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Does the BJP Need Its Fighting Face Back in Telangana?

Bandi Sanjay's return is not about an individual—It's about the party's future strategy

Chenn u Peddiraju, Senior Journalist

Political circles are abuzz with speculation that Bandi Sanjay may once again be appointed as the President of the BJP's Telangana unit. However, this discussion extends far beyond whether a particular leader will return to a key organizational post. It raises a much larger question: What direction does the Bharatiya Janata Party want to take in Telangana? Is it preparing to revive its movement-based politics, or will it continue functioning as a conventional opposition party? A closer look at the BJP's growth in Telangana makes one fact clear. The party's rapid expansion was driven not merely by election campaigns, but by sustained public agitations and grassroots mobilization. Victories in the Dubbaka by-election and the Huzarabad by-election, along with the party's remarkable performance in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections, were not isolated electoral successes. They were the outcome of consistently keeping party workers engaged with the public, aggressively highlighting the failures of the government, and projecting the BJP as a credible political alternative. The role played by Bandi Sanjay as the state president during that phase deserves political recognition.

However, the party changed its state leadership ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. The BJP had its own reasons for doing so. Yet one important question remained after the elections: Did the change in leadership also alter the party's political style? That is perhaps the most significant question before the BJP leadership today. Telangana politics has now entered a new phase. The Congress is in power, while the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is striving to retain its position



as the principal opposition. In such a scenario, it would be incorrect to assume that the BJP has no opportunities. At the same time, it would be equally mistaken to believe that those opportunities will emerge automatically. If the BJP wants to establish itself as a stable political alternative, it cannot remain active only during elections. It must consistently engage with public issues throughout the five-year electoral cycle. This is precisely why Bandi Sanjay's name has once again gained prominence. The discussion is not merely about his personal popularity, but about his image as a leader capable of spearheading mass movements. The real question, therefore, is not whether he returns, but whether the BJP is prepared to revive the movement-oriented political approach that he represented.

There is another important political dimension to this debate. Jana Sena Party has indicated its intention to expand its activities in Telangana. Having become a partner in the ruling coalition in Andhra Pradesh, Jana Sena may gradually focus on building its organizational structure in Telangana as well. If that happens, the scope for coordination between the BJP and Jana Sena could increase. The BJP possesses a strong organizational cadre, while Jana Sena enjoys considerable appeal among

young voters. These strengths could complement each other. However, such synergy cannot be achieved merely through an electoral alliance. With nearly two years remaining before the next Assembly elections, meaningful cooperation would require sustained joint action on public issues. Only then can political coordination evolve into genuine electoral strength.

The BRS, too, will have to closely watch these developments. In the past, the BJP's rise posed a direct challenge to the BRS's political dominance. Although the Congress is now in power, any renewed aggressive campaign by the BJP would intensify competition not only with the ruling party but also with the BRS for leadership of the opposition space. This is why the renewed discussion around Bandi Sanjay should not be viewed simply as a question of organizational appointment, but as a reflection of the BJP's evolving political strategy in Telangana. At the same time, one fundamental reality should not be overlooked. No political party's future can be determined by a single leader alone. Strong leadership is essential, but it must be supported by ideological clarity, continuous public movements, an effective organizational structure, and close engagement with various sections of society. Only the combination of these elements can

lay the foundation for lasting political success. Therefore, the real question before the Telangana BJP is not, "Should Bandi Sanjay be made state president again?" Rather, it is, "Is the party willing to once again adopt movement-based politics as its core political strategy?" If the answer to that question is clear, the leadership decision will naturally fall into place. Individuals may come and go, but only a sustained movement-centric political strategy can enable any party to emerge as a long-term alternative in the eyes of the people.

At present, it is still unclear whether the Congress government's principal challenger in Telangana is the BRS or the BJP. However, if the BJP once again embraces movement-based politics as its central strategy, the nature of political competition in the state could change significantly. In that scenario, the BRS would face a challenge that extends beyond merely reclaiming its lost vote base... it would also have to defend its claim as the principal alternative to the ruling party. At the same time, such a political environment could provide an opportunity for Jana Sena as it seeks to establish itself in Telangana. Ultimately, the ongoing discussion surrounding Bandi Sanjay should not be viewed as a debate about one individual's political future. It should instead be seen as a broader conversation about the future political model the BJP intends to adopt in Telangana.

The BJP changed its state leadership in 2023. Today, the central leadership faces a crucial strategic question. If the party wants to recreate the momentum and political environment that existed before that leadership change, is entrusting Bandi Sanjay with the responsibility of leading the Telangana unit once again the most effective way forward?



Revanth Urges Kishan Reddy to Fast-Track Metro Phase-2

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has appealed to Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy to personally intervene in matters related to the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro Rail and ensure that the Centre grants early approval for the Phase-2 project.

In a letter addressed to the Union Minister, the Chief Minister said Hyderabad, as one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan cities, urgently requires the expansion of its metro network to meet rising transportation demands, tackle traffic congestion, and support future urban growth. He requested Kishan Reddy to coordinate with the Union Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs and Railways to expedite approvals for Metro Phase-2 and facilitate the transfer of the operational Phase-1 project to the Telangana government.

Revanth Reddy noted that both issues were closely linked and stressed that any further delay would adversely affect Hyderabad's long-term infrastructure development. He urged the Centre to grant administrative and financial clearances at the earliest.

The Chief Minister referred to meetings held on June 23 with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and on June 24 with Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, both attended by Kishan Reddy. He said several key decisions were taken during those discussions, including appointing SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBI Caps) to undertake the valuation and financial assessment of Metro Phase-1 and prepare a framework for its transfer to the state government.

According to the letter, SBI

Caps was also expected to examine refinancing options to reduce the burden of high-interest loans and prepare the financial model for the proposed Metro Phase-2 project, including identifying funding sources and mobilising long-term investments. However, the Chief Minister expressed concern that the agency has not yet been formally appointed and that the Terms of Reference (ToR) are yet to be finalised.

He stated that the delay has stalled the transfer of Metro Phase-1, affected day-to-day operational planning, and slowed the approval process for the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Metro Phase-2. This, in turn, has delayed financial mobilisation and the commencement of the expansion project.

Warning of escalating costs, Revanth Reddy said every month of delay could significantly increase construction expenses due to inflation, higher material prices, and additional interest liabilities, potentially placing an extra financial burden of thousands of crores on the project.

Emphasising that Hyderabad Metro is the backbone of the city's future transportation system, the Chief Minister urged Kishan Reddy to take immediate personal initiative by coordinating with the concerned Central ministries, ensuring the early appointment of SBI Caps, and expediting the approval process.

He expressed confidence that swift intervention by the Centre would accelerate the transfer of Metro Phase-1, pave the way for the timely launch of Phase-2, and strengthen Hyderabad's public transport network while supporting the city's continued growth as an international urban hub.

CM Urges Khattar to Expedite Metro Phase-2

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar to take immediate steps to accelerate the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion and expedite the transfer of Metro Phase-1 to the Telangana government.

In a letter addressed to the Union Minister, the Chief Minister sought immediate administrative approval for the Metro Phase-2 project and requested the Centre to fast-track the process of handing over the operational Phase-1 network to the state. He also called for the immediate appointment of SBI Capital Markets Limited (SBI Caps) to carry out the financial and technical processes required for both projects.

The Chief Minister expressed concern that continued delays could significantly increase project costs due to rising construction expenses, inflation, and financing costs. He noted that the Metro expansion is vital for Hyderabad's future growth and public transportation needs.

Revanth Reddy recalled the discussions held on June 24 with Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy regarding Hyderabad Metro Phases 1 and 2. He said several important decisions were taken during the meeting but regretted that they had not yet been implemented.

According to the Chief Minister, it was agreed that SBI Caps would be entrusted with valuing Hyderabad Metro Phase-1, reviewing its financial position, and preparing the financial assessment required for its transfer to the Telangana government. The



agency was also expected to examine refinancing options to replace existing high-interest loans with lower-interest borrowings.

For Metro Phase-2, Revanth Reddy said SBI Caps was expected to prepare a comprehensive financial strategy, including project valuation, funding avenues, long-term loan mobilisation, and resource planning. He requested the Centre to immediately finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR) so that the process could move forward without further delay.

The Chief Minister noted that the Telangana government has already appointed the Special Chief Secretary of the Municipal Administration Department as the nodal officer to coordinate the exercise.

He expressed concern that the delay in appointing SBI Caps and finalising the ToR has stalled the transfer of Metro Phase-1 and delayed approvals for the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Phase-2. This has also slowed financial mobilisation and the commencement of the expansion project.

Reiterating that Hyderabad Metro is critical to the city's future infrastructure, Revanth Reddy urged the Union Minister to intervene personally and ensure swift action on all pending approvals so that both Phase-1 transfer and Phase-2 expansion can proceed without further delay.

RBI Warns AI-Driven Cyber Threats Could Challenge Financial Stability

Mumbai, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has identified Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled cyber threats as one of the most significant emerging risks to the country's financial system, highlighting the need for stronger cybersecurity measures and greater technological resilience.

In its latest Financial Stability Report, the central bank noted that while AI has significantly improved efficiency and innovation in the financial sector, it has also introduced new risks that could affect financial stability if not adequately managed.

According to the report, AI-driven cyberattacks are expected to be among the most critical threats facing financial institutions over the next 12 months. The RBI cautioned that cybercriminals are increasingly using AI to launch more sophisticated attacks, which could potentially be more damaging than conventional hacking methods or ransomware incidents.

The report also referred to recent ransomware attacks, including the Mythos ransomware incident, as examples of the evolving cyber threat landscape. It stressed the need for banks and financial institutions to continuously strengthen their cyber defence mechanisms to safeguard critical infrastructure and customer data.

The RBI further expressed concern over the concentration of technology services, noting that many banks rely on a limited number of cloud ser-



vices providers and AI platforms. Such dependence, it said, could increase systemic risks if disruptions or security breaches affect these critical service providers.

Additionally, the report highlighted the importance of improving data governance frameworks and enhancing the preparedness of financial institutions to respond to rapidly evolving technological threats. It observed that strengthening cyber resilience has become essential as digital financial services continue to expand.

The central bank noted that banks are increasing investments in cybersecurity infrastructure and risk management systems to address emerging threats. It also said the RBI is working on a comprehensive Financial Sector Cybersecurity Strategy aimed at strengthening cyber resilience, promoting secure digital innovation, and ensuring the stability of India's financial system in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

The report underscores the growing importance of balancing technological advancement with robust security measures as AI becomes more deeply integrated into the country's banking and financial ecosystem.

IMD Issues Yellow Alert for Parts of Telangana

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for several districts in Telangana, forecasting moderate rainfall at isolated places over the next two days. While Hyderabad and a few other districts are likely to receive light to moderate showers, the weather agency said there are currently no indications of widespread rainfall across the state.

According to the IMD, rainfall activity is expected to weaken after the next two days, resulting in a temporary break in monsoon showers across many parts of Telangana. The department also cautioned that the ongoing Southwest Monsoon season may not be as favourable as initially

anticipated.

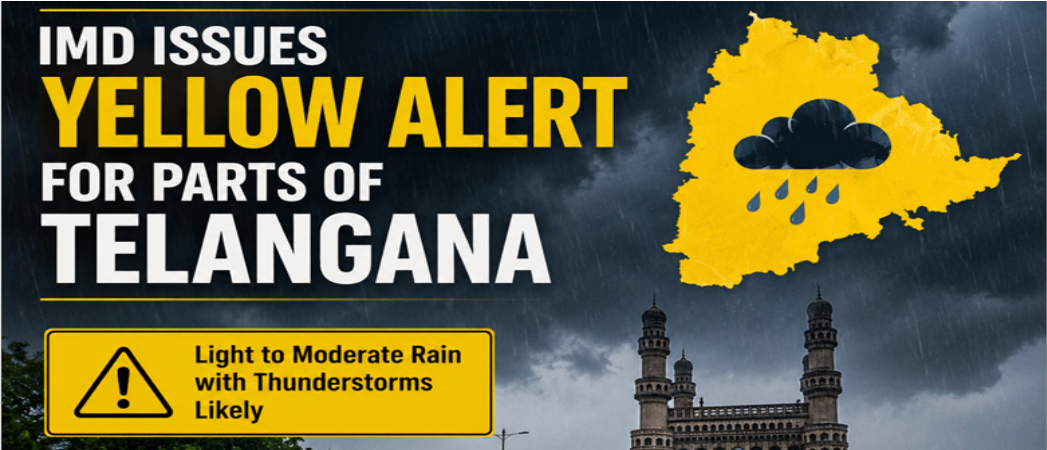
The IMD attributed the outlook to the gradually strengthening influence of the El Niño weather pattern during July and August. It stated that if El Niño intensifies further by September, rainfall over South Indian states, including Telangana, could decline, increasing the possibility of a seasonal rainfall deficit.

Despite the subdued outlook, the weather agency noted that low-pressure systems developing over the Bay of Bengal could still bring spells of widespread rain to parts of the state. It said the monsoon is likely to witness alternating periods of heavy rainfall and dry spells rather than consistent rainfall throughout the season. The department recalled that Telangana received nearly 25 per cent below-normal rain-

fall during June and indicated that similar conditions could persist during the current monsoon season if prevailing weather patterns continue.

Meanwhile, the IMD announced that it has begun using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies to improve the accuracy of weather forecasting. The department said these advanced technologies are helping enhance prediction capabilities and provide more reliable weather information.

The IMD advised farmers to regularly monitor official weather bulletins and plan agricultural operations, including sowing, irrigation, and crop management, based on the latest forecasts to minimise the impact of weather fluctuations during the monsoon season.



EESL, MCD Launch Energy-Efficient Schools Initiative to Build Climate Champions

Hyderabad, July 05 | TPN Bureau

In a major step towards promoting sustainable development and climate awareness among students, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, has partnered with the Foundation for Agricultural Resources Management and Environmental Remediation (FARMER) and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to implement a comprehensive energy-efficiency programme in schools across Delhi's Civil Lines Zone.

The initiative, to be carried out under the flagship Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) programme, will transform selected MCD schools into energy-efficient campuses by installing BEE Star-rated Super Efficient BLDC fans, LED tube lights, LED bulbs, and modern energy management systems. Delhi has become the first municipal corporation in India to launch a large-scale energy-efficiency programme in schools aimed at creating "climate change champions" among students.

