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New Delhi, July 22 | TPN
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday called for a whole-of-government approach to achieve the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India), emphasizing that the mission should evolve into a nationwide people's movement with active participation from citizens, particularly the youth. Chairing a high-level review meeting with Union government secretaries at his official residence, the Prime Minister assessed the progress of key sectors, including rural development, agriculture, social welfare, and allied departments. The meeting focused on improving governance, accelerating reforms, and ensuring better coordination among ministries to achieve national development goals. Addressing senior officials, Modi stressed that citizen welfare must remain at the heart of every policy and reform initiative. He said governance reforms should

not merely improve administrative efficiency but should directly contribute to improving the quality of life of people and advancing India's journey towards becoming a developed nation. The Prime Minister highlighted the need to modernize governance systems by strengthening institutional processes and identifying emerging challenges across ministries. He urged departments to adopt a forward-looking approach by mapping future requirements and aligning policies to meet the changing needs of society. Modi also emphasized the importance of empowering India's youth, describing them as the driving force behind the Viksit Bharat vision. He called for stronger institutional mechanisms to improve coordination among departments implementing youth-oriented programmes. Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, he urged officials to formulate integrated strate-



gies to prevent substance abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among young people. On sports development, the Prime Minister advocated an integrated approach to nurturing sporting talent and expanding sports infrastructure. He said India should leverage sports tourism and aspire to host major interna-

tional sporting events in the future. He also encouraged greater use of technology and innovation in the sports sector, urging support for startups that can contribute to sports development and athlete performance. Turning to agriculture, Modi highlighted the transformative potential of schemes such as the PM KUSUM pro-

gramme, which promotes the use of solar energy in farming. He said wider adoption of such initiatives could enhance agricultural productivity, reduce input costs, and improve farmers' incomes. He also stressed the importance of identifying global skill requirements so that India's workforce can be equipped to seize emerging

employment opportunities. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the meeting featured detailed discussions on the implementation of government programmes, administrative challenges, and ways to improve coordination among ministries. Secretaries shared their experiences and suggestions from their respective departments, while the Prime Minister outlined his vision for strengthening governance and accelerating development. The PMO stated that the deliberations focused on ensuring effective implementation of policies, promoting convergence across sectors, and speeding up progress towards the goal of building a developed India. The meeting reaffirmed the government's commitment to citizen-centric governance, institutional reforms, and collaborative efforts across departments to achieve the long-term objectives of Viksit Bharat.

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CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Tricolour

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of National Flag Adoption Day, describing the Tricolour as a timeless symbol of India's unity, integrity, sovereignty, freedom, and democratic values. In a message, the Chief Minister said the National Flag continues to inspire every Indian and serves as a reminder of the immense sacrifices made by freedom fighters during the country's struggle for independence. He noted that the Tricolour represents the courage, patriotism, and dedication of those who laid down their lives for the nation.



Centre Raises Telangana Rice Procurement Target

New Delhi, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday welcomed the Central Government's decision to increase rice procurement from Telangana by an additional 8 lakh metric tonnes, describing it as a significant step taken in the interest of farmers. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi for approving the enhanced procurement target. In a press statement, Kishan Reddy said the Centre had raised the procurement target from 35 lakh metric tonnes of rice to 43 lakh metric tonnes, equivalent to increasing paddy procurement from 52 lakh metric tonnes to 64 lakh metric tonnes. He said the decision reflected the Union Government's commitment to supporting Telangana's farming community. The Union Minister recalled that before the commencement of the Kharif Marketing Season 2025-26, officials from both the Central and Telangana gov-



ernments had jointly decided to procure 35 lakh metric tonnes of rice. However, considering the higher paddy production during the current season, BJP Members of Parliament and MLAs from Telangana met Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on July 8 and requested an increase in the procurement target. According to Kishan Reddy, the Centre positively considered the request and approved the additional procurement of 8 lakh metric tonnes of rice. He said the decision would provide relief to farmers by ensuring greater procurement of their produce and strengthening the agricultural economy of the state. Expressing gratitude to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kishan Reddy said the Prime Minister had responded to the concerns of Telangana's farmers and approved the enhanced procurement. He also thanked Pralhad Joshi for acting promptly on the request submitted by BJP representatives from the state. The Union Minister urged the Telangana Government to fully utilize the increased procurement allocation by ensuring smooth procurement operations and timely delivery of rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI). He alleged that the state had failed to deliver rice from previous marketing seasons within the prescribed deadlines, resulting in repeated requests for extensions. Kishan Reddy called upon the state government to prepare an effective action plan to complete procurement without causing inconvenience to farmers. He stressed the importance of meeting the revised procurement targets within the stipulated timeframe while also clearing pending rice deliveries to the FCI, ensuring that farmers receive the full benefits of the Centre's decision.

Revanth Sets One-Week Deadline for Farmers' Plots

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to distribute residential plots within a week to farmers who lost their land for the proposed Vikarabad Industrial Corridor, warning against further delays in providing compensation and rehabilitation to affected families. Expressing strong displeasure over the slow pace of implementation, the Chief Minister instructed officials to complete the allotment process immediately and ensure that promises made to displaced farmers are honored without any further postponement. The directions came during the Chief Minister's visit to Hakimpet in Dudyal mandal of Vikarabad district, where he reviewed the progress of the industrial corridor, the proposed education hub, and various development projects in his home constituency of Kodangal. The review meeting was attended by Parigi MLA T. Ram Mohan Reddy, Tandur MLA B. Manohar Reddy, senior officials from multiple departments, and district authorities. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the government has already acquired 1,084 acres out of the proposed 1,200 acres spread across Lagacharla, Polepalli, and Hakimpet villages for the ambitious industrial corridor and education hub project. Revanth Reddy stressed that while infrastructure development is essential for economic growth, it should not come at the cost of delaying justice to farmers who surrendered their lands. The Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over the slow progress of

construction at the education hub being developed at Hakimpet and instructed officials to significantly accelerate the pace of work. He warned that negligence in implementing government projects would not be tolerated and made it clear that strict disciplinary action, including suspension of officials responsible for delays, would be initiated if work failed to progress as scheduled. As part of his visit, Revanth Reddy inspected the ongoing construction of the Young India Integrated Residential School (YIIRS), one of the flagship institutions planned within the education hub. He directed officials to submit detailed monthly progress reports on every project under development and announced that he would personally review the reports every month. The Chief Minister also stated that he would spend one day every month at the project site to directly monitor construction activities and resolve bottlenecks. He emphasized that regular field inspections would help ensure accountability and timely completion of the ambitious initiative. The state government has allocated ₹76 crore for the education hub, which is envisioned as a major centre for higher education and professional training. The allocation includes ₹200 crore each for the Young India Integrated Residential School and a veterinary hospital and college, ₹15 crore for an engineering college, and ₹6 crore for a degree college. In addition, the campus will include a medical college, nursing college, paramedical college, physiotherapy college, and modern student



hostels, creating a comprehensive educational ecosystem for the region. During the review meeting, officials also briefed the Chief Minister on the status of the Makthal-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project. Revanth Reddy instructed the Revenue and Irrigation departments to expedite land acquisition and remove all pending hurdles. He assured officials that the government was prepared to sanction the necessary funds and deploy additional survey teams to ensure that acquisition work was completed without delay. The Chief Minister further reviewed rural infrastructure projects across the Kodangal Assembly constituency. He directed officials to ensure that every village and habitation is connected by quality bituminous (BT) roads to the respective mandal headquarters, stating that no hamlet should remain isolated due to inadequate road infrastructure. He also instructed the construction of office buildings for newly formed gram panchayats and recommended

appointing an Executive Engineer-level officer to exclusively monitor the implementation of development works across the constituency. Keeping in view the anticipated impact of El Niño and the possibility of below-normal rainfall, Revanth Reddy also directed officials to prepare comprehensive contingency plans to prevent any drinking water shortage in the region. He instructed departments to identify vulnerable villages, strengthen water supply systems, and take proactive measures to ensure uninterrupted drinking water availability during the coming months. Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced development, the Chief Minister said welfare, infrastructure, education, irrigation, and rural connectivity would remain top priorities. He emphasized that projects should be completed within stipulated timelines while ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely relief for affected families, particularly farmers who have contributed land for the state's future development.

Revanth Urges 100% Voter Verification

Kodangal, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday held a meeting with local Congress leaders and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in Kodangal, urging them to complete the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and ensure that no eligible voter is left out before the August 3 deadline. Addressing party workers, the Chief Minister said it was the unwavering support of the people and Congress cadre of Kodangal that enabled him to become the Chief Minister of Telangana.



He alleged that political opponents were conspiring to weaken his base in the

constituency in an attempt to damage his leadership at the state level.

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Power Network Handles Record Demand: Bhatti

Hanamkonda, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said Telangana's power system successfully withstood an unprecedented surge in electricity demand triggered by the impact of El Niño, ensuring uninterrupted supply across the state without scheduled power cuts. Reviewing the performance of the power sector at the Northern Power Distrib



ution Company of Telangana (NPDCL) headquarters in Hanamkonda, Bhatti said the state's electricity network absorbed an additional load of nearly 7,000 MW after monsoon demand unexpectedly touched 16,500 MW, a level usually witnessed during peak summer. The situation was further aggravated by a 2,000 MW reduction in hydel power generation due to depleted water levels in reservoirs. Despite these challenges, the Deputy

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Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN
Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla extended warm greetings to the people of the state and the nation on the occasion of National Flag Adoption Day, commemorating the historic adoption of the Indian National Flag on July 22, 1947. In his message, the Governor described the Tiranga as a timeless symbol of courage, peace, unity, and progress that embodies the spirit and aspirations of the nation. He said the National Flag continues to inspire generations of Indians to uphold the values of democracy, patriotism, and national integrity. Highlighting the significance



of the Tricolor, Shiv Pratap Shukla said the saffron band represents courage and sacri-

fice, the white symbolizes truth and peace, and the green signifies faith, prosperity, and harmony. He added that the Ashoka Chakra at the centre of the flag stands for justice, righteousness, and the nation's continuous journey towards progress. The Governor called upon citizens to proudly salute the National Flag and renew their commitment to the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. He urged people to strengthen the values of national unity, harmony, and selfless service while working collectively for the country's development. Emphasizing the enduring significance of the Tricolor, Shiv Pratap Shukla said it

represents the collective dreams and aspirations of every Indian and serves as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters in securing the nation's independence. Concluding his message, the Governor invoked the spirit of patriotism with the words, "The Tricolor in every heart, India in every breath," and extended his best wishes to all citizens on National Flag Adoption Day. He also expressed hope that the occasion would inspire every Indian to uphold the dignity of the National Flag and continue contributing towards a stronger, united, and progressive India. Jai Hind!

Lift Safety Bill Nears Final Approval

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is in the final stages of approving the proposed Telangana Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Act, 2025, a comprehensive legislation aimed at improving the safety, installation, maintenance, and regulation of elevators across the state. The Bill is expected to be placed before the State Cabinet shortly before being introduced in the Telangana Legislature for approval. The proposed law comes in response to a series of lift-related accidents and follows directions issued by the Telangana High Court, which expressed concern over the absence of a dedicated legal framework governing lifts and escalators. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy approved the draft legislation



on June 25, and it is currently awaiting clearance from the Law Department before being taken up by the Cabinet. The High Court has been hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking stronger government intervention to prevent accidents caused by faulty lifts and elevators. During the proceedings, the court criticized the delay in introduc-

ing a regulatory law and directed the government to submit a fresh affidavit detailing the progress of the proposed legislation. In its response to the court, the government stated that the draft Act has already been prepared and is under active consideration. It also informed the court that the law is expected to become operational within six

months after its formal enactment. The draft legislation proposes several key safety measures. It mandates the registration of all lift manufacturing companies operating in the state and requires every lift, escalator, and moving walk installed in residential, commercial, and public buildings to comply with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) safety norms. To ensure regular monitoring, the Act provides for annual safety inspections by government-appointed inspectors. It also stipulates that maintenance and repair work can only be carried out by certified technicians and authorized agencies, ensuring accountability and adherence to safety standards. The Bill further strengthens consumer protection by allowing residents and build-

ing owners to approach consumer forums against manufacturers or service providers supplying defective or unsafe equipment. Welcoming the initiative, Telangana Elevators Association President Avinash Challa described the proposed legislation as a significant step toward enhancing public safety. He also urged the government to reduce the GST on lifts to 18 percent, arguing that elevators have become an essential public utility rather than a luxury. Once enacted, the legislation is expected to establish a robust regulatory framework that will significantly improve lift safety standards across Telangana while ensuring greater accountability among manufacturers, installers, and maintenance agencies.

Ponnam Prabhakar Performs Varuna Yagam for Good Rains



Warangal, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday performed a Varuna Yagam and other sacred rituals at the historic Kothakonda Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple, accompanied by Goddess Bhadrakali, praying for abundant rainfall, prosperity, and the well-being of the people. The Minister also performed a special Abhishekam using 108 sacred pots of water, seeking divine blessings for the state to receive timely rains despite the anticipated impact of El Niño. He prayed for favorable weather conditions, healthy crops, and the prosperity, health, and longevity of the people of Telangana and the country. The religious ceremony witnessed the participation of local sarpanches, market committee chairpersons, senior Congress leaders, party workers, and devotees, who joined the Minister in offering prayers. Speaking on the occasion, Ponnam Prabhakar described the Kothakonda Sri Veerabhadra Swamy Temple as one of Telangana's most revered shrines, with a history dating back to the Kakatiya era. He said the temple has long been a symbol of faith for the people of the region and continues to attract devotees seeking divine blessings. The Minister said the Varuna Yagam and the 108-kalasha Abhishekam were performed to invoke timely rainfall, ensure agricultural prosperity, and promote the health and happiness of the people. He noted that while scientists have forecast below-normal rainfall due to El Niño conditions, people across Telangana have placed their faith in divine intervention by organizing special prayers and Varuna Yagams in temples. Ponnam Prabhakar added that, as the Minister in-charge of Hyderabad, he has also been overseeing special prayers at temples across the city during the ongoing Bonalu festival, seeking the blessings of Goddess Mahankali for widespread rainfall and the welfare of the state. Expressing confidence that the prayers would bring positive outcomes, the Minister said he prayed for abundant rains, bumper harvests, peace, prosperity, and good health for every citizen of Telangana and the nation. He urged people to remain hopeful and united while continuing to preserve the state's rich spiritual and cultural traditions.

Governor Pays Tribute to Mahakavi Daasarathi

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Tuesday paid rich tributes to Mahakavi Daasarathi Krishnamacharyulu on the occasion of his 101st birth anniversary, recalling the legendary poet's immense contribution to Telugu literature and Telangana's cultural heritage. In a message issued on the occasion, the Governor described Daasarathi as one of Telangana's foremost literary icons whose poetry emerged as a powerful voice

for freedom, social justice, and human dignity. He said the celebrated poet's writings reflected the cultural identity of Telangana and the aspirations of its people, earning him an enduring place in the history of Telugu literature. Shiv Pratap Shukla noted that Daasarathi's literary works inspired generations with their message of patriotism, equality, and social consciousness. He said the poet's writings transcended literature by motivating people to stand for justice, uphold democratic values, and work toward the better-



ment of society. The Governor expressed hope that the younger gener-

ation would draw inspiration from Daasarathi Krishnamacharyulu's life and ideals, encouraging them to dedicate themselves to the service of society and the nation. He said the poet's commitment to truth, justice, and the welfare of the people remains relevant even today. Emphasizing the importance of preserving Telangana's rich literary and cultural traditions, Shiv Pratap Shukla called upon the people of the state to promote and safeguard the legacy of great literary figures such as Daasarathi. He observed that

the poet's timeless writings continue to inspire readers with their enduring message of courage, equality, and compassion. The Governor said Mahakavi Daasarathi Krishnamacharyulu's remarkable literary legacy would continue to guide future generations and strengthen the cultural identity of Telangana. He urged citizens to remember the poet's invaluable contributions and celebrate his works as a lasting source of inspiration for building a just, progressive, and harmonious society.

CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Dasarathi



Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday paid rich tributes to eminent poet and literary icon Dasarathi Krishnamacharya on the occasion of his birth anniversary, describing him as a fearless voice for Telangana's self-respect, culture, and social justice. In a message, the Chief Minister said Dasarathi wielded his pen as a powerful weapon against the Nizam's autocratic rule and emerged as a "literary soldier" whose writings became a source of inspiration for the Telangana movement. Revanth Reddy recalled Dasarathi's iconic words, "Naa Telangana Koti Rathanala Veena" (My Telangana is a Veena of ten million gems), stating that the celebrated poet immortalized the soul, identity, and cultural heritage of Telangana through his literary works. The Chief Minister said Dasarathi's poetry transcended generations, inspiring people to uphold the ideals of liberty, equality, and social justice. He noted that the poet's contribution to Telugu literature and the Telangana movement had earned him an enduring place in the state's literary and cultural history. Revanth Reddy urged people, especially the younger generation, to draw inspiration from Dasarathi's life and writings and continue to uphold the values he championed.

