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Nadda Reviews AIIMS Bibinagar, Highlights Healthcare Expansion

Bibinagar, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda on Thursday reviewed the progress of AIIMS Bibinagar and said India has witnessed unprecedented growth in healthcare infrastructure under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the past decade. Nadda arrived in Telangana to a grand welcome at Shamshabad Airport, where he was received by Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP President N. Ramchan der Rao, and Members of Parliament K. Laxman and D.K. Aruna. Following his arrival, the Union Minister visited AIIMS Bibinagar and held a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials. Addressing the media, he said the number of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has expanded significantly since 2014. He noted that while India had only one AIIMS in New Delhi for several decades, the network has now grown to 23 AIIMS institutions, of which



18 are fully operational, while the remaining are under various stages of development. Nadda said the Centre has built an integrated healthcare system ranging from primary health services to advanced super-specialty care. He highlighted that nearly 1.5 million people are receiving primary healthcare through 1.85 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the country. He also noted that the number of medical colleges has increased from 370 to 820, substantially boosting medical education and healthcare capacity. Highlighting the progress of AIIMS Bibinagar, Nadda said the institution has expanded

rapidly since its sanction in June 2022. Although more than RS.1,000 crore has been approved for the project, about ₹110 crore has been spent so far. The institute currently has 132 faculty members and 133 senior doctors, while offering MBBS, MD programmes across 24 departments, and DM/MCh courses in five specialties. He said AIIMS Bibinagar is providing comprehensive outpatient, inpatient, emergency, diagnostic, and telemedicine services. Around 1,800 patients receive treatment daily, while more than 1.56 lakh teleconsultations have been delivered through the e-Sanjeevani platform. The

institute also provides treatment under both the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and the Telangana Government's AarogyaSri scheme. Nadda described AIIMS Bibinagar as more than just a treatment centre, calling it an emerging hub for medical research and innovation. He said the institute has received ₹64 crore in research grants, is executing 129 research projects, and its faculty members have published 156 research papers. He also noted that AIIMS Bibinagar is the first AIIMS in the country to establish a Community Radio Station and has adopted six villages, conducted 547 free medical camps, and treated over 66,000 rural patients. Reviewing construction works, the Union Minister said 87 percent of the project has been completed and expressed confidence that the remaining work would be finished by December 2026, enabling AIIMS Bibinagar to function as a world-class centre of excellence in medical education, research, and patient care in South India.

Kavitha Rules Out BRS Return, Levels Fresh Allegations

Ravi Podili

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha has intensified her political offensive against the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), categorically ruling out any possibility of rejoining the party and levelling a series of fresh allegations against its leadership. Speaking during her 'Singareni Baayi Baata' (Mine Visit) programme at the PVK-5 underground mine in Kothagudem, Kavitha dismissed speculation about her return to the BRS, describing it as "false propaganda" deliberately spread to create confusion among the public. "As long as I am alive, there is absolutely no question of returning to the BRS," she declared, alleging that conspiracies were being hatched to prevent her from securing the 'TRS' party name. She claimed that thousands of objections had been filed to obstruct her party's registration and accused certain groups of attempting to undermine her political movement. Launching a scathing attack on the BRS, where her brother K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) serves as Working President, Kavitha alleged that the party had abandoned its principles, discipline, and ideological values. She also accused some BRS leaders and supporters of carrying out personal attacks against her on social media. Expressing concern over the tone of political discourse, Kavitha alleged that abusive language and character assassination had become common on social media platforms. She said political differences should never lead to personal attacks or disrespect towards women and families. Kavitha also made serious allegations regarding the BRS party's finances. She claimed that the party held approximately ₹1,400 crore in fixed deposits and alleged that the funds were accumulated through corruption and quid pro quo arrangements involving contractors during the party's decade-long rule. She further alleged that Telangana's resources and irrigation projects were handed over to contractors from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh in exchange for political and financial benefits. Demanding that the money be confiscated, Kavitha said it should instead be distributed among the families of those who sacrificed their lives during the Telangana statehood movement, proposing financial assistance of ₹1 crore for each martyr's family. She also levelled allegations against KTR and former minister Harish Rao, claiming that questionable favours had been extended to private companies and contractors. Among her allegations, she claimed that ₹188 crore was spent to acquire the English newspaper The Pioneer to influence media coverage, and alleged that Harish Rao had business links benefiting private educational institutions. These allegations have not been independently verified, and the BRS leaders have not publicly responded to the specific claims at the time of reporting. Kavitha announced that if her party comes to power, it would order a comprehensive inquiry into land allocations made since 2014, including those during both the previous BRS government and the current Congress administration. She also accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil its promise of providing pensions to the families of Telangana martyrs and urged both the ruling party and the BRS to ensure justice for those who sacrificed their lives for statehood. Kavitha's remarks have triggered fresh political controversy in Telangana, deepening the rift between her and the BRS leadership while adding a new dimension to the state's evolving political landscape.



CM Unveils Solar Plant, Pushes Pollution-Free

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday announced that the Telangana Government is working towards transforming the entire area within Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road (ORR) into a pollution-free zone while promoting sustainable industrial growth outside the city. He said the initiative is aimed at improving the quality of life for the 1.35 crore people living in the 2,100-square-kilometre core urban region. The Chief Minister, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, inaugurated a 5.6 GW solar module manufacturing unit established by Premier Energies at Sitarampur in Ranga Reddy district. During the visit, he inspected the company's advanced solar module manufacturing facility and viewed the innovative 'Oxy-Tree', a solar-powered street lighting and air purification system designed to improve urban air quality.

Addressing a gathering after the inauguration, Revanth Reddy said Hyderabad must avoid the environmental challenges currently faced by major metropolitan cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. He noted that delayed policy decisions had resulted in severe pollution and urban management issues in those cities.

The Chief Minister said industrial areas such as Jeedimetla and Balanagar, along with pollution in the Musi River, have created serious environmental concerns in Hyderabad. To address these challenges, the State Government has enacted legislation to relocate industries outside the ORR and develop a dedicated peri-urban economic region as a modern manufacturing zone. He said industries shifting from the city's core areas would be allotted land in the new manufacturing zone, allowing Hyderabad to reduce pollution while



encouraging industrial expansion in planned locations. Congratulating Premier Energies, he said the company had become the first enterprise to commence operations in the new manufacturing zone, establishing its facility within just 12 months.

Revanth Reddy said the government's "Telangana Rising 2047" vision aims to transform the state into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 through balanced regional development. He explained that Telangana's develop-

ment strategy is based on three regional growth models-CURE, PURE, and RARE-designed to ensure sustainable economic progress. Highlighting employment generation, the Chief Minister said the government is strengthening skill development by expanding Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs), polytechnic colleges, and the proposed Skills University to equip youth with industry-relevant skills. He stressed that while white-collar employment opportunities remain limited, skilled blue-

collar jobs will play a crucial role in the state's industrial future.

He also praised Premier Energies for developing environmentally friendly technologies such as the solar-powered Oxy-Tree, saying such innovations can help combat pollution. However, he cautioned that environmental degradation should not reach a stage where artificial systems become the only solution, urging both the government and citizens to work together to protect nature and ensure sustainable urban development.

The programme was attended by Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy, MLA Kale Yadaiah, Premier Energies Chairman Surender Pal Singh Saluja, Managing Director Chiranjeev Singh Saluja, Director Sudheer Moola, Executive Director Revathi Rohini, senior government officials, and company representatives.

Governor Reviews Welfare and Development Initiatives

Hanumakonda/Warangal, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla conducted an extensive visit to Hanumakonda and Warangal districts on Thursday, reviewing welfare initiatives, interacting with officials and beneficiaries, and emphasizing transparent, technology-driven governance aimed at ensuring that government schemes reach every eligible citizen. The Governor began his visit at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal, where he was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the police.

Later, at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) in Hanumakonda, he visited exhibition stalls set up by various government departments and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Interacting with officials and SHG members, he appreciated their initiatives and reviewed products and services displayed at the exhibition. He highlighted the importance of community participation, women's empowerment, and inclusive development in strengthening grassroots governance. Addressing a comprehensive review meeting attended by officials from Hanumakonda



and Warangal districts, Governor Shukla stressed that the true measure of governance lies in ensuring that every welfare initiative reaches the last beneficiary. He urged officials to prioritize quality, transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric service delivery while effectively implementing both Central and State Government welfare programmes.

The Governor also encouraged the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve governance, enhance public services, and build a more efficient administration. During the meeting, he reviewed the implementation of key initiatives,

including TB Mukta Bharat, Pulse Polio, housing schemes, healthcare, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and other welfare programmes. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and continuous improvements in service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Social Welfare Minister Aduri Laxman Kumar, Telangana Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash, State Finance Commission Chairman Sirisilla Rajaiah, MLAs Nayini Rajender Reddy and K.R. Nagaraju, Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal District

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Olympic Aspirations Drive Sports Transformation



Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday unveiled an ambitious road map to transform the state into a premier sporting destination, expressing confidence that Hyderabad is fully preparing to host the 2036 Olympic Games if India secures the global event.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the Gachibowli Sports District and launched the Young India Physical Education and Sports University at the Gachibowli Stadium in the presence of Indian Olympic Association President P.T. Usha, Sports Minister Vakati Srihari, Government Advisor (Sports) A.P. Jitender Reddy, legislators, athletes,

officials, and students. Congratulating the Telangana government, P.T. Usha praised its commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and establishing a dedicated sports university to nurture future champions. Addressing the gathering, Revanth Reddy said Telangana aims to host the 2036 Olympic Games if India wins the bid, while also preparing to conduct the Khelo India Games later this year. He announced that a world-class sports university and high-performance academy would be developed across 82 acres with state-of-the-art facilities, with the university expected to become operational by December 2028. The Chief Minister

Modi Seeks Stronger Uranium Partnership



Melbourne, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Australia has a "historic opportunity" to become a key partner in India's expanding nuclear energy programme by supplying uranium, as he held high-level discussions with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during his visit to Melbourne.

Addressing a business forum ahead of bilateral talks, Modi highlighted India's growing energy requirements and stressed that nuclear power would play a vital role in meeting the country's future electricity demand. He noted that Australia's vast uranium reserves could significantly contribute to India's clean energy ambitions.

"Australia's huge uranium reserves are directly connected to India's nuclear journey. This is a historic opportunity for us to increase our cooperation in this area," Modi said. India has announced plans to substantially increase nuclear power generation in the coming years to support economic growth while reducing carbon emissions. Australia possesses nearly 28 percent of the world's known uranium resources, making it one of the largest potential suppliers. However, exports to India have historically faced legal and political challenges. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese praised Modi's leadership, crediting him with strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. "Your leadership and your personal engagement with Australia has been absolutely

central to this change," Albanese said during the event. The two leaders also shared a light-hearted moment by posing for a selfie before the audience. The visit reflects the growing strategic partnership between India and Australia, encompassing trade, clean energy, critical minerals, defence cooperation, and education.

India's expanding diaspora in Australia has further strengthened people-to-people ties. According to recent Australian statistics, people born in India now constitute the country's largest overseas-born community, surpassing those born in the United Kingdom for the first time. Experts say the demographic shift has significantly deepened social, cultural, and economic links between the two nations.

Prime Minister Modi is also scheduled to address a large community gathering in Melbourne, where organisers expect more than 20,000 members of the Indian diaspora to attend. At the same time, his visit has drawn protests from some advocacy groups. Australia's Alliance Against Islamophobia announced demonstrations outside the venue, raising concerns over minority rights in India, while another group plans to protest against immigration policies. After concluding his engagements in Australia, Prime Minister Modi is scheduled to travel to New Zealand as part of his regional tour aimed at strengthening India's ties with key partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

Nadda Credits Modi for India's Transformation

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers J.P. Nadda on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strengthened India internally while significantly enhancing the country's global stature through a governance model centered on development, accountability, and inclusive growth. Addressing the "Democracy - Diplomacy - Development" conference in Hyderabad, Nadda said the past 12 years under Modi's leadership have marked a shift away from dynastic politics and appeasement towards transparent and development-oriented governance. He said democracy has become more inclusive, benefiting all sec-

tions of society rather than a select few. Highlighting infrastructure development, Nadda said Indian Railways now carries nearly 8 billion passengers annually and has expanded connectivity to remote regions, including Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. He added that under the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," India has extended railway technology and locomotives to neighbouring countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar. He also highlighted India's global humanitarian role during the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that the Vaccine Maitri initiative supplied vaccines to 100 countries, including free doses to 45 nations, demonstrating



India's commitment to global welfare. Listing the Centre's achievements, Nadda said over 4.3 lakh kilometres of rural roads have been constructed, ₹51 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, and leakages worth ₹4.3 lakh crore have been eliminated. He added that 12 crore

toilets were built under the Swachh Bharat Mission and that Telangana alone has produced 17.17 lakh Lakhpati Didis under women's empowerment initiatives. The Union Minister said 62 crore people are covered under the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, while the Vayo Vandana Yojana now provides free healthcare for citizens aged

above 70 years. He also said AIIMS Bibinagar is being developed into a world-class medical institution with an investment of nearly ₹1,000 crore.

Nadda further stated that the Centre has allocated ₹2.74 lakh crore as Telangana's share of central taxes, ₹1.74 lakh crore for national highways, and ₹44,400 crore for power projects. He criticized both the Congress government in Telangana and the previous BRS administration over governance and development issues.

Concluding his address, Nadda called upon intellectuals and citizens to contribute towards Prime Minister Modi's vision of transforming India into a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

Telangana Olympic Bhavan Inaugurated



Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Olympic Association's new building, Telangana Olympic Bhavan, was inaugurated at L.B. Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday by Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President Dr. P.T. Usha. The ceremony was attended by Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports Vakiti Srihari, Government Advisor A.P. Jitender Reddy, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, Managing Director Soni Baladevi, office-bearers of the Telangana Olympic Association, athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts. Addressing the gathering, Dr. P.T. Usha described the inauguration of the Telangana Olympic Bhavan as a landmark moment in the state's sporting history. She said the building would serve not merely as an administrative office but as a centre for nurturing young talent, strengthening the Olympic movement, and inspiring future generations of athletes. She praised the Telangana Government for prioritizing sports development through improved infrastructure, athlete support, and initiatives aimed at producing world-class sportspersons. Congratulating Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, the Telangana Olympic Association, and everyone involved in the project, she emphasized that transparency, accountability, and fairness should remain the foundation of the Olympic movement, with athletes' welfare always taking precedence.

Dr. Usha also expressed gratitude to coaches, technical experts, officials, volunteers, and support staff for their invaluable contribution to the success of Indian athletes. Encouraging young sportspersons, she urged them to believe in themselves, remain disciplined, and pursue their dreams with dedication and hard work, noting that every champion's journey begins with a dream. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vakiti Srihari recalled the achievements of legendary athletes Milkha Singh and P.T. Usha, saying they had elevated India's reputation through their international success. He observed that despite increased government support and improved sports infrastructure, many young people remain distracted from competitive sports and spend more time seeking recognition on social media.

The Minister urged youth to dedicate themselves fully to their chosen sport, stressing that true success comes only through commitment, discipline, and perseverance. He said the Telangana Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and creating greater opportunities for athletes. He called upon young sportspersons to make full use of these opportunities, compete for the nation, and bring international glory to Telangana and India.

Uttam Urges Farmers to Adopt Water-Smart Crops

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

With the possibility of El Niño affecting rainfall patterns, Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday urged farmers to adopt alternative crops based on water availability and scientific advisories rather than relying on traditional cropping patterns.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Minister said the State Government is fully prepared to address any challenges arising from changing weather conditions and assured farmers that there is no need to panic.

Uttam Kumar Reddy stressed that farmers should make cultivation decisions only after considering rainfall forecasts, weather warnings, and advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). He appealed to cultivators not to



be misled by rumours and instead follow the guidance provided by government departments and agricultural scientists.

The review meeting focused on El Niño conditions, rainfall trends, water availability, reservoir management, and agricultural preparedness. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Irrigation Department Principal Secretary E. Sridhar, Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas, Engineer-in-Chief Ramesh Babu, and Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan attended

the meeting, while Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao and Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju participated through video conferencing.

Following the review, the Minister held a video conference with District Collectors and senior officials from the Irrigation, Agriculture, and Horticulture departments, directing them to prepare district-specific action plans based on local water availability and rainfall conditions.

Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to contin-

uously monitor rainfall, groundwater levels, reservoir storage, and irrigation resources in every district. Based on these assessments, he said, crop plans should be prepared to ensure efficient use of available water resources.

He advised officials to encourage the cultivation of alternative crops that require less water instead of highly water-intensive crops. To ensure farmers receive timely information, he directed departments to conduct extensive awareness campaigns through Gram Sabhas, Rythu Vedikas, and field-level extension programmes.

The Minister also emphasized stronger coordination among the Meteorological, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Irrigation departments to ensure that scientific information reaches farmers quickly and accurately. He said farmers should receive region-specific advice from agricultural experts and be

provided with transparent information on reservoir storage levels so they can plan cultivation accordingly. He instructed irrigation officials to make all necessary arrangements for filling major reservoirs in the Godavari basin, including the Sripada Yellampalli Project, as soon as rainfall begins in Maharashtra and Karnataka. He also directed officials to ensure an adequate supply of seeds and fertilizers and asked district administrations to remain vigilant to prevent any inconvenience to farmers.

Reiterating the government's commitment to protecting the farming community, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana is adopting a coordinated, scientific approach to mitigate the impact of El Niño. He assured farmers that the government is closely monitoring the situation and taking proactive measures to safeguard agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods.