The programme goes beyond infrastructure upgrades by encouraging responsible energy consumption and environmental awareness among children, helping nurture a generation



Akhilesh Kumar Dixit, CEO, EESL (second from right) along with officials is exchanging an agreement with Sanjeev Choudhary, Chief Executive of the institution of FARMER to make Schools energy efficient in Municipal corporation of Delhi.

committed to India's clean energy and sustainability goals.

During the agreement signing, Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh, Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Kumar, and Education Committee Chairman Yogesh Verma presented a Certificate of Appreciation to EESL's communication team for its contribution to energy-efficiency awareness.

Municipal Commissioner Ashwini Kumar said the initiative, under the leadership of EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar

Dixit, would significantly contribute to India's Sustainable Development Goals by reducing energy consumption, lowering carbon emissions, and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

Highlighting the success of the UJALA programme launched a decade ago, EESL stated that it has generated annual savings of over 19,153 crore while reducing peak power demand by 9,586 MW across the country. Andhra Pradesh and Delhi have

emerged as key contributors, recording annual energy savings of 2,863 million units and 1,192 million units, respectively.

EESL also appreciated the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM), led by CEO P. Pulla Reddy, for establishing Energy Clubs in nearly 1,000 schools with support from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, fostering energy conservation and environmental responsibility among students.

Fertilizer App Drives Digital Push in Agriculture

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is accelerating the use of technology in agriculture, with the state's fertilizer distribution reforms receiving an encouraging response from farmers. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Sunday said the government's digital initiatives have made fertilizer distribution more transparent, efficient, and farmer-friendly while curbing irregularities in the supply chain.

The Minister said the fertilizer mobile application introduced by the state government has emerged as a model for transparent urea distribution and is helping farmers obtain fertilizers without unnecessary delays. According to official data, 17.70 lakh farmers have used the app to book 59.78 lakh bags of urea, of which 52.86 lakh bags have already been purchased.

He said the Agriculture Department is issuing daily district-wise bulletins detailing urea stocks, sales, purchases, and availability to eliminate uncertainty and prevent the spread of misinformation. The state currently has 3.39 lakh metric tonnes of urea in stock, while 2.52 lakh metric tonnes have been sold so far this season, compared to 2.22 lakh metric tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

The Minister noted that the app enables farmers to check fertilizer availability at nearby sales centres before making



bookings, reducing unnecessary travel and waiting time. He said this digital system has significantly improved convenience while enhancing transparency in fertilizer distribution.

Highlighting another major reform, Tummala said the government has introduced a land-based linkage system for fertilizer distribution, replacing the earlier Aadhaar-linked mechanism. The system links fertilizer allocation to cultivat-

ed land details, ensuring that supplies reach genuine farmers while preventing misuse.

He stated that the new mechanism has effectively curbed illegal hoarding, black marketing, multiple purchases by individuals, and diversion of fertilizers to other regions. The government now monitors the movement of every urea bag in real time, enabling officials to track stocks, sales, and inventories at every dealer outlet across the state.

The Minister also revealed that nearly 68,000 farmers from Medchal and Ranga Reddy districts have booked 4.69 lakh urea bags through the digital platform, with 3.38 lakh bags already purchased, demonstrating the growing acceptance of technology among cultivators.

Looking ahead, Tummala said the Telangana government is expanding the use of information technology, artificial intelligence, satellite-based applications, and data-driven decision-making in agriculture. Large-scale trials on satellite-based soil testing are currently underway, with satellite data being verified through laboratory soil analysis to improve accuracy.

He further disclosed that the Agriculture Secretary recently visited Germany to explore international collaborations in advanced agricultural technology. The government is preparing an action plan to modernize crop monitoring, soil health management, fertilizer distribution, weather forecasting, and advisory services through a unified digital platform.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, the Minister said Telangana aims to combine welfare measures with modern technology to make agriculture more transparent, profitable, and future-ready. He urged farmers to rely on official information and make full use of the digital services introduced by the Agriculture Department.

361 Families Receive 2BHK House Title Deeds

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government on Sunday distributed 2BHK housing title deeds to 361 beneficiaries from the Nampally and Chandrayangutta Assembly constituencies at a programme held at the Hyderabad District Collectorate. The title deeds were handed over by Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin in the presence of public representatives and senior officials.

Among those present were MLC Addanki Dayakar, MLAs Akbaruddin Owaisi and Majid Hussain, Mineral Corporation Chairman Eravarti Anil, Boya Corporation Vice Chairman Boya Nagesh, Hyderabad District Collector Priyanka Ala, and other officials.

Congratulating the beneficiaries, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said the families had vacated their huts in 2016, and permanent houses had now been constructed at the same location. He said the government was committed to providing housing for the poor in areas where employment opportunities are readily available, ensuring that families do not have to travel long distances for work.

The Minister announced that the government plans to construct one lakh houses for the poor within the Outer Ring Road limits in Hyderabad. He said that under the leadership of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, officials had recently identified 40 to 50 suitable sites across the city for the proposed housing projects.

Criticising the previous BRS government, Ponnamp alleged



that it had misled the poor by constructing double-bedroom houses in remote locations, making it difficult for beneficiaries to commute to their workplaces. He said the present government was determined to build houses closer to employment hubs.

Highlighting the government's welfare initiatives, the Minister said Indiramma houses had been sanctioned in every village across the state. In the first phase, 3,500 houses were allotted in each constituency, while another 2,000 houses were being sanctioned in the second phase.

He also said the government had resumed issuing ration cards to all eligible families, with new applications being processed within 48 hours. Beneficiaries were receiving fine-quality rice, 200 units of free electricity, and LPG cylinders at a subsidised price of 500 under various welfare schemes.

Ponnamp urged women to become members of self-help groups, stating that interest-free loans and employment-oriented schemes were being implemented to strengthen women's economic empower-

ment. He noted that while participation was high in rural areas, officials had been directed to increase membership in Hyderabad city.

The Minister further announced that a recruitment notification for 5,000 police constable posts would be issued soon. He also said the government was examining the condition of aging VAMBAY housing colonies and had directed the District Collector to inspect the buildings and submit a report on whether they should be repaired or demolished.

Emphasising the government's commitment to social welfare despite financial constraints, Ponnamp said pensions for nearly two lakh single women were being planned. He added that mess and cosmetic charges for students had been enhanced and that government schools were now providing breakfast along with the mid-day meal while infrastructure was being upgraded. He appealed to parents to enroll their children in government schools, saying they offered improving educational facilities and quality learning opportunities.

Sridhar Babu to Inaugurate CIRO Pharma Cancer Drug Plant Today

Siddipet, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is set to further strengthen its position as India's pharmaceutical hub with the inauguration of a new cancer drug manufacturing facility by CIRO Pharma at Biotech Park-3 in Karakapatla, Siddipet district, on Monday.

State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu will formally inaugurate the state-of-the-art manufacturing plant, which has been established to produce cancer medicines and soft gel formulations for domestic and international markets.

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy are also scheduled to participate in the inaugural ceremony along with senior government officials and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.

The new facility has been designed to manufacture medicines in compliance with the quality standards prescribed by leading international pharmaceutical regulatory authori-



ties. The company plans to export its cancer medicines primarily to the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Gulf countries, reinforcing Telangana's growing presence in the global pharmaceutical sector. According to officials, the CIRO Pharma plant currently provides employment to around 275 personnel, including technical staff and professionals. With the commencement of full-scale commercial production, the company expects its workforce, including scientists and skilled employees, to nearly double, creating significant employment opportunities in the region.

The inauguration marks another milestone in Telangana's efforts to attract high-value in-

vestments in the life sciences and pharmaceutical sectors. The state has emerged as a preferred destination for pharmaceutical manufacturing due to its robust industrial ecosystem, skilled workforce, and supportive government policies.

The new facility is expected to enhance Telangana's reputation as a global centre for pharmaceutical production while contributing to exports, technological advancement, and employment generation. Officials said the project reflects the state's continued focus on promoting innovation, strengthening healthcare manufacturing, and expanding its footprint in the international pharmaceutical market.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Inaugurates Indiramma Houses

Shadnagar, July 5 | TPN Bureau

State Minister for Sports, Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry Vakiti Srihari, along with Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, inaugurated newly constructed Indiramma houses in Annaram village of Farooqnagar Mandal on Sunday. The Minister received a traditional welcome from Banjara women, who greeted him with cultural festivities during the programme.

Addressing the media, Vakiti Srihari said the Telangana government was working with a strong commitment to improving the lives of the poor and weaker sections of society. He described the construction of Indiramma houses as one of the Congress government's flagship initiatives and said it was being implemented as a



mission to provide dignified housing to eligible families.

The Minister said that, like the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was committed to ensuring housing for the underprivileged through

the Indiramma housing scheme. He added that the government was also implementing several welfare measures, including the distribution of fine-quality rice through ration shops, free bus travel for women, and interest-free loans

for women's self-help groups.

Vakiti Srihari praised MLA Veerlapalli Shankar for his dedication to the development of the Shadnagar constituency, particularly his efforts in land acquisition for the proposed Lakshmidhevipalli Reservoir project. He alleged that previous governments had neglected the region's development, while the present government was focused on addressing long-pending issues.

The Minister also accused opposition parties of spreading misinformation about the government's welfare programmes and urged youth and intellectuals to assess the facts objectively. He called upon the public to reject what he described as false propaganda and support initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the poor and accelerating the development of Telangana.

Government to Develop Godavari Temples Ahead of Pushkaralu 2027

Karimnagar, July 5 | TPN Bureau

State Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Sunday said the Telangana government has initiated extensive development works at temples along the Godavari River in preparation for the Godavari Pushkaralu, scheduled to be held in 2027.

During a visit to the historic Sri Koteswara Swamy Temple at Kotilingala in Velgatur mandal of Jagtial district, the Minister offered special prayers and reviewed the proposed infrastructure development works aimed at improving facilities for devotees.

Addressing officials and local representatives, Adluri Laxman Kumar said the government had allocated funds well in advance to upgrade im-

portant temples situated along the Godavari, from Basara in the north to Bhadrachalam in the south. The initiative, he said, is intended to ensure better amenities and smooth arrangements for the large number of pilgrims expected during the Pushkaralu.

The Minister announced that 10 crore each has been earmarked for the development of the temple complexes at Dharmapuri and Kotilingala. He further stated that development works worth 117 crore have been sanctioned in the Dharmapuri Assembly constituency.

As part of the projects, Pushkara ghats will be constructed at Kotilingala at an estimated cost of 8 crore. Another 8 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of a road connecting Kotilingala and Pash-

igam village to improve accessibility for pilgrims.

In addition, 10 crore has been allocated for the development of the Sri Ugra Narasimha Swamy Temple at Dharmapuri. The government will also take up the construction of a four-lane road from Velgatur to Kotilingala at an estimated cost of 20 crore to enhance connectivity.

The Minister said mini tank bunds would also be developed at Kotilingala and Rajakkapalli as part of the tourism and infrastructure enhancement programme. He added that the government is committed to creating adequate facilities, including improved roads, riverfront amenities, and other essential infrastructure, to ensure a safe and convenient pilgrimage experience during the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu.



Talasani Accuses Congress of Misleading People on Finances

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Sunday accused the Congress government of spreading false propaganda about the debt accumulated during the previous BRS regime and failing to fulfil the promises made before the Assembly elections.

Speaking as the chief guest at a Jubilee Hills constituency meeting held at Telangana Bhavan, Talasani said the BRS government under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had borrowed nearly 4 lakh crore over a decade while implementing several welfare and development programmes. He alleged that the Congress government had incurred a similar level of debt within two-and-a-half years and questioned what it had achieved with those borrowings.

He claimed that the Congress came to power by making unrealistic promises and accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of avoiding questions regarding their implementation. Talasani also asserted that BRS was the party that achieved Telangana statehood under the leadership of KCR and described the former Chief Minister as a leader who sacrificed for the state-

hood movement.

The former minister praised Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath for his contribution to the constituency's development and called upon party leaders to remain united and work with dedication to strengthen the organization.

Highlighting the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Talasani urged booth-level agents to remain vigilant and ensure that the names of eligible voters were not deleted. He appealed to all citizens who had attained the age of 18 to register as voters and participate actively in the democratic process.

At the same time, he stressed the need to identify and remove invalid entries from the electoral rolls through a transparent process.

He further alleged that the BJP was attempting to target the votes of certain sections of society and described voting as a constitutional right that must be protected. Talasani also criticized the arrest of senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, calling it unjustified.

Expressing confidence in the party's future, Talasani said the BRS would return to power after the next election and continue its welfare and development agenda across Telangana.

Bandi Sanjay Alleges Double Standards in Action on Illegal Constructions

Hyderabad, July 6 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Sunday accused AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi of making what he described as "brazen" remarks due to the support of the Congress government in Telangana. He also alleged that Owaisi's recent comments appeared to challenge the authority of the judiciary.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Bandi Sanjay questioned the propriety of criticising the High Court while legal proceedings were underway. He alleged that the AIMIM had shown little regard for the rule of law and judicial institutions.

Referring to the ongoing controversy surrounding the Fatima educational institutions, the Union Minister claimed that the Telangana government's failure to provide a clear explanation to the High Court regarding issues raised in the case had created suspicion. He alleged that educational institutions should not be permitted to function if they had been constructed by encroaching upon lake land or within the Full Tank Level (FTL) zone.

Bandi Sanjay questioned why demolition notices had re-

portedly been issued to several educational institutions in the Gandipet area while, according to him, no similar action had been initiated against the Fatima educational institutions. He asked whether the government was adopting different standards in enforcing the law.

The Union Minister also referred to allegations concerning the institution and called upon the government to clarify the facts. He urged the authorities to conduct a transparent investigation and take action in accordance with the law if any violations were established.

Stating that no individual or institution should be above the law, Bandi Sanjay said that if the BJP came to power in Telangana, it would take strict action against illegal constructions irrespective of political affiliations. He added that if any educational institution was found to have violated legal norms, action would be taken while ensuring that students did not face hardship by making alternative arrangements for their education.

He further asserted that a BJP government would act firmly against corruption and violations of the law, saying that legal action would be taken without yielding to political pressure.



Uttam Blames BRS for Kaleshwaram Project Failures

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), alleging that the previous government had crippled Telangana's irrigation sector through the execution of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. He accused BRS leaders of prioritising political interests over public welfare and claimed that the project was riddled with structural flaws.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government was committed to restoring the irrigation department and ensuring that farmers receive the benefits originally promised through major irrigation projects.

Reacting to recent remarks by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao during his visit to the Kannepalli Pump House, the Minister dismissed the criticism and said the former minister was "staging a drama" instead of accepting responsibility for the alleged shortcomings of the Kaleshwaram project.

