former India batter Ambati Rayudu has defended the Indian team management's decision to not hand teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi his T20I debut during the recently concluded series against Ireland, insisting that patience will benefit the youngster in the long run despite India's disappointing 0-2 defeat.

The decision to keep the 15-year-old on the bench sparked widespread debate after India suffered a historic series loss to Ireland. Several fans and former cricketers questioned why one of the country's brightest young talents was not given an opportunity, especially as the batting unit struggled for consistency



across both matches.

Rayudu, however, believes the team management made

the correct call. Speaking during a virtual media interaction, the former middle-order

batter said that simply being part of the Indian dressing room is a valuable learning

experience for a young cricketer. He argued that observing senior players, understanding the team's culture and preparing mentally for international cricket would help Sooryavanshi become better equipped when his opportunity eventually arrives.

According to Rayudu, the current players deserved the management's backing because many of them played key roles in India's recent T20 World Cup success. He stressed that established performers should be given enough opportunities before changes are made, while talented youngsters like Sooryavanshi can continue developing without the burden of immediate expecta-

tions. India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate had earlier echoed a similar view, stating that although Sooryavanshi possesses the ability to compete at the highest level, the team follows a structured process before introducing new players into international cricket. The management believes gradual exposure will aid the teenager's long-term growth rather than rushing him into the spotlight. Rayudu also addressed criticism surrounding head coach Gautam Gambhir's preference for selecting multiple all-rounders and part-time bowling options. He explained that bilateral series often serve as opportunities to assess different combinations ahead of major

ICC tournaments. Rather than treating such selections as experiments, Rayudu described them as part of a broader strategy to identify the most balanced squad for future global events.

While India's defeat to Ireland has intensified calls for fresh faces in the playing XI, Rayudu believes the bigger picture should remain the priority. In his view, Sooryavanshi's time will come soon, and the experience gained from training alongside established internationals could prove invaluable when he finally earns his India cap. For now, he feels patience—not haste—is the best path for one of Indian cricket's most exciting young prospects.

Chiranjeevi, Balakrishna Set for Another High-Profile Sankranti Box Office Battle

Tollywood could be gearing up for yet another blockbuster Sankranti showdown, with Megastar Chiranjeevi and Nandamuri Balakrishna reportedly targeting the festive season for the release of their upcoming films. If the current plans materialise, fans can expect another exciting box-office clash between two of Telugu cinema's biggest icons.

According to industry buzz, Chiranjeevi's much-awaited fantasy entertainer Vishwambhara is being lined up for a Sankranti 2027 release. The film has generated significant anticipation ever since its announcement, with fans eager to see the Megastar return in a visually rich fantasy adventure. Although the makers are yet to officially confirm the release date, the festive window is reportedly being considered as the ideal launch pad.

On the other hand, Nandamuri Balakrishna's upcoming collaboration with director

Gopichand Malineni is also expected to arrive during the same festival season. The project marks the actor's reunion with the director after the commercial success of Veera Simha Reddy, raising expectations among Balakrishna's fans. Trade circles believe the makers are keen to capitalize on the lucrative Sankranti holiday period.

A clash between Chiranjeevi and Balakrishna is nothing new for Telugu cinema. Over the decades, the two superstars have faced each other at the box office on several occasions, especially during the Sankranti festival, creating memorable battles that have thrilled audiences and generated huge revenues for the industry. Their previous festive releases have often turned into major talking points among moviegoers and trade analysts alike.

Interestingly, Sankranti 2027 could become even more competitive. Earlier reports sug-



gested that films featuring Nagarjuna, Venkatesh and a few other leading stars are also eyeing the same festive window, setting the stage for one of the biggest holiday release line-ups in recent years. However, official release dates for

several of these projects are still awaited. While fans are already excited about the possibility of another Chiranjeevi-Balakrishna face-off, the final release schedules will depend on the progress of production and post-production work. For

now, the prospect of two veteran superstars competing during Tollywood's biggest festival season has added to the buzz surrounding Sankranti 2027, promising an entertaining battle both on the big screen and at the box office.



Ravi Teja's 'Irumudi Kattu' Song Strikes a Chord with Devotional Appeal

The makers of Ravi Teja's upcoming emotional drama Irumudi have unveiled the film's first single, "Irumudi Kattu," and the devotional track has received an enthusiastic response from music lovers. Dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, the song offers a spiritual start to the film's soundtrack while showcasing a different side of the Mass Maharaja ahead of the movie's theatrical release on August 21, 2026.

Composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, the song blends traditional devotional elements with an emotionally rich musical arrangement. The composer had earlier revealed that the film would feature two songs dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, and "Irumudi Kattu" serves as the first offering from the album. Its soothing melody and spiritual essence have resonated well with listeners, creating positive buzz around the film.

Ravi Teja appears in the song as a devoted Ayyappa follower, stepping away from his trademark mass-action image. His restrained yet impactful screen presence has been appreciated by fans, with many praising the actor for embracing a role rooted in faith and emotion. The visuals capture the spirit of the Ayyappa pilgrimage, adding authenticity to the devotional number.