Dharmareddy Canal Restored, Water Released

Nalgonda, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A long-pending promise to restore the historic Dharmareddy canal was fulfilled on Tuesday as irrigation water was officially released into the canal, marking a significant milestone for farmers in parts of Nalgonda district. The restoration was undertaken following Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's assurance during his Musi River Rejuvenation Sankalpa Padayatra held in November 2024. The Chief Minister had pledged to complete the decades-old restoration work while addressing people during his padayatra from Sangem to Bhimalingam in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on November 8, 2024. The canal, which had remained neglected for several decades, has now been revived after the state government sanctioned ₹129 crore for its restoration. The Dharmareddy canal originates from the Musi River at Sangem and stretches approximately 66 kilometres before reaching the irrigation tank at Pedda Kaparthi in Chityal mandal. The restored canal is expected to provide irrigation facilities to thousands of acres of agricultural land in Valigonda and Ramannapet mandals, offering a major boost to farming activity in



the region. Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham formally released water into the canal at the Zero Point in Valigonda on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he described the event as the fulfilment of a long-standing aspiration of farmers and residents of the Bhongir and Nakrekal Assembly constituencies. Veeresham said the restoration of the canal had remained pending for decades despite repeated demands from local communities. He credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for honoring the commitment made during the Musi River rejuvenation campaign and ensuring the project was completed within a short period after

funds were sanctioned. He stated that the release of water would significantly improve irrigation facilities, enhance agricultural productivity, and provide much-needed relief to farmers who have long depended on uncertain rainfall and limited water resources. The MLA added that the successful completion of the project demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening irrigation infrastructure and fulfilling promises made to the people. Farmers and local residents welcomed the restoration, expressing hope that the revived canal would improve crop cultivation and contribute to the long-term development of the region.

Ponguleti Promises Homes for the Poor



Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday said the Congress government is committed to fulfilling the long-cherished dream of homeownership for poor families and ensuring that governance remains accessible to the people. Speaking during a weekly public interaction programme at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, the minister welcomed the initiative of holding direct meetings with citizens to hear their grievances. He said such interactions reflect the government's commitment to transparent and people-centric governance. Ponguleti alleged that the previous government had failed to provide an effective platform for the public to voice their concerns. He said the Congress administration had made it a priority to bring governance closer to the people by addressing grievances promptly and ensuring that officials respond swiftly to genuine public issues. Highlighting the government's housing initiative, the minister said owning a house is a matter of dignity and self-respect for economically weaker families. He stated that the government had already sanctioned 7.5 lakh houses across Telangana under its housing programme and was working to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the promised assistance without delay. Referring to Hyderabad, Ponguleti noted that soaring land prices had made homeownership an unattainable dream for many low-income families. He alleged that the previous government had failed to fulfil its promise of providing double-bedroom houses to all eligible beneficiaries. In contrast, he said, the Congress government was making every effort to help poor families own houses even in urban areas where land costs are high. The minister urged eligible residents of Hyderabad to submit fresh housing applications through MeeSeva centres, including those who had applied under previous schemes. He explained that reapplying would help the government compile updated beneficiary data and process applications more efficiently. Ponguleti also directed officials to resolve issues that could be addressed immediately and ensure that pending grievances receive timely attention. He said the government was focused on delivering welfare benefits transparently and efficiently while making public administration more responsive to citizens' needs. Reiterating the Congress government's commitment to inclusive development, the minister said every eligible family should have an equal opportunity to achieve the dream of owning a permanent home, adding that the housing programme would continue to be implemented on a priority basis across the state.

Centre Seeks Return of RS.54.22 Crore Irrigation Funds

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti has directed the Telangana Government to refund ₹36.34 crore in Central assistance, along with applicable interest, alleging that the funds released for specific irrigation projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Command Area Development and Water Management (PMKSY-CADWM) scheme were diverted for purposes other than those for which they were sanctioned. According to an official communication dated July 21, 2026, addressed to the Engineer-in-Chief of the

Telangana Irrigation Department, the Ministry stated that the state must repay the principal amount of ₹36.34 crore together with ₹17.88 crore in interest calculated up to January 2026. The total amount recoverable stands at ₹54.22 crore, with the Ministry noting that the final interest would be recalculated at the time the recovery proposal is submitted by the Telangana Government. The disputed funds were released under the PMKSY-CADWM scheme for 11 irrigation projects, including the Indiramma Flood Flow Canal, J. Chokka Rao Devadula Project, Rajiv Bhima Lift Irrigation

Scheme, SRSP-II, Peddavagu in Nilwai village, Ralivagu, Mattadivagu, Komaram Bheem Project, Palemvagu, Peddavagu near Jagannadhapur village, and the Gollavagu Project. According to the original proposal submitted by the then BRS government, these irrigation schemes were intended to provide irrigation facilities to nearly 13.07 lakh acres of agricultural land. The total estimated cost of the projects was ₹1,525.64 crore, of which the Centre had agreed to contribute ₹722.61 crore under the scheme. As part of the approved Central assistance, the Ministry released ₹10.22

crore during the 2017-18 financial year and another ₹26.12 crore in 2018-19, taking the total release to ₹36.34 crore. However, the Union Ministry has now stated that the released funds were not utilized for the sanctioned purposes and were instead diverted. Consequently, it has rejected the state's request to regularize the expenditure and has directed that the entire amount be refunded with interest. The letter also referred to a proposal submitted by the then BRS government in 2023 seeking permission to utilize the released funds for works related to the Devadula Project, Rajiv Bhima Lift

Irrigation Scheme, SRSP-II, and Peddavagu (Jagannadhapur). The Ministry said the request could not be accepted as it did not conform to the original conditions under which the financial assistance had been sanctioned. With the Centre formally initiating the recovery process, the Telangana Government is now expected to examine the communication and decide its response. The issue is likely to assume significance as it concerns the utilization of Central assistance meant for major irrigation infrastructure and compliance with funding guidelines under the PMKSY-CADWM scheme.

Revanth Reddy Targets Centre Over NEET Protest

Kodangal, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Central Government over the alleged police action against students protesting the NEET examination paper leak and the detention of senior Congress leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Addressing a massive protest rally in Kodangal, the Chief Minister accused the Centre of suppressing democratic rights and ignoring students' concerns instead of taking action against those responsible for the alleged examination irregularities. Leading a procession from his residence to Ambedkar Crossroads, Revanth Reddy, accompanied by MLAs, local leaders, and Congress workers, paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar before addressing the gathering.

Questioning the police action against demonstrators, the Chief Minister asked whether peaceful protests warranted what he described as "brutal attacks." He alleged that students protesting at Jantar Mantar were subjected to excessive force and claimed that several protesters, including women, sustained injuries. Referring to Rahul Gandhi, Revanth Reddy alleged that the Congress leader was injured during the protests and said the Centre was trampling upon constitutional rights guaranteed to citizens. The Chief Minister maintained that instead of taking action against those allegedly responsible for the NEET paper leak and removing Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the authorities had targeted students and opposition leaders. He alleged that the Centre was preventing a meaningful discussion on the issue in Parliament while attempting



to suppress democratic protests. Revanth Reddy also praised the Gandhi family for what he described as its tradition of sacrifice for the nation. He recalled the contributions of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and said Sonia Gandhi had declined positions of power despite leading the Congress. He further stated that the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to peaceful protest and accused the BJP-led govern-

ment of undermining democratic institutions. The Chief Minister also referred to the 2019 Telangana Intermediate examination controversy, alleging that irregularities involving a private firm had resulted in the loss of students' lives. He claimed that the company later rebranded and secured contracts related to national examinations with political backing. Revanth Reddy questioned why, according to him, the BJP continued to support the

firm despite previous controversies. Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan of failing to safeguard students' interests, Revanth Reddy alleged that the Centre was ignoring accountability while attempting to silence dissent. He asserted that the Congress would continue its campaign in support of students and youth until justice was delivered and demanded action over the alleged examination irregularities. The rally concluded at Ambedkar Crossroads with Congress leaders reiterating their demand for accountability in the alleged NEET paper leak case and calling for the protection of democratic rights. MLAs Rammohan Reddy and Manohar Reddy, corporation chairpersons, senior party leaders, and a large number of Congress workers participated in the protest.

Revanth Urges 100% Voter Verification

continued Revanth Reddy claimed that despite operating under different names, the BJP and BRS were working with a common objective. He alleged that efforts were being made to delete the names of Congress supporters from the electoral rolls in Kodangal. According to him, his opponents were unable to challenge him politically and were instead resorting to indirect methods to weaken the Congress. The Chief Minister stressed that his responsibility was to work for the development of all 119 Assembly constituencies and said even 18 hours of work each day felt insufficient to meet the aspirations of the people. He called upon party workers to ensure that those allegedly plotting against the Congress were defeated politically through democratic means. Reviewing the progress of the voter verification drive, Revanth Reddy said that 1,96,620 voters in Kodangal had already completed the verification process. However, he pointed out that 54,635 voters, nearly 22 percent of the electorate, were yet to complete registration or verification. He warned that failure to complete the process could result in eligible voters losing their names from the electoral rolls. The Chief Minister directed Congress workers to conduct a door-to-door campaign and help residents fill out voter verification forms. He emphasized that booth-level agents have a crucial responsibility in coordinating with election officials and ensuring accurate voter records. Revanth Reddy instructed party workers to complete 100 percent electoral roll verification by July 30, ahead of the August 3 deadline for the SIR process. Reiterating the importance of voting rights, he said that losing one's vote meant losing an important democratic identity and asserted that no eligible citizen should be deprived of the right to vote.

Power Network Handles Record Demand: Bhatti

continued Chief Minister said the Electricity Department maintained uninterrupted and quality power supply through careful planning and the dedicated efforts of engineers and field staff. He noted that increased use of agricultural borewells and lift irrigation projects such as Kaleshwaram, Devadula and Sitarama significantly contributed to the higher demand. Bhatti clarified that there were no scheduled power cuts in Telangana. He explained that temporary outages occurred only because of weather-related incidents such as heavy rains, strong winds, or falling trees damaging power lines, and urged the public not to mistake such disruptions for intentional load shedding. Highlighting reforms in the power sector, the Deputy Chief Minister announced the launch of the country's first "Electricity Ambulance" service. Equipped with transformers, ladders, tools and technical personnel, the vehicles will respond to electrical emergencies. He said complaints registered through the toll-free 1912 helpline would now be processed using Artificial Intelligence (AI), enabling faster dispatch of emergency teams. Bhatti also outlined the government's plans to restructure high-interest loans of the power utilities to reduce financial burdens and transform Telangana's DISCOMs into the best-performing power distribution companies in the country. He said the government remained committed to employee welfare by providing ₹1.20 crore insurance coverage for linemen and other field staff, besides supplying modern safety equipment and uniforms. He added that the Finance Department was directly reimbursing DISCOMs for the Gruha Jyothi scheme benefiting 53 lakh households receiving up to 200 units of free electricity, while also releasing nearly ₹14,000 crore annually towards free power for about 30 lakh agricultural pump sets. Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnamp Prabhakar, MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, NPDC CMD Varun Reddy and senior officials attended the review meeting.

CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Tricolour

continued Revanth Reddy urged citizens to remember and honour the contributions of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence, stating that the National Flag remains an enduring symbol of their sacrifice and commitment to the country. He emphasized that respecting the Tricolour is the fundamental duty of every citizen and called upon people to uphold the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. The Chief Minister urged everyone to practice the values of justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity in their daily lives, saying that doing so would be the true tribute to the National Flag and the nation's democratic heritage.

Kishan Reddy Condemns Arrest of BJP Leaders

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday strongly condemned the arrest of Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao, party MLAs, senior leaders, and activists during a protest in Hyderabad, alleging that the police action was unjustified and undemocratic. In a press statement, Kishan Reddy said the BJP leaders were participating in a peaceful demonstration under the leadership of Ramchander Rao outside the party's state office to protest what he described as the Congress party's attempt to lay siege to the Prime Minister's residence. He alleged that the arrests reflected the Congress government's intolerance toward democratic protests. The Union Minister accused the Congress of making allegations against the Central Government while ignoring its own shortcomings. Referring to a popular proverb, he said the party was highlighting the faults of others without acknowledging its own, and described the episode as a reflection of what he termed the Congress party's political bankruptcy. Kishan Reddy also criticized the Congress over its stand on the alleged NEET examination paper leak. He stated that the Central Government had expressed its willingness to hold a discussion on the issue in the Lok Sabha but alleged that the Congress was choosing political agitation over parliamentary debate. He further said that those allegedly responsible for the NEET paper leak had already been produced before the court and assured that the Union Government would ensure strict legal action against all those found guilty. Reiterating the Centre's commitment to addressing the matter through legal and constitutional means, Kishan Reddy maintained that the government would continue to pursue action against those involved in the examination irregularities while ensuring that justice is delivered. He also asserted that Parliament remained the appropriate forum for discussing issues of national importance and urged the Opposition to participate in legislative debates instead of resorting to protests.

Bhatti Vikramarka Leads Protest Against Rahul Gandhi's Arrest

Hanamkonda, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday led a protest at the Ambedkar statue in Hanamkonda, condemning the arrest of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other Congress leaders during a demonstration in New Delhi. The protest was organized in response to the detention of Congress leaders who had been demonstrating near the Prime Minister's residence against the reported police action on students protesting over the alleged NEET examination irregularities at Jantar Mantar. State Minister Konda Surekha, Hanamkonda MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, and several



Congress leaders and workers participated in the protest. Before the demonstration, the leaders paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, describing him as the architect of the Indian Constitution. Addressing the

gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the arrest of senior Congress leaders while they were staging a peaceful protest was a serious assault on democratic values and constitutional principles. The Deputy Chief Minister

accused the Central Government of suppressing dissent instead of responding to the concerns raised by students and the Opposition. Referring to the alleged NEET examination paper leak, he claimed that the controversy had adversely affected the future of millions of students across the country. He also criticized the reported police lathi-charge on students, including women, who had gathered to protest against the alleged irregularities. Bhatti Vikramarka demanded the immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally responsible for the alleged NEET paper leak. He said accountability was essential to restore public confidence in the country's education system. The Deputy Chief Minister

further alleged that the Narendra Modi-led government was adopting an authoritarian approach by arresting opposition leaders instead of addressing public grievances. He described Rahul Gandhi as a leader fighting to safeguard the future of students and protect the integrity of the education system. Asserting that the Congress would continue its democratic struggle, Bhatti Vikramarka said the voices of students could not be silenced through police action or the arrest of opposition leaders. He appealed to citizens across the country to support the movement for transparency, accountability, and reforms in the education system, while reaffirming the party's commitment to defending democratic rights and the interests of students.

BJP Slams Arrest of Ramchander Rao, Targets Congress

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday intensified its attack on the Congress government after Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and several party leaders were detained while attempting to march towards Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad. The protest, organized to oppose what the BJP described as the Congress party's divisive politics and the conduct of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, witnessed heavy police deployment around the BJP state office in Nampally. Police stopped the rally and detained Ramchander Rao, senior leaders, Yuva Morcha members, and party workers, leading to protests by BJP cadres.

Before being taken into custody, Ramchander Rao alleged that the Congress had chosen street protests over parliamentary debate despite the Centre's stated willingness to discuss the alleged NEET examination irregularities in Parliament. He claimed the Opposition should raise issues inside the House instead of staging demonstrations outside the Prime Minister's residence. He further alleged that anti-national and extremist elements had influenced the ongoing protests and asserted that the BJP would continue opposing what it described as divisive politics. Reacting strongly to the arrests, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar termed the police action "undemocratic" and demanded the immediate and



unconditional release of Ramchander Rao and all detained BJP leaders. He alleged that the Congress government was suppressing peaceful protests while claiming to uphold democratic values. Reiterating the BJP's stand, he said the NDA government was prepared to discuss the NEET issue in Parliament

and challenged Congress leaders to participate in the debate instead of organizing protests outside Parliament. BJP National Vice President and Mahabubnagar MP D.K. Aruna also condemned the arrests, accusing the Congress government of misusing the police to silence the Opposition. She described

the detentions as evidence of what she termed the government's authoritarian approach and urged the Congress to ensure the smooth functioning of Parliament. BJP MLA Palvai Harish Babu echoed similar views, alleging that the arrests violated the constitutional right to peaceful protest. He maintained that Parliament remained the proper forum for discussing the NEET issue and urged the Congress to engage in debate rather than street demonstrations. The BJP leadership collectively demanded the immediate release of Ramchander Rao and other detained leaders, asserting that the party would continue its democratic agitation against what it described as the misuse of state machinery and suppression of opposition voices.

Bhatti Rebuts KTR Over El Nino Remarks

Hanamkonda, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of making misleading remarks about the prevailing drought-like conditions in Telangana and lacking a basic understanding of the global climate phenomenon known as El Nino. Addressing a press conference at the NPDC office in Hanamkonda, Bhatti Vikramarka responded to KTR's recent remark that the state was facing "a drought brought by the Congress government, not by nature." The Deputy Chief Minister said it was surprising that KTR, who had studied in the United States and served as a minister for a decade, failed to understand the scientific reasons behind changing weather patterns.