Uttam alleged that nearly 1.81 lakh crore had been spent on the project, but only a limited ayacut had been brought under irrigation. He claimed that several components of the project remained incomplete despite the massive expenditure.

"The BRS government mortgaged the future of Telangana over the last ten years. The irrigation department was severely damaged, and we are now working to restore it," the Minister said.

He alleged that the Kaleshwaram project was designed primarily to benefit BRS lead-



ers rather than the people of the state. Referring to engineering assessments, Uttam claimed that reports had identified serious deficiencies in the project's design and execution, particularly at the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages.

According to the Minister, technical experts had found flaws in the project's foundation, making the structures unsafe for full-scale operation. He said reports submitted by national and international water experts had warned against operating the project in its present condition without necessary repairs and strengthening measures.

Uttam further stated that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) had examined the project and suggested corrective measures. He maintained that the recommendations of technical experts should be given priority over political statements.

The Minister cautioned that storing large volumes of water in structurally compromised barrages could pose risks to downstream areas. He claimed that, if safety concerns were

ignored, villages downstream and areas such as Bhadrachalam could face serious consequences in the event of structural failure.

He also alleged that the previous BRS government shifted the project's location from Tummidihetti to Medigadda for political reasons rather than technical merit. According to Uttam, had the original proposal at Tummidihetti been implemented, northern Telangana would have derived greater irrigation benefits.

Accusing the previous government of compromising public interest, Uttam said the Congress administration was determined to rectify the shortcomings in the irrigation sector through scientific evaluation and necessary engineering interventions.

The Minister reiterated that the state government would take all required measures to restore confidence in Telangana's irrigation infrastructure while ensuring the safety of the Kaleshwaram project and maximising benefits for farmers.



100 Leaders, Youth Join Telangana Rakshana Sena

Adilabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRSena) on Sunday claimed to have strengthened its presence in the Boath constituency with around 100 people from the Congress, BRS, and BJP joining the party during a membership drive held in Adilabad district.

The induction programme was conducted under the leadership of the party's State Observer, Boath Constituency In-charge, and former MLA Rathod Babu Rao. During the event, nearly 40 youths and village elders from Ichoda Mandal headquarters and Gundala village joined the party. Another 60 members enrolled under the leadership of senior Congress activist Shaik Kaleem from Islampur Colony in Ichoda.

Former MLA Rathod Babu

Rao welcomed the new entrants by draping them with party scarves and urged them to actively contribute to strengthening the organization at the grassroots level.

Addressing the gathering, Rathod Babu Rao said the Telangana Rakshana Sena was committed to the development of Telangana, social justice, and the resolution of public issues. He appreciated the youth for joining the party with a spirit of public service and called upon every activist to work with dedication to expand the party's reach across villages and mandals.

He stated that the increasing participation of young people in politics was a healthy sign for democracy and expressed confidence that the Telangana Rakshana Sena would continue to function as a people's movement by raising public

concerns and pressing the government for their resolution.

The former MLA also said the party would focus on strengthening its grassroots network by enrolling more members and encouraging greater public participation in its activities.

Several party leaders, including Mandal Convener Shaik Bilal, Shaik Fareed, Maruti Patel, Mustafa, Mohammad, and Nawaz Khan, along with village elders, activists, and supporters, attended the programme.

Party leaders expressed confidence that the large-scale membership drive would further enhance the Telangana Rakshana Sena's organizational strength in the Boath constituency and help expand its support base in the coming months.



KTR Alleges Neglect of Kaleshwaram Project by Congress Government

Bhupalpally, July 5 | TPN Bureau

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday accused the Congress government of neglecting the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and alleged that political considerations were preventing the effective utilisation of the irrigation infrastructure.

During a visit to the Kannepalli (Lakshmi) Pump House in Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, Rama Rao claimed that despite adequate water being available in the Godavari River, the government was allowing it to flow into the sea instead of lifting it for irrigation purposes.

Addressing the media, the former minister alleged that nearly 30 months after the Congress government assumed office, repairs to the damaged piers of the project had not been completed. He maintained that the Kannepalli Pump House remained capable of lifting water and accused the government of spreading misinformation to discredit the Kaleshwaram project.

Rama Rao further alleged that the recommendations made by engineers regarding the restoration and operation of the project were being ig-

nored. He said the government was placing politics above the interests of farmers and asserted that the Kaleshwaram project had served as a lifeline for agriculture across Telangana.

The BRS leader urged the state government to immediately restart the pumping operations to utilise the available floodwaters and ensure irrigation for farmers. He said the BRS would continue to campaign for the protection and effective utilisation of the project.

Earlier in the day, Rama Rao's convoy from Hyderabad was stopped by police at Pembarthi in Jangaon district over the number of vehicles accompanying the procession. After a brief exchange between police officials and BRS leaders, the convoy was permitted to continue its journey.

BRS leaders alleged that barricades had been erected at several locations along the route to obstruct the visit. Party workers removed some of the barricades, leading to tense moments before the convoy proceeded towards the project site. Police maintained security arrangements throughout the visit to prevent any untoward incidents.



Ramchander Rao Calls for Global Peace at Conference

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana President N. Ramchander Rao on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as a global voice for peace amid rising international tensions and urged world leaders to resolve conflicts through dialogue rather than war.

Addressing the "Glow Peace" International Peace Conference held at a public school in Nacharam as the chief guest, Ramchander Rao said the prevailing atmosphere of conflict across the world was causing immense human suffering, economic losses, and destruction of property. The conference witnessed participation from thousands of students, parents, teachers, youth, and spiritual leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Rao said innocent civilians, particularly children, were becoming victims of armed conflicts and stressed that lasting peace could only be achieved through meaningful discussions and cooperation among nations. Recalling the devastation caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he warned that the possibility of nuclear conflict

posed a serious threat to humanity and the future of the planet. He said the world must learn from history and work collectively to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

The BJP leader stated that war has never provided a permanent solution to disputes and emphasized that dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect were the only sustainable paths to peace. He also expressed concern that some world leaders were moving away from the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Describing the conference as a significant initiative, Ramchander Rao said it would help instill the values of peace and harmony among young people from an early age. He encouraged students to cultivate compassion, tolerance, and respect for others in their daily lives.

He also appreciated the school management for organizing an international peace programme in Telangana and said nearly one lakh postcards collected from students across various schools would be sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to continue promoting global peace and act as a messenger of harmony on the international stage.

Handicrafts Expo to Coincide with Bonalu Festivities

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government will organize a State-level Handicrafts Exhibition-cum-Sale from July 16 at the HMDA Grounds near the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue in Hyderabad as part of the Ashada Bonalu Mahotsavams, Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar announced on Sunday.

The exhibition is being organized by the Rural Development Department under the aegis of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) with the objective of promoting traditional artisans and providing them with a platform to market their products directly to the public.

The Minister said the Bonalu festivities will commence on July 16 with celebrations at the historic Sri Jagadamba Mahankali Temple at Golconda Fort. The state government is making elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth and grand conduct of the annual festival.

Ponnam Prabhakar stated that, compared to last year, a larger number of stalls would be set up at the exhibition to enable more artisans from

across Telangana to showcase their craftsmanship and improve their livelihoods.

The exhibition will feature products made by traditional artisans, including potters, blacksmiths, carpenters, Vishwabhrahmins, Padmashali weavers, goldsmiths, stone sculptors, basket makers, leather artisans, and craftsmen from several other communities.

Visitors will be able to purchase a wide range of Bonalu-related items at a single venue, including clay Bonam pots, earthen lamps, bamboo baskets, brass and copper vessels, kalashams, bells, pooja materials, flower garlands, decorative toranams, Bonam ornaments, bangles, bead jewellery, whips and anklets used by Pothuraju performers, traditional musical instruments such as dappu and dhol, wooden pooja platforms, and several other handcrafted products.

The Minister said the exhibition aims to promote Telangana's rich cultural heritage while creating better market opportunities for rural artisans. He encouraged the public to visit the exhibition, support local craftsmen, and purchase authentic handmade products during the Bonalu festival season.



Mahila Congress Plans Nationwide Agitation Against Centre

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba on Sunday accused the BJP-led Central government of pursuing anti-women policies and announced a series of nationwide protest programmes, while praising the Telangana government for its initiatives aimed at women's welfare and empowerment.

Addressing a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, Lamba said the Mahila Congress had conducted organizational meetings in 19 districts across Telangana over the past three months. She claimed that more than 1.16 lakh women leaders had enrolled as members during the campaign, reflecting growing support for the organization.

She thanked the Telangana government for its efforts toward women's empowerment, stating that women across the state were satisfied with its governance. Lamba also announced that the Mahila Congress

would organize two-day training programmes for its members in September to strengthen the organization.

Launching a sharp attack on the BJP, she demanded the immediate implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, with provisions for OBC reservation. She alleged that the Centre had failed to protect women's interests and accused the government of mishandling issues such as examination paper leaks, which she said had affected students across the country. She also criticized Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the issue.

Lamba announced that the Mahila Congress would hold a massive protest in Delhi on July 25 and launch a nationwide agitation from July 20 through August. She added that the Telangana Mahila Congress had begun a postcard campaign addressed to Prime Minister, along with a missed-call campaign, to mobilize public support against the Central government.

Three Held for Using Same Number Plate on Three Scooters

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Charminar Task Force police have arrested three persons for allegedly using the same registration number on three different Honda Activa scooters in an attempt to evade traffic enforcement, finance recovery proceedings, and official inspections.

The accused were identified as Nakoti Mallikarjun (28), Bhim Ajay Reddy (29), and Koppula Dhanaraj (30). Police seized three Honda Activa scooters, all displaying the same registration number — TS09 FE 4997.

According to police, the fraud came to light during a routine vehicle inspection when Charminar Task Force personnel intercepted Bhim Ajay Reddy while he was riding one of the scooters. During verification, officers found discrepancies between the vehicle's registration details and its engine and chassis numbers, prompting a detailed investigation.

The inquiry revealed that the original registration number of a legally registered Honda Activa had been duplicated and affixed to an unregistered scooter that had been purchased on finance. Investigators

HYDRAA Clears Encroachment from Park Land

Medchal, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has cleared encroachments from a 1,970-square-yard park site in Sai Sri Nilaya Layout at Medchal and fenced the land to prevent further illegal occupation.

According to officials, the residential layout was developed in 2000 across 13.31 acres in Survey Nos. 873 and 882 and comprises 256 plots. Plots numbered 111 to 116 had been earmarked as park land for the benefit of residents.

Authorities said nearly 400 square yards of the designated park area had allegedly

been encroached upon. The land was reportedly divided into smaller plots, and precast concrete boundary walls were constructed in an attempt to occupy the public space.

The action followed a complaint submitted by the Sai Sri Nilaya Residency Welfare Society during HYDRAA's Prajavani public grievance programme. After receiving the complaint, officials conducted a joint field inspection along with representatives of the concerned departments and confirmed the encroachment.

Subsequently, HYDRAA launched a demolition drive, removing the illegal boundary walls erected on the park land. Officials also identified

and demarcated the original boundaries of the park, installed signboards declaring it as public park land, and erected fencing around the site to safeguard it against future encroachments.

According to HYDRAA, the protected land is estimated to be worth around 20 crore.

Officials said the agency will continue taking action against illegal occupations of public lands, including parks, roads, water bodies, and other civic amenities, based on public complaints and field inspections. They also urged residents' welfare associations to report any instances of encroachment so that timely action can be taken to preserve public spaces.

BRSV Charts Grassroots Expansion



Quthbullapur, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi Students' Wing (BRSV) on Sunday outlined a comprehensive action plan to strengthen its organizational network in the Quthbullapur constituency, with a focus on expanding its reach among students and youth at the grassroots level.

A review meeting of the BRSV was held at the Medchal District BRS party office in Gandi Maisamma to discuss strategies aimed at reinforcing the student wing from the booth level to educational institutions. The meeting assumed political significance as leaders stressed the importance of building a strong student base ahead of future organizational activities.

The review was conducted based on the guidance of Medchal District BRS President and MLC Shambhipur Raju, Quthbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekananda, BRSV State President Gellu Srinivas, and former General Secretary Shambhipur Krishna. Leaders emphasized the need to expand the organization from villages to college campuses by encouraging greater participation of students in party activities.

Discussions centered on launching fresh membership drives, constituting booth-level committees, strengthening the organization's presence on social media platforms, and reaching students through service-oriented initiatives. Leaders

also highlighted the importance of identifying and nurturing young leadership capable of addressing student concerns while effectively communicating the party's ideology and development agenda.

Speakers urged BRSV members to remain actively engaged with student issues and to work collectively to build a stronger organizational structure across the constituency. They expressed confidence that with unity, discipline, and dedicated efforts, BRSV would emerge as a more influential student organization in Quthbullapur, capable of attracting greater youth participation and playing a key role in addressing issues affecting the student community.

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Four Killed as Bus Rams Car

Nalgonda, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Four persons, including noted film editor and director Katta Srikrishna Prasad and three members of a family, were killed in a road accident after a private travel bus rammed into their car from behind on National Highway-65 near Peddakaparthi in Chityal mandal of Nalgonda district in the early hours of Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Malireddy Vijayalakshmi (40), her minor son and daughter, and Katta Srikrishna Prasad, who had worked as an editor on several films and directed the Telugu film RK Puram. Vijayalakshmi's husband, Malireddy Veera Venkata Naga Varaprasad Babu, who was driving the car, sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment. Police said his condition is stable and he is

out of danger.

According to police, the family, originally from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, was residing in Hyderabad. The accident occurred around 5.10 a.m. when an Arshiya Travels bus travelling towards Hyderabad collided with the rear of the car near Peddakaparthi, approximately 75 kilometres from Hyderabad.

The impact severely damaged the rear portion of the vehicle, trapping the occupants inside. Rescue personnel used an earthmover to retrieve the bodies from the mangled car.

Preliminary investigations suggest that overspeeding and possible drowsy driving by the bus driver may have caused the accident. Police said the driver fled the scene immediately after the crash and remains absconding.

Varaprasad Babu was shifted

to a hospital in Narketpally for treatment, while the bodies of the deceased were sent to the Government General Hospital for post-mortem examination before being handed over to their family members.

Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar visited the accident site and directed Chityal Circle Inspector Sirikonda Suresh to conduct a detailed inquiry and submit a report on the exact cause of the accident.