Ministers Seek Industry Support for Indiramma Housing



Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Thursday appealed to steel and cement manufacturers to partner with the State Government in the implementation of the Indiramma Houses scheme by supplying construction materials at reduced prices. The appeal was made during a meeting held at the State Secretariat with representatives of steel and cement industries to discuss the pricing, supply, and availability of materials required for the state's flagship housing programme. Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said the Indiramma housing scheme, launched under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is aimed at fulfilling the dream of home ownership for economically weaker families. They described the programme as more than a housing initiative, calling it a mission to provide dignity, social security, and self-respect to the poor. The ministers informed industry representatives that 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses have been sanctioned across Telangana, excluding Hyderabad, in the first phase. They said roof slabs have already been completed for nearly 85 percent of these houses, while the remaining units are progressing at various stages of construction. Under the second phase, the government plans to sanction 2.5 lakh additional houses, including 2,000 houses in every Assembly constituency, besides one lakh houses under the Comprehensive Urban Renewal (CURE) programme. Tribal constituencies will receive an additional 1,000 to 1,500 houses, while further sanctions will continue in the third and fourth phases. The ministers emphasized that Telangana is providing ₹5 lakh financial assistance for each house as a 100 percent government subsidy, describing it as one of the country's most ambitious housing initiatives. They said beneficiary payments are being released transparently every Monday based on construction progress. Responding positively to the government's appeal, representatives of the steel and cement industries expressed their willingness to cooperate by supplying materials at concessional rates. The ministers urged officials from the Housing and Industries departments to coordinate with industry representatives and prepare a roadmap to ensure timely delivery of construction materials to beneficiaries. Housing Secretary V.P. Gautham, Special Secretary (Industries) Krishnaditya, TGIIC Managing Director Shashanka, industry representatives, and senior officials attended the meeting.

Sridhar Babu Invites Investors to Telangana

Ranga Reddy, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Thursday said the state is committed to becoming a global hub for clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and innovation, urging industries to manufacture world-class products in Telangana for global markets. Speaking at the inauguration of Premier Energies' India's Next-Generation Solar Module Manufacturing Facility at Sitarampur in Shabad Mandal of Ranga Reddy district, the Minister said attracting investments alone is not enough and stressed that companies must establish manufacturing units that strengthen the global reputation of the "Made in Telangana" brand. He said the decision of Premier Energies to establish its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Telangana reflects the grow-

ing confidence of investors in the state's industrial policies and governance. According to the Minister, the government's "Telangana Rising-2047" vision aims to transform the state into a leading destination for clean energy, advanced manufacturing, innovation, and sustainable economic growth. Sridhar Babu said the government is giving priority to renewable energy, battery energy storage systems, green hydrogen, and advanced manufacturing through its Clean and Green Energy Policy. He noted that the global transition toward clean energy presents enormous opportunities for Telangana. Referring to industry projections, the Minister said global energy investments are expected to reach \$3.4 trillion this year, with nearly \$2.2 trillion directed toward clean energy. He added that India's electricity demand is expected to rise

sharply due to the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, data centres, and electric vehicles, creating significant opportunities in solar energy and battery storage. To capitalize on this growth, he said Telangana is developing a comprehensive ecosystem focused on solar power, energy storage, and green technologies while creating a business-friendly environment for investors. Inviting entrepreneurs to establish industries in the state, Sridhar Babu said Telangana offers a unique combination of visionary governance, rapid industrial growth, and investment-friendly policies. He also announced that the government would clear pending industrial subsidies dating back to 2017 in a phased manner and resolve issues faced by farmers who had surrendered land for the Sitarampur industrial project at the earliest.

Centre Commits to Strengthening Singareni: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Thursday said the Central Government is committed to securing the long-term future of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), stating that the allocation of the Tadicherla-II and Naini coal blocks would ensure the company's growth, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen Telangana's energy security. Addressing a media conference at Taj Deccan in Hyderabad, the Union Minister described Singareni as the "energy lifeline" of Telangana and South India. He said nearly 75,000 employees work directly for the company, while around 10 lakh people depend on it indirectly for their livelihoods across the erstwhile districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, and Khammam. Kishan Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the allocation of the Tadicherla-II coal block after considering



representations from workers' unions, engineers' associations, public representatives, and various stakeholders. He said the decision was taken to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies for electricity generation and industrial growth. The Minister stated that the Tadicherla-II block contains 434 million tonnes of high-grade coal, while the Naini block in Odisha has reserves of 455 million tonnes, taking Singareni's combined reserves in the two blocks to nearly 795 million tonnes. He said the projects are expected to generate an estimated turnover of ₹5.25 lakh crore over the coming decades and provide direct employment to more than 3,500 people, besides sup-

porting infrastructure development. Kishan Reddy also urged the Telangana Government to clear ₹54,148 crore in alleged outstanding dues owed to Singareni, including payments for coal supplied and electricity generated by the company's thermal power plant. He alleged that arrears accumulated during both the previous BRS government and the current Congress administration have affected the company's financial position. The Union Minister further said the Centre's objective is to strengthen Singareni rather than politicize the issue. He maintained that the coal block allocations were made in accordance with legal provisions and national policy.

Special Officers to Inspect Hyderabad Basti Dawakhanas

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has announced a comprehensive inspection drive across the city's 169 Basti Dawakhanas to strengthen primary healthcare services and ensure effective disease prevention during the monsoon season. The Minister said special officers have been appointed to conduct field-level inspections on July 10 to assess the functioning of the neighbourhood clinics and evaluate the quality of medical services being provided to the public. The initiative is aimed at improving healthcare delivery and ensuring that all facilities are fully prepared to handle the rise in seasonal illnesses such as dengue, malaria, and viral fevers. Ponnamp Prabhakar stated that he, along with GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan and Hyderabad District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala, will personally inspect selected Basti Dawakhanas over the next two to three days to monitor the implementation of healthcare services and coordinate with officials on strengthening the facilities. The Minister said the inspections would focus on ensuring that every Basti Dawakhana is equipped to provide timely and quality medical care. Officials have been directed to verify the availability of doctors, nurses, and supporting staff while reviewing the adequacy of medicine stocks, laboratory services, sanitation standards, and basic infrastructure. He instructed officials to identify shortcomings during the inspections and take immediate corrective measures wherever deficiencies are found. The government, he said, is committed to ensuring uninterrupted healthcare services and improving patient care across all neighbourhood clinics. Highlighting the importance of Basti Dawakhanas, Ponnamp Prabhakar said these clinics have become a vital part of Hyderabad's public healthcare system by providing accessible and affordable primary medical services close to residential areas. He emphasized that the government is giving top priority to protecting public health during the monsoon, when the incidence of vector-borne and seasonal diseases generally increases. The Minister also called upon elected representatives, including MLAs, MLCs, MPs, corporators, and other public representatives, to visit Basti Dawakhanas in their respective constituencies. He urged them to review the facilities, interact with patients and healthcare staff, and work in coordination with officials to ensure quality medical services are delivered efficiently. Reaffirming the government's commitment to public welfare, Ponnamp Prabhakar said the Congress government places the highest priority on public health and is continuously taking measures to make Basti Dawakhanas more effective and responsive to people's healthcare needs. He expressed confidence that the special inspection drive would further strengthen the functioning of these neighbourhood clinics and help safeguard citizens from seasonal diseases during the ongoing monsoon season.



Revanth Urges Opposition to Let Government Work

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau
Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday called on opposition parties to allow the Telangana government to function without constant political confrontation, saying the people's mandate should be respected until the next election cycle. He made the remarks while inaugurating Premier Energies' "India's Next-Gen Solar Module Manufacturing Facility" on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said political battles should be fought during elections and urged the opposition not to display "impatience" after losing power. "We will do politics ahead of elections. Let the government work for some time. People have given their mandate for five years. We can debate our respective performances before the next elections," he said. His comments come amid an ongoing war of words between the ruling Congress and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)



over alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project and the debt burden inherited from the previous government. Revanth Reddy reiterated the government's long-term vision of transforming Telangana into a global economic powerhouse. He said the state aims to compete with advanced economies such as South Korea and China and achieve a

USD 3 trillion economy by 2047 through industrial growth, infrastructure development, and sustainable policies. Highlighting improvements in the education sector, the Chief Minister said Telangana has made significant progress in national rankings. Referring to reports of Central government agencies, he stated that the state had moved from the 36th position in education in 2023 to the 18th position under the current administration. He added that the government's objective is to place Telangana among the top-performing states in the country. Congratulating Premier Energies and the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC), Revanth Reddy praised the rapid completion of the solar manufacturing facility within just one year. He directed officials to showcase the project to prospective investors as an example of Telangana's ability to facilitate quick industrial establishment. The Chief Minister noted that the

factory has been established in the government's designated Peri Urban Region (PURE) manufacturing zone, which is part of the broader "Telangana Rising 2047" vision to promote advanced manufacturing and clean energy industries. Drawing lessons from the challenges faced by major metropolitan cities, Revanth Reddy cited severe air pollution in Delhi, flooding in Mumbai, and chronic traffic congestion in Bengaluru as examples of the consequences of delayed urban planning. He said the Telangana government is determined to prevent similar problems by making Hyderabad a pollution-free city through sustainable development, planned industrial expansion outside the Outer Ring Road, and environmentally responsible urban infrastructure. The Chief Minister emphasized that timely planning and coordinated governance would ensure Hyderabad remains a globally competitive and livable city for future generations.

Olympic Aspirations Drive Sports Transformation

continued
said India has long lacked a comprehensive sports policy, prompting Telangana to introduce its own dedicated framework to promote sporting excellence. He explained that the Young India Sports University draws inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's historic Young India publication and will function under a public-private partnership model with complete operational autonomy. He said the university would be guided by prominent personalities, including Sanjay Goenka, Abhinav Bindra, Kapil Dev, Kavya Maran, Upasana Konidela, and Ravikanth Reddy, while the government would extend full support without interfering in its administration. Revanth Reddy also announced plans to revive Hyderabad's sporting legacy by modernizing stadiums that once hosted international events such as the Afro-Asian Games and World Military Games. He noted that many of these facilities had remained underutilized over the past two decades and would now be restored for sporting purposes. Encouraging young athletes, the Chief Minister said excellence in sports offers opportunities equal to academic success. He assured that the state government would provide government employment to outstanding sportspersons who bring laurels to Telangana and India. He urged athletes to remain focused and resilient, saying temporary setbacks should be treated as motivation rather than failure. "Success comes through discipline, dedication, and perseverance," he said. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced cash incentives totaling ₹7.15 crore for six distinguished athletes from Telangana. The awardees included shooter Dhanush Srikanth, boxer Nikhat Zareen, shooter Esha Singh, para-athlete Deepthi Diwanji, shooter Tanishq Muralidhar Naidu, and shooter Ravuri Surabhi Bharadwaj for their outstanding achievements in international competitions. The government also announced that Telangana will host several major sporting events, including the 2026 Khelo India Youth Games, the National Inter-District Junior Athletics Meet, the Hockey India League, the World Pickleball League, the Archery Premier League, and the Tennis Premier League. The Chief Minister also launched the "Telangana Sports Knowledge on Wheels" initiative, aimed at promoting sports awareness and nurturing talent across the state. He expressed confidence that these initiatives would help Telangana emerge as one of India's leading sporting hubs while strengthening the country's Olympic aspirations.

Governor Reviews Welfare and Development Initiatives

continued
Collector Dr. Satya Sharada, Warangal Police Commissioner Swetha, and senior government officials. As part of his visit, the Governor also visited the Indian Red Cross Society in Hanumakonda, where he interacted with thalassemia patients, distributed fruits, and reviewed the services of the Blood Centre. He laid the foundation stone for a Thalassaemia Parents' Lounge, aimed at providing comfort and support to caregivers of children undergoing treatment. Accompanied by Ministers Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Seethakka, the Governor later visited the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Centre of Excellence for Girls in Hanumakonda. He encouraged students to pursue academic excellence, develop self-confidence, and contribute meaningfully to society while appreciating the institution's efforts in providing quality education to tribal girls. The Governor concluded his visit by offering prayers at the revered Sri Bhadrakali Temple along with his spouse, Smt. Janaki Shukla, seeking the blessings of Goddess Bhadrakali. The visit reaffirmed the Governor's emphasis on inclusive development, effective governance, and strengthening public welfare across Telangana.

Konda Surekha Seeks Action Against Kadiyam Srihari

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Minister Konda Surekha met Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday and submitted a formal complaint against Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, seeking disciplinary action at the party level. According to party sources, Surekha alleged that Kadiyam Srihari had been repeatedly targeting her and creating difficulties in district-level political affairs. She urged the TPCC chief to intervene and take appropriate action to resolve the issue. During the meeting, the minister informed Mahesh Kumar Goud that she had already brought the matter to the notice of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and had lodged a complaint regarding the ongoing differences. Responding to her concerns, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud assured the minister that the party leadership would look into the matter seriously. He said efforts would be made to resolve the dispute between Konda Surekha and Kadiyam Srihari through internal discussions. Mahesh Kumar Goud also assured Surekha that the Congress leadership would take a decision on the issue at the earliest after examining all aspects of the matter. The meeting comes amid reports of growing differences between the two senior Congress leaders over political developments in the district. The party leadership is expected to mediate and find an amicable solution to prevent the dispute from affecting the party's organizational activities.



Seethakka Urges Financially Strong Gram Panchayats

Mulugu, July 09 | TPN Bureau
Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Thursday emphasized the need to strengthen gram panchayats financially, stating that planned governance and prudent utilization of funds are crucial for sustainable rural development. Addressing a training programme for newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and gram panchayat secretaries at Leela Garden in Mulugu, the minister said village representatives play a vital role in grassroots governance and must have a clear understanding of administrative procedures, financial regulations, and development planning. The training programme was organized to familiarize local body

representatives with gram panchayat laws, governance practices, financial management, village development planning, implementation of action plans, and transparent administration. Seethakka stressed that development activities should be carried out based on annual action plans prepared through Gram Sabhas, ensuring active participation of local communities in decision-making and implementation. She said public involvement is essential to achieve meaningful and sustainable development in villages. Referring to the upcoming 16th Finance Commission grants, the minister urged sarpanches to thoroughly understand the guidelines governing fund utilization, eligible works, and expenditure norms.

She observed that inadequate awareness of financial regulations had resulted in procedural violations and administrative issues in some gram panchayats. She explained that separate rules apply to tied funds, untied funds, State Finance Commission grants, and panchayats' own revenues, emphasizing that each category of funds must be utilized strictly for its intended purpose. The minister also encouraged village bodies to improve tax and fee collection to enhance their financial independence and reduce dependence on external assistance. Highlighting key priorities under the Gram Panchayat Development Plan, Seethakka called for greater focus on drinking water supply,

sanitation, solid waste management, street lighting, plantation, environmental protection, village roads, drainage systems, and public health. She further clarified that funds allocated through MLAs, ministers, and various government schemes are governed by separate guidelines and should not be merged with gram panchayat funds. All grants, she said, must be utilized transparently and in accordance with prescribed norms to ensure accountability and effective rural development. The minister urged local representatives to work with dedication and responsibility to transform villages into models of inclusive, sustainable, and people-centric development.

Ponnam Urges Students to Fight Paper Leaks

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in the "Chhatron Ka Goonj" student interaction programme organized by the Youth Congress at SVL Arena in L.B. Nagar on Wednesday. Addressing students, the Minister called for united efforts to protect the future of the country's youth and stressed the need for comprehensive reforms in the education system. Interacting with students, Ponnam Prabhakar said that when young people dedicate months and years to preparing for competitive examinations, paper leaks caused by government negligence and incompetence can shatter their aspirations. He alleged that repeated examination irregularities have created uncertainty and frustration among students across the country. The Minister said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has consistently advocated for an education system that is transparent, fair, and student-centric. He urged students to actively participate in the movement for educational reforms, stat-



ing that the future of India should be shaped through the ideas and aspirations of students and their parents. Recalling his own political journey, Ponnam Prabhakar said he began as a college student leader and later served as an NSUI president before re-

becoming a Member of Parliament and now a Minister. He encouraged students to believe in their ability to bring about meaningful social and political change, emphasizing that the student community has historically played a decisive role in transforming society. Criticizing the Union Government, the Minister alleged that corruption and repeated paper leaks under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have undermined the confidence of students. He called upon young people to join the struggle to protect the Constitution, democracy, and equal opportunities in education. Ponnam Prabhakar also demanded that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accept responsibility for the repeated examination paper leaks, apologize to students across the country, and resign from his post. He concluded by urging students to support Rahul Gandhi's campaign to ensure a transparent examination system and secure the future of India's youth.

Vaddiraju Meets KCR After Rajya Sabha Role



Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau
BRS Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra on Thursday paid a courtesy visit to BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) after being appointed as the party's Floor Leader in the Rajya Sabha. During the meeting, KCR handed over the official letter addressed to the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General regarding the appointment. Ravichandra expressed his gratitude to the party chief for entrusting him with the responsibility and assured him of fulfilling the role effectively. KCR felicitated the MP with a shawl and extended his best wishes for his new assignment in Parliament.