Bhatti said scientists and climate experts across the world have attributed the current rainfall deficit to the impact of El Nino in the Pacific Ocean. He remarked that it was unfortunate for a senior opposition leader to ignore globally accepted scientific explanations and instead make politically motivated statements. The Deputy Chief Minister urged the Opposition to offer constructive suggestions rather than spread what he described as misinformation. He alleged that media organizations established during the previous BRS government were attempting to malign the Congress government through false campaigns, adding that people were capable of distinguishing facts from political propaganda. Turning his attention to former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao, Bhatti questioned the structural integrity



of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, particularly the Medigadda barrage. He recalled that the BRS government had projected the project as a landmark achievement and asked why the Medigadda barrage, built

at a cost of thousands of crores, developed structural problems within just three years. Drawing comparisons with irrigation projects constructed during previous Congress governments, Bhatti said the

Sripada Yellampalli Project and the Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP) had remained structurally sound for decades despite being built on similar geological conditions. He questioned why the Medigadda barrage had suffered damage while older Congress-era projects continued to function safely and provide irrigation to lakhs of acres. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government remained committed to addressing drought-related challenges and ensuring support for farmers across Telangana. He appealed to the Opposition to act responsibly and avoid politicizing natural phenomena. State Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnamp Prabhakar, along with MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy, Nagaraju, and other public representatives, were present at the press conference.

BRS Remembers Dasharathi, Hails His Legacy

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR), along with senior party leaders, paid rich tributes to legendary poet and freedom fighter Dasharathi Krishnamacharyulu on the occasion of his 101st birth anniversary, recalling his immense contribution to Telangana's cultural identity, literary heritage, and the struggle for social justice.

In a message, KCR described Dasharathi as a fearless warrior of the pen who gave voice to the aspirations of Telangana through his iconic poetry. Recalling the poet's famous line, "Na Telangana Koti Ratnala Veena," KCR said Dasharathi remained committed to Telangana's self-respect and identity even while imprisoned during the armed peasant struggle. He said the poet's literary works became symbols of resistance against oppression and inspired generations to fight for justice and equality.

KCR noted that during the previous BRS government, Dasharathi's birth anniversary was officially celebrated by the



state and a prestigious literary award was instituted in his name to honor his contribution to Telugu literature and the Telangana movement. He said the poet's ideals remain relevant and continue to inspire society to safeguard Telangana's identity and cultural heritage. BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) also paid homage, describing Dasharathi as a poet who stood firmly with the oppressed and awakened the spirit of Telangana through his

writings. He said the celebrated poet fought tyranny with his words and instilled confidence among the people to strive for justice and self-respect. KTR said the BRS government had honored Dasharathi by institutionalizing official birth anniversary celebrations and establishing a literary award in his memory.

Former Finance Minister T. Harish Rao described Dasharathi as a multifaceted personality who inspired the Telangana Armed Struggle and envisioned an egalitarian society free from hunger and inequality. He said the poet's writings continue to serve as a guiding force for those working towards social justice.

The birth anniversary celebrations were held at Telangana Bhavan, where former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, former MPs Ravula Chandrasekhara Reddy and Malothu Kavitha, former Corporation Chairman Deviprasad, former BC Commission member Kishore Goud, and other BRS leaders garlanded Dasharathi's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Talasani Srinivas Yadav said Dasharathi awakened Telangana through his poetry

and inspired KCR's struggle for statehood. He credited the former Chief Minister with realizing many of the poet's aspirations through initiatives such as Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, 24-hour free power supply, and the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, which he said transformed agriculture and rural life in Telangana.

Former MP Malothu Kavitha, a native of Dasharathi's birthplace region, said the poet's vision continues to inspire the BRS leadership. Former Corporation Chairman Deviprasad described Dasharathi as a "people's poet" who courageously challenged the Nizam's rule and championed the causes of land, livelihood, and freedom. He said the poet's prison writings later became a source of inspiration for the Telangana statehood movement.

The BRS leaders asserted that Dasharathi's literary legacy remains a beacon for future generations and reaffirmed their commitment to preserving Telangana's cultural identity and carrying forward the ideals of justice, equality, and self-respect that the legendary poet championed throughout his life.

BJP Condemns Arrest of Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash on Tuesday strongly condemned the arrest of Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and several party workers, alleging that the Congress government was undermining democratic values by suppressing peaceful protests. In a press statement, Subhash claimed that Ramchander Rao and BJP leaders were taken into custody while staging a peaceful demonstration against what the party described as the "irresponsible conduct" of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He termed the police action illegal and accused the state government of attempting to silence the Opposition through the misuse of law enforcement. The BJP leader alleged that the Congress government was using the police as a political tool to curb the voice of the Opposition. He said the arrests reflected what

he described as an authoritarian approach and asserted that the BJP would not be intimidated by efforts to suppress democratic dissent or the constitutional right to peaceful protest. Subhash maintained that every political party has the right to raise public issues and criticize the government through democratic means. He alleged that the Congress administration was violating fundamental constitutional rights by preventing opposition leaders from expressing their views. Referring to the ongoing controversy surrounding the alleged NEET examination irregularities, Subhash said the NDA government at the Centre, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had repeatedly expressed its willingness to hold a discussion on the issue in Parliament. He challenged Congress leaders to participate in parliamentary debate instead of organizing protests on the streets. According to the BJP spokesperson,

Parliament remains the appropriate platform for discussing national issues, including concerns related to the NEET examination. He urged the Congress to cooperate in ensuring the smooth functioning of Parliament rather than engaging in political demonstrations outside the House. Demanding immediate action, Subhash called for the unconditional release of Telangana BJP President Ramchander Rao and all detained BJP leaders and workers.

He reiterated that the BJP would continue to oppose what he described as the misuse of state machinery against opposition parties and vowed to continue raising issues affecting the public through democratic means. The BJP leader asserted that the party would remain committed to protecting constitutional rights and ensuring that democratic institutions function without political interference.

BRS Slams Government Over Farmer Distress

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Telangana government over the handling of drought conditions and irrigation in the undivided Warangal district, alleging administrative failure, neglect of farmers, and lack of coordination among Congress leaders. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, BRS MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy criticized Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, alleging that their recent review of drought conditions in the undivided Warangal district had failed to produce

concrete results. He claimed that despite the government's assurances, farmers continued to suffer due to inadequate irrigation and delayed activation of the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme. Srinivas Reddy alleged that the Devadula pumps were switched on only after sustained pressure from the Opposition and accused the government of misleading farmers by claiming that reservoirs under the project would soon be filled. The BRS leader further alleged that two ministers representing the undivided Warangal district did not participate in the review meeting and questioned the coordination within the Congress government. He also claimed that Congress MLAs from the region lacked unity

and were more focused on personal interests than addressing farmers' problems.

Former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy also criticized the government, alleging that ministers merely visited the Devadula project for publicity without taking meaningful steps to resolve irrigation issues. He said the government had encouraged farmers to cultivate seven fine-grain paddy varieties but had linked the promised ₹500 bonus to online registration, creating uncertainty among cultivators. Sudarshan Reddy questioned the government's preparedness to tackle the anticipated impact of El Nino and accused Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy of making contradictory statements

regarding the Devadula project. He also alleged that the Congress government had failed to honor its commitments to farmers in the undivided Warangal district. The BRS leaders maintained that sufficient water levels were available at the Devadula intake point and the Sammakka Barrage and argued that irrigation water could be supplied if the government acted promptly. They accused the Congress administration of failing to address farmers' concerns and demanded immediate measures to ensure uninterrupted irrigation. Former MP Malothu Kavitha, former MLA Shankar Naik, and BRS leader Lakshman Rao were also present at the press conference.

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The CPI(M) Quthbullapur Mandal Committee on Tuesday organized a protest rally at Shapur Nagar in support of nationwide protests over the alleged NEET paper leak, demanding action against those responsible and the withdrawal of cases filed against student protesters. The rally began at the Shapur Nagar Rythu Bazar and concluded at Ushodaya Towers, with party leaders and activists raising slogans against the Centre. The protesters also condemned the reported lathi-charge on students demonstrating at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. Addressing the gathering, CPM Quthbullapur Mandal Secretary Keelukani Lakshman alleged that the NEET



paper leak had affected the future of lakhs of students. He demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities, strict action against those responsible, and greater transparency in the examination system. He also called for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally responsible for the controversy. The CPM leader criticized the police action against students protesting at Jantar Mantar,

describing it as a violation of democratic rights. He demanded the withdrawal of cases registered against the protesters and urged the Centre to stop what he termed the harassment of students. The party also condemned the arrest of activist Sonam Wangchuk and demanded his immediate and unconditional release. CPM leaders Pasula Anjaiah, E. Devadanam, K. Srinu, Mallareddy, Anjaneyulu, Durga Naik, Thimmappa, and others participated in the rally.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Slams Arrest of Rahul Gandhi

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud on Tuesday strongly criticized the Central Government, alleging that democratic values were being undermined through the suppression of opposition voices. Speaking to the media during the 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' protest in Hyderabad, he condemned the arrest of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other Members of Parliament. Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that the country was witnessing a "dictatorial regime" under the Narendra Modi-led government. He claimed that the Centre had failed to protect the interests of students and accused it of jeopardizing the future of nearly 2.2 million students due to alleged

examination paper leaks. He said it was unacceptable for the government to arrest opposition leaders who were staging what he described as a peaceful and democratic protest. According to him, Rahul Gandhi and other Congress MPs were exercising their democratic right to demand accountability on issues affecting students, but were instead met with police action. The TPCC chief alleged that the Central Government was attempting to silence opposition leaders instead of addressing public concerns. He said the arrest of Rahul Gandhi and other parliamentarians reflected an intolerance toward dissent and weakened democratic institutions. Mahesh Kumar Goud further stated that adopting what he termed a "police-state approach" would not resolve the issues raised by students and the Opposition. He



expressed confidence that the government would eventually have to respond to the sustained struggles of students and youth seeking justice and transparency. Demanding accountability over the alleged examination paper leak controversy, he called for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, holding him morally responsible for the issue. He said the Centre must take immediate corrective measures

to restore public confidence in the country's examination system and ensure that the interests of students are protected. Reiterating the Congress party's commitment to democratic protests, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the party would continue its agitation until the government addressed the concerns surrounding the alleged paper leaks and upheld the rights of students and opposition leaders.

BRS Urges Faster Voter Enumeration

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Senior BRS leader Varala Vinod Kumar on Tuesday called for expediting the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls, urging Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to ensure that every eligible voter is included in the voters' list.



Addressing a review meeting with BLAs from Saibaba Nagar Division (292) in Quthbullapur, Vinod Kumar said the voter enumeration process had entered its final stage and stressed the importance of completing the exercise before the deadline. He instructed BLAs to conduct door-to-door outreach and ensure that enumeration forms reach every household so that no eligible voter is left out. Describing the vote as the cornerstone of democracy, he said every citizen should be encouraged to complete and submit the required forms to the concerned election officials within the stipulated time.

Vinod Kumar urged party workers and BLAs to actively assist residents in the verification process and create awareness about the importance of voter registration. He said safeguarding every eligible citizen's voting rights was a collective responsibility and called upon party cadres to ensure the successful completion of the electoral roll revision.

Rajkumar Mudiraj, Tara Singh, Bairish Goud, Gattu Ashok, Venu Mudiraj, Chinna Venkataswamy, Janumula Prabhakar, Kavali Ravi Kishore, Saritha, Vidya, Ramu, Ganesh, and other BRS leaders attended the meeting.

Speeding Tanker Leaves One Dead, Another Injured



Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A speeding water tanker triggered a major accident near the Narsingi-Puppalguda toll gate on Tuesday, leaving one person dead and another seriously injured after crashing into multiple vehicles.

According to police, the tanker, which was reportedly travelling at high speed, first rammed into a motorcycle carrying two persons. The impact proved fatal for Sushil Kumar (28), who suffered severe injuries and died on the spot. The pillion rider, identified as Suresh, sustained serious injuries and was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Following the initial collision, the driver allegedly lost control of the tanker, which went on to

hit a car and a scooter before finally coming to a halt. In all, the tanker collided with three vehicles, creating panic among commuters passing through the busy toll gate area. On receiving information about the accident, the Narsingi police rushed to the spot, secured the area, and initiated rescue operations. The body of the deceased was shifted for post-mortem examination, while the injured victim was provided medical assistance. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Further inquiries are underway to determine whether overspeeding or driver negligence led to the fatal crash.

Vivekananda Secures Relief Fund for Patient

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Quthbullapur MLA and BRS Legislature Party Whip K.P. Vivekananda secured ₹2.40 lakh in financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to support the medical treatment of a needy patient. The Letter of Credit (LOC) was handed over to the beneficiary's family members during a programme held at the BRS party office in Chintal. Former public representatives and party leaders from

the Jagadgirigutta division presented the documents to the family. The financial assistance was sanctioned for S. Karthik, husband of Sanjula Anjamma from Anjaiah Nagar in Jagadgirigutta division, to help meet the expenses of his medical treatment. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders praised K.P. Vivekananda for his commitment to public welfare and for extending support to economically weaker sections in times of medical emergencies. They

said the MLA has consistently worked to ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The leaders also appealed to eligible citizens facing financial hardship due to medical treatment to utilize the CMRF scheme. Former Corporator Jagan, Divisi on Preside nt Rudra Ashok, former Venkate swara Temple Chairman Venu Yadav, and BRS leaders Ramakrishna, Abhi, and others attended the programme.

BJP Burns Rahul Gandhi's Effigy in Protest

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers staged a protest at Gandhi Maisamma in the Dundigal Circle on Tuesday, burning an effigy of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in response to a call given by the Telangana BJP. The demonstration was organized to condemn what the party described as the Congress leadership's conduct during recent protests in New Delhi. BJP leaders alleged that attempts to organize demonstrations near the Prime Minister's residence were inappropriate and contrary to democratic norms. Addressing the gathering,



BJP District General Secretary Vigneshwarachari said that while every citizen has the constitutional right to protest in a democracy, any form of violence or actions that endanger public institutions should be condemned. He alleged that the developments in Delhi had undermined democratic values and called upon people to reject what he described as violent politics. Vigneshwarachari said the BJP would continue to pursue its protests through peaceful, disciplined, and democratic means while remaining committed to constitutional methods. He also urged party workers not to be provoked and to

continue their political activities within the framework of the law. Several BJP leaders and functionaries participated in the protest, including Dundigal Circle BJP President Peesari Krishna Reddy, State ST Morcha Vice President and Censor Board member D. Shyam Rao, former councillor Embari Anjaneyulu, senior leader Akula Mallesh, District ST Morcha President M. Venkatesh Naik, Circle General Secretary Turayi Bhanu Goud, and youth leaders Akula Vijay, Namala Srikanth, Talari Raj Kumar, Akula Yashwanth, Nagababu, and Durga Mudiraj.

BJP Leader Condemns Office Protest

Karimnagar, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency Convener Boinipally Praveen Rao on Wednesday criticized the Congress party over an alleged attempt to attack the Karimnagar MP's office, accusing it of resorting to political confrontation instead of addressing public issues. Addressing the media, Praveen Rao alleged that the Congress was staging protests and dharna programmes merely to divert public attention through political theatrics. He claimed the party had lost public confidence and was attempting to remain politically relevant through confrontational tactics. The BJP leader said Karimnagar has remained a peaceful city and warned that any attempts to disturb law and order would not be tolerated. He alleged that Congress workers had approached the MP's office with the intention of creating unrest and questioned why the ruling party in the state was resorting to such methods. Praveen Rao further alleged that several BJP workers were injured during the incident and demanded that those responsible be held accountable. He cautioned against any recurrence of similar incidents, stating that the BJP would strongly oppose any attempts to target its offices or workers. He also criticized the protests, alleging they were politically motivated and intended to support what he termed the "Cockroach Janata Party." He remarked that attacking political party offices was inappropriate in a democratic system and warned that such actions could lead to unnecessary political tension. Calling for restraint, Praveen Rao urged political parties to resolve differences through democratic dialogue rather than confrontation. He reiterated that the BJP would continue to safeguard its workers and maintain its political activities while expecting the authorities to ensure law and order across the district.



Teacher Training Strengthens FLN Goals

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A three-day Integrated Teacher Training Program 2026-27 concluded successfully in Quthbullapur on Tuesday, equipping government school teachers with modern teaching methods to strengthen Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and improve student learning outcomes. The training programme was held from July 20 to 22 at Vaxon International School, Chintal, under the



guidance of Quthbullapur Mandal Educational Officer Gemini Kumari. A total of 81 teachers and 11 Mandal Resource Persons (MRPs) participated in the programme. The sessions

focused on the implementation of FLN goals, student-centric teaching practices, comprehensive assessment, digital learning techniques, classroom management, and the effective implementa-

tion of new educational policies. Teachers also took part in group discussions, practical activities, and classroom demonstrations to gain hands-on experience in innovative teaching methods. Speaking on the occasion, MEO Gemini Kumari emphasized that teachers play a crucial role in ensuring every child achieves foundational literacy and numeracy skills. She said such training programmes enhance teachers' professional capabilities and con-

tribute to improving the quality of education in government schools. Participating teachers said the programme provided them with fresh ideas and renewed motivation to adopt learner-focused teaching approaches. Education department officials described the initiative as another important step towards achieving quality education and strengthening foundational learning across government schools in the mandal.

BJP Condemns Attack on Party Office

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State General Secretary Dr. N. Gautam Rao on Tuesday condemned the alleged attack on the party's state office in Hyderabad and accused the Congress government of fostering a "police state" atmosphere in Telangana. In a statement, Gautam Rao alleged that Congress workers attacked the BJP office after the police detained Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and other leaders who were preparing to participate in a protest. He claimed the attack reflected a deterioration in law and order and accused the state government of suppressing democratic dissent. The BJP leader also alleged that a television journalist was injured during the incident while carrying out professional duties and expressed solidarity with the injured reporter. Warning that the BJP would not be intimidated by arrests or attacks, Gautam Rao announced state-wide protests at district headquarters across Telangana. He said the demonstrations would condemn the arrests of BJP leaders and the alleged attack on the party office, while accusing the Congress government of adopting authoritarian methods against the Opposition.