Police have asked the management of the private travel company to provide details of the absconding driver. Although the travel operator has assured cooperation with the investigation, officials said the required information had not been furnished by Sunday night.

A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

Health Department Staff to Receive Salaries on 1st of Every Month

Hyderabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has introduced a new salary disbursement system for contract, outsourcing, and honorarium-based employees in the Health Department, ensuring that wages are credited directly to their bank accounts on the first day of every month through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The initiative aims to bring greater transparency, accountability, and punctuality to salary payments while eliminating delays in the disbursement process. Officials said the new mechanism has been implemented as part of the government's efforts to strengthen employee welfare and improve administrative efficiency.

Under the revised system, salaries are being transferred directly into employees' bank accounts through DBT, making the payment process faster, more transparent, and less dependent on manual processing. The new arrangement came into effect this month, and the salaries of a majority of contract and outsourcing employees in the Health Department have already been credited.

According to officials, the move marks the first time that all eligible contract, outsourcing,

and honorarium employees under the department are receiving their salaries through the DBT platform on a fixed date every month.

However, salary payments for around 1,700 contract and outsourcing employees working under the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) have been slightly delayed due to technical issues encountered during the initial implementation of the new system.

Officials clarified that the delay was temporary and that all necessary arrangements had been completed. The Finance Department has already cleared the required bills, and the pending salaries are expected to be credited to the employees' bank accounts on Monday.

The government said the introduction of the DBT-based salary system reflects its commitment to ensuring timely payments and improving financial security for thousands of employees serving in the public health sector.

Officials expressed confidence that the streamlined digital payment system would eliminate procedural delays in the future and provide greater convenience to employees while enhancing transparency in financial administration across the Health Department.



MLC Shambhipur Raju Suffers Minor Accident, Discharged After Treatment

Kutbullapur, July 5 | TPN Bureau

BRS MLC Shambhipur Raju sustained minor injuries in a road accident while travelling to Warangal district on Sunday. The incident occurred near Vivera Hotel in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district as he was on his way to visit the Kannepalli Reservoir along with party leaders and workers from the Kutbullapur constituency.

According to party sources, Shambhipur Raju was travelling with a delegation led by BRS Legislature Party (BRS-IP) Whip and Kutbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekananda when the accident took place. The mishap resulted in minor injuries to the MLC, following which he immediately returned to Hyderabad for medical evaluation.

He was admitted to a private hospital in Kompally, where doctors conducted a series of medical examinations and provided the necessary treatment.

After assessing his condition, the medical team confirmed that the injuries were minor and advised him to take rest for a few days as a precautionary measure.

The MLC was discharged from the hospital after completing the required medical check-up and treatment. MLA K.P. Vivekananda visited the hospital and interacted with the attending doctors to inquire about Shambhipur Raju's health condition.

The news of the accident initially caused concern among BRS leaders and party workers. However, they expressed relief after doctors confirmed that the injuries were not serious. Party cadres and supporters wished the MLC a speedy recovery and expressed hope that he would soon resume his public and political engagements after taking adequate rest, as advised by the medical team.

Two Children Drown in Well While Fishing

Nalgonda, July 5 | TPN Bureau

Two children lost their lives after accidentally falling into a well while fishing near Khajiramaram village in Nalgonda district on Sunday, police said.

The victims were identified as Mani Bhargav (13) and Vinay (10). According to the police, the boys had gone to catch fish near an open well when they reportedly slipped and fell into the water. Unable to swim to safety, both children drowned before help could reach them.

Local residents who noticed the incident rushed to the spot

and made efforts to rescue the children. However, despite their attempts, the two boys could not be saved.

Police arrived at the scene after being alerted by villagers and retrieved the bodies from the well. The bodies were shifted to a nearby government hospital for post-mortem examination.

A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to the incident. The deaths of the two children have left their families and the entire village in mourning. Residents expressed shock over the tragedy and extended their condolences

to the bereaved families.

Following the incident, police urged parents to ensure that children do not venture alone near wells, ponds, canals, or other water bodies, particularly during the monsoon season when water levels are high and the risk of accidents increases.

Villagers also appealed to the authorities to strengthen safety measures around open wells and other hazardous locations by installing protective fencing and warning signboards. They said such preventive steps could help avoid similar tragedies in the future and improve public safety in rural areas.

Left Student Unions Call for Statewide Education Bandh on July 10

Peddapalli, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Vidyarthi Federation (BVF) and other Left-affiliated student organisations have appealed to students and educational institutions to support the statewide bandh scheduled for July 10 to highlight issues affecting the education sector.

The call was made by BVF District Secretary Jilla Prashant while addressing a meeting of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) held in Sultanabad town on Sunday.

Speaking at the meeting, Prashant alleged that the Education Department has remained without a minister since the Congress government assumed office in the state. He claimed that the absence of dedicated leadership had adversely affected the education sector and delayed the resolution of several student-related issues.

He said students studying in government schools across the state continue to face difficulties due to inadequate infrastructure and the poor condition of many school buildings. He urged the government to take immediate steps to improve basic facilities

in educational institutions and ensure a better learning environment for students.

Prashant also demanded the timely distribution of textbooks and school uniforms, stating that delays in supplying essential educational materials were affecting students at the beginning of the academic year.

Appealing for broad participation in the July 10 bandh, he said the protest aims to draw the government's attention to the challenges faced by students and government schools across Telangana. He urged educational institutions, students, and the public to extend their support to the agitation.

Several student leaders, including Tandra Gautam Sahu, Raju, Arvind, Nikhil, Ajay, Arun, Akhil, Rehan, Pranay, Shashanth, and Anil, participated in the meeting and expressed support for the proposed bandh.

The organisers said the statewide protest would focus on demands for improved educational infrastructure, timely supply of learning materials, and greater attention to issues concerning government schools and students.

Drunken Youth Held After Failed Tractor Theft Bid

Kamareddy, July 5 | TPN Bureau

A youth was arrested after a group of allegedly intoxicated youngsters attempted to steal a tractor parked near the Gram Panchayat Office in Peddamallareddy village of Bikkanoor mandal in Kamareddy district.

According to police, the accused targeted a tractor parked near the Gram Panchayat premises during the night. While attempting to drive away with the vehicle, one of the youths reportedly lost control and rammed the tractor into the compound wall of the Gram Panchayat Office, causing damage to the property.

The entire incident was captured on CCTV cameras installed near the office, providing crucial evidence for the investigation.

Alerted by the commotion,

local residents rushed to the spot and managed to apprehend one of the accused. The villagers allegedly thrashed the youth before handing him over to the police.

The remaining three suspects fled the scene and are currently absconding. Police have launched a search operation to trace and arrest them.

A case has been registered against the accused, and an investigation is underway. Police are examining the CCTV footage and collecting additional evidence to establish the sequence of events and identify all those involved in the attempted theft.

Officials have appealed to the absconding suspects to surrender and warned that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the incident. They also advised the public to report suspicious activities promptly to help prevent such crimes.

District Athletics Trials Draw Strong Participation

Karimnagar, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The district-level athletics selection trials witnessed an enthusiastic response, with around 80 athletes participating in the senior men's and women's competitions held at the Regional Sports School in the district headquarters.

The trials were organized to identify talented athletes for the district team that will represent Karimnagar at the upcoming state-level athletics championships.

Participants competed in various track and field events, with separate competitions conducted for men and women. Officials assessed the athletes based on their performances, and those who excelled during the trials were selected to represent the district at the state-level meet.

District Athletics Association President Nandelli Mahipal said the impressive turnout reflected the growing interest in athletics among youth. He expressed confidence that the selected athletes

would perform well at the state-level competitions and bring laurels to the district.

General Secretary Suman Kalyan said the selection process was conducted fairly and transparently to ensure that the most deserving athletes earned places in the district squad. He encouraged the selected sportspersons to continue training with dedication and maintain peak fitness ahead of the upcoming championships.

Association members B. Rajagopalachari and Kiran Kumar were also present during the trials and congratulated the participants for their spirited performances.

The organisers appreciated the enthusiasm displayed by the athletes and said such selection events play an important role in identifying emerging sporting talent and promoting athletics at the grassroots level. They expressed hope that more young athletes would take up the sport and represent the district in future state and national competitions.

Powerloom Workers to Stage Protest Demanding Wage Hike

Rajanna Sircilla, July 6 | TPN Bureau

The CITU Powerloom Workers' Union has announced a protest on Monday demanding a revision of wages for cotton textile workers and master weavers in Sircilla.

Addressing a meeting held at the Amrit Lal Shukla Labour Hall in B.V. Nagar on Sunday, State President Moosham Ramesh said the existing wage agreement for cotton textile production had expired long ago and had not been renewed despite repeated appeals.

He alleged that notices seeking a wage revision had already been served to textile owners, but no positive response had been received. As a result, thousands of workers

continue to struggle with low earnings despite rising living costs.

Ramesh said the current wages are insufficient to meet the increasing prices of essential commodities and claimed that many cotton textile workers are unable to earn even 300 a day. He added that several weaving families are facing severe financial hardship, finding it difficult to sustain themselves through their traditional occupation while also lacking opportunities to shift to alternative livelihoods.

He urged textile owners to acknowledge the economic challenges faced by workers and revise wages in accordance with the prevailing cost of living.

As part of the agitation, cot-

ton textile workers and master weavers have been asked to assemble at the CITU office in B.V. Nagar at 9 a.m. on Monday. From there, they will take out a rally to the Handloom Textile Traders' Association building, where they will stage a dharna demanding an immediate wage increase.

Ramesh appealed to all workers and weavers to participate in large numbers and ensure the success of the protest.

District President Kodam Ramana, Annaldas Ganesh, and other union leaders attended the meeting and expressed support for the proposed agitation, stating that the protest aims to secure fair wages and improve the livelihood of powerloom workers in the region.

Deputy Sarpanchs' Association Elects New Committee



Adilabad, July 5 | TPN Bureau

A new executive committee of the Bazar Hathnoor Mandal Deputy Sarpanchs' Association was elected unanimously during a meeting held on Sunday in Adilabad district. The newly elected office-bearers pledged to work for the development of Gram Panchayats and safeguard the rights of Deputy Sarpanchs across the mandal.

Kolahari Deputy Sarpanch Riyaz Khan was unanimously elected as the President of the association, while Devarla Srikanth Reddy, Deputy Sarpanch of Varthamannur village, was chosen as the Vice-President. Oddepelli Gangayya, Deputy Sarpanch of Kandli village, was elected Secretary, Gollena Rajender,

Deputy Sarpanch of Girnur, was appointed General Secretary, and Bongurala Vishal, Deputy Sarpanch of Pipri, was elected Treasurer.

Addressing the gathering after his election, President Riyaz Khan said the association would actively work for the overall development of Gram Panchayats and protect the interests and rights of Deputy Sarpanchs. He stated that village-level issues would be identified and brought to the attention of the government to ensure timely solutions and improved civic amenities.

Vice-President Devarla Srikanth Reddy said the association would unite Deputy Sarpanchs from all villages in the mandal on a common platform to collectively address public issues and strengthen local self-governance. He ex-

pressed confidence that coordinated efforts would contribute to faster development and better implementation of welfare programmes in rural areas.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Sarpanchs from various villages in Bazar Hathnoor Mandal, public representatives, and village elders. Baddam Ramchander, President of the Ichoda Mandal Deputy Sarpanchs' Association, participated as the chief guest and congratulated the newly elected committee.

Participants expressed confidence that the new leadership would effectively represent the concerns of Deputy Sarpanchs while accelerating developmental activities across villages in the mandal through united and coordinated efforts.

Collector Urges Public to Avail Praja Vani Programme

Warangal, July 5 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. Satya Sarada has announced that the Praja Vani public grievance redressal programme will be conducted at the District Collectorate on Monday to receive and address public complaints.

The Collector said the programme is being organized at both the district and revenue division levels in accordance with the directives of the Telangana government. The initiative is intended to provide citizens with a platform to directly present their grievances before officials and seek timely solutions.

Dr. Satya Sarada stated that

the administration is committed to ensuring prompt disposal of public complaints and instructed all district-level officials to attend the programme at the Collectorate. She also directed divisional-level officials to be present at their respective revenue division offices to receive petitions and address issues within their jurisdiction.

She emphasized that officials should examine every representation carefully and take immediate steps to resolve genuine grievances in a time-bound manner. The Collector also stressed the importance of coordination among departments to ensure effective and speedy redressal of public issues.

Appealing to residents, Dr. Satya Sarada urged the public to make full use of the Praja Vani programme by submitting their grievances directly to the concerned authorities. She expressed confidence that the initiative would help strengthen the connection between the administration and the public while improving the delivery of government services.

The district administration reiterated that the programme remains an important mechanism for ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsive governance by providing citizens with direct access to government officials for the resolution of their concerns.

Journalism Alumni Meet Held at OU PG Centre

Siddipet, July 5 | TPN Bureau

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at the Osmania University PG Centre in Siddipet organized an alumni meet on Sunday, bringing together former students from different batches and current students to exchange experiences and strengthen academic and professional ties.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni working in various fields of journalism, who shared their career journeys and highlighted the role the course played in shaping their professional lives. They encouraged the current students to make the best use of the opportunities available in the media industry.

Several alumni recalled that they were initially unaware of the diverse career prospects in journalism but said the academic training and practical exposure provided by the department enabled them to secure positions in the profession.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Chatrapathi Yadav appreciated the achieve-

ments of the department's alumni, stating that many former students were making meaningful contributions to society through their work in journalism and media. He expressed confidence that the alumni network would continue to support and guide future students in building successful careers.

The programme also served as a platform for interaction between current students and experienced professionals, allowing participants to discuss industry trends, career opportunities, and the evolving landscape of journalism.

Faculty members, including Assistant Professor Dr. Ramesh Palwai, Dr. Srihari, and Dr. Soujanya Kumar, attended the event and emphasized the importance of maintaining strong alumni connections to enhance academic excellence and professional development.

The organisers said such alumni interactions would be held regularly to provide mentorship, career guidance, and networking opportunities for students pursuing journalism and mass communication at the institution.

Degree Student Held for Robbery, Attempted Murder of Elderly Woman

Karimnagar, July 6 | TPN Bureau

A 21-year-old degree student was arrested for allegedly robbing an elderly woman and attempting to murder her by pushing her into a well on the outskirts of Karimnagar town, police said.

The accused, identified as Damma Dinesh Reddy, a native of Gullapet village in Jagtial district and a second-year student at a private degree college in Karimnagar, was taken into custody following an investigation. Police said he had allegedly become addicted to online gaming and betting, resulting in losses of nearly 4 lakh. Investigators believe mounting pressure from loan app operators to repay borrowed money prompted him to commit the crime.