Kavitha Raises Singareni Workers' Issues at PVK-5 Mine

Kothagudem, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday visited the PVK-5 coal mine in Kothagudem as part of the second phase of her 'Baayibaata' (Mine-Visit) programme, where she interacted with Singareni workers, inspected mining operations, and discussed their concerns. During the visit, she reiterated her commitment to protecting workers' rights and announced that she would intensify her agitation if their demands remained unresolved. Addressing miners and union representatives, Kavitha said she has consistently fought for the welfare of Singareni employees both before and after the formation of Telangana. She said the newly formed Telangana Rakshana Sena was committed to safeguarding workers' interests and sought the blessings and support of the mining community. Kavitha thanked HMS President Riaz for standing by her during difficult times and praised his efforts in raising issues concerning Singareni workers. She also welcomed former minister Boda Janardhan into her party, stating that their combined experience would strengthen the movement for workers' welfare. The TRS chief alleged that the dependent employment scheme in Singareni has suffered setbacks under the present Congress government. She recalled that after Telangana's formation, medical boards were held twice every month, enabling nearly 20,000 eligible dependents to secure employment in Singareni. However, she claimed that during the Congress government's tenure, only one medical board had been conducted in the last 30 months. She further alleged irregularities in that process, claiming that only four appointments were made out of 54 eligible applicants. Kavitha demanded that medical boards be conducted at least twice a month until the pending cases are cleared and at least once every month thereafter. Warning the government, she said she would begin a hunger strike on July 20 if an official announcement on restoring regular medical boards was not issued before then.



Commissioner Takes 'One Day-One Ward'

Quthbullapur, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. G. Srujana, IAS, on Thursday conducted an extensive inspection of Gajulararam Ward (278) under Circle-57 as part of the 'One Day-One Ward' initiative, aimed at addressing public grievances through direct interaction with residents at the grassroots level. Accompanied by Kutbullapur Zonal Commissioner Pinkesh Kumar, IAS, the Commissioner visited various localities in the ward and held a special meeting with Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) representatives at Ushodaya Colony Park to understand civic



issues firsthand. During the interaction, residents highlighted several long-pending concerns, including the construction and repair of cement concrete (CC) and bituminous (BT) roads, development of footpaths, modernization of parks, maintenance of streetlights, installation of new electric poles, delays in

obtaining building construction permissions, removal of encroachments, and improvement of sanitation services. With the monsoon season underway, residents also urged the civic authorities to intensify mosquito-control measures by conducting regular fogging and anti-larval operations. They further

requested frequent sanitation drives to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases and ensure cleaner neighbourhoods.

Dr. Srujana patiently heard the grievances presented by the residents and instructed officials from the concerned departments to take immediate action wherever possible. She assured the public that all issues would be addressed in a phased manner based on priority and that development works would be expedited to improve civic infrastructure and public services.

The Commissioner reiterated that the 'One Day-One Ward' programme has been introduced to strengthen public participation in governance by taking the

administration directly to the people instead of limiting grievance redressal to office premises. She emphasized that regular field visits help officials better understand local needs and ensure quicker resolution of civic issues.

The inspection was attended by Gajulararam Circle Deputy Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu, Deputy Executive Engineer (SWS) Nikhil Reddy, UBD Manager Vijaya Rani, Deputy Executive Engineer (Engineering) Mahadev Anurag, Project Officer Mallikarjuna, and other officials from various municipal departments. They reviewed the issues raised during the visit and assured residents of prompt follow-up action.

P.T. Usha Meets CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President and Rajya Sabha Member P.T. Usha paid a courtesy call on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during her visit to Hyderabad on Thursday. The meeting took place at the MCRHRD Bodhi Pavilion, where the two discussed sports development and related initiatives in the state. P.T. Usha is in Hyderabad to participate in the inauguration of the Gachibowli Sports District and the Young India Physical Education and Sports University (YIPESU). The courtesy meeting highlighted the state's focus on strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting excellence in athletics.



Illegal Building Floors Demolished

Quthbullapur, July 09 | TPN Bureau

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) on Thursday intensified its drive against unauthorized constructions by demolishing illegally built portions of residential buildings in Sriram Nagar under the Gajulararam Circle. According to officials, the action was taken after property owners failed to comply with notices issued for constructing additional floors and structures beyond the sanctioned building plans. Demolition teams used heavy machinery to remove the unauthorized portions in the presence of civic and police officials. The municipal authorities said the operation forms part of an ongoing campaign to curb illegal constructions and ensure strict enforcement of town planning regulations across the corporation limits. Speaking during the demolition drive, Gajulararam Circle Deputy Commissioner U. Venkat Ramulu warned that there would be no relaxation for those violating approved building permissions. "We will take stringent action against anyone carrying out construction without approval or deviating from sanctioned plans. Notices will be issued as per the provisions of town planning laws, and if violations are not rectified, demolitions and other legal proceedings will follow," he said. Officials urged property owners and builders to obtain all necessary approvals before undertaking any construction work and to strictly adhere to the sanctioned plans to avoid legal action. The demolition operation was carried out under the supervision of Town Planning Section (TPS) official Saritha, with support from the Special Task Force, local police personnel, and town planning staff, who ensured the smooth execution of the drive. The civic authorities reiterated that inspections and enforcement activities against unauthorized constructions will continue across the municipality to promote planned urban development and prevent illegal building activity.



Student Unions Call Education Bandh

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Several student unions in Telangana have called for a statewide bandh of educational institutions on Friday, July 10, urging schools, colleges, and universities from KG to PG to remain closed in protest against what they describe as the government's failure to address long-pending issues in the education sector. The bandh has been announced by left-affiliated student organizations, including the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Federation (AISF), Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU), and All India Democratic Students Organisation

(AIDSO). Ahead of the protest, student leaders organized a rally in Hyderabad on Thursday, marching from the 'Y' Junction to Narayanaguda Crossroads and appealing to students, parents, and educational institutions to support the shutdown. Addressing the gathering, student union leaders criticized the Congress government, alleging that despite being in power for nearly two years, it has not appointed a full-fledged Education Minister. They also claimed that the government is planning to close around 23,000 government schools, while failing to strengthen public education infrastructure.



The leaders further alleged that despite announcements on Artificial Intelligence and Finland-style education reforms, many government and residential educational institutions continue to lack basic facilities, including

permanent buildings, classrooms, and computer laboratories.

Student organizations also expressed concern over the alleged non-release of ₹10,814 crore in pending fee reimbursement and scholar-

ship dues over the past six years. They claimed that the delay has prevented many students from obtaining their academic certificates and accused the government of attempting to dilute the fee reimbursement scheme through G.O. Nos. 7, 8, and 9. They also demanded action against excessive fees charged by private educational institutions.

The student unions appealed to students, parents, and the public to participate in the statewide bandh to press for reforms and protect the interests of the education sector. The government had not issued an official response to these allegations at the time of reporting.

Strict Action Against Minors Driving Vehicles



Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Transport Department has issued a stern warning to vehicle owners and parents, stating that strict legal action will be taken if minors are found driving motor vehicles. Officials urged parents not to hand over vehicles to underage children, emphasizing that such violations endanger both the rider and the public.

According to the department, Section 199 of the Motor Vehicles Act provides for stringent action against vehicle owners who permit minors to drive. If a minor is caught driving, the vehicle's registration certificate (RC) can be suspended or cancelled for 12 months, and legal proceedings may be initiated against the owner or guardian.

Officials also stated that minors found violating the law will not be eligible to obtain a driving licence until they reach the age prescribed under the applicable legal provisions. The department noted that action had already been taken in several cases across the state and revealed that 4,070 vehicle registrations were cancelled last year for allowing minors to drive. The warning comes amid growing concern over underage driving and dangerous riding practices. Authorities said many school and college students are frequently seen riding motorcycles without valid licences, often performing risky stunts, speeding, and carrying multiple passengers, increasing the risk of fatal accidents.

Under the Motor Vehicles Act, only individuals who have completed 18 years of age are eligible to obtain a licence to drive motor vehicles. Despite this, officials observed that several underage students continue to drive on public roads.

The Transport Department said it is working in coordination with the police to create awareness about road safety while simultaneously enforcing traffic regulations. Parents were urged to act responsibly and ensure that minors do not drive vehicles, warning that violations would attract strict penalties, including cancellation of vehicle registration and other legal action.

Engineering Student Dies at Unauthorized Waterfall



Mulugu, July 09 | TPN Bureau

An 18-year-old engineering student drowned after slipping into the waters of an unauthorized waterfall in Mulugu district, highlighting growing safety concerns over monsoon tourism in the region.

The deceased was identified as Yadavibhav Kumar, a first-year B.Tech student from Siddipet district. He had visited Masaloddi Waterfall, located near Dulapuram village in Wajedu mandal, along with six friends when the tragedy occurred.

According to eyewitnesses and police, Vaibhav Kumar slipped while descending towards the waterfall to enjoy the scenic surroundings and fell into the water. Young men present at the spot immediately jumped in

and pulled him out before administering CPR.

He was rushed on a motorcycle to the Government Hospital in Wajedu. Police said that emergency resuscitation efforts continued at the hospital, where a staff nurse performed CPR. As his condition remained critical, he was referred to the Government Hospital in Eturunagar for advanced treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries while being shifted.

Police and Forest Department officials reached the scene, shifted the body to the Wajedu Government Hospital for a post-mortem examination, and registered a case. An investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances of the incident.

The accident has once again drawn attention to the dan-

gers of visiting unauthorized waterfalls during the monsoon. Mulugu district has nine waterfalls, but the Forest Department currently permits tourists to visit only Bogatha Waterfalls. Officials have repeatedly warned visitors against entering restricted waterfalls due to the risk of flash currents, slippery rocks, and the absence of safety infrastructure.

Local residents have urged authorities to strengthen safety measures by installing warning signboards, increasing surveillance, and regulating tourist movement. Police and Forest Department officials have appealed to the public to follow safety guidelines and avoid visiting unauthorized waterfalls to prevent further loss of life during the rainy season.

Couple Booked in RS.6 Crore Cancer Fund Fraud Case

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A couple has been booked by the Madhuranagar Police in Hyderabad for allegedly cheating a builder of ₹6 crore by falsely claiming that the money was needed for cancer treatment and later using the funds to purchase assets. According to police, the case was registered based on a complaint filed by builder Malli Ramakrishna Reddy against Vasireddy Swathi and her husband Sujith. In his complaint, the builder

alleged that the couple convinced him that Swathi was battling cancer and urgently required financial assistance for medical treatment. Trusting their claims, he allegedly provided them with substantial sums of money after they assured him that the amount would either be repaid or compensated through gold or land of equivalent value.

The complainant further alleged that when he later demanded repayment, the couple threatened him by



claiming they would leave behind a suicide note and implicate him and his family members in false criminal cases.

Police said the complaint also alleges that the accused diverted the money to pur-

chase land, gold, a car, and other assets, registering several of them in the names of their family members instead of using the funds for medical treatment. It is also reported that Sujith is employed as a manager at a

reputed jewellery show-

room. Based on the complaint, the Madhuranagar Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Officials said they are examining financial transactions, property records, and other documentary evidence to verify the allegations and determine whether the funds were fraudulently obtained and misused. Police added that further legal action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

Four Youths Arrested for Assaulting Head Constable

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Four youths were arrested for allegedly assaulting an on-duty head constable after he asked them to stop consuming alcohol in public and leave the area near the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) gate under the Osmania University Police Station limits in Hyderabad. According to police, the incident occurred around 4 a.m. on Sunday when Head Constable Krishna, who was on patrol duty, noticed the four youths sitting on a car and allegedly drinking alcohol in a public place. He reportedly asked them to disperse and leave the spot. Police said one of the accused, identified as Sai Krishna, who had recently returned to India from Australia, allegedly argued with the head constable. During the altercation, he reportedly questioned the police intervention, claiming that people in foreign countries are not stopped from drinking on the streets. The argument soon escalated, and the remaining three youths allegedly joined Sai Krishna in assaulting the head constable. Krishna sustained serious injuries in the attack and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital by fellow police personnel for treatment.



Gopal Yadav Honoured for South Asian Rockball Gold

Medchal, July 09 | TPN Bureau

National-level Rockball player Itaboyina Gopal Yadav, a native of Pudur village in Medchal district, was felicitated by former Minister and Medchal MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy and Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy for his outstanding contribution to India's gold medal-winning campaign at the South Asian Rockball Tournament held in Nepal from June 28 to July 1.

The legislators honoured Gopal Yadav with a ceremonial shawl and praised him for representing India with distinction on the international stage. They said his achievement had brought immense pride to



Telangana and the nation, adding that his success reflected the growing sporting talent emerging from the state. Speaking on the occasion, the MLAs encouraged young athletes to pursue sports with ded-

ication, discipline, and perseverance. They expressed confidence that Gopal Yadav would continue to excel in future national and international competitions and bring further glory to the country.

An MBA graduate of MLR Institute of Technology (2017-2019 batch), Gopal Yadav was also felicitated by Malkajgiri MLA and MLRIT Founder-Secretary Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, who highlighted the institution's commitment to promoting sporting excellence. He noted that MLRIT had earlier supported Gopal by offering free admission to its MBA programme under the sports quota scholarship, enabling him to balance academics with his sporting career. Rajasekhara Reddy said the institute awards sports scholarships worth nearly ₹1.5 crore annually to talented athletes, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their ambitions. He also cited the achievements

of MLRIT alumna and international boxing champion Nikhat Zareen as an example of the institution's continued support for sportspersons. Expressing gratitude, Gopal Yadav thanked his coaches, mentors, public representatives, and supporters for their encouragement. He said the recognition would inspire him to work harder and aim for greater success in upcoming tournaments. The felicitation ceremony was attended by Coach Lakshman, former District Library Chairman Bhaskar Yadav, local leaders, faculty members, students, alumni, and several sports enthusiasts, who congratulated Gopal Yadav on his remarkable achievement.

Ancient Shiva Temple Near Ramappa Declared National Monument



Mulugu, July 09 | TPN Bureau

An ancient Shaivite temple located adjacent to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ramappa Temple at Palampet in Mulugu district has been declared a Monument of National Importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), marking a significant milestone in the preservation of Kakatiya-era heritage.

The ASI has issued a final gazette notification under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, bringing the centuries-old Shiva temple under central protection. The decision follows directives issued by Yadubir Singh Rawat, Director General of the Union Ministry of Culture. Situated at Survey No. 382/1/2 in Palampet, the temple had fallen into a state of neglect over the years despite its historical and architectural significance. With the latest notification, the ASI will assume responsibility for the restoration, conservation, and security of the monument.

As part of the process, the ASI had issued a preliminary notification on February 16, 2026, inviting public objections for two months. Since no objections were received, the proposal was finalized.

Officials said approximately 0.275 acres surrounding the temple will now be designated as a protected area. No private construction, excavation, or activities that could damage the monument will be permitted within the notified zone.

The ASI is preparing a comprehensive conservation and development plan to restore the temple's architectural grandeur while improving visitor amenities. Authorities believe the restored shrine will enhance the cultural and spiritual experience of the thousands of domestic and international tourists who visit the nearby Ramappa Temple every year.

The recognition is expected to strengthen heritage conservation efforts in the region and showcase another remarkable example of the architectural excellence of the Kakatiya dynasty. Once restoration is completed, the ancient Shiva temple is expected to emerge as an important heritage attraction alongside the world-renowned Ramappa Temple, further promoting cultural tourism in Telangana.

TPCC Leader Targets Harish Rao

Hyderabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) General Secretary Gajjala Kantham on Thursday launched a sharp attack on senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, accusing him of political opportunism and alleging that he lacks the credibility to criticize the Congress government.

Addressing the media, Kantham claimed that Harish Rao had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2018 with ambitions of becoming the Chief Minister. He further alleged that Harish Rao maintained close contacts with BJP leaders and distributed large sums of money during elections using funds allegedly linked to the Kaleshwaram project. He did not provide evidence for these allegations. Kantham also questioned Harish Rao's political journey, claiming he had no significant political background before 2004 and had risen through the support of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He alleged that the Congress Party had played a key role in providing political opportunities to both KCR and Harish Rao in the early stages of their careers. Praising Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Kantham said the Chief Minister had risen through hard work, serving as a ZPTC member, MLA, MP, and eventually Chief Minister, without relying on political sentiment.

The TPCC leader further alleged that Harish Rao had been sidelined within the BRS during its previous term in office and claimed that even the party leadership had questioned his role in projects such as Kaleshwaram and Mission Bhagiratha. These allegations have not been independently verified. Kantham asserted that the people of Telangana would not accept criticism from BRS leaders KCR, K.T. Rama Rao, or Harish Rao, accusing them of misleading the public during their tenure in power.

Newlywed Woman Allegedly Abducted After Inter-Caste Marriage



Medak, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A newlywed woman was allegedly abducted from her husband's residence in Medak district just two days after her inter-caste marriage, prompting a police investigation. The incident took place in Ellapur village of Papannapet Mandal and was reportedly captured on CCTV cameras.

According to police, Pranay, a resident of Ellapur, married a young woman from Salabatpur village in Kowdipalli Mandal on July 6 despite opposition from her family. After the wedding, both families attended a counseling session at the Papannapet Police Station, where the woman reportedly stated that she was a major and had married Pranay of her own free will before returning to her marital home. However, on Wednesday, around 12 to 15 of the bride's relatives, including a woman, allegedly arrived at the groom's house in four cars.

Four Held with 113 kg Ganja

Nalgonda, July 09 | TPN Bureau

Four men from Maharashtra were arrested for allegedly transporting 113 kilograms of ganja worth approximately ₹56 lakh in two cars on the Khammam bypass road, police said on Thursday.

The accused were identified as Ravi Jadev (28), Gopinath Shukle (55), Santhosh Thayappa (40), and Mohan Bheekaji Yadav (36), all residents of Osmanabad district in Maharashtra.