Dr. Sudhir Kumar Invited to 'Vaidya Ratna-2026' Event

Adilabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

District advocate Dr. Sudhir Kumar Sangem has been invited as a special guest to the prestigious 'Vaidya Ratna-2026' Award Presentation Ceremony, scheduled to be held on July 25 at the Telangana Saraswatha Parishad in Abids, Hyderabad.

The annual event recognizes doctors for their outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the medical field. Several eminent personalities are expected to attend the ceremony, including Telangana Planning Board Vice-Chairman Chinna Reddy, former Union Minister Samudrala Venugopala Chari, scholar Daiyagna Sharma, Megha City Navakala Vedika President Mallikarjun, and Raghava.

The invitation extended to Dr. Sudhir Kumar Sangem has been welcomed by people in Adilabad district, who expressed happiness over his participation in the prestigious programme alongside distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sudhir Kumar said he considered the invitation a great honor and described the opportunity to attend the event as a blessing. He appreciated the organizers for recognizing the dedicated services of doctors and honoring medical professionals who have made significant contributions to society.

The ceremony is expected to bring together leading personalities from the medical, legal, literary, and social sectors to celebrate excellence in healthcare and acknowledge the invaluable role played by doctors in serving the community.

ACB Arrests Transco Engineer in RS.27.65 Crore Assets Case

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A Transco Divisional Engineer (DE), Muthyam Venkataramana, was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday after officials allegedly unearthed assets worth ₹27.65 crore that were found to be disproportionate to his known sources of income.

According to the ACB, searches conducted at the engineer's residence and other properties linked to him revealed substantial movable and immovable assets. Investigators found investments worth nearly ₹20 crore in 10 apartments, indicating extensive real estate holdings allegedly acquired beyond his legitimate earnings.

During the raids, officials also seized around 2 kg of gold, ₹52 lakh in cash, three cars, and electronic appliances valued at approximately ₹30 lakh. In addition, nearly 20 bottles of liquor were reportedly recovered from his residence.

The ACB carried out simultaneous searches at multiple locations, including the Meenakshi Sky Lounge apartments in Hyderabad's HITEX area and other premises associated with the accused. Officials examined property documents, bank transaction records, details of immovable assets, and information related to bank lockers as part of the ongoing investigation.

The agency stated that several crucial documents were recovered during the searches, which are expected to help determine the extent of the alleged accumulation of disproportionate assets. Financial records and investments are also being scrutinized to establish the source of funds used for acquiring the properties.

Following the discovery of the alleged illegal assets, Muthyam Venkataramana was taken into custody. The ACB said further investigation is underway to identify additional assets, examine financial transactions, and determine whether any other individuals were involved in the case.

Officials indicated that appropriate legal action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation. The case is expected to proceed under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, with the ACB continuing its probe into the engineer's financial dealings and asset acquisitions.

Collector Reviews Canal Survey Progress

Julurupadu, July 22 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Ankit on Wednesday directed officials to expedite the land acquisition survey for the distributary canal of the Seetharama Lift Irrigation Project by implementing a special action plan to ensure the work is completed within the stipulated timeframe. He also stressed the need for continuous monitoring of government educational institutions to ensure quality education, nutritious food, improved accommodation, and hygienic surroundings for students. During a field inspection in Julurupadu Mandal, the Collector reviewed the progress of the land acquisition survey with officials from the Revenue and Irrigation departments. He sought details on the challenges faced during the survey and the measures being taken to address them. Officials informed the Collector that the survey covered 17 acres and 20 guntas of land within Julurupadu village, of which nearly 8 acres comprised Recognition of Forest Rights (ROFR) pattas. Later, the Collector visited Kothuru village, where officials said the survey involved about 337 acres of land. He instructed them to carry out the work in a systematic and time-bound manner. The Collector directed the Revenue and Irrigation departments to work in close coordination to avoid delays and ensure that every stage of the land acquisition process is completed according to schedule. He instructed officials to finish the required land marking within a day and accelerate the remaining survey work under a dedicated action plan. During the inspection, local farmers requested that the proposed width of the distributary canal be reduced from 50 metres to 40 metres to minimize land acquisition. Responding to their concerns, the Collector assured them that the proposal would be examined from a technical perspective and that appropriate action would be taken in accordance with project norms and applicable regulations. The inspection was attended by Revenue and Irrigation officials, who briefed the Collector on the progress of the survey and the next steps in the land acquisition process.

RTC Bus Theft Sparks Dramatic Police Chase

Jagtial, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A dramatic incident unfolded in Telangana's Jagtial district after an unidentified man allegedly stole a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) bus from the Korutla bus stand and drove it recklessly through busy roads, triggering panic among commuters and motorists. According to police, the accused took advantage of an unattended bus and drove away from the bus stand. As he sped through the roads, the bus reportedly collided with several vehicles, creating tense moments for road users and prompting immediate alerts to the police. Upon receiving information, local police launched a swift operation to intercept the stolen vehicle. Patrol teams chased the bus for several kilometres, repeatedly attempting to stop it. However, the driver allegedly ignored police warnings and continued driving at high speed. The chase came to an end near the district border, where police strategically blocked the vehicle and successfully detained the accused without any major injuries being reported. He was taken into custody and shifted to the police station for questioning. Videos of the dramatic chase and the stolen bus circulating on social media have drawn widespread attention, with many expressing shock over the ease with which the vehicle was allegedly taken from the bus stand and driven through public roads. Residents praised the prompt response of the police, saying their timely intervention prevented what could have been a far more serious accident. The incident has also raised concerns about security measures at bus depots and bus stands, particularly regarding the safeguarding of public transport vehicles. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the motive behind the theft. Officials said appropriate legal action would be taken against the accused after the investigation is completed.

Two Held in Gold Jewellery Theft

Hyderabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad police on Wednesday arrested two persons in connection with a burglary case involving the theft of more than one kilogram of gold jewellery and recovered the entire stolen property from their possession.

The accused were identified as Sonkamble Harish (29), a sales executive, and Sonkamble Akash (25), an office boy. Both are residents of Mangalhat in Hyderabad. According to police, the duo allegedly committed a burglary and decamped with a large quantity of gold ornaments. Following the complaint, investigators launched a detailed probe using CCTV footage, technical evidence, and other leads collected from the crime scene.

Based on the evidence gathered during the investigation, police traced the suspects to Mangalhat and apprehended them. During the operation, officers recovered 1 kilogram and 28.59 grams of stolen gold ornaments, including seven necklaces and seven pairs of earrings. The police said the entire stolen property was recovered intact from the accused.

Officials stated that the use of surveillance cameras and systematic investigation played a crucial role in identifying and tracking down the suspects within a short period. The recovered jewellery has been secured as case property and will be returned to its rightful owner after completion of the required legal formalities. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to determine whether the accused were involved in any other property offences. Police are also verifying their criminal background and examining if they had any accomplices in planning or executing the burglary.

Nirmal, July 22 | TPN Bureau

The annual Jagannath Rath Yatra was celebrated with religious fervour and grandeur in Nirmal district on Wednesday, with hundreds of devotees participating in the procession through the town. The yatra commenced from the Murali Krishna Temple at Gandhi Chowk, where devotees offered special prayers to Lord Jagannath before the ceremonial chariot procession began. Nirmal MLA Eleti Maheshwar Reddy joined the celebrations and participated in the procession alongside devotees. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA prayed for the well-being and prosperity of the people, expressing hope that the blessings of Lord Jagannath would bring peace, happiness, and progress to every family and contribute to the overall development of the state. The Rath Yatra passed through several major localities, including Budhwarpet, the Old Bus Stand, Vivekananda Chowk, Jayashankar Chowk, Nageshwara Wada, Chintakunta Wada, and the Town Police Station, before concluding amid devotional chants and traditional rituals. Devotees lined the streets to witness the procession and seek the blessings of the deity. District BJP President Ritesh Rathod, senior leaders Ravula Ramnath and Mutyam Reddy, local councillor Lakshmi, other town councillors, temple committee members, political leaders, and a large number of devotees took part in the event. The procession was conducted peacefully under the supervision of local authorities, with necessary arrangements made to ensure the smooth movement of the chariot and the safety of participants. The celebrations reflected the rich spiritual and cultural traditions associated with the Jagannath Rath Yatra in the region.

Mock Poll Teaches Students Democratic Values

Adilabad, July 22 | TPN Bureau

Students of Vidyalaya High School in Ichoda mandal participated enthusiastically in a mock election on Wednesday, experiencing the excitement of the democratic process through a school-organized student poll. The initiative was aimed at creating awareness about democratic values and the importance of the right to vote from an early age. Attending as the chief guest, CI Naresh Kumar praised the school's effort and said such activities help students understand the electoral process while nurturing leadership qualities and civic responsibility. As part of the exercise, two candidates from each classroom contested for the post of Student Head. Students cast their votes through ballot papers, replicating the process followed in actual elections. The polling concluded peacefully, and winners were elected to represent their respective classes. CI Naresh Kumar said the mock poll would encourage healthy competition, leadership, and democratic participation among students. The event was conducted under the supervision of School Correspondent Mara Laya Shyam Reddy, Principal Pramod Kumar, and teachers, with enthusiastic participation from students.



Stray Dogs Kill 40 Sheep in Village

Siddipet, July 22 | TPN Bureau

A sheep-rearing family suffered a devastating setback after a pack of stray dogs attacked and killed around 40 sheep in Mittapalli village of Siddipet Urban Mandal, causing an estimated financial loss of ₹5 lakh. According to local residents, the incident occurred late at night when the flock, owned by Srinivas, had been secured in its enclosure as usual. A pack of stray dogs reportedly entered the premises and launched a coordinated attack on the animals. The dogs mauled several sheep, resulting in the death of nearly 40 animals on the spot. The incident has left the owner devastated, as the sheep were reportedly reared for sale and represented the family's primary source of livelihood. Villagers said the loss has pushed the family into severe financial distress. The attack has sparked anger among residents, who alleged that the growing menace of stray dogs in the area has been ignored despite repeated complaints. They expressed concern over the increasing threat posed by stray animals to both livestock and public safety. Following the incident, villagers urged the Animal Husbandry Department and Revenue authorities to visit the affected family, assess the losses, and provide immediate financial compensation. They also demanded that the administration take effective measures to control the stray dog population and prevent similar incidents in the future.

Seoul Chef Faces Jail Over Ant Dessert Garnish

A celebrated chef and restaurateur in South Korea is facing legal action after prosecutors accused his two-Michelin-starred restaurant of serving ants as a garnish in desserts without government approval. The case has attracted widespread attention as it highlights the country's strict food safety regulations and the growing popularity of experimental fine dining.

According to reports, South Korean prosecutors have sought a one-year prison sentence for the restaurant owner, along with a fine of 20 million Korean won (around

Rs 14 lakh) for the business. The charges are based on the country's Food Sanitation Act, which allows only 10 approved insect species to be served as food. While insects such as grasshoppers, locusts and crickets are permitted, ants are not included on the approved list.

The investigation began after officials from South Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety noticed photographs posted in online restaurant reviews showing desserts topped with ants. The images prompted authorities to examine the restaurant's menu and ingredients.

Investigators later found that the restaurant had imported ants from Thailand and the United States and used them in various dishes over a four-year period. Authorities estimate that nearly 49,000 ants were served during this time. The ant garnish reportedly appeared mainly on a sorbet served as part of the restaurant's 15-course tasting menu.

During court proceedings, the chef admitted that ants were used but argued that they formed only a small part of the overall dining experience. The defence stated that customers were informed

about the ingredient and were given a choice before the dessert was served. Around 60 per cent of diners reportedly chose the ant-topped sorbet, while others selected alternatives such as edible flowers or fermented vinegar.

The restaurateur also argued that several internationally recognised restaurants in countries including the United Kingdom, Denmark and Australia have featured ants in their dishes, making them a common ingredient in modern fine dining. However, prosecutors maintained that regardless of

international culinary trends, serving unapproved food ingredients remains illegal under South Korean law. Officials also claimed that the restaurant served the ant-topped dessert more than 12,200 times, generating significant revenue over the years.

Although court documents have not identified the restaurant by name, only 10



restaurants in Seoul currently hold two Michelin stars, making the case highly noticeable within the country's fine dining community. The final verdict is expected

on September 2. The outcome could influence how South Korea regulates innovative culinary practices while balancing food safety laws with modern gastronomy.

Man Fakes Death to Escape Arrest Tokyo's Shorts-at-Work Rule Sparks Gender Debate



A man in central China who attempted to escape punishment for drink-driving by faking his own death has been arrested after police uncovered his carefully planned deception. The bizarre case, recently revealed by prosecutors in Henan province, has gone viral on Chinese social media.

The man, identified only by his surname Si, was arrested for drink-driving in January last year. Investigators later found that he had twice been caught earlier for driving without a licence while under the influence of alcohol. He was released on bail during the investigation, but feared that another conviction would result in a prison sentence. Burdened by debts and his previous offences, Si believed disappearing was his only option.

According to prosecutors, Si staged a fake overdose at his home in June last year. He bought a coffin, scattered

empty medicine bottles around the house, lay motionless while holding his breath and even used cooling equipment to lower his body temperature to appear dead. His mother and grandmother supported the plan by claiming he had died from an overdose. They said his face was covered because it had become badly disfigured. Before authorities arrived, they quickly buried the coffin while Si secretly fled to Yunnan province, hundreds of kilometres away, hoping to find work and begin a new life.

However, police soon noticed several suspicious details. No ambulance had been called, there was no official death certificate or cremation record, and Si's household registration had not been cancelled. Investigators also found that only his mother and grandmother had seen the body, while everyone else was prevented from viewing his

face. Police reviewed CCTV footage, bank transactions and mobile phone records, which confirmed that Si was still alive. He was tracked down and arrested in Yunnan in April this year. A court later sentenced Si to five months of criminal detention and imposed a fine of 20,000 yuan (around 3,000 US dollars). Police also launched criminal investigations against his mother and grandmother for allegedly helping him evade arrest.

The unusual case sparked widespread discussion on Chinese social media. Many users remarked that Si's attempt to avoid a short prison sentence ultimately led to even greater legal consequences. Others said his family's efforts to protect him only worsened the situation. The case serves as a reminder that attempting to escape the law through deception can result in more serious legal trouble than the original offence.

Tokyo's decision to allow male government employees to wear shorts to work during the summer has sparked a debate over workplace dress codes and gender equality. While the policy aims to help workers stay comfortable during Japan's extreme heat, many women argue that it highlights unequal expectations for men and women in the office.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government recently expanded its "Cool Biz" campaign by permitting employees to wear shorts at work for the first time. The initiative, introduced under Governor Yuriko Koike, is designed to reduce the need for air conditioning and help employees cope with soaring temperatures. Japan's long-running Cool Biz programme, launched in 2005, has encouraged lighter office clothing as part of energy-saving efforts.

However, the relaxed dress code has received mixed reactions. Many workers have welcomed the move, saying shorts make commuting and working in hot weather more comfortable. Others, particularly women, say the policy exposes double standards in workplace appearance rules. Some women argue they are still expected to wear tights, stockings or long skirts even during the hottest months, while men now have the option of wearing shorts. The debate has even led to the creation of a new term, "sunehara," meaning "leg hair harassment," used by some people who say they feel uncomfortable seeing male colleagues' uncovered legs in professional settings.

A June survey conducted by Gorilla Clinic found that public opinion is almost evenly



divided. About 53.5 per cent of respondents opposed wearing shorts at work, while 46.5 per cent supported the idea. Among those against the policy, concerns about body hair and maintaining a professional appearance were common reasons.

Professor Atsuko Tamada, who studies gender issues, said the discussion reflects broader inequalities in workplace expectations. She noted that many women spend considerable time and money on grooming, skincare and clothing to meet professional standards. If men are encouraged to wear shorts or sandals, she

argued, similar appearance expectations should apply equally to both genders. Despite the new policy, shorts remain uncommon in many traditional Japanese workplaces. According to reports, only 11 out of 70 male employees observed at Tokyo Metropolitan Government offices were wearing shorts, suggesting many workers still prefer formal office attire.

Japan is currently experiencing one of its hottest summers on record, with temperatures frequently exceeding 35 degrees Celsius and some areas approaching 40 degrees. During the week of July 6-12 alone, seven people reportedly died from heatstroke and more than 4,500 others were hospitalised.

As the heat continues, more people are turning to cooling products such as portable fans, UV umbrellas, cooling towels and fan-equipped clothing. The ongoing debate shows that adapting to rising temperatures is not only changing lifestyles but also prompting discussions about fairness and equality in workplace dress codes.

abroad. Several people shared similar experiences, saying flexible work policies and reasonable office hours improve both productivity and mental health. However, others disagreed with Gupta's opinion. Many users argued that higher salaries and better earning opportunities remain the main reasons people prefer to stay in countries like Canada. Some also pointed out that every country has its own advantages and challenges.

The discussion has once again highlighted the growing demand for healthier workplace practices, flexible leave policies and a better balance between professional and personal life. The viral post continues to generate debate on what truly motivates skilled professionals to build their careers outside India.