According to the police, the incident occurred on July 1 when the accused allegedly approached Gangadhara Lakshmi, an elderly woman waiting at a labour adda, and offered to help her find work. He reportedly took her to an

isolated area near Nasultapur, robbed her of about half a tola of gold jewellery and 20 grams of silver ornaments, and allegedly pushed her into a nearby well before fleeing.

The victim remained trapped inside the well for nearly 21 hours before villagers heard her cries for help and rescued her the following morning. She was later shifted for medical treatment, and the police were informed.

Police traced the accused using CCTV footage and details linked to a Rapido ride booked through his mobile phone. He was apprehended near the Amaraveerula Stupam in Karimnagar.

During the investigation, police found that the accused had allegedly sold the stolen gold ornaments to a trader, identified as Venu Manoharachari, at Tower Circle for 30,000. The trader was also arrested for allegedly purchasing the stolen property.

Police recovered the stolen valuables and registered a case. Further investigation is underway to ascertain all aspects of the incident.

10 Injured as Lorry Rams Private Bus on Highway

Jogulamba Gadwal, July 6 | TPN Bureau

At least 10 passengers were injured, five of them critically, after a lorry rammed into a private travel bus from behind at Manavapadu in Jogulamba Gadwal district during the early hours of Sunday.

According to police, the private bus, carrying 22 passengers, was travelling from Hindupur to Hyderabad when the accident occurred. The lorry reportedly crashed into the rear of the bus with considerable force, leaving several passengers injured.

Local residents and emergency personnel rushed to the scene and rescued the injured from the damaged bus. The victims were shifted to the Government General Hospital in Kurnool for treatment. Hospital authorities said five of the injured were in critical condition, while the remaining passengers sustained minor to moderate injuries.

Police reached the accident site soon after receiving information and initiated rescue and traffic management operations. The damaged vehicles were cleared from the road to restore the flow of traffic.

A case has been registered, and an investigation has been launched to determine the exact cause of the accident. Police are examining whether overspeeding, driver negligence, or other factors contributed to the collision.

Officials said statements from the bus crew, passengers, and the lorry driver would be recorded as part of the investigation. Further details are expected after the completion of the inquiry.

Police have urged motorists to exercise caution while driving on highways, particularly during night and early morning hours, and advised heavy vehicle drivers to maintain safe distances to prevent rear-end collisions.



A Bone

Fear frightens the unafraid
Fear removes morality
Fear endears selfishness
Fear engulfs in self-centred nature.
To drive this fear

We need a bone
We need a bone

Where,
A bone in the brain,
To understand pain
A bone in the heart,
To understand hurt
A bone in the tongue,
For the response to flung
An extra bone in the back
To stand firm without quivering.

A bone in the shoulder
A bone in the Biceps
A bone in the shin
A curved mustache
At the end of every finger

What, much could we,
We, expect from a living soul
But for one more bone

The bone
That bone, which stops from stopping
Stooping, to be in good books
Stooping in fear of answering
Stooping to be in a comfort zone
Stooping, for not knowing what to do

What more do people need than a bone?

B Suneela Jyotsna
TGT English, KV Waltair
Visakhapatnam



C. Narayana Reddy's Viswambhara: The Epic of Humanity and the Earth

Varala Anand
Poet, Film Critic & Recipient of Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation

Poetry is born when the inner weather of a poet overflows into language. Sometimes it arrives as a clear stream, moving with effortless grace; at other times it unfolds like an ocean, vast, layered, and profound. Simplicity in poetry is never simple to achieve—obscurity is often easier. Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, one of the most luminous voices in modern Telugu literature, mastered the rare art of uniting accessibility with depth. His poetry sings in a language that appears transparent, yet beneath its lyrical surface lie philosophical currents that continue to reveal themselves with each reading.

Born on 29 July 1931 in Hanumajipeta, a village in the erstwhile Karimnagar district of Telangana, Narayana Reddy emerged from a modest rural background to become one of the foremost literary figures of contemporary India. Though educated initially in Urdu, he developed an abiding fascination for folk traditions, language, and literature. That passion eventually led him to Osmania University, where scholarship and creativity would find a lifelong meeting place.

His literary career traversed multiple genres—poetry, film lyrics, essays, criticism, and public discourse. Millions knew him through his unforgettable film songs, yet the immense popularity he enjoyed never diminished the seriousness of his literary pursuits. Throughout his life, he remained fundamentally a poet, committed to exploring the human condition in all its complexity and wonder.

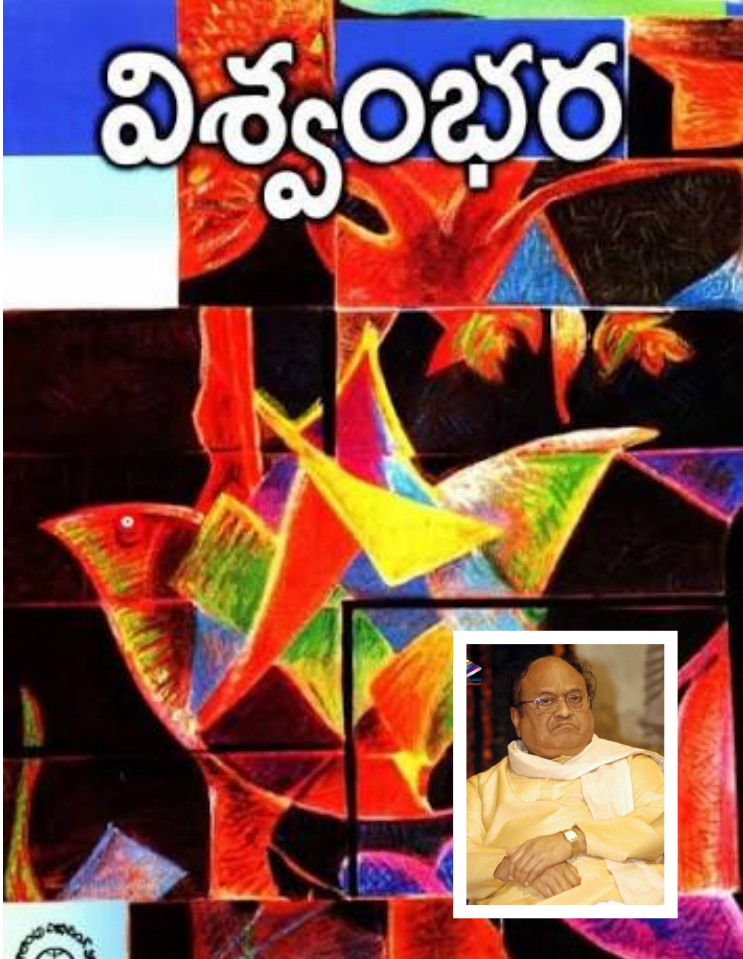
At the heart of Narayana Reddy's oeuvre lies a profound humanism. His poetry consistently transcends the boundaries of caste, religion, nationality, and

language, affirming the essential unity of humankind. For him, the human being is not merely a social entity but a universal presence, participating in a larger cosmic drama. Equally central to his vision is nature—not as a backdrop to human existence but as an inseparable companion in the journey of life. Earth appears repeatedly in his poetry as mother, witness, nurturer, and eternal source.

These concerns find their grandest expression in Viswambhara, the monumental work that earned him the prestigious Jnanpith Award. The title itself is a magnificent metaphor. "Viswambhara" signifies the Earth—the bearer of the world, the sustaining force of existence. In Narayana Reddy's hands, the Earth ceases to be a geographical entity and becomes a living archive of human experience, carrying within her memory the story of civilization itself.

Unlike conventional epics, Viswambhara does not revolve around a heroic individual. Its protagonist is humanity. It does not narrate a story in the traditional sense; instead, it unfolds the drama of human evolution across the immeasurable expanse of time. There are no fixed chronological boundaries, only the ceaseless movement of history. The poem flows like a vast river of collective memory, tracing humanity's journey from primitive existence to modern consciousness.

Narayana Reddy envisions this journey through three broad stages: humanity's submission to nature, its creation of civilization, and its gradual awakening into self-awareness. These stages are not merely historical; they are spiritual and philosophical. The evolution of humanity be-



comes, in essence, a search for self-knowledge.

From the cave-dweller who first confronted the mysteries of existence to the modern citizen inhabiting towering cities, humanity has struggled, created, invented, and transformed the world around it. Yet, despite astonishing achievements in science, technology, and culture, one question remains unresolved—has humanity truly understood itself?

This question forms the philosophical centre of Viswambhara. The poem is less concerned with external progress than with inner awakening. It asks whether material advancement alone can fulfil human destiny, or whether a deeper consciousness is required to complete the journey.

The humanism of Viswamb-

hara resonates strongly with the ancient Indian ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world as one family. Narayana Reddy challenges all forms of division that separate one human being from another. Nations, religions, and social identities appear transient when measured against the larger truth of shared humanity.

At the same time, the poem offers a profound ecological insight. Humanity may imagine itself the conqueror of nature, yet it remains an inseparable part of the natural order. The Earth that nourishes civilization can also remind humanity of its limitations. Narayana Reddy's vision anticipates many contemporary concerns about ecological balance and environmental responsibility, making Viswambhara remarkably relevant even today.

Symbolism plays a vital role in the architecture of the poem. Earth becomes the symbol of origin and continuity; humanity embodies creative consciousness; nature represents harmony and equilibrium; and the city emerges as an emblem of civilization's achievements and contradictions. Through these symbols, Narayana Reddy elevates the poem beyond historical narration into the realm of universal reflection.

Yet the greatness of Narayana Reddy cannot be measured solely through his writings. As a scholar, professor at Osmania University, cultural ambassador, and member of the Rajya Sabha, he contributed significantly to the growth of the Telugu language and literature. He encouraged younger writers with exceptional generosity. A manuscript arriving from an unknown poet in a remote village would often receive a personal response filled with appreciation and encouragement. Such gestures reveal a literary personality as remarkable as the poet himself.

His life reflected the discipline he celebrated in his work. Even amid public engagements, literary gatherings, and cultural responsibilities, he maintained a simple daily routine. Rain or shine, he would set out for his morning walk, umbrella in hand—a quiet image of a man deeply connected to life and its rhythms.

Honoured with the Jnanpith Award, the Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan, and numerous other distinctions, Narayana Reddy occupies a permanent place in the history of Indian literature. He passed away on 12 June 2017, but his voice continues to resonate across generations.

For poets do not survive through biography alone. They survive through the worlds they create in language. And in Viswambhara, C. Narayana Reddy created not merely a poem but a universe—an epic of Earth, humanity, and consciousness that continues to illuminate the path of human self-discovery.

In the Ashes of War, He Searched for Humanity

The Enduring Legacy of Czesław Miłosz

Chitikena Kiran Kumar

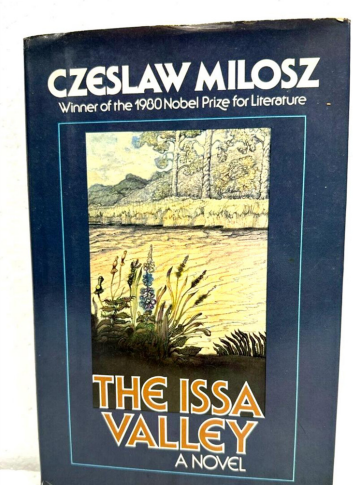


Eminent Poet, Writer & Member: IBRF

A true writer does not merely belong to his own time; he shapes the thoughts of generations yet to come. When a person who has witnessed oppression, endured the horrors of war, and longed for freedom takes up the pen, literature rises above artistic expression and becomes a testimony to history and a guiding light for humanity. One such extraordinary literary figure is Czesław Miłosz, whose place in world literature remains timeless. On the occasion of his birth anniversary, observed on June 30, it is worth reflecting on how a poet became one of the world's strongest moral voices.

A Childhood Shaped by History

Czesław Miłosz was born on 30 June 1911 in what was then part of the Russian Empire, in the region now known as Šeteniai in present-day Lithuania. The area was a cultural crossroads where Polish traditions, Lithuanian heritage, and the political currents of Eastern Europe intersected. Growing up amidst diverse languages, cultures, and shifting political landscapes, Miłosz developed a deep understanding of the complexities of human civilisation.



The twentieth century witnessed two devastating World Wars, authoritarian regimes, and unprecedented violence. These historic events profoundly influenced not only Miłosz's life but also his literary vision. He understood that war destroys far more than cities and nations—it wounds the human conscience and erodes the moral values that sustain civilisation.

Poetry as a Dialogue with History

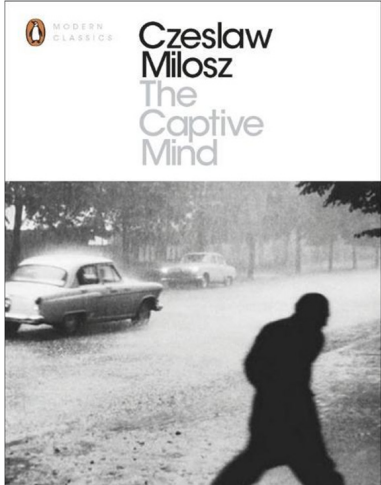
For Miłosz, poetry was never confined to emotion or aesthetic beauty. While his works celebrate nature, love, and memory, they also explore the inner struggles of individuals living under political oppression and moral uncertainty. His poetry reflects the constant tension between the human desire for freedom and the pressures imposed by authoritarian systems. He believed that literature carried an ethical responsibility. A poet's duty was not merely to create beauty but to speak the truth, however uncomfortable it might be. This conviction gave his writings remarkable intellectual depth and enduring relevance.

The Literary Voice of Freedom

The political climate in post-war Eastern Europe severely restricted freedom of thought and expression. Many writers were compelled to conform to official ideologies, but Miłosz refused to compromise his principles. He remained steadfast in his belief that truth must never become a casualty of power. His essays and poems consistently champion human dignity, individual liberty, and democratic values. As a result, his writings transcended national boundaries and were translated into numerous languages, earning admiration across the world.