According to Khammam Assistant Commissioner of Police S.V. Ramana Murthy,



the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement Force, along with the Khammam Town-II Police, intercepted the

two vehicles during a routine vehicle inspection on the bypass road. During the search, police dis-

covered 113 kg of ganja concealed in the vehicle dashboards and luggage compartments (dickeys). The contraband was seized, and the four accused were taken into custody. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused had allegedly procured the ganja from a supplier in Alluri Sitarama Raju district of Andhra Pradesh at a lower price. They were reportedly transporting the narcotics to Maharashtra, where they planned to sell them for a higher profit.

Police have identified two additional suspects in the

case. One is Vasu, who is believed to have supplied the ganja from Andhra Pradesh, while the other is Bapu Saheb Yadav, the owner of one of the rented cars used for transportation. Both are currently absconding, and efforts are underway to trace and apprehend them.

A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Police said further investigation is in progress to identify others involved in the interstate drug trafficking network.

Elderly Man Kills Wife, Dies by Suicide

Suryapet, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A 68-year-old man allegedly killed his wife during a family dispute before dying by suicide at Gottiparthi village in Thungathurthi Mandal of Suryapet district, police said on Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Kota Satyanarayana (68) and his wife Kanaka Lakshmi (60), both residents of Gottiparthi village.

According to police, the couple reportedly had a heated argument at their residence late on Wednesday night over



a family-related issue. During the altercation, Satyanarayana allegedly attacked Kanaka Lakshmi

with an iron rod, inflicting fatal head injuries. She died on the spot. Police said Satyanarayana

subsequently died by suicide inside the house. The exact circumstances surrounding his death are under investigation.

The incident came to light on Thursday morning when neighbours noticed that the doors of the house had remained closed for an unusually long time. Growing suspicious, they peeped through a window and found the couple lying motionless inside. They immediately alerted the police.

Personnel from the Thungathurthi Police Station

rushed to the spot, conducted a preliminary investigation, and shifted the bodies to the government hospital for post-mortem examination.

Police said the couple is survived by two sons and a daughter, all of whom live separately.

A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact sequence of events and the circumstances that led to the tragic incident. Police are questioning family members and examining other evidence as part of the probe.

POCSO Undertrial Escapes Jail, Attempts Suicide After Capture Bid

Mahabubnagar, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A security lapse at the Mahabubnagar District Central Jail came to light after an undertrial prisoner booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act escaped from the prison before allegedly attempting suicide when police moved to apprehend him.

The accused, Kishore Kumar Reddy, a resident of Nandimalla village in Atmakur Mandal of Wanaparthy district, was remanded to judicial custody on June 12 following a POCSO



case registered on a complaint lodged by the parents of a minor girl whom he had allegedly married.

According to prison officials,

Kishore escaped in the early hours of Monday by tying together towels near a bathroom wall inside the jail. He allegedly used the improvised

rope to climb the wall and jump over the prison compound. The escape was detected during the 5.30 a.m. prisoner headcount, when Prison Superintendent Shashikanth noticed the undertrial was missing and immediately informed the police.

Following the incident, Prisons DIG Srinivas visited the jail to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the escape and the apparent security breach. Police launched a search operation and traced Kishore to a farm on the outskirts of his native village after local residents alerted authorities

about his presence.

When police attempted to take him into custody, Kishore allegedly consumed pesticide in an attempt to end his life. Officers immediately shifted him to the Government Hospital in Atmakur, from where he was referred to the Wanaparthy District Hospital for advanced treatment.

Police have initiated an investigation into both the jail-break and the circumstances that enabled the escape. Jail authorities are also conducting an internal inquiry to determine whether any negligence or security lapses contributed to the incident.

Stepfather, Mother Accused of Torturing Two Children

Huzurnagar, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A disturbing case of alleged child abuse has come to light in Telangana's Huzurnagar, where a couple is accused of subjecting two young boys to severe physical torture, prompting police intervention and public outrage.

According to local residents, Indu, a native of Khammam district, was initially married to Venkatesh, with whom she had two sons. After Venkatesh died due to illness, she married Nakarikanti Ravi of Huzurnagar in Suryapet district and began living there with her children. Locals alleged that Ravi harbored resentment toward the children from Indu's first marriage and frequently mistreated them.

They further claimed that Indu, influenced by her second husband, also participated in the abuse. The children were allegedly beaten regularly without any apparent reason, had their hands and legs tied, and were reportedly branded with a heated iron ladle. Residents said the children's cries had become a recurring occurrence.

Alarmed by hearing the boys screaming once again, neighbors entered the house and allegedly found the children in a distressed condition. They immediately rescued the boys and took them to the Huzurnagar Police Station. Police summoned the couple for questioning and began examining the allegations. As an interim measure, the children have been placed

under the care of local residents while authorities counsel the parents.

Police warned the couple that strict legal action would be taken if the children were subjected to further abuse. Officials also stated that if the parents fail to change their behavior and ensure the children's safety, the boys could be shifted to a government-recognized child care institution to safeguard their future.

The incident has sparked concern among local residents, who have called for stronger protection mechanisms for vulnerable children and swift action against those responsible for abuse. Police said further action will be taken based on the findings of their inquiry.

Engineer Dies Under Suspicious Circumstances Abroad

Nizamabad, July 09 | TPN Bureau

A 29-year-old mechanical engineer from Telangana's Nizamabad district was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Kuwait, with police suspecting that his body was buried in the desert to conceal the incident.

The deceased was identified as Kailash, a native of Koratpalli Thanda in Dichpally Mandal. He had travelled to Kuwait for employment and was working as a mechanical engineer in the Al Salmi region.

According to police, Kailash had recently become acquainted with a father-and-son duo from the same area who were also residing in Kuwait. On March 19, the duo allegedly took him to a desert site to repair a malfunctioning excavator.

During the repair work, Kailash is believed to have suffered a fatal accident. Instead of reporting the incident to the authorities, the accused allegedly buried his body in the Salmi desert and fled the scene to avoid legal consequences.



After Kailash went missing, his relatives living in Kuwait lodged a missing person complaint. However, the investigation reportedly progressed slowly due to regional tensions prevailing at the time. Police later gathered crucial evidence through CCTV footage and detained one of the suspects, bringing the case to light. Sources said one of the accused, identified as Ganesh, had already returned to his native village in Nizamabad district without arousing suspicion.

Editorial
Regional Sentiment
for Politics, Business
Beyond Borders

Whether one belongs to Telangana or Andhra appears to matter only in politics. For businesspersons and big contractors, however, such distinctions rarely exist. This observation was recently echoed by Pawan Kalyan while responding to criticism over his visit to Telangana. Interestingly, similar sentiments were expressed by Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kavitha, who alleged that business interests often transcend regional boundaries and accused prominent political leaders of maintaining close financial ties with entrepreneurs irrespective of their state identity.

These allegations, whether ultimately proved or disproved, reinforce a reality that the public has witnessed repeatedly. 'Emotions and sentiments seem to be reserved for the people, not for political leaders.' Whenever power and positions are at stake, regional identity becomes a convenient political tool. Dividing people in the name of Andhra and Telangana may yield electoral gains, but it rarely benefits ordinary citizens.

History, however, cannot be ignored. Before the formation of Telangana, there was a widespread perception that leaders and influential businesspersons from Andhra enjoyed disproportionate control over opportunities and resources. That sentiment significantly strengthened the demand for a separate state. Unfortunately, the political movement also created divisions among common people, leading to unnecessary differences between Andhra and Telangana.

Over time, those differences have largely faded. Social media controversies may erupt over issues such as the recent "Idupu Kayitam" debate, but they often disappear as quickly as they emerge. The overwhelming majority of people in both states continue to wish for peace, prosperity, and development for one another. Families, friendships, and business relationships flourish across state boundaries without discrimination.

The irony is unmistakable. While political rhetoric frequently highlights regional identity, economic and commercial partnerships continue without interruption. This exposes the selective use of regional sentiment. Andhra and Telangana are remembered only when political leaders find it electorally advantageous. Beyond politics, the people of both states have demonstrated that cooperation and coexistence remain far stronger than manufactured divisions.

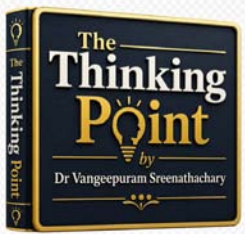
Editor

The Attention Crisis: The Battle For Our Minds

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Every generation has fought a defining battle. Our grandparents fought poverty. Our parents fought for opportunities. This generation may be fighting a quieter but equally significant battle—the battle to protect its attention. In a world overflowing with information, the greatest challenge is no longer finding knowledge but safeguarding the ability to think without constant interruption.

Attention is one of the most valuable human abilities. It is the gateway to learning, creativity, sound judgement, meaningful relationships, and personal fulfilment. Every achievement, every discovery, every work of art, and every scientific breakthrough has been built upon the simple human ability to focus deeply on what truly matters. Yet never before has this precious resource been under such relentless pressure. According to DataReportal's Digital 2025 Global Overview Report, the average internet user now spends nearly 6 hours and 40 minutes online each day, much of it on smartphones and social media. That amounts to almost one-fourth of every day—and nearly one hundred full days in a year. Every interruption may seem insignificant, but together they reshape the brain's habits of attention.

Today, our attention is being pursued by countless competitors. Smartphones vibrate. Notifications demand immediate responses. Social media platforms refresh endlessly. Streaming services automatically play the next video. Advertisements compete for every glance. Artificial intelligence personalises content to keep us engaged for longer. Every digital platform is designed to capture a few more seconds of our time. Individually, these interruptions may appear harmless. Together, they quietly reshape the way we think, learn, work, and live.

The modern economy is no

longer driven only by products or services; it is increasingly driven by attention. Technology companies invest enormous resources to capture human attention and prolong screen time. The competition is no longer merely for customers—it is for human attention. Every moment we spend scrolling, clicking, or watching has become part of the global attention economy. Economists increasingly describe this as the "attention economy"—a world in which companies compete not merely to sell products but to capture and hold human attention. In this economy, attention has become one of the world's most valuable resources.

This invisible competition carries consequences that extend far beyond the digital world. Constant interruptions weaken our ability to concentrate for long periods. Deep reading gives way to rapid scanning. Reflection is replaced by reaction. Conversations become shorter, while distractions become longer. Many people now find it difficult to complete a book, enjoy uninterrupted family conversations, or even remain fully present during meetings without checking their phones.

Young people face perhaps the greatest challenge. Today's students possess access to more information than any previous generation in history. Yet access to information is not the same as the ability to learn. Learning requires sustained attention, thoughtful reflection, and intellectual discipline. Without these qualities, information remains scattered knowledge rather than



lasting understanding. The danger is not that young people know too little, but that they may never have enough uninterrupted time to think deeply about what they know. Educational researchers consistently observe that uninterrupted study improves comprehension, memory and problem-solving far more effectively than learning interrupted by frequent digital distractions.

The consequences extend beyond education. Attention shapes relationships. Genuine listening requires undivided attention. Empathy begins when one human being is fully present for another. Families may share the same room while living in different digital worlds. Friends may exchange hundreds of messages without experiencing meaningful conversations. We are becoming increasingly connected through technology while risking disconnection from one another. We are spending more time communicating than ever before, yet many people feel they are being heard less than ever before. Every evening, dining tables across the country silently illustrate this attention crisis. Parents answer office messages. Children scroll through videos. Grandparents watch television. Everyone is connected to a device, yet conversation often becomes the missing member of the family.

Civilizations are not built merely by intelligence; they are built by sustained attention. Every great civilization, every scientific discovery, every inspiring speech, every meaningful relationship and every social reform began with someone giving complete attention to something that truly mattered. When attention becomes fragmented, wisdom also becomes fragmented. Protecting our attention is therefore not merely a personal habit—it is a responsibility towards future generations.

The challenge before society is not to reject technology but to master it wisely. Smartphones are remarkable tools. Artificial intelligence offers extraordinary possibilities. Social media has connected communities across continents. The problem is not technology itself. The problem begins when technology quietly takes control of the attention that should remain under human choice. Technology should serve humanity; humanity should never become a servant of technology.

The irony is striking. Humanity has built technologies capable of connecting billions of people across continents within seconds. Yet many individuals struggle to remain fully present for a single uninterrupted conversation. The challenge before us is no longer access to information

but mastery over attention. The solution begins with awareness. Families must create spaces free from digital interruptions. Schools should teach students not only digital literacy but also attention literacy—the ability to focus, reflect, and think critically. Workplaces should recognise that uninterrupted concentration is not a luxury but a necessity for creativity and innovation. Above all, individuals must consciously decide where they invest their most valuable resource: their attention.

History may remember the twenty-first century not merely as the age of artificial intelligence, but as the age when humanity realised that the greatest battle was no longer for land, wealth or information—it was for the human mind. It may also remember it as the period when humanity discovered that the greatest battle was not taking place on distant borders, but within the human mind itself.

In a world competing for our attention, the greatest victory is learning to choose where our minds will stay. Because the quality of our attention ultimately determines the quality of our lives.

(The Author is a Consultant Psychologist, Academic & Research Mentor, and Guinness, Asia, Limca, and India Book Records Holder)

Beyond Numbers: Centring Women's Rights in Population Policy

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As debates around demographic change intensify, discussions on population growth in India are increasingly framed through the lens of economic necessity—declining working-age populations, rising elderly numbers and fears of future labour shortages. While these concerns merit attention, reducing the issue to a simplistic call for "more children" reflects a narrow and incomplete understanding of society. Population policy cannot be divorced from the lived realities of women, whose bodies and lives are central to this debate but whose voices are often sidelined.

Childbirth is not a statistical event; it is a life-altering experience. From pregnancy to postpartum recovery and years of caregiving, women undergo profound physical, emotional and financial changes. Health concerns such as anemia, hormonal imbalances, chronic fatigue, postpartum depression and sleep deprivation are not abstract issues—they directly shape a woman's quality of life. Yet, public discourse on population rarely gives these realities the attention they deserve. Advocacy for higher birth rates is rarely matched by equally serious commitments to maternal healthcare, mental health services, or institutional support systems.

The disparities among women further complicate the issue. For a daily-wage labourer, pregnancy can mean a direct loss of income. Without access

to maternity leave or social security, many women in construction, agriculture and the informal sector continue physically demanding work throughout pregnancy, often at great risk to their health. Their challenges rarely find space in policy discussions that otherwise call for increased fertility.

In contrast, women in corporate and formal sectors face a different set of pressures. Career interruptions, stalled promotions and workplace bias often accompany pregnancy. Even when healthcare access is better, the struggle to balance professional responsibilities with motherhood remains intense. The fear of being perceived as less committed or less capable continues to shape decisions around childbirth.

Workplace infrastructure itself reflects systemic gaps. Many organisations still lack basic facilities such as rest areas for pregnant employees, safe and hygienic restrooms, nursing spaces and childcare support like crèches. For women in the unorganised sector, these facilities are almost absent. Without structural changes, encouraging higher birth rates becomes not only unrealistic but also unjust.

Beyond childbirth lies the equally critical issue of child-rearing. A society that calls for more children must also answer what support it offers in raising them. Access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, clean water and safe living conditions determines whether a child can grow into



a productive citizen. Merely increasing population numbers without strengthening these systems risks deepening inequality rather than driving development.

Equally important is the unequal distribution of caregiving responsibilities. While decisions around having children are often presented as shared, the burden of raising them falls disproportionately on

women. From managing a child's health to responding to school needs and handling daily care, mothers remain the default caregivers. This imbalance underscores the need to reframe childcare as a shared responsibility involving fathers, families, institutions and the state. Population discussions must also account for broader structural concerns—environmental sustainability,

resource availability, employment opportunities and housing. Growth without planning can strain already limited resources, undermining long-term stability. A holistic approach is essential to ensure that population policies align with sustainable development goals. At its core, the decision to have children is deeply personal. Choices about whether, when and how many children

to have are tied to women's autonomy, dignity and constitutional rights. Any population policy that overlooks these principles risks being both ineffective and unjust. A nation's strength cannot be measured solely by its population size. It depends on the well-being of its people—especially women. Healthy mothers, equitable opportunities, robust healthcare systems and social support

structures are the true foundations of sustainable progress. The conversation on population must continue, but it must evolve. It should no longer view women merely as instruments of demographic growth. Instead, it must recognise their rights, dignity and individuality. Only then can policy move beyond numbers and towards meaningful, inclusive development.

Centre Waives Customs Duty on Key Electronics Components

+ In a major boost to India's electronics manufacturing sector, the Central government has exempted Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on select goods used in the manufacture of display assemblies, lithium-ion cells and inductor coil modules. The move is expected to strengthen domestic production of smartphones, laptops, wearable devices and smart televisions while reducing dependence on imports.

The Finance Ministry issued three separate notifications implementing the duty exemption for goods used in manufacturing these critical electronic components. According to the notifications, the exemptions on inputs used in display assemblies and inductor coil modules will remain in force until March 31, 2029.

The decision aligns with the Centre's broader strategy to promote domestic electronics manufacturing under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. By lowering the cost of manufacturing key components within the country, the govern-



ment aims to attract greater investment, improve supply chains and make India a stronger global manufacturing hub.

Industry experts welcomed the move, describing it as a significant policy reform. Rajat Mohan, Managing Partner at AMRG Global, said the government has consolidated separate customs exemptions for machinery used in manufacturing lithium-ion cells for mobile phones and electric vehicles into a single technology-neutral exemption.

According to Mohan, the revised framework removes end-use-based distinctions, simplifies customs procedures and

reduces compliance and interpretation issues for manufacturers. The policy is expected to provide greater operational flexibility to companies setting up integrated lithium-ion cell manufacturing facilities.