Haaland's Reply Goes Viral

An Indian content creator's fun social media challenge turned into a viral sensation after Manchester City striker Erling Haaland personally responded to his Instagram post. Content creator Sahil Gupta had shared a video of himself dancing towards a life-size cutout of Haaland with a playful promise. In the caption, he wrote that if the Norwegian football star commented on his reel, he would lose 20 kilograms within the next three months. He also tagged Haaland in the post, hoping to catch the footballer's attention.

The challenge quickly gained popularity, with millions of people watching and sharing the video. The reel eventually crossed 18 million views, increasing the chances that it would reach Haaland himself.

To Sahil's surprise, the Manchester City forward replied with a short but encouraging comment: "Starting now." The unexpected response instantly made the post even more popular, with thousands of football fans and social media users joining the conversation.

Sahil expressed his excitement after receiving the comment and thanked his followers for helping the video reach one of the world's biggest football stars. He also acknowledged



the overwhelming support from fans who celebrated the interaction online. The comment section was soon filled with humorous and motivating messages. Many users reminded Sahil to keep his promise and begin his weight-loss journey. Some encouraged him to post monthly updates to show his progress, while others joked that he could not disappoint "the Viking," referring to Haaland's popular nickname. Several fans also praised Haaland for taking the time to respond to a fan's challenge, saying the footballer's simple comment made the moment special.

Others described it as a perfect example of how social media can create unexpected interactions between celebrities and their follow-

ers. The viral exchange comes shortly after Haaland impressed football fans with his performances at the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Norwegian striker played a key role in helping Norway reach the quarter-finals for the first time and was later named in the tournament's Best XI.

The incident highlights the growing influence of social media, where a simple challenge can capture millions of views and even attract the attention of global sports stars. What started as a light-hearted fitness promise has now become an inspiration for many followers, who are eagerly waiting to see if Sahil completes his goal of losing 20 kilograms over the next three months.

An Indian IT professional's viral social media post comparing work culture in India and Canada has triggered a widespread online discussion about work-life balance, employee well-being and the reasons many professionals choose to settle abroad.

Rohit Gupta, an IT professional who has been living in Halifax, Canada, for the past seven years, shared a video on Instagram explaining why he believes many immigrants prefer to remain overseas. According to Gupta, the decision has less to do with better air, food or civic amenities and more to do with the quality of workplace culture.

He said people who have spent most of their lives in India are unlikely to stay abroad simply because of cleaner surroundings. Instead, he believes the biggest advantage is the respect given to employees' personal time and



work-life balance. Gupta explained that in Canada, office working hours are generally followed strictly. If employees finish work at 5 p.m., they are not expected to remain in the office to

impress their managers. He added that supervisors themselves usually leave on time, creating a healthier work environment.

He also compared leave policies in both countries. According to Gupta, many employees in India struggle to get approval for even two or three days of leave, often having to arrange replacements and complete detailed handovers before taking time off. In contrast, he said workers in Canada can usually take 15 to 20 days of leave without difficulty. Employees can openly tell their managers they need a break due to stress, travel plans or homesickness, and such requests are generally accepted without unnecessary questions.

The video quickly went viral, with many social media users agreeing that work-life balance is one of the biggest advantages of working

abroad. Several people shared similar experiences, saying flexible work policies and reasonable office hours improve both productivity and mental health. However, others disagreed with Gupta's opinion. Many users argued that higher salaries and better earning opportunities remain the main reasons people prefer to stay in countries like Canada. Some also pointed out that every country has its own advantages and challenges.

The discussion has once again highlighted the growing demand for healthier workplace practices, flexible leave policies and a better balance between professional and personal life. The viral post continues to generate debate on what truly motivates skilled professionals to build their careers outside India.

Woman Shares Reality of Life in US

An Indian woman living in the United States has sparked an online debate after sharing the everyday challenges of living abroad. Her viral video offers a reality check, especially for people planning to move overseas, saying life in the US is not as glamorous as many imagine.

In the video, she explains that those moving abroad should not expect the comfort and support they may receive at home. According to her, family members in India often help with daily household chores, but in the US, people have to manage everything on their own.

She said that after a full day at work, everyday responsibilities such as grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning and carrying heavy items can become physically tiring. Referring to the lifestyle adjustment, she remarked that no one should expect "princess treatment" after moving abroad.

One point that drew particular attention was her claim that she spends about 3.50 US

dollars every three days on bottled drinking water. She said arranging drinking water became one of the first tasks she had to handle after settling in the US. She also mentioned struggling with dry skin despite her efforts to adapt to the local climate.

The video quickly gained thousands of views and generated mixed reactions on social media. While some viewers agreed with her message about the challenges of independent living, many questioned her comments about buying bottled water regularly.

Several users pointed out that tap water is considered safe to drink in most parts of the United States. Others suggested installing affordable water filtration or reverse osmosis (RO) systems at home instead of repeatedly purchasing bottled water.

One user commented that RO water purifiers are inexpensive and easy to install, while another said most people in their area drink tap water

without any issues. The discussion soon expanded beyond drinking water, with many users sharing their own experiences of life abroad. Some agreed that moving to another country requires adjusting to a completely different lifestyle, where managing household responsibilities becomes part of daily life. Others argued that every country has its own advantages and challenges, and adapting to them is part of the experience.

The viral video has reignited conversations about the realities of living overseas. While many people continue to dream of settling abroad for better career opportunities, the discussion serves as a reminder that independent living also comes with added responsibilities and lifestyle changes that are often overlooked.



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Editorial

When Will the Revenue System Be Reformed?

The recurring land-related controversies in Andhra Pradesh once again expose the deep-rooted flaws in the state's revenue administration. As long as officials continue to function under political influence and treat those in power with unquestioning obedience, land records will remain vulnerable to manipulation. The result is a system where influential individuals allegedly acquire, alter, or encroach upon land with ease, while ordinary citizens struggle to protect what is rightfully theirs.

The latest allegations involving the family of former Minister and former Speaker Tammimeni Sitaram have once again brought the issue of land grabbing and forged records into public focus. Similar accusations have also been levelled against former MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy over the alleged encroachment of government land, while former Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy is facing a case relating to alleged encroachment of forest land. These cases suggest that land disputes and record manipulation were not isolated incidents but part of a larger administrative failure during the previous YSRCP regime.

However, it would be unfair to assume that the problem is confined to one political party. Even under the present TDP-led government, reports of land-related irregularities continue to surface in several places. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has repeatedly promised to cleanse the revenue system and restore transparency. Yet, for the common citizen, little appears to have changed. Many landowners discover that their online records have been altered without their knowledge, forcing them to make endless rounds of government offices and political leaders in search of justice.

A revenue system is the foundation of property rights and public trust. If land records can be manipulated through political influence, confidence in governance inevitably erodes. Genuine reform will not come merely through promises or digitisation. It requires an administration free from political interference, strict accountability for officials, and equal treatment for every citizen. Until bureaucrats function independently and elected representatives stop behaving like unquestionable rulers within their constituencies, meaningful reform of the revenue system will remain an elusive goal.

Editor

Outspokenness vs Tight-lipped stance

P Subba Rao

Veteran Journalist

Human beings live between two impulses—the urge to speak and the wisdom to remain silent. Outspokenness is often celebrated as courage, a declaration of identity and presence. Silence, however, is revered as restraint, reflection, and sometimes resistance. The tension between these two is not a flaw but a defining feature of human communication.

Outspokenness as Courage and Risk

Philosophers from Aristotle to Sartre saw speech as the medium of freedom. To speak is to act, to shape reality. Outspokenness becomes a moral duty when injustice prevails. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches mobilized millions, proving that words can be weapons of liberation.

Yet, outspokenness carries risks. Nietzsche warned that endless chatter can drown wisdom, turning speech into noise. In today's social media age, loud voices dominate timelines, but not always with truth. Outspokenness can slip into vanity, where speaking becomes more about visibility than meaning.

Silence as Depth and Defiance

Silence is often mistaken for weakness, but in many traditions, it is revered as strength. In Advaita Vedanta, silence is the highest teaching—Ramana Maharshi conveyed truth without words, suggesting that ultimate reality transcends language. Silence here is fullness, not emptiness.

Silence can also be defiance. Dissidents under oppressive regimes often refused to echo propaganda, and their silence became resistance. Václav Havel's refusal to conform was louder than any speech. Sometimes, not speaking is the most powerful form of protest.

The Balance of Timing

The art lies in knowing when to speak and when to remain silent.

Outspokenness is vital when truth must be defended.

Silence is profound when words would trivialize or distort reality. The Bhagavad Gita captures this balance: Arjuna's silence in despair is broken by Krishna's counsel, reminding us that both speech and silence must serve dharma—righteous action.

Cultural Lessons

Culture shapes the balance. In India, silence often signals respect for hierarchy, while outspokenness reflects community values.

In Japan, silence is considered a virtue, embodying thoughtfulness and harmony. In the West, outspokenness is prized as individuality. Each culture teaches us that neither pole is absolute; context defines meaning.

Modern Society's Tilt

In today's hyperconnected world, outspokenness dominates. Social media rewards immediacy, punishes hesitation, and glorifies loudness. Yet, the tight-lipped minority reminds us of the value of pause. Silence allows reflection, prevents impulsive harm, and restores dignity to dialogue.

The philosophical lesson is clear: speech without silence becomes noise; silence without speech becomes void. Together, they create harmony in human communication.

Takeaway

Outspokenness asserts presence; silence deepens meaning. The wise person knows when to speak and when to remain silent. In a world of endless chatter, silence may be the rarest form of eloquence.

The balance between the two is not just a communication skill—it is a philosophy of life. When you are trying to impress people with words, the more you say, the more common you appear, and the less in control you seem. Even if you are saying something banal, it will seem original if you make it vague and open-ended. Powerful people impress and intimidate by saying less. The more you say, the more likely you are to say something foolish. Once the words are out, you cannot take them back. Keep them under control. Be particularly careful with sarcasm. The momentary satisfaction you gain from your biting words will be outweighed by the price you pay. In conversations, short answers and silences will put others on the defensive, and they will nervously fill the silence with all kinds of comments that will reveal valuable information about them and their weaknesses. Their extra attention to your brief comments adds to your power.



Yoga Beyond the Mat: The Wisdom Hidden in Everyday Life

Swathi Dev

Researcher in Indian Knowledge System

When we think of yoga today, most of us picture mats, stretching postures, or fitness classes. Yet yoga is far older and far deeper than this modern wellness image. Long before it became a global practice, yoga was quietly woven into everyday life—into the words we speak, the gestures we use, and the traditions we inherit. In Telugu households especially, echoes of yogic wisdom appear in familiar expressions and customs, reminding us that yoga is not confined to the mat but lives in the rhythm of daily existence.

Breath and Vital Energies in Language

Consider the phrase often exclaimed in moments of shock or pain: "Naa pai pr lu paine poy yi"—"My upper prana has gone." In yogic philosophy, the body functions through the Pancha Pranas: Prana, Apana, Samana, Udana, and Vyana. A sudden fright can disturb Udana Vayu, producing breathlessness or disorientation. This familiar Telugu expression reflects the yogic understanding of how our vital energies respond to stress.

Parents often express deep affection by saying, "Naa Pan-

cha Pranalu Nee Meedane Pet-tukuni Batukutunnanu"—"My five vital energies rest with you." Here, the Pancha Pranas symbolize life itself. The Bhagavad Gita (4.29) speaks of offering breath into breath, emphasizing the awareness cultivated through pranayama. Even our instinct to take a deep breath when anxious reflects this timeless insight.

Fingers, Elements, and Everyday Gestures

In many Telugu families, simple finger gestures communicate everyday needs. A raised little finger signals the need to urinate, while the little and ring fingers together indicate the need to use the toilet. In yogic mudras, the little finger represents Jala (Water) and the ring finger represents Prithvi (Earth). Whether these gestures originated from yogic symbolism or developed independently, the parallels are striking and reveal how elemental ideas have long been part of Indian culture.

Acts of Care and Seva

Another cherished tradition is gently pressing the calf muscles of elders before bedtime—a gesture of affection and respect. The calves are often



called the body's "second heart" because they help pump blood back to the heart. In yoga and Ayurveda, the lower limbs are associated with Apana Vayu, the grounding force in the body. Beyond its physical benefits, this practice embodies seva—selfless service—and strengthens family bonds. The Bhagavad Gita (6.16-17) reminds us that yoga flourishes

through moderation and balance.

Discipline Through Everyday Exercise

Many of us grew up hearing elders say, "Do ten gunjeellu!" or being asked to hold a wall sit as discipline. What appeared to be punishment also promoted strength, balance, endurance, and mental resilience. These simple practices encouraged

patience, self-control, and steady breathing under discomfort—qualities that lie at the heart of yoga.

Rediscovering Yoga in Daily Life

These examples remind us that yoga is not merely a collection of postures but a way of understanding the body, mind, and our relationships. The Bhagavad Gita (2.50) declares,

"Yoga karmasu kau alam"—"Yoga is excellence in action." That excellence is found not only on the yoga mat but also in the way we breathe through stress, care for our elders, discipline ourselves, and express love through everyday words and actions.

Yoga begins with awareness. When we recognise the wisdom hidden in our language,

gestures, and traditions, we rediscover that yoga is already part of our lives. It is the rhythm of our breath, the tenderness of our actions, the discipline of our routines, and the compassion we extend to others. To live yoga is to realize that the wisdom of centuries is quietly woven into everyday life, waiting only for our awareness to bring it to light.

Bihar Showcases Sahyog Programme

As the Bihar government approaches its first 100 days in office, it is highlighting the Sahyog Programme as one of its major governance initiatives. The programme has been introduced to improve grievance redressal and ensure that people receive government services in a faster and more transparent manner. According to the state government, Sahyog aims to reduce the gap between citizens and the administration by allowing unresolved complaints to reach the highest level of government.

The initiative is designed for

people whose problems remain unresolved despite approaching local authorities. Such citizens can take their grievances directly to the state government, where Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary personally reviews pending cases at the Sahyog Hall in the Bihar Secretariat in Patna. After hearing the complaints, he directs the concerned departments to take immediate action and ensure timely resolution.

The grievance redressal process begins at the village level. On the first and third Tuesday of every month, Sahyog camps are organised in panchayats

across the state. Government officials visit villages, receive applications and listen to public grievances. Complaints that cannot be resolved locally are forwarded to the state government for further action.

On the second Tuesday of every month, or on the 14th, the Chief Minister reviews these pending cases and issues directions to the concerned departments. Officials say the programme is intended to reduce repeated visits by citizens to government offices and make the administration more accountable. The Sahyog Programme covers a wide range

of public service issues. These include land mutation, land measurement disputes, ration card applications, benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, caste and income certificates, electricity billing problems and social security pension matters. The government has instructed departments to resolve complaints received under the programme within 30 days.

To improve transparency and efficiency, the government has introduced a digital Sahyog portal that allows applications to be tracked in real time. Officials have also been direct-

ed not to reject applications merely because documents are incomplete. Instead, they have been asked to guide applicants in completing the required formalities. The government has warned that officials who fail to handle complaints responsibly could face disciplinary action.

Apart from the Sahyog Programme, the Bihar government has highlighted several welfare measures taken during its first 100 days. It said more than Rs 1,423 crore has been transferred directly to nearly 98 lakh beneficiaries under social security pension



schemes for senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities. The administration has also promised to ensure pension payments are made by the 10th of every month. The government is also expanding the Chief Minister Solar Scheme, under which eligible households can receive bene-

fits, including up to 125 units of free electricity through rooftop solar installations. As it nears the 100-day milestone, the Bihar government says the Sahyog Programme reflects its commitment to responsive governance, transparency and quicker delivery of public services.

Opposition Seeks Minister's Resignation Before NEET Debate

The Opposition on Wednesday reiterated its demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan before any discussion on the alleged NEET paper leak in Parliament, even as the Centre said it was fully prepared to debate the issue.

The standoff led to heated exchanges in the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session. Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Opposition would not participate in a discussion on the NEET issue unless the Education Minister stepped down.



"For a fair discussion on NEET, there will be no debate until Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigns," Kharge said while addressing the House.

Responding to the demand, Leader of the House and Union Minister JP Nadda said the government had never avoided discussing the matter. He stated that the Centre was ready to debate the NEET paper leak and any other issue raised by the Opposition.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju also stressed that the government had been willing to discuss the issue since the beginning of the Monsoon Session. He rejected allegations that the Centre was avoiding a debate.

"If you are looking for excuses to not have a discussion, then it is not right. The government is 100 per cent ready for a discussion on the NEET paper leak," Rijiju said.

He added that the government's willingness had been conveyed to Congress leaders and representatives of other political parties. According to Rijiju, the schedule and format of the discussion would be decided by the Chair after consultations with all parties.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also backed the Opposition's stand. He said the demand of students protesting over the issue was that the Education Minister should resign before any discussion takes place.

"The students have demanded that the resignation come first, followed by a discussion. An assurance must be given that the resignation will take place," Akhilesh Yadav said. The NEET controversy has triggered widespread protests across the country in recent weeks. Demonstrations gained momentum

after activist Sonam Wangchuk joined the agitation with a prolonged hunger strike demanding accountability over the alleged paper leak. He was later shifted to a hospital by police.