Singer Ananthu lends his voice to the track, delivering a

soulful rendition that complements the devotional mood. The lyrics, penned by director Shiva Nirvana along with Kalyan Chakravarthy, beautifully reflect the emotions and devotion associated with Lord Ayyappa, making the song both meaningful and memorable.

Directed by Shiva Nirvana, Irumudi marks a departure from Ravi Teja's recent commercial entertainers, presenting him in an emotional family drama with a spiritual backdrop. Actress Priya Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead, while Baby Nakshatra essays the role of Ravi Teja's daughter. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has generated considerable curiosity ever since its first glimpse was released.

The positive reception to "Irumudi Kattu" has further strengthened expectations for the film's music album and overall theatrical release. With its devotional theme, heartfelt lyrics and melodious composition, the first single has successfully connected with audiences and set the tone for what promises to be an emotionally engaging cinematic experience. As the promotional campaign gathers momentum in the coming weeks, fans will be eagerly waiting to see what the makers unveil next from one of Ravi Teja's most distinctive projects in recent years.

'My Dream of Becoming a Director Has Come True': Vishal at 'Nachchaake Vachera' Song Launch

Actor Vishal turned emotional at the launch of "Nachchaake Vachera," the second single from his upcoming film Makutam, saying that directing a film had been his lifelong dream. Produced by the late RB Choudary under the prestigious Super Good Films banner as its 99th production, the film features Anjali and Dushara Vijayan in lead roles alongside Vishal.

Addressing the media, Vishal said he was thrilled to present Makutam to Telugu audiences, not only as an actor but also as a director. He revealed that the dream of directing a film began after watching Shiva and expressed happiness that it had finally become a reality.

The actor paid tribute to late producer RB Choudary, saying he deeply missed him on the occasion. Vishal shared that Choudary had entrusted him with the responsibility of directing the banner's 99th production. He added that unforeseen circumstances led him to take charge of the project as director and hoped he had justified the confidence placed in him. Speaking about the making of the film, Vishal revealed that he dedicated an entire year solely to Makutam, setting aside his personal life. He also thanked actress Sai Dhanshika for standing by him throughout the journey. Recalling the success of the first single, The Rise of Linga, he jokingly credited music director GV Prakash Kumar for taking a "risk" by making him sing the track. He was equally confident that the newly released Nachchaake Vachera, sung by Prabha, would also become a major hit.

Vishal said every filmmaker



he had worked with over the past two decades had influenced his approach to direction. Rather than speaking about the film himself, he said he wanted audiences to judge his work after watching Makutam in theatres. He also thanked his father, GK Reddy, for encouraging the Telugu release of Pandem Kodi, a decision that strengthened his bond with Telugu audiences.

Actress Anjali praised Vishal's dedication, saying he had worked tirelessly to bring the project to life. She expressed confidence that Makutam would bring him success both as an actor and as a first-time director, while also appreciating the music composed by GV Prakash Kumar.

Jithan Ramesh described Vishal as family and expressed confidence that Makutam would become another memorable success for Super Good Films. Actor Ajay praised Vishal's clarity as a director, while actress Jhansi said her role in the film was unlike anything she had done before. Singer Prabha expressed gratitude for receiving her first feature-film singing opportunity through Makutam. With positive buzz surrounding its teaser and songs, Makutam is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases from Super Good Films, carrying high expectations as Vishal embarks on a new journey as a filmmaker.

Ram Pothineni Begins Shooting for RAP023, Takes Charge as Director

Actor Ram Pothineni has officially commenced work on his ambitious new project, tentatively titled RAP023, marking a significant milestone in his career. Apart from playing the lead role, Ram is making his directorial debut with the film and has also penned the original story, showcasing his creative abilities beyond acting.

The project is being described as a psychological action thriller set against a neo-noir backdrop. With its dark theme and intense narrative, the film promises to present Ram in a completely different avatar from his previous commercial entertainers. The actor's decision to direct the film himself has generated considerable excitement among fans and industry circles alike.

The regular shoot began with

a formal launch ceremony, where the cast and crew came together to kick-start production. The makers shared pictures from the event on social media, offering fans a glimpse of the team's enthusiasm as filming got underway.

RAP023 is being produced under the newly established Rapo Cinematics banner by Krishna Pothineni. The film is expected to be mounted on a grand scale, with reports suggesting that it will be one of the most expensive ventures in Ram's career. The makers are aiming to deliver a visually striking action thriller that blends style with emotional depth.

Earlier this year, Ram surprised fans by announcing his directorial debut on his birthday. The announcement was ac-



companied by a striking pre-look poster introducing his character, Veera, described as "The Story of a Lone Wolf." The first look hinted at a gritty, intense narrative, sparking curiosity about the film's storyline and Ram's transformation for the

role. Ram has been steadily expanding his creative horizons in recent years. After making his debut as a lyricist and singer, he has now taken on the responsibilities of writer and director. His latest venture reflects his de-

sire to explore different aspects of filmmaking while continuing to entertain audiences as a leading actor.