The Nobel Prize: A Recognition of Moral Courage

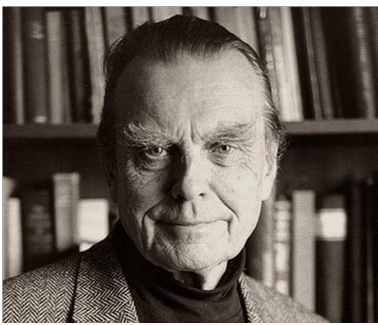
In 1980, Czesław Miłosz was award-



ed the Nobel Prize in Literature, an honour that recognised far more than literary excellence. It acknowledged a lifetime devoted to exploring the moral complexities of modern history and defending the values of truth and freedom through literature. The Nobel Committee recognised his exceptional ability to illuminate the human condition with intellectual honesty, poetic brilliance, and profound historical insight. His work continues to inspire readers who seek literature that challenges both the heart and the mind.

Why Miłosz Still Matters Today

Despite remarkable technological progress, the modern world continues to grapple with war, intolerance, misinformation, and threats to demo-



cratic values. In such times, Miłosz's writings remain strikingly relevant. They remind us that silence in the face of injustice is dangerous and that safeguarding human dignity requires both courage and moral clarity. His message extends beyond writers and scholars. It speaks to every citizen who values freedom, justice, and compassion in an increasingly complex world. The life and works of Czesław Miłosz demonstrate that literature possesses the power not only to record history but also to preserve humanity. His pen became an instrument of conscience, reminding the world that truth and freedom must never be surrendered, even during the darkest chapters of history.

As we commemorate his birth anniversary on June 30, we honour not merely a Nobel Laureate but a writer whose legacy continues to inspire generations to defend human values with integrity and courage. That remains the most meaningful tribute to Czesław Miłosz.



Commitment Vs Casting Couch

The skin show celebrates curves and niches
Now--
commitment cuddles the casting couch
perhaps,
The body speaks its own language
Off the bed and off the wardrobe

'commitment' guises its virginity
It's no longer a promise
But just a surrender
Who dares to define immaculacy?
Some name it 'submission'
For some it is 'integrity'

Casting couch is a welcoming host
It lingers between offers and experience
Sleep...sleep...sleep
The offers languish between thighs and currency bills
Our destiny is redefined here
here –
in the World of skin & sin

Dr Srinivas Vasudev
Academic Director,
Krishnaveni Talent School,
Hyderabad



Khamenei Successor Absent at Funeral

Three sons of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei attended his state funeral in Tehran, but the absence of his designated successor, Mojtaba Khamenei, drew widespread attention amid heightened security concerns.

State television showed Mostafa, Meysam and Masoud Khamenei taking part in funeral prayers alongside senior Iranian political, military and religious leaders at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla. The trio stood near their father's coffin, draped in the Iranian flag, as thousands of mourners gathered to pay their final respects.

Mojtaba Khamenei, who succeeded his father as Iran's Supreme Leader earlier this year, did not appear at the ceremony. Iranian officials reportedly said his absence was due to serious security concerns following recent military tensions and fears of potential attacks during the



high-profile funeral.

The funeral marked the beginning of a six-day mourning period, with ceremonies scheduled across several cities, including Tehran, Qom and Mashhad, where Ali Khamenei is expected to be buried. Millions of people are expected to participate in the processions, making it one of the largest public events in Iran in recent years.

The gathering was attended

by top Iranian officials, military commanders and foreign delegations from several countries. Crowds chanted slogans against the United States and Israel as the ceremony reflected both religious mourning and a display of national unity following months of regional conflict.

Mojtaba's absence has sparked speculation because of his position as the country's highest authority. However, Iranian

authorities have maintained that the decision was based solely on security assessments and not linked to political or health-related reasons. Officials believe his public appearance could have posed significant risks given the prevailing security situation.

Ali Khamenei, who led Iran for more than three decades, died earlier this year during the conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States. His death marked the end of one of the longest tenures of any Middle Eastern leader and triggered a carefully managed leadership transition.

As Iran continues nationwide mourning, the funeral ceremonies are expected to serve not only as a farewell to the country's former supreme leader but also as a demonstration of continuity under the new leadership despite ongoing regional tensions.

Anti-US Chants Mark Khamenei Funeral

Thousands of mourners gathered in Tehran as Iran began the funeral ceremonies for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, with the event marked by loud chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" amid heightened tensions in the Middle East.

The state funeral at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla drew massive crowds, senior government officials, military commanders and religious leaders. Many mourners carried Iranian flags, portraits of Khamenei and red banners symbolising martyrdom and revenge.

As the ceremonies began, the crowd repeatedly chanted slogans against the United States and Israel, reflecting Iran's long-standing political rhetoric and the anger following the recent conflict that claimed Khamenei's life. Calls for revenge also echoed through the gathering, turning the funeral into a display of national defiance as well as mourning.

The funeral is part of a six-day nationwide programme that will take place across several cities, including Tehran, Qom and Mashhad. Millions of people are expected to participate in the ceremonies, making it one of the largest public events in Iran in recent years.



Security was exceptionally tight throughout the capital, with authorities deploying large numbers of personnel to manage the crowds and prevent any potential threats. The heightened security follows weeks of regional instability and fears of further attacks.

Several senior Iranian officials addressed mourners, praising Khamenei's leadership and vowing that the country's policies would remain unchanged under the new leadership. The ceremonies also featured religious prayers and tributes honouring those who died during the recent conflict.

The funeral has attracted delegations from several countries, highlighting Khamenei's influence across parts of the Middle East. However, the event has also intensified international attention as anti-

Western slogans dominated the proceedings.

Khamenei, who led Iran for more than three decades, was one of the region's most influential political and religious figures. His death marked the end of an era and triggered a carefully managed transition of power. Despite the atmosphere of mourning, the funeral also served as a political statement, with organisers projecting unity and resilience in the face of external pressure. Images of grieving supporters alongside repeated anti-US and anti-Israel chants underscored the deep political symbolism of the event.

The ceremonies will conclude later this week with Khamenei's burial in Mashhad, his hometown, where thousands more mourners are expected to gather for the final farewell.

Trump Profits as Memecoin Investors Lose

US President Donald Trump reportedly earned around \$636 million from his \$TRUMP memecoin, even as nearly one million investors collectively lost an estimated \$3.8 billion, according to a report based on blockchain analytics and financial disclosures.

The findings revealed that about 988,900 crypto wallets—roughly two-thirds of those who purchased the \$TRUMP token—were holding losses by the end of June. The token, which surged in value shortly after its launch in January 2025, has since fallen dramatically, losing around 97% of its peak value.

Despite the steep decline, Trump's financial disclosure showed that the memecoin generated substantial income through licensing and transaction-related revenue. The token was structured so that Trump-linked entities earned fees whenever investors bought or sold the cryptocurrency, allowing revenue to con-



tinue flowing regardless of price fluctuations.

The memecoin formed part of Trump's broader cryptocurrency portfolio, which reportedly generated billions of dollars in revenue during 2025. Apart from the \$TRUMP token, Trump and members of his family have also been associated with crypto venture World Liberty Financial, another major contributor to his reported earnings.

The report highlighted the stark contrast between Trump's gains and the losses

suffered by many retail investors. While nearly one million wallets ended up in the red, around five million wallets collectively recorded profits, indicating that early investors and experienced traders benefited the most from the token's rapid rise and subsequent volatility.

Among those affected was a crypto trader who reportedly invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the memecoin and lost a significant portion of that investment. The investor accused Trump of using his public profile to pro-

mote the token, calling it a "legal scam."

The White House rejected allegations that Trump profited at the expense of his supporters. Officials defended the president's involvement in cryptocurrency, saying his administration had positioned the United States as a global leader in digital assets and that all policy decisions were made in the public interest.

Trump, who had once criticised cryptocurrencies, embraced the sector during his 2024 presidential campaign. Since returning to office, he has actively supported digital assets while expanding his family's crypto ventures.

The report has reignited debate over the risks of speculative cryptocurrencies and raised fresh questions about ethics and potential conflicts of interest, as Trump's personal financial success has coincided with his administration's efforts to promote the crypto industry.

Trump Warns Iran During Funeral

US President Donald Trump has issued a fresh warning to Iran's leadership, claiming the United States could eliminate the country's top officials with "one shot" as they gathered for the funeral of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. However, he said Washington would not take such action because it wanted to keep diplomatic channels open.

Speaking during an interview, Trump said Iran's senior leadership was assembled in one place for the funeral ceremonies in Tehran, presenting what he described as a rare military opportunity. He added that the US was choosing restraint to preserve the possibility of future negotiations with Tehran.

Trump also claimed Iran had requested a temporary pause in nuclear negotiations until the funeral ceremonies concluded. According to him, Washington agreed to delay talks for a week out of respect for the mourning period while insisting that Tehran remained interested in reaching an agreement with the United States.

The remarks came as millions of mourners gathered across Iran for the funeral of Khamenei, whose death marked a major turning



point in the country's political history. The ceremonies have drawn senior government officials, military commanders and foreign delegations, with crowds chanting anti-US and anti-Israel slogans throughout the event.

Trump also questioned the scale of public grief, saying he was surprised by the massive turnout because he believed many Iranians had opposed Khamenei's rule. He suggested the displays of mourning might not fully reflect public sentiment, comments that quickly drew international attention. His statements have further heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, despite ongoing diplomatic efforts aimed at reducing hostilities after months of conflict. While Trump maintained that mil-

itary action remained an option, he stressed that negotiations remained the preferred course. Iranian officials strongly criticised the remarks, describing them as provocative and unacceptable. They insisted that threats against the country's leadership would not alter Iran's policies or weaken national resolve during the mourning period.

The funeral ceremonies are expected to continue for several more days across different cities before Khamenei is laid to rest. As Iran observes nationwide mourning, the event has become both a religious occasion and a powerful political display, unfolding against the backdrop of continuing regional tensions and fragile diplomatic efforts between Tehran and Washington.

Pakistan Minister Faces Resignation Calls

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is facing mounting political pressure after his grandson, Muhammad Raza Dar, was arrested in connection with the alleged abduction and gang rape of two foreign women in Lahore.

The controversy intensified after Senator Faissal Vawda publicly demanded Ishaq Dar's resignation, arguing that the senior minister should step down to protect Pakistan's international image while the investigation continues. Vawda also accused both the federal government and the Punjab provincial administration of attempting to shield the minister's relatives.

The case involves two foreign nationals, one from the Netherlands and the other from Venezuela, who allegedly travelled to Pakistan for business after meeting Raza Dar in Singapore last year. According to investigators, the women were invited to Lahore on business visas arranged



by the accused.

Police say the women were allegedly abducted shortly after arriving in Lahore on June 29. They accused the suspects of holding them captive, sexually assaulting them and demanding money linked to a cryptocurrency venture. Four suspects, including Raza Dar, have been arrested, while another accused remains at large.

Investigators believe the victims and Raza Dar were business partners in a cryptocurrency enterprise. One of the women

alleged that the attackers repeatedly demanded access to digital assets and passwords before demanding a large ransom for their release.

The case gained further attention after one of the victims recorded her statement before a judicial magistrate, describing the alleged assault and the events leading to her escape. Police have since obtained custody of the accused for further investigation and are attempting to recover evidence connected to the case.

Senator Vawda questioned how Ishaq Dar could continue representing Pakistan internationally while such serious allegations involved a close family member. He also criticised the silence of several government leaders, saying they had failed to publicly condemn the incident.

The allegations have triggered widespread debate across Pakistan, with opposition figures and social media users demanding a transparent investigation free from political influence. Many have called for authorities to ensure that the accused receive no special treatment because of their family connections.

The Pakistani government has not announced any action against Ishaq Dar, while the investigation remains ongoing. Authorities have assured that the case will be pursued in accordance with the law as they continue gathering evidence and questioning the accused.

India Hits Back at Khawaja Asif

The Indian government has strongly criticised Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif over his remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the controversy surrounding the "Guardian of the Blue Horizon" award conferred on the Indian leader by Seychelles.

Government sources described Asif's comments as baseless and motivated by jealousy, accusing the Pakistani minister of making irresponsible statements on issues he did not fully understand. The sharp response came after Asif questioned the legitimacy of the award and claimed it had been specially created ahead of

PM Modi's visit to Seychelles.

According to government sources, Pakistan's criticism reflected frustration rather than facts. They dismissed Asif's remarks as politically motivated and said such statements only highlighted Islamabad's continued hostility towards India.

The controversy began after reports surfaced on social media pointing to typographical errors in an early version of the award citation. Asif seized on the issue, describing the honour as an "engineered recognition" and calling it an embarrassment. However, the Seychelles government rejected those allegations and clarified

that the Order of the Guardian of the Blue Horizon had been established under the country's National Honours Act before PM Modi's visit. Officials explained that the document circulating online was only an internal draft that had been mistakenly shared before final proofreading. They added that the official citation presented during the ceremony contained no errors. While India has not issued an official statement on the controversy, government sources insisted there was no basis for Pakistan's claims. They maintained that the award reflected international recognition of India's growing role in promoting ocean con-

servation and the blue economy.

The exchange has further strained already tense relations between India and Pakistan, with both countries frequently engaging in diplomatic confrontations over political and security issues. Khawaja Asif has previously made several controversial remarks on India that have drawn strong responses from New Delhi.

Despite the political rhetoric, the Seychelles government has stood by its decision to honour Prime Minister Modi, reiterating that the award was instituted through proper legal procedures and was not created specifically for his visit.



Five Key Triggers for Markets

Indian stock markets are set for an eventful week, with investors closely tracking a series of domestic and global developments that could influence trading sentiment. From the start of the June-quarter earnings season to movements in crude oil prices and global economic cues, several factors are expected to shape the direction of Dalal Street in the coming days.

The biggest focus this week will be the start of the first-quarter earnings season. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS),

India's largest IT services company, will kick off the reporting cycle, and its financial performance will be closely watched by investors. The results and management commentary are expected to provide insights into demand trends in the technology sector and could influence the performance of other IT stocks as well.

Crude oil prices are another major factor likely to keep markets on edge. Any sharp rise in oil prices can increase India's import bill, fuel infla-

tion and impact corporate profitability. Investors will therefore closely monitor developments in global energy markets and geopolitical events that could affect crude supplies and prices.

Global markets will also be guided by the release of the minutes from the latest US Federal Reserve meeting. The document could offer fresh clues about the central bank's future interest rate plans. Any indication of changes in monetary policy may influence global investor sentiment, cap-

ital flows into emerging markets and overall market volatility.

Back home, the progress of the southwest monsoon will remain another important trigger. A healthy monsoon is crucial for India's agricultural output, rural demand and food inflation. Investors will watch rainfall patterns closely, as they often have a significant impact on sectors such as agriculture, consumer goods and automobiles.