Earlier this week, thousands of protesters gathered in New Delhi demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. Police used tear gas to stop protesters marching towards Parliament, leading to clashes in which several protesters and police personnel were injured.

The continuing deadlock between the government and the Opposition over the minister's resignation has prevented a discussion on the issue in Parliament. While the Centre maintains it is ready for a debate, Opposition parties insist that the Education Minister must resign first before any meaningful discussion can take place.

Wangchuk Sets Condition to End Fast

Social activist Sonam Wangchuk has said he is prepared to end his hunger strike if the Centre gives a clear assurance that no legal action will be taken against students who participated in protests over the alleged NEET paper leak. Without such a commitment, he said he would have no option but to continue his fast indefinitely.

In a letter addressed to Union Ministers J.P. Nadda and Jitendra Singh, Wangchuk requested the government to protect students from any punitive or retaliatory action. He said the young protesters were only demanding transparency, accountability and fairness in the country's education system.

"I respectfully request an unequivocal assurance from the government that none of the young protesters will face legal action for participating in this movement," Wangchuk said in his letter.

The activist is currently on the 25th day of his hunger strike. He was shifted from the protest site at Jantar Mantar to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after police removed him from the demonstration last week. Despite receiving medical care, Wangchuk has refused to end his fast.

He thanked the two Union ministers for visiting him at the hospital and said they had assured him that the government would consider compensation for the families of NEET aspirants who allegedly died by suicide following the paper leak controversy. According to Wangchuk, the ministers also indicated that the issue could be discussed in Parliament, including demands related to accountability.



However, Wangchuk stressed that protecting students from legal consequences remained his foremost concern. He said more than 65 Members of Parliament had urged him to call off his fast, and while he wished to return to his educational work, he could not do so without securing the safety of the students who had joined the movement. He also described Monday's march to Parliament as peaceful and alleged that excessive force had been used against protesters. Wangchuk appealed to the government to ensure that police do not take further action against students participating in the demonstrations.

The hunger strike began on June 28 as part of the nationwide campaign seeking accountability over the NEET paper leak controversy. The issue has sparked widespread protests across the country, with students and opposition parties demanding a thorough investigation and action against those responsible.

Wangchuk reiterated that his protest is not driven by personal demands but by concern for students and the future of India's education system. He said he would immediately end his fast if the government publicly assures that no participant in the movement will face legal or disciplinary action.

Lalit Modi Eyes India Return After Tribunal Relief

Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi has announced that he plans to return to India by the end of 2026 or early next year after receiving major relief from the Appellate Tribunal in the long-running 2009 IPL South Africa Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case.

The tribunal recently set aside most of the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) findings and penalties against Lalit Modi, bringing an important chapter in his 16-year legal battle to a close. Modi, who has been living abroad since leaving India in 2010, welcomed the verdict and said it had vindicated his long-held position that he had done nothing wrong.

In a video message, Modi expressed happiness over the tribunal's decision, saying he had always maintained that every action taken during the 2009 IPL season was in the best interests of Indian cricket and the tournament. He said he was looking forward to returning home after spending more than a decade outside the country.

"I have fought this battle for 16 years. Everything I have been saying has now emerged as the truth. I am looking forward to coming back to India, probably by the end of this year or early next year," Modi said. He added that he plans to return after the birth of his grandson, expected later this year.

The case relates to the 2009 IPL season, which was shifted to South Africa because it coincided with the Lok Sabha elections in India. The Enforcement Directorate had alleged that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) violated FEMA rules while transferring funds abroad for organising the tournament.

In 2018, the ED imposed penalties



on the BCCI, Lalit Modi, former BCCI president N. Srinivasan, M.P. Pandove, the State Bank of India and its former chief manager A.K. Nazeer Khan over the alleged violations.

However, the Appellate Tribunal partly allowed the appeals filed against the ED order. While it upheld two findings against the BCCI regarding excess remittance of funds and delayed repatriation of ticket sale proceeds, it reduced the penalty on the cricket board from Rs 4 crore to Rs 1 crore.

The tribunal also completely set aside the penalty imposed on Lalit Modi concerning delayed repatriation of funds. It observed that he had already been suspended as IPL commissioner when the money was brought back to India and therefore

could not be held responsible for the delay.

In its 105-page judgment, the tribunal noted that the penalty imposed on Modi was "wholly erroneous" and deserved to be overturned.

Reacting to the verdict, Modi said the judgment was not only a personal victory but also an affirmation of due process and the rule of law. He said allegations must ultimately be tested through evidence and legal scrutiny rather than public perception.

The tribunal's ruling marks a significant development in one of Indian cricket's most closely watched legal disputes. While the judgment has cleared Lalit Modi of key allegations in the FEMA case, it also paves the way for his planned return to India after nearly 16 years abroad.

Channi Rift Puts Congress Under Pressure

The Congress party in Punjab is facing renewed internal tensions as differences between former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and the party leadership continue to draw political attention. The disagreement over retaining Amrinder Singh Raja Warring as Punjab Congress Committee (PCC) president has triggered speculation about the party's unity ahead of future electoral battles.

Channi and his supporters had reportedly urged the Congress high command to appoint a new state president, arguing that broader representation within the party was necessary. However, the leadership decided to continue with Raja Warring, a move seen as an attempt to maintain support among the influential Jat Sikh community, which accounts for a significant share of Punjab's electorate.

Although Channi publicly stated that the party high command's decision would be respected and reiterated his loyalty to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, political observers believe the issue may not be fully settled. They argue that the differences could resurface during candidate selection for future elections, potentially deepening factionalism within the state unit.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quick to respond to the developments. Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon publicly invited Channi to join the party, saying he would receive respect and an opportunity to represent all communities. While Channi has repeatedly denied any plans to leave the Congress, the BJP's invitation reflects its interest in expanding its influence by attracting prominent opposition leaders.

Political analysts believe Channi's



political importance extends beyond his role as a former chief minister. As Punjab's first Dalit Chief Minister, he continues to enjoy considerable support among Dalit voters, particularly in the Doaba region, where the community forms a substantial part of the electorate. His victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by a margin of over 1.75 lakh votes further reinforced his political standing.

Experts suggest that if Channi were to leave the Congress, it could significantly weaken the party's organisational strength and electoral prospects in Punjab. Besides his own support base, he is backed by several senior Congress leaders, making him an influential figure within the state unit.

During his tenure as Chief Minis-

ter, Channi introduced several welfare initiatives aimed at Dalits and economically weaker sections, including loan waivers, electricity bill relief and measures related to property rights. These initiatives continue to contribute to his popularity among sections of the electorate.

Despite the ongoing speculation, Channi has maintained that he remains committed to the Congress. However, the leadership dispute has highlighted underlying divisions within the party. Whether the Congress succeeds in resolving these internal differences could play a crucial role in shaping Punjab's political landscape and may also determine whether rival parties, particularly the BJP, gain an opportunity to strengthen their position in the state.

Trump Warns Iran Over Hormuz Attacks

US President Donald Trump has issued a stern warning to Iran, declaring that the United States will carry out military strikes on Iranian infrastructure if Tehran targets ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz. The statement comes amid heightened tensions in the Middle East, where recent military confrontations have raised fears of a wider regional conflict.

In a post on X, Trump said the United States would retaliate each time Iran attacks a ship in the Strait of Hormuz. He stated that the mode of at-

tack—whether by missile, rocket, drone or any other weapon—would make no difference to the US response.

"From this point forward, any time the Islamic Republic of Iran shoots at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, whether it be by Missile, Rocket, Drone, or any other device or weapon, the United States will bomb and destroy one bridge or power plant, including those located next to, or in, the capital city of Tehran," Trump wrote.

The warning represents one of the strongest public threats issued by the US President

against Iran in recent months. It reflects Washington's determination to prevent any disruption to maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical shipping lanes.

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It serves as a vital route for global energy supplies, with nearly a fifth of the world's oil exports transported through the narrow waterway. Any military action or disruption in the region can significantly affect international oil

prices, global trade and energy security.

Trump's latest remarks came a day after he said the United States was "not finished" with its military campaign against Iran. He claimed that the recent conflict had caused severe damage to Iran's infrastructure and military capabilities.

"If we left right now, it would take Iran 20 to 25 years to rebuild," Trump said, adding that the United States had no immediate plans to end its operations.

The comments have drawn international attention, with

analysts warning that such rhetoric could further escalate tensions between the two countries. Diplomatic observers say any military exchange involving the Strait of Hormuz could have serious regional and global consequences due to its importance for international shipping.

Iran has not immediately responded to Trump's latest statement. However, previous confrontations between Washington and Tehran have often resulted in increased military deployments and heightened security measures in the Gulf



region.

As tensions continue to rise, governments and global markets are closely monitoring the situation. Any disruption to shipping in the Strait of Hormuz could impact energy supplies, push up crude oil prices

and increase geopolitical uncertainty. The latest exchange of warnings has once again highlighted the fragile security situation in the Middle East and the risk of further escalation between the United States and Iran.

US-India Trade Deal Likely In 3-4 Months

A long-awaited bilateral trade agreement between the United States and India could be signed within the next three to four months, according to a senior US official, signalling that negotiations between the two countries are nearing completion.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Manila, the official said the agreement was virtually ready and that both sides had largely completed negotiations. "The deal is there. We literally have the paper," the official said, adding that only a few procedural issues remain before the agreement can be finalised.

According to the official, the primary reason for the delay is not any unresolved differences between Washington and New Delhi but the ongoing Section 301 trade investigations being conducted by the United States. Section 301 of the US Trade Act allows Washington to investigate unfair trade practices by foreign countries and impose tariffs or other trade measures if necessary.

One of the Section 301 investigations, covering nearly 60 countries, is expected to conclude within the next week. Once that and other pending investigations are completed, the US administration expects to make progress not only with India but also with several other trading partners.

When asked about the timeline for signing the agreement, the official expressed optimism that it could happen within the next three to four



months.

India and the United States have been negotiating the trade pact for several years as part of broader efforts to strengthen economic and strategic ties. The proposed agreement aims to improve market access for businesses, reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and promote greater investment and trade between the two countries.

Despite the positive developments, some trade-related concerns remain. The United States has already proposed tariffs of up to 12.5 percent on imports from several countries, including India, over allegations that they failed to prevent trade in goods produced using forced labour. These proposals remain under review as part of the ongoing investigations.

Another issue that could affect bilateral trade is the US administration's proposed tariff policy on imported generic medicines. President Donald Trump recently announced

that generic drugs imported into the United States would remain exempt from tariffs for two years beginning August 1. After that period, imports would face tariffs of 100 percent for one year, followed by 200 percent thereafter.

The proposed measure could have significant implications for India's pharmaceutical industry, which is one of the world's largest suppliers of generic medicines. The United States is India's biggest export market for pharmaceuticals, accounting for nearly \$9.7 billion, or around 38 percent, of the country's total pharmaceutical exports valued at \$25.8 billion in 2025.

If concluded as expected, the trade agreement would mark a major milestone in US-India economic relations, opening new opportunities for businesses in both countries while strengthening one of the world's fastest-growing strategic partnerships.

US, Saudi Near Nuclear Deal



The United States is set to announce a landmark civilian nuclear agreement with Saudi Arabia, a move that could significantly strengthen strategic ties between the two countries while reshaping the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The proposed agreement comes at a time of heightened tensions in the region, with Washington engaged in an ongoing conflict with Iran over concerns surrounding Tehran's nuclear programme.

According to media reports, the Trump administration is expected to formally unveil the agreement on Wednesday. Officials have described it as a major economic and strategic initiative that could generate billions of dollars for the US nuclear industry while helping Saudi Arabia establish its long-planned civilian nuclear energy programme.

Reports indicate that the proposed 30-year agreement may allow American companies to construct a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia. This aspect of the deal has drawn criticism from several US lawmakers and Israeli officials, who fear that enrichment technology

could eventually be diverted for military purposes despite assurances that the programme is intended solely for peaceful energy generation.

Saudi Arabia has repeatedly maintained that it has the right to develop civilian nuclear technology to diversify its energy resources and reduce dependence on oil. Riyadh insists the programme will comply with international safeguards and will be used only for electricity generation and scientific research.

The agreement is expected to be submitted to the US Congress in the coming days, although reports suggest congressional approval will not be required for it to take effect.

For years, Washington has sought to include civilian nuclear cooperation as part of a broader strategic package involving closer security ties with Saudi Arabia, possible defence agreements and efforts to normalise relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. However, the latest proposal appears to move ahead despite the absence of a comprehensive regional diplomatic package.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio declined to officially confirm the

agreement while attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Manila but stressed that the United States would not enter into any arrangement that could contribute to nuclear weapons proliferation.

The timing of the deal is particularly significant as tensions between the United States and Iran continue to rise. Negotiations over Iran's nuclear programme remain stalled, while military confrontations have heightened fears of a wider regional conflict. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have recently threatened to blockade Saudi ports, raising concerns about disruptions to global energy supplies.

Analysts believe the proposed agreement is aimed at reinforcing America's long-term strategic presence in the Gulf while supporting one of its closest regional allies. If finalised, the deal could strengthen Saudi Arabia's civilian energy infrastructure and deepen bilateral cooperation, but it is also likely to fuel debate over nuclear proliferation risks and regional security at a time when the Middle East remains highly volatile.

Bulgaria Approves US Use of Bezmer Air Base for Middle East Support

Bulgaria's Parliament has approved a government proposal allowing the United States military to use the Bezmer Air Base to support American operations in the Middle East, marking a significant development in NATO cooperation amid heightened regional tensions involving Iran.

The proposal was passed on Wednesday with a decisive 136-13 vote, while two lawmakers abstained. Under the approval, up to eight US KC-135 aerial refuelling aircraft, around 250 military personnel and related support equipment will be stationed at the Bezmer Air Base from July 24 until October 1. The deployment will not require any additional parliamentary approvals during this period.

Bezmer Air Base, located about 260 kilometres southeast of Bulgaria's capital Sofia, operates as a joint-use military facility under a 2006 defence cooperation agreement between Bulgaria and the United States. Although the agreement permits US access to the base, any new operational purpose requires the approval of the Bulgarian Parliament.

The deployment follows a request from the US Embassy in Bulgaria. While Washington has not officially commented on the latest decision, the move comes as the United States continues military operations and logistical activities linked to the ongoing security situation in the Middle East.

The proposal sparked debate within Bulgaria, with some lawmakers expressing concern that permitting the deployment could draw the coun-



try into the escalating conflict involving Iran. Responding to those concerns, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev stressed that the country would not allow its territory to be used for combat missions.

Speaking ahead of the parliamentary vote, Radev said it was "categorically out of the question" for military operations in the Middle East to be launched from Bulgarian soil. He clarified that the deployment was strictly intended to support logistical operations, particularly aerial refuelling missions conducted outside Bulgarian airspace.

Defence Minister Dimitar Stoyanov also sought to reassure lawmakers, stating that the government had secured guarantees from the United States to minimise any risks to Bulgaria's national security. He said the deployment had been care-

fully coordinated within NATO's allied framework and would not involve Bulgaria directly in any military conflict.

"The aircraft will be used exclusively for logistical support and refuelling operations," Stoyanov said, adding that all necessary security measures had been implemented before approving the deployment.

The decision reflects Bulgaria's continued commitment to its strategic partnership with the United States and its obligations as a NATO member, while attempting to balance domestic concerns about becoming entangled in the ongoing Middle East crisis. The temporary deployment is expected to strengthen logistical capabilities for US operations without altering Bulgaria's declared position of avoiding direct involvement in regional hostilities.

15 Injured in Rotterdam Tram Crash



At least 15 people were injured, including one seriously, after two trams collided on Rotterdam's iconic Erasmus Bridge on Wednesday, prompting a large-scale emergency response and the closure of one of the Dutch city's busiest transport links.

The accident occurred on the Erasmus Bridge, a major landmark spanning the Maas River and a vital route connecting different parts of Rotterdam. Authorities said one tram crashed into the rear of another while both were travelling across the bridge, causing significant damage to the vehicles and scattering debris across the roadway.

Webcam footage from the bridge captured the moment of impact, showing the trailing tram striking the one ahead with considerable force. The collision damaged both trams, while fragments of metal and glass were seen flying across the bridge, temporarily bringing traffic to a standstill.

Emergency services, including ambulances, firefighters and police, rushed to the scene within minutes

of the accident. Several injured passengers were evacuated using stretchers and wheelchairs as medical teams provided immediate treatment on the bridge before transporting the victims to nearby hospitals.

Officials confirmed that one person sustained serious injuries, while the remaining victims suffered minor to moderate injuries. Authorities have not yet released details about the identities of those injured or the circumstances leading to the collision.

Rotterdam authorities initially reported that 18 people had been hurt but later revised the figure to 15 after further assessments. The updated casualty count was also confirmed by Dutch public broadcaster NOS. Following the accident, officials closed the Erasmus Bridge to all traffic in both directions to allow emergency crews to assist victims, clear damaged vehicles and begin an investigation into the cause of the collision. Public transport services across the affected route were also suspended, leading to significant disruption during peak travel

hours. The Erasmus Bridge is one of Rotterdam's most recognisable landmarks and serves as a critical transport corridor for trams, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Any disruption on the bridge typically has a widespread impact on movement across the city.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine what caused the rear-end collision. Investigators are expected to examine operational records, signalling systems, tram speed data and statements from the drivers and witnesses.