While the makers have kept details about the supporting cast and technical crew under wraps, more announcements are expected in the coming weeks as production progresses. The film is expected to feature high production values, stylish action sequences and a gripping screenplay.

With shooting now underway, expectations surrounding RAP023 continue to rise. Fans are eager to see how Ram Pothineni fares in his first outing as a director, while also delivering a powerful performance in what is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious projects of his career.

Major Update on Jr NTR's 'God of War' to Be Unveiled Soon

The long wait for an official update on God of War, starring Jr NTR and directed by Trivikram Srinivas, is finally coming to an end. After months of speculation and anticipation, the makers have confirmed that a major announcement related to the highly awaited project will be unveiled soon, sending fans into a frenzy.

Producer Naga Vamsi built excitement by teasing the update on social media, revealing that Jr NTR himself will make the big announcement. The move has sparked widespread curiosity, with fans eagerly counting down to what is expected to be the film's first major reveal since its announcement.

The project has remained one of the most talked-about films in Telugu cinema despite the absence of regular updates. Earlier, many expected the makers to unveil the title or first look on Jr NTR's birthday. However, no an-

nouncement was made, leaving fans disappointed and giving rise to numerous rumors regarding the film's progress.

The latest confirmation has now put those speculations to rest. While the makers have not disclosed the exact nature of the announcement, industry insiders believe it could involve the official title, a first-look poster, or a glimpse introducing Jr NTR's character. Any of these reveals would significantly boost excitement surrounding the project.

Directed by Trivikram Srinivas, God of War is expected to be a grand-scale action drama with mythological elements. The film is reportedly being mounted with a massive budget and is designed to showcase Jr NTR in a powerful, never-before-seen avatar. The collaboration marks the actor's reunion with Trivikram after years, making it one of the most anticipated combinations in Tollywood.

The project is being pro-

duced by Haarika & Hassine Creations in association with Sithara Entertainments. The makers have remained tight-lipped about the storyline and supporting cast, choosing to reveal details gradually as production moves forward.

Fans have been eagerly waiting for concrete information ever since the film was officially announced. The prolonged silence only increased expectations, making every teaser from the production team a trending topic across social media platforms.

With Jr NTR now set to personally unveil the next big update, anticipation has reached a new high. Whether it is the official title, a first-look poster or another major reveal, the announcement is expected to dominate conversations among movie lovers and further elevate the buzz surrounding one of Telugu cinema's biggest upcoming projects.



'ENE Repeat' Locks Release Date, Vishwak Sen and Tharun Bhascker Reunite for Cult Sequel

Fans of the cult Telugu film Ee Nagarani Emaindi have a reason to celebrate as the makers of its much-awaited sequel, ENE Repeat, have officially announced the film's theatrical release date. The highly anticipated buddy comedy is set to hit cinemas on November 19, 2026, marking the return of the beloved gang that won audiences over with their friendship and quirky adventures.

The release date was unveiled on the eighth anniversary of the original film, making the announcement even more special for fans. Along with the date reveal, the makers released a new promotional glimpse that has further heightened excitement surrounding the sequel. The teaser retains the signature humor and carefree vibe that made the first film a cult favorite among Telugu movie lovers.

Directed by Tharun Bhascker, ENE Repeat brings back Vishwak Sen, Abhinav Gomatam, Venkatesh Kakumanu and Srinath Maganti, who reprise the core group of friends. Their chemistry was one of the biggest strengths of the original film, and fans are eager to see the gang reunite for another entertaining journey filled with laughter, emotions and unexpected twists.

The sequel also features actresses Anisha Ambrose and Shivathmika Rajashekar in key roles. Music composer Vivek Sa-

gar returns to score the soundtrack, raising expectations for another memorable album after the success of the original film's music. Reports also suggest that director Anudeep KV will make a special cameo appearance, adding another exciting element to the project.

Released in 2018, Ee Nagarani Emaindi gradually earned cult status despite a modest start at the box office. The coming-of-age comedy resonated strongly with young audiences through its relatable portrayal of friendship, aspirations and life's unexpected turns. Over the years, the film has built a loyal fan base, making the announcement of a sequel one of the most awaited developments in Telugu cinema. The makers are aiming to preserve the essence of the original while introducing a fresh storyline that reflects the characters' lives after several years. While plot details remain under wraps, the promotional material hints at another fun-filled adventure packed with humor, nostalgia and heartfelt moments.

With the release date now confirmed, anticipation for ENE Repeat is expected to grow steadily in the coming months. The reunion of Tharun Bhascker and Vishwak Sen, coupled with the return of the original cast and crew, has already created significant buzz, setting the stage for one of the most eagerly awaited Telugu releases of the year.