The exemption is also likely to encourage fresh investments in battery manufacturing, particularly as demand for lithium-ion batteries continues to rise across multiple industries. Sectors expected to benefit include battery gigafactories, electric vehicle manufacturers, consumer electronics companies, battery energy storage system manufacturers, renewable energy projects, telecom infra-

structure providers, data centres, medical device manufacturers, drone makers and industrial automation firms.

The government has been steadily expanding policy support for the electronics sector through incentives, infrastructure development and customs reforms. India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing electronics manufacturing destinations in recent years, with mobile phone production witnessing substantial growth under the PLI scheme.

Industry stakeholders believe the latest customs duty exemption will further improve India's competitiveness in global electronics manufacturing by lowering production costs, encouraging local value addition and reducing import dependence. The move is also expected to support the government's vision of making India a global hub for advanced electronics and battery manufacturing while creating employment opportunities and strengthening the country's manufacturing ecosystem.

Cotton Sowing Gains Momentum as Monsoon Revives



Cotton sowing across India has gathered momentum in July following improved southwest monsoon rains in major producing states, although the total cultivated area remains below last year's level. The revival of rainfall in key agricultural regions has encouraged farmers to accelerate planting operations after delays caused by an erratic monsoon onset.

According to Agriculture Commissioner P.K. Singh, cotton has been sown over 63.18 lakh hectares as of July 5, compared to 82 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year. While the acreage is still around 23 percent lower, the gap has narrowed significantly as rainfall improved during July.

Officials said the sowing season, which generally concludes by July 15, has been extended until July 30 this year to compensate for the delayed arrival of the monsoon. Cotton cultivation begins earlier in northern states such as Punjab and Haryana before spreading to southern and western regions, depending on local weather conditions.

Agriculture experts said good rainfall in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh in the central zone, fol-

lowed by Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

Despite the recent improvement in sowing, cotton production is expected to remain under pressure. The Agriculture Ministry's latest estimates place cotton output for the 2025-26 season at 290.91 lakh bales (170 kg each), compared with 297.24 lakh bales in the previous year, indicating a modest decline in production.

Agriculture officials remain optimistic that continued favourable monsoon conditions over the coming weeks will help improve crop establishment and narrow the acreage gap further, while supporting higher productivity during the current kharif season.

Woman Doctor Quits After Assault by Shiv Sena Corporator

A woman doctor who was allegedly assaulted by Shiv Sena corporator Rakesh Mhatre at a municipal hospital in Maharashtra has resigned from her position, citing fear for her safety. Her decision comes a day after a fellow doctor, who was also allegedly attacked during the same incident, quit his job and left the city.

Speaking about her decision, the doctor said she no longer felt safe returning to work. She claimed that she had already left the city and alleged that she continued to fear intimidation by those involved in the incident.

"I resigned because I am scared. I have left the city and will not return to work there," she said, expressing concern over her personal safety.

However, Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) Chief Medical Officer Dr. Deepa Shukla stated that the two doctors—identified as Dr. Vaibhav Salunkhe and Dr. Srushti Baviskar—had not for-



mally submitted resignation letters either to the municipal hospital or to the third-party agency through which they were appointed. According to her, both doctors were absent from duty without prior notice. The incident occurred at the KDMC-run Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli. According to officials, the dispute began after two doctors advised the family of a newborn to shift the infant to another medical facility because the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) had

no vacant beds.

The patient's relatives reportedly approached corporator Rakesh Mhatre for assistance. He subsequently arrived at the hospital along with several associates, where an argument allegedly escalated into violence.

A video of the incident, widely circulated on social media, showed Mhatre allegedly striking the woman doctor from behind before confronting and assaulting another doctor and members of the hospital staff.

The footage triggered widespread condemnation from the medical fraternity and the public, with several doctors' associations demanding strict action against those responsible and stronger security measures for healthcare workers.

Following the public outcry, police arrested Mhatre on Wednesday. Soon after his arrest, he was admitted to Thane Civil Hospital, reportedly on health grounds. His hospitalization has drawn criticism from several quarters, with allegations that he was receiving preferential treatment.

The incident has reignited concerns over the safety of healthcare professionals, particularly those working in government and municipal hospitals. Medical associations have repeatedly called for stringent implementation of laws protecting doctors from violence, arguing that such attacks create fear among healthcare workers and adversely affect patient care.

Three-Year-Old Girl Dies After Drowning in Rainwater on Flooded Street

A three-year-old girl died after accidentally slipping into rainwater accumulated outside her home in Ghaziabad on Thursday, as heavy monsoon showers caused widespread flooding, traffic disruptions and infrastructure damage across parts of the National Capital Region (NCR).

The deceased, identified as Manvi, was a resident of Sarvodaya Nagar under the Vijay Nagar police station limits. According to eyewitnesses, the child was playing outside her house when she accidentally slipped into the rainwater that had collected on the street due to severe waterlogging.

Local residents immediately rushed to rescue the girl after noticing the incident and pulled her out of the water. However, she had stopped breathing by the time she was rescued. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

The incident sparked outrage among residents, who blamed inadequate drainage systems and persistent waterlogging for the child's death. They alleged that poor civic infrastructure had turned residential streets into dangerous waterlogged zones and demanded urgent measures to



improve drainage facilities before further tragedies occur during the monsoon season.

Heavy rainfall continued throughout the day in Ghaziabad, disrupting normal life and prompting the district administration to declare a holiday for government schools. Authorities said the decision was taken in view of widespread flooding and difficulties faced by students and commuters.

The downpour also caused severe traffic congestion on National Highway-9 near the Ghazipur border, where extensive waterlogging led to long queues of vehicles on the Delhi-Ghaziabad route. Commuters remained stranded for

hours as traffic crawled through submerged stretches of the highway.

In another rain-related incident, a portion of a road in Vasundhara Sector 13 caved in beside an under-construction basement following continuous rainfall. A parked car and a scooter fell into the crater created by the collapse, while a nearby electricity pole tilted precariously, raising safety concerns. Although no injuries were reported, both vehicles sustained considerable damage.

Neighbouring Noida also experienced severe waterlogging in several areas, including Sectors 12, 16 and 33. Roads remained submerged under

knee-deep water, disrupting vehicular movement and making it difficult for pedestrians to commute. Several two-wheelers broke down after water entered their engines, forcing riders to push their vehicles through flooded roads.

The series of rain-related incidents has once again drawn attention to the shortcomings in urban drainage infrastructure and monsoon preparedness across the NCR. Residents have urged civic authorities to take immediate corrective measures to improve stormwater drainage, prevent waterlogging and ensure public safety during the ongoing rainy season.

Torrential Monsoon Rains Batter India, Disrupt Normal Life

Torrential monsoon rains lashed several parts of the country on Thursday, triggering widespread flooding, traffic disruptions, landslides, building collapses and property damage, while rescue teams worked round the clock to restore normalcy and assist affected residents.

The national capital witnessed one of the season's heaviest spells of rainfall, with widespread waterlogging bringing traffic to a standstill across several areas. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert after Safdarjung recorded 72.6 mm of rainfall in 24 hours, while Tukhmirpur in northeast Delhi recorded 160 mm. Major roads, including the Delhi-Noida Expressway, witnessed long traffic jams as commuters struggled through flooded streets.

In Maharashtra, rescue operations continued at a waste-to-energy plant in Pimpri Chinchwad near Pune after a building collapsed when a massive garbage mound gave way due to heavy rain. One more body was recovered on Thursday, taking the toll higher, while around eight people remained trapped beneath the debris. Nine people have been rescued so far.

Heavy rainfall also affected neighbouring Gurugram, where



part of the balcony of a luxury apartment complex collapsed. No injuries were reported, but residents demanded a structural audit of the building.

In Rajasthan, several districts experienced heavy rainfall, with Badesar, Nimbahera and Bayana recording the highest precipitation. The IMD forecast extremely heavy rainfall in parts of Kota and Bharatpur divisions, while rainfall activity is expected to gradually decline across the state after July 11.

The IMD announced that the southwest monsoon has now covered the entire country, reaching the remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. Although the nationwide coverage was completed a day later than usual, India has received surplus rainfall so far in July, recording 101.9 mm against the normal 73.8 mm during the first nine days of the month.

Kerala continued to experience heavy showers, prompting the IMD to issue orange alerts for Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad districts. Property damage, uprooted trees, flooded roads and inundated low-lying areas were reported across the state.

The death toll in the Wayanad landslide rose to five after two more bodies were recovered from the tunnel project site, while three people remained missing.

In Thane district of Maharashtra, monsoon-related incidents claimed three lives over the past week and forced authorities to evacuate nearly 800 residents to safer locations. Officials said heavy rains also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, with 136 houses partially or completely collapsing, highlighting the continuing impact of the active southwest monsoon across the country.



US-Iran Tensions Escalate as Gulf Nations Come Under Fire

The fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran has effectively collapsed after fresh American airstrikes targeted multiple locations inside Iran, triggering a swift military response from Tehran and raising fears of a wider regional conflict.

According to Iranian officials, US forces carried out coordinated strikes on strategic sites in southeastern Iran, including areas around Iranshahr and the port city of Chabahar. The attacks reportedly damaged infrastructure, including dock facilities and a maritime traffic control tower, while power outages were reported in several affected areas. At least one person was killed in the strikes.

In retaliation, Iran launched missiles and drones targeting locations in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar, claiming the attacks were aimed at American military assets stationed in the Gulf. The strikes prompted authorities in the three Gulf nations to activate air defence systems and issue missile alerts, forcing residents to seek shelter as tensions escalated across the region.

Iran's chief negotiator and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf accused Washington of violating the ceasefire agreement and warned that Tehran would respond firmly to any further military action. He reiterated that

Iran would not tolerate attacks on its territory and vowed that future responses would be stronger if hostilities continued.

The renewed military confrontation has also placed diplomatic efforts under severe strain. Talks aimed at reducing tensions and reopening the Strait of Hormuz now face an uncertain future, with both sides accusing each other of undermining peace efforts.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical shipping routes for crude oil and natural gas exports. Any prolonged disruption in the region could have significant consequences for global energy markets, shipping, and international trade.

Regional governments have appealed for restraint, warning that continued military exchanges could destabilize the Middle East further. Security has been tightened across several Gulf countries, while international observers continue to monitor developments closely.

The latest exchange of strikes marks another dangerous phase in the US-Iran conflict, highlighting the fragile security environment in West Asia. With diplomatic channels under pressure and military operations continuing, concerns are growing that the conflict could expand beyond Iran and involve more countries in the region.



US Launches Major H-1B Visa Fraud Probe, Cognizant Under Scanner

The US Department of Labour has launched a large-scale investigation into alleged fraud involving the H-1B and PERM employment visa programmes, with Indian IT major Cognizant among the companies mentioned during the initial phase of the probe.

The investigation is being led by the Department of Labor's Office of the Inspector General in coordination with the federal Task Force to Eliminate Fraud, headed by US Vice President JD Vance. Officials say the initiative is aimed at identifying widespread abuse of foreign worker programmes and protecting American jobs.

Labor Department Inspector General Anthony D'Esposito said investigators have already issued dozens of subpoenas and are pursuing leads received from whistleblowers. During a media interview, he stated that some of the complaints involve major companies, including Cognizant, though no formal allegations or charges have been announced against the company. According to the department, the investigation focuses on alleged fraudulent visa applications, labor trafficking, coercive wage-kickback schemes, and other practices that may exploit foreign workers while disadvantaging American em-

ployees. Authorities say such abuses undermine the purpose of employment-based visa programmes, which are intended to address genuine labor shortages.

The H-1B visa allows US employers to hire highly skilled foreign professionals in specialized occupations, while the PERM programme is the labour certification process required for many employment-based green card applications. Thousands of Indian technology professionals travel to the United States each year through these programmes, making the investigation significant for India's IT sector.

Federal officials emphasized that the probe is still in its early stages and that the issuance of subpoenas does not indicate guilt. Investigators say they will examine all evidence before reaching any conclusions, and additional companies could come under scrutiny as the investigation progresses.

The development has drawn attention across the technology industry because several global IT firms rely heavily on H-1B visas to deploy skilled professionals in the United States. The outcome of the investigation could influence future enforcement of employment visa regulations and compliance standards for companies operating in the US.

Australian Uranium to Boost India's Clean Energy Mission

India and Australia have taken a significant step in strengthening their clean energy partnership by finalising arrangements for the long-term supply of Australian uranium to India. The agreement is expected to play a crucial role in supporting India's ambitious nuclear energy expansion while deepening strategic ties between the two nations.

Australia possesses nearly 28 percent of the world's known uranium reserves, making it one of the largest suppliers of the mineral globally. Despite its vast reserves, Australia does not operate nuclear power plants and exports uranium exclusively for peaceful purposes under strict international safeguards.

For India, the agreement comes at a critical time as the country seeks to rapidly expand its nuclear power capacity to meet rising electricity demand while reducing carbon emissions. The government has set ambitious targets to increase nuclear energy capacity as part of its long-term clean energy strategy.

Nuclear energy is considered



an important component of India's energy transition because it provides reliable, round-the-clock electricity without producing greenhouse gas emissions during power generation. Unlike solar and wind energy, nuclear plants can supply uninterrupted power, helping stabilize the electricity grid as renewable energy capacity grows.

The uranium supply arrangement also enhances India's energy security by diversifying its sources of nuclear fuel. A stable supply of uranium will help ensure the smooth operation of existing nuclear reactors and support future expansion plans without depending heavily on limited domestic reserves. Beyond energy coop-

eration, the agreement reflects the growing strategic partnership between New Delhi and Canberra. The two countries have expanded collaboration across trade, defence, critical minerals, and supply chains, while working together to promote stability and economic resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.

Experts believe the uranium partnership will strengthen India's efforts to achieve its climate goals while ensuring long-term energy security. As electricity demand continues to rise, access to reliable nuclear fuel is expected to play a vital role in supporting sustainable economic growth and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Quran Verses Become Iran's Diplomatic Message at Khamenei Funeral

The funeral of former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was not only a religious ceremony but also a carefully choreographed display of diplomacy. According to reports, Iranian officials selected specific Quranic verses to be recited before foreign delegations, with each passage believed to carry a symbolic political message tailored to the visiting country.

The unusual practice has sparked widespread discussion among diplomats, religious scholars, and political analysts. Instead of delivering direct political statements, Iran is believed to have used verses from the Quran to communicate its views on regional cooperation, resistance, justice, and international relations.

One of the most closely watched moments involved the Saudi Arabian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed bin Abdulkarim. The Quranic verses recited in their presence were interpreted as emphasizing reconciliation, unity among Muslims, and the importance of peaceful coexistence despite longstanding political differences.

Delegations from several other countries, including regional allies and partners, were also greeted with different Quranic passages. Observers noted that



the verses appeared to reflect each country's relationship with Iran, conveying messages of friendship, solidarity, caution, or shared responsibility through religious symbolism rather than conventional diplomatic language.

Analysts say this approach reflects Iran's unique blend of religion and statecraft, where Islamic teachings are often woven into political messaging. In the Islamic Republic, religious references frequently serve as instruments of diplomacy, allowing Tehran to express strategic positions in a manner deeply rooted in its ideological framework.

The ceremony itself attracted leaders, diplomats, and representatives from across the Middle East and beyond, highlighting Iran's continued efforts to maintain regional influence during a period of political transition.

The use of Quranic verses added another layer of significance to the event, turning a state funeral into a platform for subtle diplomatic communication.

Experts believe the symbolic messaging demonstrates how Iran continues to rely on cultural and religious traditions to shape its foreign policy narrative. Rather than issuing formal statements, the carefully selected Quranic passages conveyed messages that were open to interpretation while reinforcing Tehran's broader political and diplomatic objectives.

The episode underscores the important role religion continues to play in Iran's engagement with the international community, where ceremonial events often serve multiple purposes—honoring tradition, reinforcing ideology, and quietly conveying diplomatic signals to the world.



Iran Reveals First Footage of Khamenei Residence After Strikes

Iranian state media has released the first official video showing the extensive damage inside the residential compound of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei following the joint US-Israel military strikes earlier this year. The footage offers the first public glimpse of the destruction caused by the attack that dramatically reshaped Iran's political landscape.

The video shows massive sections of the compound reduced to rubble, with collapsed walls, shattered interiors, and debris scattered throughout the premises. The heavily fortified complex, known as Beyt-e Rahbari, served as the headquarters and official residence of Iran's Supreme Leader and has long been regarded as the country's most powerful political and religious center.

The strikes, carried out jointly by the United States and Israel, targeted several strategic military and leadership facilities across Iran. Khamenei's compound was among the most prominent targets during the operation, which resulted in his death and marked one of the most significant developments in the history of the Islamic Republic.

Until now, Iranian authorities had released only limited information about the damage, while satellite imagery and unofficial reports had suggested that the compound had suffered severe destruction. The newly released footage appears to confirm those assessments, revealing the scale of devastation inside buildings that were previously inaccessible to the public.

The release of the video comes as Iran continues to commemorate Khamenei and navigate a period of political transition following the leadership change. Analysts believe the footage is intended to reinforce Iran's narrative surrounding the conflict while highlighting the impact of the strikes on one of the country's most symbolic locations.

The conflict between Iran, the United States, and Israel triggered widespread military escalation across the Middle East, with attacks on strategic facilities, military installations, and key infrastructure. Although diplomatic efforts have sought to ease tensions, the region remains volatile, and the latest footage serves as another reminder of the lasting consequences of the conflict.