The incident has raised fresh concerns about tram safety in one of Europe's busiest urban transport networks. Officials said restoring normal traffic on the bridge will depend on the completion of rescue operations, damage assessment and clearance work.

Further updates are expected once investigators establish the cause of the crash and authorities complete their assessment of the damaged infrastructure and rolling stock.



Eternal Shares Recover After Q1 Results

Shares of Eternal rebounded during Wednesday's trading session after the company announced its financial results for the first quarter of FY27 and addressed growing competition in the quick commerce and food delivery space. Despite reporting lower-than-expected profits, the stock recovered from early losses and ended the session in positive territory as investors responded to the company's confident outlook.

The Gurugram-based company, which operates the food delivery platform Zomato, reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 92 crore for the quarter ended June 30. Although the figure fell short of market expectations, investor sentiment improved after the company stated that competition from emerging platforms has had only a limited impact on its business so far.

Eternal specifically addressed concerns regarding Swiggy's Toing and Rapido's Ownly, both of which have intensified competition in the food delivery segment. According to the company, these platforms currently offer the same restaurant network, similar or even longer delivery times, and lower menu prices that are largely supported by reduced commissions and delivery charges.

The company believes that such pricing strategies may not be sustainable over the long term, as they are driven mainly by discounts rather than creating a fundamentally different customer experience. It also noted that no significant new use case has emerged from these competing platforms, suggesting that customer interest remains largely price-driven.

Investor confidence was further supported by Eternal's continued focus on expanding its in-house food delivery initiative, Bistro. The company indicated that it remains committed to strengthening its market position by improving customer experience and operational efficiency rather than engaging in aggressive price wars.

Market experts believe the stock continues to attract investor attention despite short-term pressure on earnings. Technical analysts suggest that the stock could witness fresh buying interest if it manages to break decisively above the Rs 307 level. On the downside, Rs 280 is considered an important support level that traders are expected to watch closely.

The company's latest commentary has eased some concerns over rising competition, although analysts continue to monitor profitability and growth trends in the highly competitive online food delivery market. Future performance will depend on Eternal's ability to maintain customer loyalty, improve margins and successfully scale its newer business initiatives.

With competition intensifying across the sector, investors are expected to keep a close watch on the company's strategy and quarterly performance. While the latest earnings fell short of expectations, the positive management outlook helped the stock recover, reflecting continued confidence in Eternal's long-term growth prospects.

Sagility India reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, posting healthy growth in profit and revenue. However, despite the impressive earnings, the company's shares slipped over one percent during Wednesday's trading session as investors reacted cautiously to the results and a revised target price from a brokerage firm.

The stock was trading at Rs 41.32 on the NSE, down 1.24 percent during the day, even as the company delivered double-digit growth across key financial metrics.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2026, Sagility India reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 217 crore, registering a 46 percent increase compared to Rs 149 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The strong growth reflected improved operational performance and continued business expansion.

Revenue from operations also recorded a significant rise, increasing 27.6 percent year-on-year to Rs 1,963 crore from Rs 1,539 crore in the same period last year. The company's healthy revenue growth was supported by higher business volumes and strong demand for its healthcare-focused business process management services.

Operating performance remained robust as well. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew 26.6 percent to Rs 438 crore, compared to Rs 346 crore a year ago. However, the EBITDA margin narrowed slightly to 22.3 percent from 23 percent in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, indicating a modest increase in operating costs.

During the quarter, Sagility strengthened its client portfolio by adding 27 new customers, including CareSeed. With these additions, the company's total client base increased to 109, highlighting its continued success in expanding business relationships and securing new contracts.

Despite the encouraging quarterly performance, market sentiment remained cautious. Brokerage firm Nomura retained its 'Buy' rating on the stock but reduced its target price to Rs 52, prompting some investors to book profits after the recent rally.

Analysts believe the company's strong earnings and steady client additions underline its long-term growth potential. However, they also note that investors will closely monitor future margin trends, client growth and the broader demand environment for healthcare outsourcing services.

Sagility India continues to benefit from rising demand for technology-enabled healthcare solutions and business process management services. While the stock witnessed short-term weakness after the earnings announcement, the company's solid financial performance and expanding customer base suggest that its long-term growth outlook remains positive.

Sensex Drops 715 Points, Nifty Slips Below 24,000

Indian stock markets extended their losing streak for the third consecutive session on Wednesday, with benchmark indices ending sharply lower amid weak investor sentiment. Rising crude oil prices, a weakening rupee and profit booking in heavyweight stocks triggered broad-based selling across sectors, dragging the Sensex and Nifty to significant losses.

The BSE Sensex closed 715.06 points, or 0.92 percent, lower at 76,755.05, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 191.45 points, or 0.79 percent, to settle at 23,996.25, slipping below the crucial 24,000 mark. Markets remained under pressure throughout the trading session despite a slight recovery towards the close.

The weakness was not limited to benchmark indices. Broader markets also witnessed heavy selling, with the Nifty Midcap 100 declining around one percent and the Nifty Smallcap 100 falling 1.5 percent, indicating cautious investor sentiment across the board.

Sector-wise, most indices ended in the red. Media and realty stocks emerged as the worst performers, registering losses of more than 2.5 percent. Banking, IT, pharmaceutical, private bank, PSU bank, infrastructure, consumer durable, metal, oil and gas, and energy stocks also ended lower. However, FMCG stocks managed to outperform the broader market, while the auto sector also recorded modest gains.

Among the Nifty stocks, InterGlobe Aviation, Jio Financial Services, Infosys, State Bank of India and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories were among the major losers. On the positive side, Bajaj Auto led the gainers after a strong rally, followed by Nestle India, Tata Consumer Products, Power Grid Corporation and ONGC.

The Indian rupee also weakened during the day, closing at 96.57 against the US dollar, adding to concerns over foreign fund flows and increasing import costs. Rising global crude oil prices further dampened market sentiment as higher energy costs could put pressure on inflation and corporate earnings.

Despite the weak overall market, a few individual stocks attracted buying interest after posting strong quarterly earnings. Emami Paper surged after reporting a sharp rise in first-quarter profit, while Cyient DLM and TVS Holdings also gained on the back of encouraging financial results. On the other hand, Bandhan Bank witnessed a steep decline despite reporting higher profits, reflecting cautious investor expectations.

Market analysts believe the near-term outlook remains weak as benchmark indices have slipped below key technical support levels. According to experts, the Nifty could face further downside if it remains below the 24,100 level, while a sustained move above that mark may help revive positive momentum. Investors are expected to remain cautious in the coming sessions as they closely monitor global trends, crude oil prices, currency movements and the ongoing corporate earnings season.



Emami Paper Shares Jump 20% After Strong Q1 Results

Shares of Emami Paper Mills witnessed a sharp rally on Wednesday, hitting the 20 percent upper circuit after the company reported an impressive financial performance for the first quarter of FY27. The strong earnings boosted investor confidence and also lifted sentiment across the paper sector, with several peer companies recording notable gains during the trading session.

The company's stock closed at Rs 118.63 on the NSE after surging 20 percent, reflecting strong buying interest from investors following the quarterly results.

Emami Paper Mills reported a significant rise in its net profit for the June quarter. The company's profit increased more than six times to Rs 38.61 crore, compared to Rs 6.31 crore recorded during the same period of the previous financial year. The sharp improvement in profitability highlighted the company's stronger operational performance and better financial health.

Revenue also showed healthy growth during the quarter. The company's revenue from operations rose 21.84 percent year-on-year to Rs 560.37 crore, compared to Rs 461.36 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The increase in revenue, coupled with higher profitability, strengthened market confidence in the company's growth prospects. The upbeat earnings had a positive impact on other paper stocks as well. Investors extended buying to companies in the same sector, leading to gains in shares of Huhtamaki India and JK Paper.

Market participants viewed Emami Paper's strong results as a positive indicator for the paper industry's overall performance, triggering a broader rally in the segment.

The sharp movement in paper stocks came despite a weak overall market, where benchmark indices ended lower due to profit booking, rising crude oil prices and concerns over global economic conditions. While most sectors remained under pressure, the paper industry stood out as one of the few areas attracting strong investor interest.

Analysts believe that companies delivering robust earnings continue to receive positive market attention despite broader volatility. Strong revenue growth, improved profitability and better operational efficiency remain key factors influencing investor decisions during the ongoing earnings season.

The rally in Emami Paper Mills also reflects the market's focus on fundamentally strong companies capable of delivering consistent financial growth. Investors are expected to closely monitor upcoming quarterly results from other paper manufacturers to assess whether the positive momentum can continue across the sector.

With strong first-quarter numbers and renewed investor confidence, Emami Paper Mills has emerged as one of the standout performers in the latest earnings season, while the broader paper sector has also received a boost from the company's encouraging financial performance.

IndiaMART Shares Fall Despite Strong Q1 Earnings

Shares of IndiaMART InterMesh declined more than 5 percent on Wednesday after the company announced its first-quarter financial results for FY27. Although the online B2B marketplace reported healthy growth in profit and revenue, investors remained concerned over the continued decline in its paid supplier base, leading to selling pressure on the stock.

The company's shares fell to around Rs 1,820 during the trading session, extending their weak performance for the year. So far in 2026, IndiaMART's stock has declined nearly 17 percent, underperforming the broader market.

For the quarter ended June 30, IndiaMART reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 172 crore, registering a year-on-year growth of 12.2 percent. Revenue from operations also increased 11.4 percent to Rs 414.4 crore, reflecting steady demand for the company's digital business services.

The company's operating performance also remained positive. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) rose 9.7 percent to Rs 146.5 crore. However, the EBITDA margin slipped slightly to 35 percent from 36 percent in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year, indicating a marginal increase in operating costs. Despite the encouraging financial performance, market participants focused on the continued decline in the number of paying suppliers, which remains a key growth indicator for the company. Analysts believe that a shrinking subscriber base could affect future revenue growth if the trend continues over the coming quarters.

IndiaMART said its revenue growth during the quarter was mainly driven by improved realisation from existing paying suppliers rather than an increase in subscriber numbers. Customer collections from its standalone business grew 8 percent year-on-year to Rs 402 crore, while deferred revenue increased 14 percent to Rs 1,858 crore, reflecting healthy advance collections.

The company also reported strong user activity on its platform. During the June quarter, it recorded around 26 million unique business enquiries, while supplier storefronts increased 5 percent year-on-year to 8.8 million. However, the total number of paying suppliers stood at 218,000 at the end of the quarter, continuing a trend that has drawn attention from brokerages.

Several analysts maintained a cautious outlook despite the earnings beat, highlighting that sustained growth in paid subscribers remains essential for long-term business expansion. Investors are expected to closely monitor whether the company can reverse the decline in its subscriber base while maintaining strong financial performance.

Although IndiaMART continues to deliver steady revenue and profit growth, the market's reaction indicates that future subscriber growth will remain the key factor influencing investor confidence and the company's stock performance in the coming quarters.



Adani Green Profit Rises 19% in Q1, Stock Slips



Adani Green Energy Ltd reported a strong financial performance for the first quarter of FY27, posting healthy growth in profit, revenue and operating earnings. Despite the encouraging quarterly numbers, the company's shares declined during Wednesday's trading session as investors booked profits after recent gains.

The renewable energy major reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 983 crore for the quarter ended June 30, registering a year-on-year growth of 19.3 percent. The improved performance was driven by higher revenue and stronger operational efficiency, reflecting continued growth in the company's renewable energy business. Revenue from operations rose 16.6 percent to Rs 4,431 crore during the June quarter, compared with Rs 3,800 crore in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The steady increase in revenue highlights the company's expanding power generation capacity and improved business performance.

Operating profit also witnessed robust growth during the quarter. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) climbed 31 percent year-on-year to Rs 3,985 crore from Rs 3,042 crore recorded a year earlier. The company's EBITDA margin improved significantly to 90 percent, compared to 80 percent in the same quarter last year, indicating better operational efficiency and stronger profitability.

While the consolidated financial results remained positive, the standalone business reported a quarterly loss of Rs 51 crore due to higher expenses. At the same time, standalone revenue from operations increased 29 percent, reaching Rs 6,472 crore, reflecting continued growth in the company's core business activities despite the higher cost burden. Despite reporting a strong set of earnings, the company's stock came under pressure during the trading session. Market participants attributed the decline to profit booking and cautious investor sentiment, even as the financial performance remained largely in line with expectations.

Adani Green Energy continues to be one of India's leading renewable energy companies, with a strong focus on expanding its solar and wind power portfolio. The company has been steadily increasing its installed capacity while supporting the country's clean energy transition. Analysts believe the healthy growth in revenue, profit and operating margins demonstrates the company's strong business fundamentals. However, investors are expected to keep a close watch on future capacity additions, project execution and overall market conditions, which could influence the stock's performance in the coming quarters.

The latest quarterly results reinforce Adani Green Energy's growth trajectory, even though short-term movements in the share price reflected broader market sentiment rather than the company's underlying financial performance.

Tata Communications Shares Fall After Q1 Profit Drops

Shares of Tata Communications declined by as much as 6 percent on Wednesday after the company reported a sharp fall in its net profit for the first quarter of FY27. While the company posted healthy revenue growth during the quarter, a decline in earnings and the impact of one-time costs weighed on investor sentiment.

The Tata Group company's stock came under selling pressure after it announced that its net profit for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, had fallen 29 percent compared to the same period last year. The weaker bottom line prompted investors to book profits despite continued growth in the company's core business. Revenue from operations, however, showed steady improvement. Tata Communications reported revenue of Rs 6,583 crore for the June quarter, marking a 10 percent increase from Rs 5,960 crore recorded in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. The growth reflects stable demand across the company's digital infrastructure and communication services business. The company said its quarterly earnings were affected by a one-time cost of Rs 106 crore, which had an impact on overall profitability.

In a regulatory filing, Tata Communications explained that the implementation of four new Labour Codes by the Government of India led to changes in the definition of "wages," requiring the company to reassess employee benefit obligations such as gratuity and long-term compensated absences.

Earlier, the company had made a provision of Rs 60.58 crore based on the revised wage definition. During the June quarter, after further discussions with experts and a fresh actuarial assessment, Tata Communications revised its estimates and reversed Rs 18.52 crore of the earlier provision. Despite this adjustment, the one-time costs continued to affect the company's quarterly profit.

Market participants reacted cautiously to the earnings announcement, focusing more on the decline in net profit than the company's revenue growth. The stock's fall also reflected broader market weakness, as benchmark indices ended lower amid profit booking and global concerns.

Analysts believe Tata Communications continues to maintain strong business fundamentals, supported by steady revenue growth and expanding digital services. However, they note that investors will closely monitor the company's profitability and margin trends in the coming quarters, particularly after the impact of exceptional expenses subsides.

Although the stock witnessed a sharp decline following the quarterly results, the company's continued revenue growth indicates resilience in its core operations. Investors are expected to watch future earnings closely to assess whether profitability improves as one-time costs reduce and operational performance strengthens further.



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India Eye Winning Start Against Zimbabwe

India will be aiming to bounce back from a disappointing run in T20 internationals when they take on Zimbabwe in the first match of the three-match T20I series in Harare on Thursday. The series offers skipper Shreyas Iyer an opportunity to register his first victory as India's T20 captain and help the young side regain confidence after recent setbacks.

Iyer has endured a difficult start to his captaincy, with India losing six of his first seven T20Is, including series defeats

against Ireland and England. A successful tour of Zimbabwe is expected, but another poor performance could raise fresh questions about the team's direction ahead of future assignments. The Indian squad features several young players, with 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi attracting plenty of attention. The teenage opener is expected to partner Abhishek Sharma at the top of the order, while Sanju Samson has not been included

in the squad. Harare holds special memories for both openers. Abhishek Sharma made his international debut at the venue and later scored his maiden T20I century there. Earlier this year, Sooryavanshi also produced a memorable hundred on the same ground during the Under-19 World Cup final, making him one of the players to watch in the series. The team will be guided by VVS Laxman, who has taken charge as stand-in head coach

in the absence of Gautam Gambhir. Unlike Gambhir's aggressive approach, Laxman is expected to focus on stability while giving youngsters opportunities to establish themselves. India's batting order remains a key talking point. Vice-captain Tilak Varma has struggled in the middle order, while Ishan Kishan is likely to continue at No. 3. Rinku Singh is seen as a strong finisher, but the team management will need to strike the right balance in the batting

lineup. The all-rounder's slot is another area of interest, with Shivam Dube, Harsh Dubey and Suryansh Shedge competing for places. Their performances could play an important role in determining the team's balance. Zimbabwe, led by experienced all-rounder Sikandar Raza, are expected to provide a tough challenge despite being underdogs. Fast bowlers Blessing Muzarabani and Richard Ngarava have the pace and bounce to trouble India's young batting



unit on the lively Harare pitch. India's pace attack is likely to feature Prince Yadav and Mayank Yadav, while the third seamer could be either Ashok Sharma or Yash Thakur. Spinner Ravi Bishnoi is expected to lead the spin department. With a young squad, a new captain and several players eager to cement their places, India will look to begin the series on a winning note, while Zimbabwe will hope to capitalise on home conditions and test the visitors throughout the contest.