Foreign institutional investor (FII) activity and global

market trends will also play a vital role. Recent buying by overseas investors has supported Indian equities, and any shift in their investment strategy could influence market momentum. At the same time, developments in international markets, currency movements and geopolitical events will continue to affect investor confidence.

After ending last week on a positive note, market participants will now look for fresh triggers to sustain the rally. With earnings, macroeconom-



ic indicators and global events all lined up, analysts expect the coming week to be crucial in

determining the near-term direction of the Indian stock market.

Top Firms Add ₹1 Lakh Crore in Value

Six of India's 10 most valuable listed companies collectively added more than 1 lakh crore to their market capitalisation last week, reflecting renewed investor confidence amid a positive run in the equity markets. Telecom major Bharti Airtel and financial services giant Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest gainers, benefiting from strong buying interest.

The rally came during a strong week for Dalal Street, with the BSE Sensex advancing 663.44 points, or 0.86 per cent, while the NSE Nifty gained 214.85 points, or 0.89 per cent. The positive momentum lifted the valuations of several blue-chip companies despite mixed global cues.

Bharti Airtel recorded the highest increase in market capitalisation among the top companies, followed closely by Bajaj Finance. Other firms that also registered gains included Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and



Hindustan Unilever. Together, these six companies added over 1 lakh crore to their combined market value during the week.

However, not every heavyweight shared in the market rally. The valuations of HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and LIC declined during the same period, highlighting the mixed performance across sectors. While banking, telecom and financial stocks attracted fresh investments, weakness in select IT counters weighed on the broader list of India's most valuable companies.

Among the top-ranked firms by market capitalisation, Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most valuable listed company. It was followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, TCS, State Bank of India, Infosys, Bajaj Finance, LIC and Hindustan Unilever. The rankings continue to reflect the dominance of banking, technology and telecom companies in the Indian equity market.

Market experts believe the latest gains indicate sustained investor optimism, supported by encouraging domestic eco-

nomomic indicators and expectations of a healthy corporate earnings season. Strong participation from both domestic and foreign institutional investors also helped maintain positive sentiment across benchmark indices.

Investors will now shift their focus to the upcoming first-quarter earnings season, beginning with the results of major companies, including TCS. Corporate earnings, global market trends, crude oil prices and foreign fund flows are expected to determine whether the current market momentum can continue in the coming weeks.

With benchmark indices hovering near record levels, analysts expect stock-specific action to remain high. The performance of heavyweight companies will continue to play a crucial role in driving overall market direction, making the upcoming earnings season especially important for investors and market participants alike.

Smallcaps Continue Winning Streak

India's broader equity markets continued to outperform the benchmark indices last week, with smallcap stocks extending their winning streak as investors showed strong interest in mid- and small-sized companies. Positive business updates, healthy domestic liquidity and improving market sentiment helped drive the rally, even as benchmark indices posted relatively modest gains.

The Nifty Smallcap index emerged as the standout performer, registering another week of gains and extending its impressive upward momentum. The Nifty Midcap index also ended the week higher, reflecting sustained buying across a wide range of sectors. Market participants attributed the rally to encouraging first-quarter business updates from companies, optimism surrounding the upcoming earnings season and easing concerns over global economic uncertainties.

While broader markets surged, the benchmark indices also ended the week in positive territory, though with comparatively smaller gains. The Sensex and Nifty benefited from continued buying in heavyweight stocks, supported by declining crude oil prices, improving foreign investor sentiment and expectations that global interest rate pressures may ease. These factors helped maintain confidence in Indian equities despite lingering geopolitical concerns.

Stock-specific action remained a key feature of the



week's trading. Several companies witnessed sharp gains after reporting strong operational performance and favourable business updates. Investors continued to focus on sectors with healthy earnings potential, while domestic institutional investors provided steady support to the markets through consistent inflows. This combination of positive fundamentals and strong liquidity helped broader indices outperform their large-cap counterparts.

Analysts believe that improving corporate earnings expectations are encouraging investors to look beyond blue-chip stocks in search of better growth opportunities. Many mid- and small-cap companies have delivered strong financial performance in recent quarters, making them attractive despite concerns about valuations. However, market experts also caution that selective investing remains important, as sharp rallies can

increase the risk of short-term corrections.

Looking ahead, investors will closely monitor the start of the June-quarter earnings season, beginning with major corporate results, to assess whether current market optimism can be sustained. Global developments, crude oil prices, foreign institutional investor activity and domestic economic data will also influence market direction in the coming weeks.

With the broader market continuing to outperform benchmark indices, investor sentiment remains upbeat. If earnings meet expectations and global conditions remain favourable, mid- and small-cap stocks could continue attracting attention. At the same time, analysts advise investors to remain disciplined, focus on fundamentally strong companies and avoid chasing stocks that have already witnessed excessive rallies.

FOMC Minutes in Focus for Commodities

Commodity markets are expected to remain volatile this week as investors turn their attention to the release of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes. The document is likely to offer fresh insights into the Federal Reserve's outlook on interest rates, especially after weaker-than-expected US jobs data eased pressure for immediate policy tightening.

Recent employment figures have strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve may adopt a more cautious approach to future interest rate decisions. Slower job growth has reduced concerns about persistent inflation, increasing hopes that the central bank could consider rate cuts later this year if economic conditions continue to soften. As a result, traders across commodity markets are closely watching the upcoming FOMC minutes for further guidance.

Gold prices are expected to remain highly sensitive to any changes in the Fed's policy outlook. A softer stance on interest rates generally supports the precious metal by reducing the opportunity cost of holding



non-yielding assets such as gold. If the meeting minutes indicate that policymakers are becoming more comfortable with easing inflation, bullion prices could receive additional support.

Silver is also likely to remain in focus, as it tends to benefit from both investment demand and industrial consumption. Analysts believe the metal could continue to trade with a positive bias if expectations of lower interest rates strengthen in the coming weeks.

Crude oil prices will be another key area of interest. Market participants will monitor global demand trends, supply developments and geopolitical

tensions that could influence energy prices. Any unexpected disruption in oil-producing regions or changes in production policies by major exporters may lead to increased price volatility.

Industrial metals such as copper will also be closely tracked. Copper prices often reflect expectations about global economic growth, particularly demand from major economies like China. Investors will therefore keep an eye on economic indicators and manufacturing data that could influence the outlook for base metals.

Apart from the FOMC minutes, currency movements will play an important role in deter-

mining commodity prices. A weaker US dollar generally makes commodities more attractive for international buyers, while a stronger dollar can put pressure on prices. Market participants will also monitor inflation data, geopolitical developments and broader global economic trends for additional trading cues.

Analysts believe commodity markets could witness short-term fluctuations as investors assess incoming economic data and central bank commentary. While expectations of a more accommodative Federal Reserve have improved sentiment, uncertainty over inflation and global growth remains.

With several important global events lined up, traders are expected to adopt a cautious approach. The FOMC meeting minutes, along with developments in the energy market and key economic indicators, are likely to shape the direction of commodity prices in the days ahead. Investors are therefore advised to closely monitor market developments before making fresh trading decisions.

Laser Power Infra Shrinks IPO

Laser Power & Infra Ltd has reduced the size of its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) to 742 crore, down from the 1,200 crore proposed in its draft papers, as the Kolkata-based company prepares to launch the public issue on July 9. The IPO will remain open for subscription until July 13, marking one of the key mainboard offerings of the month.

According to the company's red herring prospectus (RHP), the IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares worth 542 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 200 crore by existing promoters. While the issue size has been reduced significantly from the original proposal, the company continues to focus on strengthening its balance sheet and supporting future growth.

A major portion of the funds raised through the fresh issue will be used to reduce debt. Laser Power & Infra plans to utilise 490 crore towards the repayment or prepayment of outstanding borrowings,



with the remaining amount earmarked for general corporate purposes. The company believes lowering its debt burden will improve its financial position and provide greater flexibility for future expansion.

Founded as an integrated manufacturer of power cables, conductors and specialised products for the power transmission and distribution sector, the company operates three manufacturing facilities in West Bengal with a combined installed capacity of more than

85,000 metric tonnes. It serves a wide range of customers in the power infrastructure industry and has built a sizeable order book over the years.

The company has reported steady financial growth in recent years. Improved operational efficiency and stronger profitability have supported its business performance, even as it continues to invest in expanding manufacturing capabilities and strengthening its presence in India's power infrastructure segment. The demand

for transmission and distribution equipment is expected to remain healthy, driven by increasing investments in electricity networks and infrastructure projects across the country.

The IPO's price band will be announced on July 6, while the anchor investor portion is scheduled to open on July 8. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on July 14, with the company's shares likely to debut on the BSE and NSE on July 16, subject to regulatory approvals.

IIFL Capital Services and ICICI Securities are acting as the book-running lead managers for the issue, while MUFG Intime India has been appointed as the registrar. As investors gear up for the public offering, market participants will closely watch subscription levels and valuation details once the price band is officially announced, as these factors are expected to determine the IPO's overall response.

India's equity markets could be entering the early stages of a new long-term bull run as several key macroeconomic indicators begin to improve simultaneously, according to market experts. Unlike previous rallies driven by abundant liquidity or speculative buying, the next phase of growth is expected to be supported by stronger economic fundamentals, improving corporate earnings and sustained domestic investor participation.

Analysts believe the investment landscape has changed significantly over the past few years. India's growing base of retail investors and steady inflows from domestic institutional investors have made the market more resilient to fluctuations in foreign capital. This stronger domestic participation is helping reduce the impact of global volatility and providing a firmer foundation for long-term market growth.

One of the biggest positive developments is the increasing stability of the Indian rupee. A stable currency boosts investor confidence by lowering the risk of capital erosion and helping businesses manage costs more effectively. It also supports macroeconomic stability by easing imported inflation and making India a more attractive destination for global investments.



ply chains, creating uncertainty for financial markets. As these risks begin to ease, concerns over inflation and input costs are gradually declining, creating a more favourable environment for businesses and investors alike.

Another encouraging factor is the moderation in crude oil prices. Since India imports a large share of its energy needs, lower oil prices help reduce inflationary pressures, improve the country's fiscal position and support corporate profitability. Combined with expectations of stable interest rates and stronger earnings growth, this could provide additional momentum to the stock market.

Experts also point to India's improving economic outlook, supported by continued infrastructure investment, healthy domestic consumption and government reforms. These factors are expected to strengthen corporate earnings over the coming quarters, making equities in-

creasingly attractive for long-term investors. Rather than relying on short-term speculative gains, the next market cycle is likely to be driven by sustainable business growth and improving profitability. While global uncertainties have not disappeared entirely, analysts believe India is better positioned than many other emerging markets to withstand external shocks. The combination of currency stability, easing geopolitical risks, improving earnings visibility and robust domestic participation has created favourable conditions for the next phase of market expansion.

Although market volatility may continue in the short term, experts remain optimistic about the long-term outlook. With multiple macroeconomic indicators moving in the right direction, they believe the foundation has been laid for India's next major bull run, offering promising opportunities for patient, long-term investors.

Lamborghini Dream Comes True for Auto Driver

A routine drive through Bengaluru turned into a life-changing moment for an autorickshaw driver after a local entrepreneur handed him the keys to his Lamborghini, making the driver's long-cherished dream a reality. The heartwarming incident, captured on video and shared online, has won the hearts of millions across social media.

The entrepreneur, Rakesh KNV, was driving his bright yellow Lamborghini when an autorickshaw pulled up beside him at a traffic signal. The driv-

er instantly recognized Rakesh from his social media content and excitedly expressed his admiration for both the entrepreneur and his luxury sports car. During their brief conversation, the auto driver revealed that he had always dreamed of driving a Lamborghini at least once in his lifetime.

Instead of simply thanking him for his kind words, Rakesh decided to do something extraordinary. He asked the driver to stop by the roadside and surprised him by offering the keys to the supercar. In return, Rake-

sh climbed into the autorickshaw while the thrilled driver carefully took the Lamborghini for a short drive. The two vehicles then travelled alongside each other, creating a memorable scene that quickly caught the attention of people nearby.

The emotional exchange meant far more than just a ride in a luxury car. For the autorickshaw driver, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that fulfilled a dream he never imagined would come true. His excitement and gratitude were clearly visible throughout the

experience, making the moment even more touching.

For Rakesh, the experience was equally meaningful. Sharing the video later, he reflected on his own journey and said that driving the autorickshaw reminded him of the struggles he faced before achieving success. He recalled a time when even paying for an auto ride was difficult, making the experience a nostalgic reminder of how far he had come.

The video has since gone viral, drawing widespread appreciation from social media users.

Many praised Rakesh for his generosity, humility and willingness to share such a valuable possession with a complete stranger. Others said the genuine happiness on the auto driver's face was proof that small acts of kindness can create unforgettable memories.

The touching exchange has become a reminder that true wealth lies not only in expensive possessions but also in the ability to spread joy. By turning an ordinary traffic stop into an extraordinary act of kindness, the entrepreneur created a mo-



ment that inspired countless people and demonstrated the power of compassion and human connection.

Manali Move Saves Couple ₹30,000 a Month

A corporate couple's decision to swap city life for the peaceful hills of Manali has captured widespread attention after they revealed that the move unexpectedly helped them save more than 30,000 every month while continuing to work remotely.

Anjali and Naman, who share their lifestyle and travel experiences on social media, said their relocation was never about cutting expenses. Instead, they wanted to embrace a slower pace of life without giving up their corporate careers. However, after settling into the Himalayan town, they noticed a dramatic drop in their monthly spending.

According to the couple, the biggest saving came from housing costs. Their monthly rent fell from 45,000 in the city to 28,000 in Manali, reducing their expenses by 17,000. Working from home also eliminated the need for a daily commute, saving them another 3,000 every month.



They also realized that several small but frequent expenses had quietly disappeared. Regular office dinners, coffee runs and snack breaks, which were once a part of their daily routine, no longer added to their monthly bills. Together, these lifestyle changes reduced their spending by another 7,500.

The most surprising saving, however, came from weekends. While living in the city, the couple often spent between

5,000 and 6,000 each month on short getaways to escape the stress of urban life. After moving to Manali, surrounded by mountains and natural beauty, they no longer felt the need to plan expensive weekend trips. The peaceful environment became part of their everyday routine, making those extra travel costs unnecessary.

Despite the financial benefits, Anjali said saving money was never the main goal be-

hind the move. She explained that they chose remote work and life in the hills to enjoy a different lifestyle rather than reduce expenses. The unexpected monthly savings, she added, turned out to be an added bonus.