Explosions Rock Bushehr as US-Iran Conflict Intensifies

Fresh explosions were reported in Iran's southern province of Bushehr as the military confrontation between the United States and Iran entered a more dangerous phase. The attacks came amid growing fears that the conflict could spread across the Gulf region and further disrupt global trade and energy supplies.

Iranian authorities said multiple blasts were heard near strategic facilities in Bushehr, while emergency services and security forces were deployed to assess the damage. The latest strikes followed recent American military operations targeting Iranian infrastructure, which Washington says are aimed at weakening Tehran's military capabilities.

In response, Iran launched missile and drone attacks against what it described as US military assets in Bahrain and Kuwait. Air defence systems were activated across several Gulf countries, and authorities issued emergency alerts as projectiles were intercepted. The attacks have significantly heightened tensions across the region, with neighbouring countries increasing security around key installations.

The escalating conflict has also created a humanitarian and maritime crisis. Reports indicate that nearly 6,000 seafarers remain stranded around

the Strait of Hormuz as commercial shipping faces severe disruption. Several vessels have been unable to move due to security concerns, raising fears over global energy supplies and international trade.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's busiest oil transit routes, carrying a significant share of global crude oil exports. Any prolonged disruption could push up energy prices and affect economies worldwide. Shipping companies are closely monitoring the situation, while governments continue to advise caution for vessels operating in the region.

Diplomatic efforts to restore calm have suffered a major setback after both Washington and Tehran accused each other of violating ceasefire commitments. Regional leaders have called for restraint, warning that continued military exchanges could trigger a broader conflict involving multiple countries in West Asia.

With military operations continuing and diplomatic negotiations under increasing pressure, the situation remains highly volatile. International observers fear that unless both sides return to dialogue, the conflict could deepen further, posing serious risks to regional stability, global shipping, and the world economy.



SBI Mutual Fund Eyes 530 Million Customers

India's largest asset manager, SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF), believes its biggest growth opportunity lies within the vast customer base of its parent, the State Bank of India (SBI). With more than 530 million SBI customers, the fund house aims to convert millions of traditional savers into long-term mutual fund investors.

According to the company's leadership, only around 5.5 million SBI customers currently invest in mutual funds, leaving nearly 99% of the bank's customer base untapped. SBI MF sees this as a massive opportunity to deepen financial inclusion and expand retail participation in capital markets.

The company plans to leverage SBI's extensive branch network and digital platforms to make investing more accessible. A major focus will be on simplifying the investment process through digital channels, enabling customers to invest in mutual funds as easily as they open fixed deposits or other banking products.

SBI MF is also adopting a "SIP-first" strategy, encouraging customers to begin their investment journey with Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). The fund house believes SIPs can become the preferred savings tool for millions of Indians, much like recurring deposits have traditionally been.

The company expects digital initiatives, including seamless

integration with SBI's YONO banking platform and the roll-out of Universal KYC, to significantly boost investor participation. These initiatives are aimed at making investing quicker, simpler, and more convenient for first-time investors.

Currently, SBI Mutual Fund receives around 4,000 crore in monthly SIP inflows, with nearly one-third of that coming through SBI's own distribution network. The company believes there is substantial room to grow this contribution by increasing awareness and expanding customer outreach.

The strategy comes as SBI Mutual Fund prepares for its highly anticipated 12,000-crore IPO, one of the largest public offerings in India's financial services sector. The company remains focused on expanding its investor base rather than relying solely on high-net-worth individuals or institutional investors.

Management believes India's mutual fund industry is still in its early stages of growth, with enormous potential to attract millions of new investors over the coming years. By leveraging SBI's nationwide presence and trusted brand, SBI Mutual Fund aims to play a key role in bringing more households into the formal investment ecosystem and accelerating the country's financial inclusion journey.



Devson Catalyst SME IPO Fully Subscribed on Day 1

The Devson Catalyst SME IPO received an enthusiastic response from investors on the very first day of bidding, with the issue being subscribed nearly three times within hours of opening. The strong demand reflects growing investor interest in the company's business and future growth prospects.

As of the first day, the IPO had received bids for over 73 lakh shares against approximately 25.87 lakh shares on offer, translating into an overall subscription of around 2.83 times. The issue will remain open for subscription until July 13. Retail investors led the demand, with their reserved portion attracting strong subscriptions. Non-institutional investors (NIIs) also showed healthy participation, while the qualified institutional buyers (QIB) category witnessed encouraging interest on the opening day.

The company aims to raise around 42 crore through the SME public issue. The IPO is priced in the 112-118 per share band and is scheduled to list on the BSE SME platform.

Adding to the positive senti-

ment, the IPO is commanding a Grey Market Premium (GMP) of around 50, implying a potential listing premium of more than 42% over the upper end of the price band. While GMP is often viewed as an indicator of investor sentiment, it remains unofficial and should not be considered a guarantee of listing gains.

Devson Catalyst manufactures industrial catalysts, adsorbents, and ceramic balls used across sectors such as refining, petrochemicals, fertilizers, steel, and chemicals. The company plans to utilize the IPO proceeds to establish a new manufacturing facility, meet working capital requirements, and support general corporate purposes.

With strong subscription numbers on Day 1 and robust grey market interest, the Devson Catalyst SME IPO has emerged as one of the most closely watched SME offerings of the month. However, investors are advised to evaluate the company's financial performance, business fundamentals, valuation, and long-term growth prospects before making an investment decision.

Markets Rebound; Sensex Gains 238 Points, Nifty Ends Above 23,950

Indian benchmark equity indices bounced back on Thursday after the previous session's sharp sell-off, with investors returning to quality stocks amid improving global sentiment and optimism ahead of the first-quarter earnings season.

The BSE Sensex closed 238 points higher, while the Nifty 50 finished above the 23,950 mark, recovering a portion of the losses suffered in the previous trading session. The rebound was supported by buying in heavy-weight banking, financial, and select technology stocks.

Broader markets outperformed the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 gained around 1.4%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced nearly 1.8%, reflecting renewed investor interest in mid- and small-cap shares.

Among sectoral indices, banking, financial services, auto, and consumer-focused stocks witnessed healthy buying. Investors also accumulated fundamentally strong companies after the recent market correction, helping the indices



recover steadily through the session.

Market participants were encouraged by easing global concerns after signs of reduced geopolitical tensions and stable crude oil prices. Continued foreign institutional investor (FII) buying also supported sentiment, while expectations of healthy quarterly earnings from major listed companies added to the positive mood.

Analysts said the day's gains indicate that investors remain optimistic about India's long-term growth story despite short-term volatility. However, they cautioned that markets may continue to witness stock-specific movements as the earnings season gathers pace and investors assess corporate performance.

Going forward, market direction is expected to be influenced by quarterly earnings announcements, global economic developments, crude oil prices, foreign fund flows, and central bank policy expectations. Traders are also expected to keep a close watch on inflation trends and international geopolitical developments.

While the recovery provided relief after the previous session's decline, analysts believe sustained upward momentum will depend on strong corporate earnings, stable macroeconomic indicators, and supportive global cues in the coming weeks.

Millworks Technologies IPO GMP Crosses 105% Ahead of July 14 Launch

The upcoming Millworks Technologies IPO has generated strong excitement in the grey market, with its Grey Market Premium (GMP) soaring above 105% just days before the issue opens for subscription on July 14. The sharp rise in GMP indicates robust investor interest and expectations of a strong stock market debut.

The Bengaluru-based precision engineering company plans to raise around 160.3 crore through a fresh issue of 48.44 lakh equity shares. The IPO has been priced in the range of 315 to 331 per share and will remain open for subscription until July 16.

Millworks Technologies manufactures high-precision machined components, sheet metal parts, and integrated assemblies for mission-critical sectors such as aerospace, defence, railways, semiconductors, and industrial engineering. The company operates under both Build-to-Print (BTP) and Build-to-Spec (BTS) manufacturing models, serving leading original equipment manufacturers.

The company's financial performance has been a major fac-



tor behind the strong investor sentiment. In FY26, Millworks reported a significant jump in both revenue and profit, reflecting rapid business expansion and improving operational efficiency. This impressive growth has boosted confidence among market participants ahead of the public issue.

The company plans to utilize the IPO proceeds to purchase new plant and machinery, meet working capital requirements, and support general corporate purposes. These investments are expected to strengthen its manufacturing capabilities and support future growth.

Market experts caution that while a high GMP reflects positive sentiment, it is an unofficial indicator and does not guarantee listing gains. Investors are advised to evaluate the company's fundamentals, financial performance, industry outlook, and valuation before making investment decisions.

With strong grey market buzz, healthy financials, and exposure to fast-growing sectors such as aerospace and defence manufacturing, the Millworks Technologies IPO is emerging as one of the most closely watched SME public issues of the month.

Choice International Soars on ₹899 Crore Investment Deal

Shares of Choice International surged nearly 8% after the company announced a major strategic investment in its broking subsidiary by South Korea's NH Investment & Securities. The development was welcomed by investors, who viewed the deal as a strong endorsement of the company's long-term growth strategy and its expanding presence in India's financial services sector.

Under the agreement, NH Investment & Securities will invest 899 crore in Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, the stockbroking arm of Choice International. The investment is expected to strengthen the subsidiary's capital base and support its expansion across brokerage, wealth management, investment banking, and digital financial services. The transaction also marks a significant partnership between one of South Korea's leading financial institutions and an Indian financial services company.

The proposed investment will be made through a combination of primary capital infusion and acquisition of a minority stake in Choice Equity Broking. Following the completion of the transaction, NH Investment & Securities will become a strategic shareholder, while Choice



International will continue to retain management control of the business. The deal remains subject to customary regulatory approvals and other closing conditions. Market participants believe the partnership will provide Choice International with access to global expertise, advanced technology, and international best practices. It is also expected to help the company accelerate innovation in digital trading platforms, strengthen its product offerings, and improve customer experience across retail and institutional segments. The collaboration may also open opportunities for cross-border financial products and services in the future.

Choice International has been steadily expanding its footprint in India's financial services industry through its



TCS Q1 Profit Misses Estimates Despite Strong Revenue Growth

India's largest IT services company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), reported a mixed set of results for the first quarter of FY27. While the company delivered better-than-expected revenue growth, its net profit fell short of market expectations due to higher costs and a one-time charge.

TCS posted a consolidated net profit of 13,349 crore, marking a 5% year-on-year increase. However, the figure was below analysts' estimates. Revenue rose to 72,275 crore, exceeding market forecasts and reflecting healthy demand from key clients.

The company's growth was largely driven by strong performance in the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) segment, along with the benefit of a weaker rupee, which boosted earnings from overseas operations. TCS also reported healthy deal wins during the quarter, reinforcing confidence in its business pipeline.

A one-time legal settlement and higher employee-related expenses weighed on profitability, preventing earnings from matching Street expectations. Even so, the company maintained healthy operating margins and generated strong cash flows during the quarter.

TCS announced an interim dividend of 12 per equity share, with July 15, 2026, fixed as the record date for determin-

ing eligible shareholders. The dividend will be paid later this month.

The company also highlighted the growing contribution of its artificial intelligence business, saying AI-led services continue to witness strong client demand. Management noted that enterprises are increasing investments in AI, cloud transformation, cybersecurity, and digital modernization despite global macroeconomic uncertainty.

The order book for the quarter remained robust at \$9.5 billion, supported by several large transformation deals across global markets. Management expressed confidence that the strong deal pipeline and expanding AI capabilities would support long-term growth.

TCS also expanded its workforce during the quarter by adding more than 9,000 employees, reflecting optimism about future business opportunities. Employee attrition remained under control, indicating improved workforce stability.

Despite a cautious global technology spending environment, the company said it remains well-positioned to benefit from increasing digital transformation initiatives. Investors will now closely watch management's outlook on demand trends, discretionary spending, and AI-driven growth as the earnings season gathers momentum.



Oberoi Realty Shares Fall After Court Restrains Fresh Allotments

Shares of Oberoi Realty declined more than 2% after the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the company not to make any fresh allotments or create third-party rights in its luxury residential project in Gurugram until a pending dispute is resolved.

The court's interim order came while hearing a petition filed by Advance India Projects Limited (AIPL), which has challenged the transfer of the project's development licence and claimed rights over the development. AIPL has also sought cancellation of the sale deed executed in favour of Oberoi Realty.

During the hearing, the Haryana government informed the court that the matter is already under consideration by the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP). The representation seeking cancellation of the licence is scheduled to be heard on July 20.

Until the DTCP takes a decision, the High Court has re-

strained Oberoi Realty from making fresh allotments or creating any third-party rights in the project. The order is temporary and will remain in force until the regulatory authority disposes of the pending representation.

The development weighed on investor sentiment, leading to a decline in the company's stock despite the strong response received for its recently launched Gurugram project. The company had earlier reported robust bookings, highlighting strong demand for its first luxury residential venture in the National Capital Region.

Market participants will now closely monitor the outcome of the DTCP hearing, as it could determine the future course of the project. Analysts believe the legal proceedings may create short-term uncertainty for the stock, although the long-term impact will depend on the final regulatory decision.

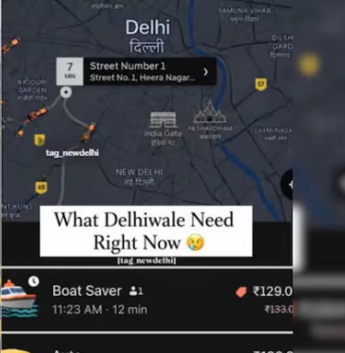
Delhi Rains Trigger Chaos, Social Media Responds With Humour

Heavy monsoon rains brought Delhi-NCR to a standstill on Thursday, leaving roads submerged, traffic crawling for hours, and thousands of commuters stranded. While residents struggled to navigate flooded streets, social media users responded in their own way—turning the city's annual monsoon woes into a flood of memes and jokes.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Delhi after intense overnight rainfall caused widespread waterlogging across the capital and neighbouring cities, including Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad. Several major roads were inundated, leading to severe traffic congestion and disrupting normal life. Videos shared online showed vehicles moving through knee-deep water, commuters wading across flooded roads, and long queues of traffic stretching for kilometres. Many office-goers reported spending hours stuck on highways, while schools and businesses faced delays due to the



weather conditions. Authorities advised people to avoid unnecessary travel and remain indoors wherever possible. As images of flooded streets spread across social media, netizens wasted no time turning frustration into humour. Memes comparing Delhi's roads to rivers, swimming pools, and water parks quickly went viral. One popular joke described the capital as offering "free water sports," while another sarcastically welcomed people to the "Venice of India." Several users quipped that boats would be more useful than cars during the rainy



season. Gurugram also became a major talking point online after severe waterlogging brought traffic to a near halt on key roads, including NH-48 and Sohna Road. Residents criticised civic authorities for recurring drainage failures, pointing out that similar scenes unfold every monsoon despite repeated promises of infrastructure improvements. Beyond the humour, the flooding once again highlighted long-standing concerns over urban planning and drainage infrastructure in Delhi-NCR. Experts have repeatedly argued

that rapid urbanisation, shrinking natural water bodies, and inadequate drainage systems have made the region increasingly vulnerable to heavy rainfall. Even moderate downpours often result in waterlogged roads, flooded underpasses, and widespread traffic disruptions. Emergency teams were deployed to clear waterlogged areas and restore normal traffic movement, while civic authorities monitored vulnerable locations across the city. Weather officials have also warned that more rain is likely over the next few days, urging residents to stay alert and follow official advisories.

Although the memes provided comic relief amid the chaos, many residents stressed that the recurring flooding is far from amusing. The annual monsoon disruption continues to affect transportation, businesses, and daily life, underscoring the urgent need for improved drainage systems and better urban planning to prevent similar situations in the future.

Rain Revives Noida-Gurugram Rivalry Over Infrastructure

Heavy monsoon showers across the National Capital Region have once again ignited the long-standing rivalry between Noida and Gurugram, with residents of both cities taking to social media to debate which city is better equipped to handle heavy rainfall. What started as weather updates quickly transformed into an online battle over urban planning, drainage systems, and civic infrastructure.

After intense rainfall lashed Delhi-NCR, several parts of Gurugram witnessed severe waterlogging, traffic jams, and stranded vehicles. Major roads, including NH-48, Golf Course Road, and Sohna Road, experienced heavy congestion as rainwater accumulated in low-lying areas. Office-goers spent hours commuting, while many companies advised employees to work from home to avoid travel disruptions. Meanwhile, Noida residents highlighted that their city remained comparatively functional despite receiving significant rainfall. Many users posted pictures of relatively clear roads, claiming that better drainage systems and planned urban development helped Noida cope more effectively with the downpour. The contrasting visuals soon sparked comparisons between the neighbouring cities.

Social media platforms were flooded with memes, sarcastic comments, and side-by-side photographs. Some users jok-



ingly declared Noida the "winner" of the rain challenge, while others mocked Gurugram's recurring flooding problems despite being one of India's leading corporate hubs. The online banter revived a rivalry that has existed for years, with residents often comparing infrastructure, roads, traffic management, and quality of life.

However, many experts cautioned against making simplistic comparisons. They pointed out that both cities face unique geographical and planning challenges. Gurugram's rapid urbanisation, shrinking natural water bodies, encroachment on drainage channels, and inadequate stormwater infrastructure have made it particularly vulnerable to urban flooding during intense rainfall.

Urban planners also noted that Noida benefits from being a more systematically planned city with wider roads, designated drainage networks, and stricter development regula-

tions. Even so, certain parts of Noida also experienced waterlogging and traffic disruptions, although on a comparatively smaller scale.