Their story has sparked conversations online about the hidden costs of living in big cities and the growing appeal of remote work. Many social media users praised the couple for prioritizing quality of life over the fast-paced urban lifestyle, while others pointed out that city living often encourages spending on convenience and stress relief.

As remote work continues to become more common, stories like theirs are encouraging professionals to rethink where they live. For Anjali and Naman, the move to Manali not only brought peace and a better work-life balance but also proved that a change in lifestyle can lead to significant financial savings.

Why Mumbai Feels Safe at Midnight

A woman's late-night experience in Mumbai has sparked widespread discussion on social media after she shared why she feels comfortable travelling through the city even after midnight. Her video, praising Mumbai's sense of safety and vibrant atmosphere, has resonated with thousands of viewers and reignited conversations about women's safety in Indian cities.

In the viral video, the content creator recorded herself walking near Marine Lines at around 12:30 am. Rather than finding deserted streets, she was surprised to see the city still buzzing with activity. Local trains continued to operate, commuters were out and about, and several women could be seen travelling alone, creating an environment that made her feel secure despite the late hour.

She pointed out that Mumbai's lively streets, visible police presence and active public transport contributed to her confidence. According to her, these factors create a reassuring atmosphere that allows many people, especially women, to move around the city without feeling isolated. She added that in many other places, stepping out after midnight would require far more cau-



tion, making Mumbai stand out for its round-the-clock energy.

Reflecting on the experience, she said she finally understood why Mumbai is often referred to as the "Dream City." For her, the city's appeal goes beyond career opportunities and entertainment. She believed its ability to remain active throughout the night and provide a sense of comfort for residents is one of its greatest strengths.

The video quickly attracted attention online, with many users agreeing with her observa-

tions. Several Mumbai residents shared their own experiences, saying they too have felt relatively safe while travelling late at night because of the city's continuous movement and strong public transport network. Others described Mumbai as one of the few Indian cities where women are commonly seen commuting alone even after midnight.

At the same time, some viewers urged caution, pointing out that no city is completely free from safety concerns. They encouraged people to remain

alert, avoid isolated areas and continue following basic safety precautions regardless of the time of day.

The discussion has once again highlighted Mumbai's unique reputation as a city that rarely sleeps. While opinions on safety may differ from person to person, the woman's experience has struck a chord with many, reminding people why Mumbai continues to be admired for its energy, resilience and welcoming spirit even in the early hours of the morning.

How Debt Took Over a ₹90,000 Salary

A financial advisor's viral LinkedIn post has sparked widespread discussion after revealing how a Pune-based professional earning 90,000 a month gradually slipped into a debt trap of more than 15 lakh—not because of reckless spending, but due to a medical emergency and mounting loan repayments.

The case revolves around a 36-year-old operations manager whose finances were initially stable, though tightly managed. According to the advisor, the man's monthly expenses stood at around 82,000, leaving him with a small financial cushion. While his budget was far from comfortable, he was able to meet his obligations without falling into debt.

Everything changed when his father required urgent surgery costing 5 lakh. To cover the medical expenses, the man



took a personal loan with an interest rate of 14%, adding an EMI of 13,663 to his monthly commitments. This pushed his total monthly expenses to nearly 96,000—well above his income—and created a recurring cash shortfall.

To bridge the gap, he began relying on credit cards for routine expenses such as groceries and fuel. What started as a temporary solution soon be-

came a growing burden. Within a year, his outstanding credit card balance had climbed to 4 lakh, attracting interest rates of nearly 40% and requiring hefty minimum monthly payments. In an effort to regain control, he took another loan worth 6 lakh to consolidate his debt. However, by then his credit score had deteriorated, forcing him to borrow at a higher interest rate of

18%. Instead of easing the pressure, the new loan added another large EMI, pushing him deeper into financial distress. Over the next two years, his total debt crossed 15 lakh, with nearly 51,000—about 57% of his take-home salary—going towards debt repayments every month.

Using the example, the financial advisor explained how a debt spiral develops when one loan leads to another, gradually shrinking disposable income until borrowing becomes the only way to stay afloat. He warned that if EMIs exceed 40% of a person's take-home salary, it should be treated as a serious warning sign. His advice was to stop taking fresh loans, list all outstanding debts and interest rates, and focus on clearing the highest-interest loans first to break the cycle.

Bengaluru Is 'India's Europe'

A woman's enthusiastic praise for Bengaluru has sparked a lively debate online after she described the city as "India's Europe," saying its pleasant weather, greenery and career opportunities make it one of the country's best places to live despite its well-known traffic congestion.

In a video shared on Instagram, the content creator explained why she believes Bengaluru stands out from other Indian cities. While acknowledging that the city's traffic is a major inconvenience, she argued that its advantages far outweigh the daily commuting challenges. According to her, Bengaluru offers a unique combination of a comfortable climate, abundant green spaces and excellent job opportunities, making it unlike any other city in the country.

She went on to compare Bengaluru with Europe, saying that people looking for pleasant weather and a balanced lifestyle do not necessarily have to travel abroad when such an experience can be found within India. Calling it "Europe in India," she gave the city a perfect five-out-of-five rating, saying it has almost everything one could ask for in a place to live.

Although she admitted that traffic remains Bengaluru's biggest drawback, she said the city's cool weather makes long commutes more bearable. In



her view, the overall quality of life, career prospects and natural surroundings compensate for the time spent on congested roads.

Her comments quickly gained traction on social media, where users expressed mixed opinions. Many agreed with her assessment, praising Bengaluru for its moderate climate, thriving technology sector and cosmopolitan culture. Several residents said the city continues to attract professionals from across the country because of its employment opportunities and vibrant lifestyle.

However, not everyone shared the same enthusiasm. Some users argued that the city's worsening traffic, rising cost of living and infrastructure challenges make daily life increasingly difficult. Others felt that comparing Bengaluru

to Europe was an exaggeration, even if they appreciated its weather and greenery.

The discussion soon expanded beyond the original video, with many people debating what truly defines a great city. While some prioritised climate, career growth and open spaces, others pointed to public transport, civic infrastructure and affordability as equally important factors. The viral video has once again highlighted Bengaluru's unique reputation. Loved by many for its weather and professional opportunities and criticised by others for its traffic woes, the city continues to inspire strong opinions. Whether one agrees with the comparison or not, the conversation reflects Bengaluru's enduring appeal and its place as one of India's most talked-about urban destinations.

With a familiar face back at the helm and several promising newcomers in the squad, Pakistan will hope the latest leadership change signals the beginning of a more successful phase in Test cricket.



Kalyan Ram's Festive First Look Out

The makers of director Anil Ravipudi's upcoming entertainer have unveiled the first-look poster of Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, treating fans to a vibrant birthday surprise. The colourful poster offers a glimpse of the actor's energetic character and has generated excitement among movie lovers eagerly awaiting the much-anticipated project.

The film marks a special reunion for Anil Ravipudi and Kalyan Ram, who previously delivered the successful film Pataas, which also launched Ravipudi's directorial career. More than a decade later, the duo has teamed up once again for a grand family entertainer that also stars Victory Venkatesh in a prominent role, making it one of the biggest multi-starrers currently in production. Released on the occasion of Kalyan Ram's birthday, the first-look poster presents the actor in a lively festive avatar. Dressed in a traditional cream kurta and dhoti, accessorised with stylish sunglasses and a flower garland, Kalyan Ram is seen striking an energetic dance pose with a cheerful smile. The backdrop is filled with colourful decorations, flower petals and celebrations, hinting at the film's festive setting and family-friendly theme. The poster has been well received by fans, many of whom

praised Kalyan Ram's vibrant appearance and the celebratory atmosphere captured in the design. The first look also reflects Anil Ravipudi's signature style, which blends humour, emotions and entertainment in a colourful commercial package. Expectations are high that the film will continue the director's successful run at the box office.

Apart from Kalyan Ram and Venkatesh, the film also features Keerthy Suresh and Kriti Shetty in key roles. The project is being produced by Sahu Garapati under the Shine Screens banner in association with Suresh Productions and Zee Studios. Music is being composed by GV Prakash Kumar, whose involvement has further raised anticipation among fans. Production is progressing steadily, with the principal cast currently filming key sequences. The makers are planning a grand theatrical release during Sankranti 2027, a festive season known for major Telugu cinema releases.

With its colourful first-look poster and impressive cast, the film has already created a strong buzz. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the teaser, title announcement and further promotional updates as the team prepares to bring this festive family entertainer to theatres during the 2027 Sankranti season.



Nanne Nithiin's NN5 Begins

KVN Productions has officially launched its second Telugu production, tentatively titled NN5, with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. Starring Nanne Nithiin in the lead role, the film marks another significant step in the production house's expansion into Telugu cinema and has already generated excitement among movie lovers.

The film is being directed by Radhakrishna Reddy and is described as a youthful commercial entertainer. After announcing the project a few days ago, the makers formally commenced production with a grand launch event attended by members of the cast and crew, along with several prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry.

The launch ceremony also confirmed actresses Anikha Surendran and Megha Shetty as the female leads. Both actresses are expected to play important roles in the film, adding freshness and appeal to the project. Their inclusion has further increased curiosity among audiences eager to see the on-screen pairing with Nanne Nithiin. Several well-known filmmakers and technicians participated in the inaugural event. Producer Venkat K. Narayana gave the ceremonial opening clap, while acclaimed cinematographer K.K. Senthil Kumar switched on the camera. Director Kalyan Shankar directed the first shot, making the launch a memorable occasion for the entire team.

Backed by Venkat K. Narayana under the KVN Productions banner, NN5 features an experienced technical team. Popular Tamil music composers Vivek-Mervin have been roped in to compose the soundtrack, marking another exciting addition to the project. Cinematography will be handled by Rama Maruti M, while Niranjan Devaramane has been entrusted with editing responsibilities.

The makers are aiming to deliver an entertaining film that appeals to younger audiences while offering a blend of emotions, romance and commercial elements. Although the storyline is being kept under wraps, the production house is expected to reveal more details, including the film's title and shooting schedule, in the coming weeks.

For Nanne Nithiin, NN5 represents neither important project as he continues to establish himself as a promising young actor in Telugu cinema. Meanwhile, KVN Productions is strengthening its presence across multiple film industries with an impressive slate of pan-Indian projects.

With the film now officially on floors, expectations are steadily building among fans. The combination of a young cast, experienced technicians and a reputed production banner has created positive buzz, and audiences will now be eagerly waiting for the first glimpse, title announcement and other promotional updates in the months ahead.

Naga Vamsi Ends Jr NTR Rumours

Producer Naga Vamsi has put an end to speculation surrounding Jr NTR's much-discussed collaboration with Tamil filmmaker Nelson Dilipkumar, assuring fans that the project is very much on track. His clarification has come as a major relief to the actor's followers, who were worried after reports suggested the film had been shelved or delayed indefinitely.

Rumours about the project's future gained momentum after Nelson announced a new film with actor Allu Arjun. The announcement led many fans to believe that the director's proposed film with Jr NTR had been dropped. Social media was soon flooded with speculation, with many questioning whether the collaboration would ever materialise.

Addressing these rumours during a recent interaction, Naga Vamsi dismissed the claims and confirmed that there is no truth to reports of the film being cancelled. He explained that both Jr NTR and Nelson have packed schedules, making it difficult to immediately begin work on the project. However, he stressed that the collaboration remains very much alive and will move forward once both of them complete their current commitments.

The producer also urged fans



not to believe unverified reports circulating on social media. He said that there is no reason for concern and that official announcements regarding the film will be made at the appropriate time. His comments have reassured fans who have been eagerly waiting to see the actor and director come together for the first time.

At present, Jr NTR is focused on his upcoming projects, while Nelson is busy with his newly announced film. Once both fulfil their existing commitments, discussions about their collaboration are expected to resume.

The possibility of Jr NTR teaming up with Nelson has generated considerable excitement ever since the project was first reported. Nelson has earned a strong reputation for delivering stylish commercial entertainers, while Jr NTR continues to be one of Telugu cinema's biggest stars with a massive fan following across India. Their combination is widely expected to result in a high-profile pan-Indian film.

Following Naga Vamsi's clarification, fans have expressed relief online, with many welcoming the confirmation that the project has not been shelved. The update has helped silence speculation and renewed anticipation for what could become one of the most awaited collaborations in Indian cinema.

Although the makers have not yet announced a shooting schedule or release timeline, Naga Vamsi's statement makes it clear that the film is still in the pipeline. For now, fans can look forward to an official update once Jr NTR and Nelson complete their ongoing projects and are ready to begin work together.



Rao Bahadur Eyes Strong Weekend

Satya Dev's latest psychological drama Rao Bahadur has made a promising start at the box office, collecting 6.3 crore worldwide in its first two days. While the film witnessed a slight dip in collections on its second day, positive word of mouth has kept expectations high for the crucial Sunday business, which could determine its long-term theatrical run.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Venkatesh Maha, Rao Bahadur has received appreciation from audiences and critics for its unconventional storytelling and technical brilliance. Satya Dev's powerful performance has emerged as one of the film's biggest strengths, with many viewers praising his portrayal in the psychological drama. The movie's unique narrative and visually rich presentation have also been widely discussed since its release.

According to the latest box office figures, the film has earned 6.3 crore gross worldwide after two days in theatres. On its second day, it collected 2.4 crore, registering a drop from its opening-day earnings. Although the decline is typical for many films after the initial release, the makers remain optimistic due to the positive audience response and encouraging reviews.

Industry observers believe Sunday will be a decisive day for the film. A significant jump in collections could strengthen

its box office prospects and help it maintain momentum during the weekdays. Monday's performance will also be closely watched, as it will indicate whether the film can sustain audience interest beyond its opening weekend.

The film features Vikas Muppal, Deepa Thomas and Bala Parasar in important roles alongside Satya Dev. It has been produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, Anurag Reddy, Sharath Chandra and Eshwaran Vijayaraghavan, while Smaran Sai has composed the music.

Rao Bahadur marks another collaboration between Satya Dev and Venkatesh Maha, a director known for his distinctive storytelling style. Unlike conventional commercial entertainers, the film explores psychological themes through an experimental narrative, making it stand out among recent Telugu releases. While its unconventional approach may appeal more to niche audiences, many viewers have appreciated its fresh storytelling and emotional depth.

With positive buzz continuing to spread and audience recommendations growing, all eyes are now on the film's Sunday collections. A strong weekend finish could give Rao Bahadur the momentum it needs to enjoy a successful theatrical run and establish itself as one of the season's most talked-about Telugu films.