The debate soon shifted beyond social media humour to larger questions about sustainable urban development. Residents argued that cities should not compete over who floods less but instead focus on improving drainage infrastructure, preserving natural water channels, and preparing for increasingly frequent extreme weather events driven by climate change.

As more rain is forecast across Delhi-NCR in the coming days, civic authorities in both Noida and Gurugram have intensified monitoring of vulnerable areas while urging residents to avoid unnecessary travel during periods of heavy rainfall. The latest episode has once again highlighted that resilient infrastructure, rather than online rivalry, remains the real challenge for India's rapidly growing urban centres.

Laid Off at 56, Corporate Veteran Finds New Hope as Delivery Partner

A touching story of resilience has gone viral after a 56-year-old man from Noida, who lost his corporate job after 14 years, shared how he is now working as a delivery partner to support his family. His journey has sparked widespread discussions about layoffs, age discrimination, and the struggles older professionals face in today's job market.

The story surfaced through a LinkedIn post by social entrepreneur Kiran Verma, who had booked a parcel delivery through Porter. What began as a routine interaction soon turned into an emotional conversation. The delivery partner, Manoj, revealed that he had spent 14 years working in the administration department of an insurance company before being laid off during a workforce reduction in 2023. Since losing his job, Manoj has struggled to find another permanent position. He explained that his age and health concerns have made it extremely difficult to secure employ-



ment despite his years of experience. Left with few options, he joined Porter as a delivery partner to earn a livelihood and provide for his family. During their conversation, Manoj mentioned that he had not received any delivery requests that day and was simply waiting for work. His words reflected the uncertainty of gig employment, where earnings depend entirely on the number of assignments available. The interaction deeply moved Verma, who later shared the story on LinkedIn, where it quickly resonated with thousands of readers. The post triggered an



outpouring of support online. Many users expressed sympathy for Manoj and pointed out that experienced employees are often among the hardest hit during layoffs. Others criticised hiring practices that favour younger candidates while overlooking skilled professionals with decades of experience. Several people also shared similar stories of losing long-term jobs and struggling to restart their careers later in life.

The story also reignited discussions about the growing gig economy in India. While platform-based jobs provide immediate earning opportunities,

many argued that they should not become the only option for experienced professionals who lose stable employment after years of dedicated service.

Porter responded to the viral post by acknowledging Manoj's determination and appreciating his commitment to work. The company reiterated its focus on providing flexible earning opportunities for people from different backgrounds.

Beyond one individual's struggle, Manoj's story has become a symbol of a larger challenge facing today's workforce. As layoffs continue across several industries and the employment landscape evolves, many experienced professionals are finding themselves forced to take up temporary or gig-based jobs to make ends meet. His journey stands as a powerful reminder that behind every delivery is a person carrying years of experience, resilience, and an unwavering determination to move forward despite life's setbacks.

"Take an Uber": Manager's Rain Response Sparks Online Outrage

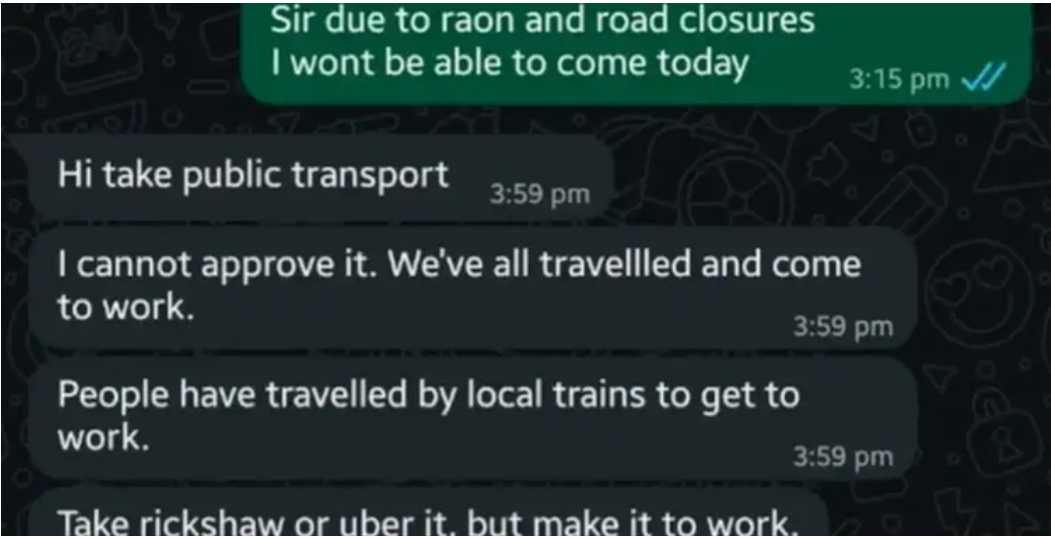
A workplace conversation from Pune has gone viral after a manager allegedly refused an employee's request to work from home during heavy monsoon rains, triggering widespread criticism over workplace empathy and employee safety.

The incident came to light after screenshots of a WhatsApp conversation were shared on Reddit by the employee's friend. The post quickly gained attention, with users debating whether companies should prioritise employee safety during extreme weather conditions.

According to the chat, the employee informed the manager that he would not be able to reach the office because continuous heavy rain had led to severe waterlogging and road closures across Pune. He requested permission to work from home until conditions improved.

Instead of approving the request, the manager reportedly advised the employee to "take an Uber" or use public transport, stating that other employees had also managed to reach the office despite the weather. The work-from-home request was denied, leaving the employee frustrated and questioning whether he should continue working at the company.

The screenshots quickly spread across social media platforms, with many users calling the manager's response



insensitive and unrealistic. Several people pointed out that during extreme weather, employee safety should take precedence over office attendance. Others noted that expensive cab fares, flooded roads, and disrupted transport services make commuting difficult and sometimes dangerous.

Many professionals shared their own experiences of being pressured to report to work despite heavy rain, flooding, or other emergencies. The discussion expanded into a broader debate about workplace culture, with users arguing that some organisations continue to value physical presence over employee well-being.

The controversy comes at a time when Pune has been expe-

riencing intense monsoon rainfall, resulting in widespread waterlogging, traffic congestion, and disruptions to daily life. Several areas have reported flooded roads, stranded vehicles, and long commuting delays, prompting authorities to advise residents to avoid unnecessary travel.

Social media users also compared the incident with companies that allow flexible work arrangements during adverse weather. Many argued that if employees can perform their duties remotely without affecting productivity, organisations should adopt more compassionate policies during emergencies.

The viral conversation has reignited discussions about

toxic workplace culture, managerial sensitivity, and the importance of flexible work arrangements. Many users stressed that leadership is not just about meeting business targets but also about understanding the challenges employees face outside the workplace.

While the identity of the company involved has not been disclosed, the incident has become another example of how workplace decisions can quickly attract public attention in the age of social media. For many, the episode serves as a reminder that empathy and employee welfare are becoming increasingly important expectations in today's professional environment.

"Not Your Servant": Cab Driver Cancels Ride Over Passenger's Cigarette

A viral video showing a cab driver refusing to continue a ride after a passenger lit a cigarette inside the vehicle has sparked a heated debate on passenger etiquette, personal boundaries, and the rights of drivers.

The incident came to light after a video was shared on the social media platform X, showing a tense exchange between a taxi driver and a passenger. According to the video, the passenger lit a cigarette inside the cab without asking for permission, prompting the driver to object immediately.

The driver calmly questioned the passenger, asking whether he had sought permission before smoking. He made it clear that smoking was not allowed inside his vehicle and insisted that the passenger respect the rules of the car.

However, the passenger reportedly argued that since he had booked the taxi, he did not need anyone's permission to smoke. He claimed that paying for the ride gave him the right to do so.

The driver firmly rejected the argument, explaining that although the passenger had hired the service, the vehicle remained his personal property. Refusing to compromise, he cancelled the



trip on the spot and asked the passenger to leave the car. He also declared that he did not want the fare, saying, "I'm a taxi driver, not your servant."

The video quickly went viral, attracting thousands of comments across social media. A large section of users praised the driver for standing up for himself and maintaining clear boundaries. Many argued that passengers should respect a driver's vehicle just as they would respect someone's home or personal property.

Several users also pointed out that cigarette smoke lingers inside a car, creating discomfort for both the driver and future passengers. They said smokers should always seek permission before lighting a cigarette in someone else's vehicle.

Some users, however, felt the confrontation could have been

handled more calmly. They suggested the driver could have first asked the passenger to extinguish the cigarette before cancelling the ride. Others countered that the passenger's dismissive attitude left the driver with little choice.

The exact location and date of the incident have not been independently verified. Nevertheless, the clip has triggered a broader discussion about mutual respect between passengers and drivers, especially in app-based taxi services.

As the debate continues online, many believe the episode serves as a reminder that paying for a service does not give customers unlimited rights. Basic courtesy, respect for personal property, and consideration for others remain essential, whether travelling in a taxi or any other shared space.

Your Face Is Your Boarding Pass: Biometric Travel Takes Off

The future of air travel is rapidly becoming a reality as airlines and airports around the world increasingly adopt facial recognition technology, allowing passengers to complete their journey without repeatedly showing passports or boarding passes. Instead, a quick facial scan is all that's needed to move through check-in, security, immigration, and boarding.

Biometric travel uses advanced facial recognition systems to verify a passenger's identity at multiple checkpoints. Once travellers register their biometric details, cameras installed throughout the airport match their face with travel documents already stored in secure databases. This enables a seamless, contactless experience while reducing the need for manual document verification.

Several international airlines and airports have already rolled out biometric boarding systems. Passengers can simply walk up to a checkpoint, look at a camera for a few seconds, and continue their journey without producing physical identification. The technology significantly shortens queues and speeds up air-



port operations, particularly during peak travel periods.

Supporters of biometric travel believe it offers numerous advantages. Faster check-in, reduced waiting times, improved security, and fewer physical interactions make the travel experience smoother and more efficient. Airport authorities also benefit from better passenger flow management and more accurate identity verification, helping to reduce fraud and document-related errors. India has also embraced this trend through the DigiYatra initiative, which enables registered domestic passengers to use facial recognition technology at participating airports. The system allows travellers to enter terminals, clear security, and board flights with minimal document checks, creating a paperless and contactless airport experience.

The Indian government is simultaneously working on broader airport modernisation, including smart security systems, automated passenger processing, and faster immigration procedures to improve convenience and reduce congestion at busy airports.

Despite its advantages, biometric travel has also raised concerns over privacy and data protection. Critics argue that collecting and storing facial data requires strong cybersecurity measures, transparent policies, and strict safeguards against misuse. Privacy advocates continue to call for clear regulations governing how biometric information is collected, stored, shared, and eventually deleted.

Technology experts believe biometric verification will soon become a standard feature of international air travel. As artificial intelligence and digital identity systems continue to evolve, passengers may no longer need to carry multiple travel documents through airports. Instead, their face could become the only credential required for a faster, safer, and more seamless journey from check-in to boarding.



FIFA Refereeing Chief Responds to Argentina–Egypt World Cup Controversy

FIFA's Head of Refereeing has finally addressed the controversy surrounding the Argentina vs Egypt match at the FIFA World Cup 2026, following widespread criticism over several key officiating decisions that sparked intense debate among fans, players, and football experts.

The match became one of the tournament's most talked-about fixtures after a series of contentious calls by the referee, including decisions involving penalties, fouls, and the use of VAR. Supporters from both teams questioned whether the officiating had influenced the outcome of the game.

Responding to the criticism, FIFA's refereeing chief defended the officials, stating that every major decision was made after following the established protocols and reviewing the available evidence. He stressed that the referee and the VAR team worked together to ensure that decisions were based on the Laws of the Game rather than public opinion.

He acknowledged that controversial moments are an unavoidable part of football but insisted that FIFA has full confidence in its match officials. According to him, every referee undergoes extensive training and detailed performance reviews throughout the tournament to maintain the highest standards of officiating.



France Coach Reacts to All-Argentine Referee Panel for Morocco Quarter-Final

France head coach Didier Deschamps has responded to FIFA's decision to appoint an all-Argentine refereeing team for France's FIFA World Cup 2026 quarter-final against Morocco, a move that has sparked discussion across the football world.

Speaking ahead of the crucial knockout fixture, Deschamps said he respects FIFA's appointment process and believes match officials should be judged by their professionalism rather than their nationality. He stressed that his team's focus remains entirely on preparing for the match instead of worrying about the referee selection.

The appointment attracted attention because Argentina are one of France's biggest international rivals, particularly after the memorable 2022 FIFA World Cup final. The decision led to debate among fans and analysts, with some questioning whether the refereeing panel's nationality could become a talking point.

Addressing those concerns, Deschamps dismissed suggestions that the appointment would influence France's approach. He said experienced referees are expected to remain impartial and make decisions according to the Laws of the Game, regardless of where they

The official also explained that VAR is designed to correct clear and obvious errors rather than re-evaluate every decision made on the field. He noted that while technology has significantly improved the accuracy of refereeing, it cannot eliminate every disagreement or subjective interpretation.

Despite FIFA's clarification, the match continues to generate debate across the football world. Fans and analysts remain divided over whether some of the crucial decisions should have been handled differently, with many continuing to discuss the incidents on social media and sports platforms.

The governing body reiterated its commitment to transparency and continuous improvement in refereeing standards. FIFA also emphasized that match officials are regularly assessed after every game, with feedback used to enhance consistency throughout the tournament.

The Argentina–Egypt controversy has once again highlighted the intense scrutiny faced by referees on football's biggest stage. While FIFA stands by its officials, the debate has renewed discussions about the role of VAR, referee accountability, and the ongoing effort to make officiating as fair and consistent as possible.

come from. The French coach also emphasized that his players have been instructed to concentrate solely on their performance on the pitch. According to him, dwelling on external issues such as refereeing appointments would only distract the team from its objective of reaching the semi-finals.

Meanwhile, FIFA has maintained confidence in its referee selection process, stating that officials are appointed based on performance, experience, and merit throughout the tournament. The governing body expects every match official to uphold the highest standards of fairness and neutrality.

The quarter-final between France and Morocco is one of the most anticipated matches of the tournament, with both teams aiming to secure a place in the final four. As excitement builds, the refereeing appointment has added another layer of intrigue to an already high-profile contest.

Despite the debate surrounding the officiating team, Deschamps made it clear that France's priority is delivering a strong performance and letting their football do the talking on one of the biggest stages in world football.

Ashwin Questions 'Rest Culture', Backs Players Wanting to Play

Former India spinner R. Ashwin has questioned the growing trend of workload management in international cricket, saying that players who are fit and eager to play should not be forced to take breaks. His remarks have sparked fresh debate over player rotation and workload management in modern cricket.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin referred to wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who has often expressed his desire to play whenever given the opportunity. Ashwin said he shares a similar mindset and believes that if a player is physically fit, there is no reason to keep them out of the playing XI in the name of workload management.

"I don't want to rest," Ashwin said, adding that he has always preferred being on the field rather than sitting out. He argued that constantly resting players could become a "dangerous culture" if it prevents cricketers from building rhythm, confidence, and consistency. Ashwin stressed that every player is different and workload management should not be applied uniformly. While some players may genu-



inely need breaks because of injuries or heavy schedules, others are capable of handling continuous cricket and should be allowed to decide if they want to play.

The veteran spinner also highlighted that maintaining match rhythm is crucial, particularly for bowlers and players who rely on regular game time to stay at their best. According to him, frequent breaks can sometimes affect performance more than they help. His comments have reignited discussions about how cricket boards manage player fitness, especially with packed international calendars and multiple franchise leagues. Many teams now rotate players across formats to reduce the risk of injuries and extend careers.



However, Ashwin believes there should be greater flexibility in the system, with individual preferences and physical condition taken into account rather than following a one-size-fits-all policy.

The remarks have received mixed reactions from cricket fans. While many agreed that players should have the freedom to play if they are fit, others pointed out that workload management has helped reduce injuries and prolong the careers of several international stars.

Ashwin's views once again underline the ongoing debate in world cricket—whether protecting players through regular rest is more important than allowing them to maintain form and momentum by playing consistently.

Pakistan Replaced Shan Masood With Babar Azam as Test Captain

The Pakistan Cricket Board's decision to reinstate Babar Azam as Test captain in place of Shan Masood was driven by concerns over leadership and on-field decision-making rather than individual batting performances, according to senior PCB selector Aaqib Javed.

Speaking on a PCB podcast, Aaqib Javed said the selectors were unhappy with Pakistan's repeated inability to dismiss opposition lower-order batters during overseas tours in countries such as Australia, South Africa, the West Indies, and Bangladesh. He believed these recurring problems reflected shortcomings in leadership, tactical planning, and game management rather than the players' individual abilities.

Javed stressed that the captaincy change was not made because of Shan Masood's personal performances with the bat. Instead, the selectors felt the team needed stronger leadership to make better tactical decisions in crucial moments and improve overall performance in the longest format.

The PCB has also made it clear that Babar Azam's ap-



pointment is part of a long-term plan. According to Javed, the board intends to back Babar as Test captain for the next two to three years without judging him solely on short-term results. The selectors believe his experience and maturity make him the right person to guide Pakistan through the upcoming World Test Championship cycle.

Babar previously captained Pakistan in 20 Test matches between 2020 and 2023, recording 10 wins, six defeats, and four draws before stepping down from the role. The PCB now hopes his return will bring greater stability and consistency as Pakistan prepare for upcoming international

assignments.

Shan Masood, meanwhile, remains part of Pakistan's Test squad despite losing the captaincy. The leadership change comes after a difficult period for the team, with Pakistan struggling to produce consistent results under his tenure. Reports indicate that concerns over tactical decisions, over-rate management, and the team's overall record also influenced the board's decision.

With Babar Azam back at the helm, the PCB is hoping the team's renewed leadership can deliver improved performance and restore Pakistan's competitiveness in Test cricket over the coming years.

Cristiano Ronaldo's Two-Word Message Goes Viral Amid Retirement Speculation

Cristiano Ronaldo has sparked an emotional wave across the football world after sharing a simple two-word message — "Obrigado todos" ("Thank you all") following Portugal's exit from the FIFA World Cup 2026. The post quickly went viral, with many fans interpreting it as a farewell message amid growing speculation about his international future.

Portugal's World Cup campaign came to an end after a narrow 1-0 defeat to Spain in the Round of 16. The heartbreaking loss marked the conclusion of what Ronaldo had earlier confirmed would be his final FIFA World Cup appearance, bringing an end to a remarkable journey spanning six World Cups.

Although his brief social media post fueled retirement rumors, Ronaldo stopped short of announcing his retirement from international football. Instead, he expressed gratitude to fans, teammates, and everyone who supported him throughout his World Cup journey.

Following the defeat, the 41-year-old legend also stated that he would not make any hasty decisions regarding his future with the Portugal nation-



al team. He said he intends to take time before deciding whether to continue representing his country beyond the World Cup.

Ronaldo's emotional message received millions of reactions within hours, with football fans, former players, and celebrities paying tribute to one of the greatest careers in the history of the sport. Many described his World Cup legacy as inspirational, despite Portugal never lifting the trophy during his era.

Throughout the 2026 tournament, Ronaldo added more milestones to his extraordinary career, continuing to rewrite

football's record books while leading Portugal with his trademark determination and leadership.

As speculation continues over his next move, Ronaldo's message has been widely viewed as a heartfelt thank-you rather than a formal goodbye. Whether he continues playing for Portugal or chooses to retire from international football, his impact on the game remains unmatched.

For now, the football world waits for Ronaldo's final decision, but one thing is certain—his legacy as one of the greatest players in football history is already secure.



ECB Faces ICC Scrutiny Over Ben Stokes 'Retirement' Video

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has landed in controversy after posting a social media video that jokingly suggested England Test captain Ben Stokes was retiring. The clip briefly shocked cricket fans before it was revealed to be part of a promotional campaign, but it has now reportedly drawn the attention of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The video, shared on the ECB's official social media platforms, created widespread confusion as it appeared to announce Stokes' retirement from international cricket. Given Stokes' status as one of England's most influential cricketers, many fans initially believed the announcement was genuine.

It was later revealed that the clip was intended as a promotional teaser rather than an actual retirement announcement. However, the post had already spread rapidly across social media, prompting criticism from fans who felt the campaign was misleading.

The ICC is reportedly examining whether the content breached its media and communication guidelines. While no formal disciplinary action has been announced, the governing body is said to be reviewing the circumstances sur-

rounding the post and its potential impact on the sport's credibility.

Several cricket followers criticised the campaign, arguing that sensitive topics such as a player's retirement should not be used for promotional purposes. Others defended the ECB, saying the video was meant to generate excitement and was not intended to deceive fans for long.

Ben Stokes himself has made no retirement announcement and remains fully committed to England's international commitments. The all-rounder continues to be a key figure in England's Test setup and is expected to lead the side in upcoming assignments.

The incident has sparked a broader discussion about the growing use of marketing tactics on social media. As sports organisations increasingly rely on digital platforms to engage fans, many believe promotional campaigns should avoid creating unnecessary confusion over major career announcements.

While the ICC reviews the matter, the episode serves as a reminder that official communications from cricket boards carry significant weight, and even promotional content must strike a balance between creativity and credibility.



Heated Exchange Between Egypt Coach and Scaloni

Tempers flared after the FIFA World Cup 2026 clash between Argentina and Egypt, as Egypt's head coach was involved in a heated exchange with Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni shortly after the final whistle.

According to reports, the Egyptian coach confronted Scaloni while both teams were leaving the pitch. The discussion quickly became animated, with emotions running high following a fiercely contested encounter that had already been filled with controversial moments.

Despite the tense situation, Scaloni chose not to escalate the confrontation. The Argentina coach remained calm, briefly responded to his counterpart, and then walked away, avoiding any further argument. His composed reaction was praised by many observers, who felt it helped prevent the incident from becoming more serious.

The disagreement is believed to have stemmed from frustrations over decisions made during the match, including contentious refereeing calls and heated moments be-

tween players on the field. The emotionally charged atmosphere carried over into the post-match interactions between the two coaching staffs.

Players and support staff from both teams were seen stepping in to ensure the situation did not worsen. The exchange ended without any physical altercation, and both teams eventually headed to their dressing rooms.

The incident quickly became a major talking point on social media, with fans debating the reasons behind the confrontation. While some sympathised with the Egyptian coach's frustration, others praised Scaloni for maintaining his composure under pressure.

Neither coach made any controversial remarks about the incident during their post-match media interactions, choosing instead to focus on the game and their respective teams' performances.

The episode added another dramatic chapter to an already intense World Cup encounter, highlighting the emotions and pressure that often accompany high-stakes matches on football's biggest stage.

Chiranjeevi's 12-Hour Action Shoot Leaves Mega158 Team Amazed

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again proved why he remains one of Indian cinema's most dedicated performers. The veteran actor recently stunned the cast and crew of his upcoming film Mega158 by completing an intense 12-hour action shoot without showing signs of fatigue, earning widespread appreciation from everyone on the set.

The film, directed by Bobby Kolli, is currently being shot in Hyderabad, where the team is filming one of the movie's biggest and most ambitious action sequences. Choreographed by renowned stunt masters Ram-Lakshman, the sequence is designed to showcase Chiranjeevi in a vintage, mass-action avatar that fans have long been waiting



to see.

According to reports, Chiranjeevi spent nearly 12 continuous hours performing physically demanding scenes alongside a large team of stunt artists. Despite the challenging schedule, the 70-year-old actor reportedly maintained remarkable energy and enthusiasm throughout the shoot, surprising the entire production unit with his commitment and professionalism.

Members of the crew were

said to be amazed by the actor's discipline and fitness. Many reportedly noted that even younger actors would find such a demanding schedule exhausting, but Chiranjeevi completed every sequence with unwavering focus. His dedication has further boosted excitement surrounding the film. This action schedule is considered one of the highlights of Mega158, with the makers aiming to recreate the larger-than-life action style that made Chiranjeevi a superstar. The team believes the sequence will be a major treat for fans when the film hits theatres.

The film marks Chiranjeevi's second collaboration with director Bobby Kolli after the blockbuster Waltair Veerayya. Expectations are already high, and the makers are reportedly planning to unveil the film's title teaser as a special birthday treat for the Megastar's fans.

Produced by KVN Productions, Mega158 features music by Thaman, cinematography by Vijay Karthik Kannan, production design by Avinash Kolla, and editing by Antony Ruben. Actress Anaswara Rajan plays a key role in the film, which is being mounted on a grand scale.

With the latest shooting update creating a buzz across social media, fans are eagerly waiting to witness Chiranjeevi's powerful comeback in an action-packed entertainer that promises vintage style, mass appeal, and high-octane entertainment.

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Rashmika Mandanna Wraps Intense Underwater Sequence for Mysaa

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has completed filming a challenging underwater action sequence for her upcoming Telugu film Mysaa, adding to the growing excitement surrounding the ambitious action thriller. The makers recently shared the update, revealing that the demanding sequence is expected to be one of the film's biggest highlights.

Directed by debutant Rawindra Palle, Mysaa has been progressing steadily through its production schedules. Rashmika is said to be playing a never-before-seen character, making the film one of the most anticipated projects in her career.

According to the production team, the recently completed underwater sequence required extensive preparation and was filmed over several days. The makers believe the visuals will offer audiences a spectacular cinematic experience and showcase Rashmika in a completely new avatar.

The film is currently in its sixth major shooting schedule and is moving closer to completion. Once filming wraps up, the team is expected to announce the official theatrical release date and begin full-fledged promotions.

Produced by Unformula Films, Mysaa is being mounted on a grand scale as a multilingual release. The action thriller also features Tarak Ponnappa in a pivotal role, while acclaimed composer Jakes Bejoy is scoring the music.

With Rashmika balancing multiple high-profile projects across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi cinema, Mysaa has already generated significant buzz. The completion of the underwater sequence has further heightened anticipation, with fans eagerly waiting to see the actress in one of her most physically demanding and action-oriented roles to date.



Akhil's Lenin Clears Censor With U/A Certificate

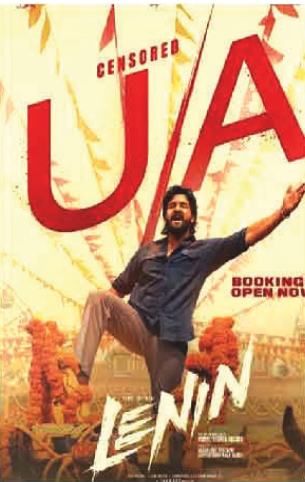
Akhil Akkineni's much-awaited comeback film Lenin has completed its censor formalities ahead of its theatrical release. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has awarded the film a U/A certificate, clearing it for audiences with parental guidance for younger viewers.

The film has been certified with a runtime of 158 minutes (2 hours and 38 minutes), indicating a narrative packed with action, emotion, and drama. According to the censor report, Lenin is an intense action entertainer with several

high-impact sequences forming a major part of the story.

To secure the U/A rating, the makers made a few minor changes suggested by the CBFC. Around 32 seconds of footage featuring graphic violence, including scenes of decapitation and excessive bloodshed, were removed. A few visuals were also darkened to reduce the intensity of violent imagery while preserving the overall narrative.

The censor clearance has further heightened expectations for the film, especially as Akhil returns to the big screen after a gap of nearly



three years. The actor has expressed strong confidence in the project during promotional events, describing the emotional climax as one of the movie's biggest highlights.

Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, Lenin stars Bhagyashree Borse as the female lead, while Sivaji, Pramod Panju, Brahmaji, Sunil, and Easwari Rao play key supporting roles. The film is jointly produced by Nagarjuna Akkineni and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi under the banners of Manam Enterprises, Sithara Entertainments, and Annapurna Studios. The music is composed by S. Thaman, whose soundtrack and background score have already generated considerable buzz.

With its censor process now complete and advance bookings expected to gather momentum, Lenin is gearing up for a grand theatrical release. Industry observers believe the film could become a crucial milestone in Akhil Akkineni's career, thanks to its rural action backdrop, emotionally driven storyline, and high-octane action sequences that have already created significant excitement among fans.

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Dulquer Salmaan's DQ41 Title to Be Revealed Today

Excitement is building around Dulquer Salmaan's upcoming Telugu film, tentatively titled DQ41, as the makers have officially announced that the film's title and first-look poster will be unveiled today at 10:08 AM. The announcement has generated considerable buzz among fans eager to see the actor's next Telugu venture.

The newly released announcement poster carries the intriguing tagline "#LoveWillSpeakAgain," hinting at a romantic drama layered with mystery and emotional storytelling. The visual features dreamy aesthetics, suggesting that the film will offer a blend of romance, emotions, and suspense.

Directed by debutant Ravi Nelakuditi, the film stars Pooja Hegde as the female lead opposite Dulquer Salmaan. Their fresh on-screen pairing has already created excitement, with fans looking forward to their chemistry in what promises to be a heartfelt entertainer.

The supporting cast includes an impressive lineup of seasoned actors such as Ramya Krishnan, Jagapathi Babu, Rao Ramesh, Sachin Khedekar, and Dheekshith Shetty, all of

whom are expected to play pivotal roles in the narrative. Their presence has further raised expectations for the project.

Produced by SLV Cinemas, the film is being mounted on a grand scale. The music is composed by G.V. Prakash Kumar, whose soundtrack is expected to add emotional depth and enhance the overall cinematic experience.

The film has already completed a major shooting schedule, with the production team wrapping up key sequences in picturesque locations. As filming progresses smoothly, the makers are now preparing to launch the promotional campaign with the title and first-look reveal.

Dulquer Salmaan, who enjoys a strong fan following in Telugu cinema thanks to successful films like Mahanati, Sita Ramam, and Lucky Baskhar, is expected to continue his impressive run with this project. The upcoming title announcement and first-look poster are likely to offer audiences their first glimpse into the film's world and further raise anticipation for one of the most awaited Telugu releases.

'Vadhala' Trailer Unveils a Gripping Psychological Thriller

The makers of Vadhala have released the film's theatrical trailer, offering audiences a glimpse into an intense psychological thriller packed with mystery, suspense, and emotional conflict. The trailer has generated considerable curiosity with its dark visuals, gripping narrative, and intriguing performances.

Veteran actor Jagapathi Babu plays the lead role, portraying a character caught in a web of psychological turmoil and mysterious events. The trailer hints at a story where reality and illusion blur, keeping viewers guessing about what is true and what is merely a product of the mind.

Actress Laya marks an important presence in the film alongside Hritika Srinivas, with both appearing in emotionally charged roles that seem central to the unfolding mystery. The trailer suggests that every character carries hidden secrets, adding multiple layers to the suspense-filled narrative.

Directed by Akella V. Krishna, Vadhala focuses on psychological tension rather than conventional action, relying on strong performances, eerie vis-



uals, and a haunting background score to create an atmosphere of suspense. The trailer avoids revealing major plot twists while offering enough intrigue to keep audiences invested.

The cinematography captures the film's dark and unsettling mood, while the background music enhances the feeling of mystery throughout the trailer. Together, the visuals and sound design create a gripping cinematic experience that promises edge-of-the-seat entertainment.

Produced by Kishore Naidu Chirumamilla and Tammareddy Bharadwaj under the Charitha Chitra Production banner, the film is positioned as a content-driven psychological thriller aimed at audiences who enjoy suspenseful storytelling.

The trailer has received a positive response on social media, with many viewers praising Jagapathi Babu's intense screen presence and the film's intriguing premise. Fans are hopeful that Vadhala will offer a fresh and engaging experience in the psychological thriller genre.

Scheduled for a July 17, 2026 theatrical release, Vadhala is shaping up to be one of the more interesting suspense dramas of the season, promising unexpected twists, emotional depth, and a thrilling cinematic journey.

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MS Raju's Agadha Locks August 14 Release



Veteran filmmaker M.S. Raju is all set to explore a new genre with his upcoming mystical thriller Agadha, and the makers have officially announced its theatrical release date. The much-awaited film will hit cinemas on August 14, 2026, raising excitement among audiences eager to experience its unique blend of mystery, fantasy, and suspense.

The release date was unveiled along with a striking new poster that reflects the film's mysterious and supernatural tone. Ever since its first-look poster and teaser were released, Agadha has

generated considerable curiosity for its intriguing concept and visually rich presentation.

Written and directed by M.S. Raju, the film marks a significant departure from the filmmaker's signature style of feel-good entertainers. This time, he ventures into the world of mystical thrillers, promising an engaging cinematic experience filled with suspense and fantasy elements.

The film stars Kamakshi Bhaskara, Shravan Reddy, Jovika Vijaykumar, and Ulka Gupta in lead roles. The ensemble cast is expected to de-

liver performances that complement the film's mysterious narrative.

The makers have deliberately kept the storyline under wraps, revealing only glimpses of the film's mystical universe through the teaser. The promotional material hints at a suspense-filled narrative with supernatural and fantasy elements, leaving audiences eager to discover the secrets hidden within the story.

Mounted as a pan-India project, Agadha is being produced under the Sri Adi Varaha Entertainment banner. The film is expected to release in multiple languages, aiming to reach

audiences across the country. With the release date now confirmed, the promotional campaign is likely to gather momentum in the coming weeks. The combination of M.S. Raju's new creative direction, an intriguing premise, and visually impressive promotional material has already created strong anticipation among movie lovers.

As August 14 approaches, Agadha is shaping up to be one of the most interesting mystical thrillers of the year, promising a cinematic experience that blends mythology, suspense, fantasy, and emotion on a grand scale.

'Every Family Will Connect With The India Story' Says Kajal

Actress Kajal Aggarwal has expressed immense confidence in her upcoming film The India Story, saying that its powerful theme will resonate with audiences of all ages and connect with every family.

Speaking during the film's promotions, Kajal revealed that the entire cast and crew have worked tirelessly to bring the story to life. She said the film deals with

a subject that is both relevant and emotionally engaging, making it a story that families can easily relate to.

According to Kajal, the makers have presented the issue in a compelling and entertaining manner without compromising on the film's emotional depth. She believes audiences will not only enjoy the movie but also leave theatres with meaningful

thoughts about its central message.

The actress also praised director Chetnan DK and the technical team for their dedication and commitment throughout the making of the film. She appreciated the effort that went into presenting a socially relevant subject in a cinematic and engaging way. Shreyas Talpade plays the male lead alongside Kajal, and

the film marks their first on-screen collaboration. Their pairing has already generated interest among moviegoers, with the promotional material receiving a positive response.

The film has been creating buzz ever since its teaser and posters were released. The makers have positioned it as a socially relevant drama that blends emotion with a thought-provok-

ing narrative, aiming to entertain while raising awareness about an important issue.

With Kajal openly expressing her confidence in the project, expectations surrounding The India Story have increased significantly. Fans are now eagerly awaiting the film's release, hoping it delivers a meaningful cinematic experience that appeals to audiences across generations.