Messi's Tunnel Gesture Wins Hearts After World Cup Final

CWG 2026 Fewer Sports Could Slash India's Medal Count

Fresh footage from the FIFA World Cup 2026 final has offered fans a closer look at Lionel Messi's actions moments before Argentina walked onto the field for the title clash against Spain. The extended tunnel video has gone viral, highlighting the Argentine captain's calm leadership and sportsmanship after reports of tension inside the team's dressing room.

Earlier reports suggested that there had been an emotional moment in Argentina's dressing room before the final in New York, with Messi urging his teammates to put everything behind them and focus on the match. The newly surfaced footage appears to support that image, showing the veteran forward leading his teammates out with composure.

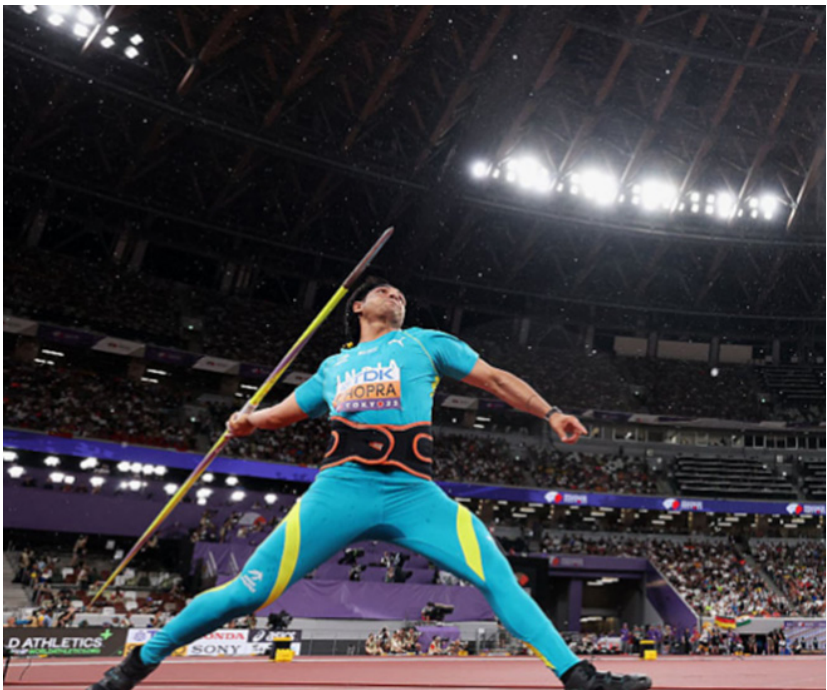
In the video, Messi is seen leaving the dressing room wearing a white Argentina jacket over his match kit as team staff cheer the players. He leads the squad through the tunnel towards the waiting area where both teams line up before entering the stadium. One of the most talked-about moments comes when Messi approaches the Spain players before kickoff. Instead of walking straight into position, he takes time to greet several members of the opposition, shaking hands, patting shoulders and exchanging



brief hugs with a number of Spanish footballers. Many of those players have close ties to Barcelona, the club where Messi spent the majority of his legendary career. The footage has drawn widespread praise on social media, with fans applauding the Argentine captain's respect for his opponents despite the enormous pressure surrounding the World Cup final. Many described the gestures as a reflection of Messi's character and leadership during one of the biggest matches of his career. Following Argentina's defeat in the final, Messi returned home to Argentina with his family. His private jet landed near his hometown of Rosario, where supporters gathered in large numbers hoping to welcome their captain. However, Messi did not make a public appearance after arriving. In an emotional message shared after

the tournament, Messi admitted the defeat was deeply painful and said the disappointment would take time to overcome. At the same time, he thanked the Argentine people for their unwavering support and expressed pride in the team's journey to another World Cup final. Messi travelled home with his wife, Antonela Rocuzzo, and their three children, who had accompanied him throughout the tournament. His father, Jorge Messi, who is undergoing medical treatment, was also waiting for him in Rosario. While Argentina narrowly missed out on lifting another World Cup trophy, the latest tunnel footage has reminded fans why Messi continues to be admired around the world—not only for his footballing brilliance but also for his humility, leadership and respect for the game.

India's impressive haul of 61 medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games is unlikely to be repeated in Glasgow this year, largely because the competition has been significantly downsized. With only 10 sports included in the 2026 edition, compared to 19 in Birmingham, India's traditional medal-winning disciplines have taken the biggest hit. Wrestling, badminton, table tennis, hockey and women's cricket—sports that contributed a combined 28 medals in 2022—have all been dropped from the programme. The absence of these events means India faces a major challenge in even crossing the 30-medal mark. Athletics is expected to shoulder much of India's medal hopes. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will lead the challenge in the men's javelin throw, while long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, distance runners Parul Chaudhary and Gulveer Singh, along with athletes in the triple jump and high jump, are also among the country's strongest contenders. Weightlifting remains another key medal-producing discipline for India. Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu headlines the squad, with Bindyarani Devi, Ajaya Babu and Gyaneshwari Yadav also expected to compete for podium finishes across



different weight categories. Boxing is another area where India is expected to perform strongly. Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and reigning world champion Jaisime Lamboria lead a talented contingent capable of winning multiple medals in both men's and women's divisions. India could also add to its tally through judo, lawn bowls and para sports, though the reduced number of events means every medal will carry greater significance as the country looks to maximise its opportunities in Glasgow.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Confident Ahead Of Zimbabwe Series

Communication Gap, Fitness Concerns Put Team India Under Scanner

India's teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has admitted that the last four months have been filled with challenges, but said he remains confident and focused on contributing to the team's success in the upcoming three-match T20I series against Zimbabwe. The 15-year-old, who became India's youngest-ever international cricketer during the T20I series against England, had a difficult start to his senior international career. After making his debut in Manchester, Sooryavanshi played three matches but managed only modest scores before being dropped for the fifth and final T20I following Sanju Samson's return to the playing XI. India eventually lost the series 0-4. His omission drew criticism from several former cricketers, who questioned the team management's decision to leave out the youngster after giving him only three innings to prove himself. Speaking to BCCI.TV ahead of the Zimbabwe tour, Sooryavanshi reflected on the difficult phase and stressed that setbacks are part of a cricketer's journey. "Yes, there have been several



ups and downs in the last four months. It's part of cricket and it will keep happening, but I have to follow the process and give my 100 per cent for the team," he said. The youngster also acknowledged that being dropped after his first few international outings was emotionally difficult, but credited the coaches and support staff for helping him regain confidence. "It's an obvious thing that what-

ever I want, whether it is guidance or practice, the coaches are making it available. Whatever practice I require, I am getting that. I am feeling very good and there is confidence also," he added. Sooryavanshi returns to familiar surroundings in Harare, where he produced one of the finest innings of the ICC Under-19 World Cup earlier this year. The left-hander smashed a stunning 175 off just 80 balls against Eng-

land in the final, guiding India to the U-19 World Cup title. Calling the Harare Sports Club a special venue, Sooryavanshi said the memories of lifting the junior World Cup there would inspire him during the Zimbabwe series. "It's a very memorable ground for me. Four months back, we won the U-19 World Cup here, so it is a very special place. To return here and represent India again is a different feeling altogether," he said. The teenage opener believes his familiarity with the conditions will help him if he gets an opportunity in the playing XI. "I have a fair idea about the pitches and conditions here from the U-19 World Cup. I will try to use those learnings, back the practice I have done and play my natural game. Whatever contribution I can make for the team, I will try to give that," Sooryavanshi said. With India looking to bounce back after disappointing results in recent T20I series, Sooryavanshi will be eager to make the most of another opportunity and translate his immense potential into performances at the senior international level.

India's recurring injury concerns have reportedly exposed shortcomings in the communication between the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), team management and players, raising fresh questions over the national side's fitness system. According to a report, several senior players are finding it difficult to adapt to the revised fitness setup introduced after changes in personnel last year. ODI captain Shubman Gill had also voiced frustration over the growing number of injuries during India's recent tour of the United Kingdom. A BCCI source claimed there is inadequate coordination regarding players' fitness status and workload between the CoE and the team management. The report also noted that the CoE is yet to appoint a new head of medical staff following Nitin Patel's departure, while the standard operating procedures introduced in 2023 have reportedly not been updated. The report highlighted the frequent injury setbacks suffered by Washington Sundar, Nitish Reddy and Harshit Rana. Concerns were also raised over Harshit Rana being cleared to join the national team before fully recovering from his knee injury. Nitish Reddy's efforts to increase his bowling pace under English bowling coach Stefan Jones and Washington Sundar's reportedly hurried return during the T20 World Cup were also cited as factors that may have contributed to the growing injury concerns. The report further claimed that many players receive limited communication from the BCCI medical team when they are away from national duty, leaving them to manage their fitness independently between international assignments. With fewer cricketers playing across all three formats, players often get extended breaks between series, but the absence of regular monitoring and guidance has reportedly become a concern within the setup. The findings have put the BCCI's injury management system under scrutiny at a crucial stage, with India preparing for a packed international calendar that includes the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka and the road to the 2027 ODI World Cup. While no official response has been issued by the BCCI, the report suggests that improving coordination between the medical staff, the Centre of Excellence and the team management will be essential to reducing injury setbacks and ensuring better player availability in the future.

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Pakistan Makes Padel Training Mandatory For Cricketers

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has introduced a new fitness initiative by making padel training compulsory for cricketers attending long-duration camps at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore. Under the new rule, players will take part in 40-minute padel sessions on alternate days as part of their regular training schedule. The decision has been taken by senior selector and Director of High Performance Aqib Javed, who believes the fast-growing racket sport can help improve players' agility, reflexes, movement and fielding skills. According to him, padel offers an enjoyable yet physically demanding workout that complements cricket training. Aqib said many Pakistan players were already playing padel in their hometowns but often had to travel long distances due to the limited number of courts. To address this, the PCB has built a dedicated padel court at the National Cricket Academy, allowing players to include the sport in their daily training routine without leaving the facility. Padel is a racket sport that combines elements of tennis and squash. It is played on a smaller enclosed court, requiring quick foot-



work, rapid reflexes, sharp coordination and sustained endurance. These qualities are considered valuable for modern cricketers, especially in fielding and overall athletic performance. The PCB believes the introduction of padel will help players become fitter and more agile while also making training sessions more engaging. Aqib described the sport as simple to learn, enjoyable to play and highly beneficial for improving physical fitness. The new fitness programme is part of a broader plan to upgrade facilities at the National Cricket Academy. Aqib said he wants the academy to become a "second home" for Pakistan's cricketers, where they can develop both their cricketing skills and overall fitness in a professional environment. Apart from the new padel courts, the PCB has also installed an AI-powered bowling machine at the academy to help batters prepare against different bowling styles through advanced technology. The board is also planning to construct basketball courts and an indoor recreation hall featuring games such as snooker to provide additional fitness and recovery options for players. With padel now becoming a mandatory part of training, Pakistan's cricketers will spend around 40 minutes playing the sport every alternate day during extended camps. The PCB hopes the initiative will improve players' athletic standards and translate into better performances on the cricket field.

Ravi Shastri Praises Rohit Sharma's Lord's Century

Rohit Sharma's outstanding century against England at Lord's has won praise from former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who believes the veteran opener answered all questions about his future with a superb performance. Rohit's brilliant 138-run knock came at a time when retirement speculation had intensified, with many believing the Lord's ODI could be his final appearance in Indian colours. Speaking during the opening match of The Hundred 2026 between MI London and Sunrisers Leeds at the Kia Oval, Shastri said Rohit's innings was the perfect response to his critics. Watching the Indian captain in the stands, the former coach recalled the memorable knock that silenced the debate over his future. "There was a lot of noise before that last ODI, but Rohit responded



with the bat. It was a nice, tight slap with the bat. He scored 138 and registered his first ODI hundred at Lord's," Shastri said during commentary. The innings not only guided India to a memorable victory but also reminded everyone of Rohit's ability to deliver on the biggest stages. The experienced opener combined patience with his trademark attacking stroke play, taking

control of the innings after India faced early pressure. His century was widely praised by former cricketers and fans, many of whom felt it proved he still has plenty to offer Indian cricket. Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also came out strongly in support of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Ashwin said players with such remarkable records deserve respect and should not face unnecessary pressure over their careers. "They cannot touch Virat and Rohit if they want to continue playing. Rohit has scored nearly 12,000 ODI runs. Their achievements and experience speak for themselves. They have earned the right to decide their own future," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. Ashwin further explained that Rohit's motivation is not to prove

his critics wrong but to prepare himself for the next ODI World Cup. According to him, the Indian captain still has the hunger to perform at the highest level and wants to play a key role in India's World Cup campaign. "The way Rohit batted showed that he has nothing left to prove. It is about his own desire to represent India and compete in another World Cup," Ashwin added. Rohit's century at Lord's has significantly changed the conversation around his future. Instead of retirement, the focus has shifted to his form and leadership ahead of the upcoming international assignments. With senior figures like Ravi Shastri and Ravichandran Ashwin backing him, Rohit Sharma has once again shown why he remains one of India's most dependable and influential cricketers in the 50-over format.

Allu Arjun Relaxes in Austrian Alps

Icon Star Allu Arjun has taken a short break from the shooting of his upcoming film, Raaka, to spend quality time with his family in the scenic Austrian Alps. The actor is currently enjoying a refreshing vacation with his wife, Allu Sneha Reddy, and their children, Ayaan and Arha, before returning to his busy shooting schedule.

The family getaway came into the spotlight after Sneha Reddy shared a series of pictures and videos on her Instagram Stories. The posts offered fans a glimpse of their peaceful holiday surrounded by snow-capped mountains and breathtaking landscapes. The images quickly went viral on social media, with fans expressing their delight at seeing the star enjoying a well-deserved break.

During their trip, the family visited the famous Seegrube terrace on the Nordkette Mountain Range near Innsbruck in Austria. Situated at an altitude of



around 1,905 metres above sea level, the location is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. It is known for its spectacular panoramic views of Innsbruck city and the winding Inn River, attracting visitors from across the world throughout the year.

The pictures showed the family spending time together while soaking in the natural beauty of the mountains. Allu Arjun kept his look casual in a dark bomber jacket, cargo pants and white sneakers, while Sneha Reddy wore a black knit sweater paired with wide-leg denim. Their children also appeared to be enjoying the cool weather and peaceful surroundings.

The vacation comes at a time when Allu Arjun has been occupied with the filming of Raaka,

one of the most anticipated upcoming Telugu films. Directed by Atlee, the movie marks the first collaboration between the celebrated actor and the blockbuster filmmaker. The project has already created immense buzz among fans, even though the makers have not revealed many details about the storyline.

Fans across social media have welcomed the latest family pictures, praising the couple for taking time away from their professional commitments to create special moments with their children. Many also appreciated the stunning backdrop of the Austrian Alps featured in the photographs.

The holiday is expected to be a short one, with Allu Arjun likely to return to India soon to resume the next schedule of Raaka. Fans are eagerly awaiting fresh updates from the film while wishing the actor and his family a memorable vacation.



Ramayana Team Heads to SDCC Ahead of Trailer Launch

The excitement surrounding Ramayana continues to build as the film's team gears up for a grand international showcase ahead of its much-awaited trailer launch. Lead actors Ranbir Kapoor and Yash were spotted at the airport on Wednesday as they departed for California to attend the 2026 edition of San Diego Comic-Con (SDCC), one of the world's biggest entertainment conventions.

The team will unveil exclusive footage from the film during a special panel at SDCC on July 23, just a day before the official trailer is released on July 24. Fans attending the event will get a first glimpse of the highly anticipated mythological epic, making it one of the most significant Indian film presentations at this year's convention.

Joining Ranbir Kapoor and Yash at the event are producer Namit Malhotra and director Nitesh Tiwari, who have been working on the ambitious project for several years. The Ramayana panel is scheduled to be held at 3:15 PM PDT in Ballroom 20, the convention's second-largest venue, which can accommodate nearly 4,800 attendees. The showcase is expected to attract a massive audience, reflecting the growing global interest in Indian cinema.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita, and Yash in the role of Ravana. The film has generated immense curiosity ever since its announcement due to its scale, cast, and visual ambition.

Apart from the lead trio, the film also features an impressive supporting cast that includes Sunny Deol, Rakul Preet Singh, Kajal Aggarwal, Ravie Dubey, and Kunal Kapoor in important roles. The makers have remained tight-lipped about several character details, further adding to the anticipation among movie lovers.

Produced by Prime Focus Studios in association with Monster Mind Creations, Ramayana is one of the most expensive Indian films currently in production. Its visual effects are being handled by Academy Award-winning VFX studio DNEG, raising expectations for a spectacular cinematic experience.

The film is scheduled for a theatrical release during Diwali 2026 and is already being regarded as one of the biggest Indian releases of the year. With its appearance at San Diego Comic-Con and the trailer launch just around the corner, the makers are preparing to introduce the film to a global audience. Fans across India and overseas are eagerly waiting to witness the first official visuals of this ambitious retelling of the timeless epic.

OG 2 Birthday Surprise on Cards

The buzz surrounding OG 2, the much-awaited sequel starring Pawan Kalyan, is growing stronger as the film moves into its pre-production phase. Director Sujeeth is currently working on the script and other key aspects of the project, while fresh industry reports suggest that fans could be in for a special treat on the actor's birthday.

According to the latest buzz, the makers are planning to unveil a special animated video on September 2, coinciding with Pawan Kalyan's birthday. The video is reportedly being developed in Chennai and is expected to serve as an announcement-style teaser, offering fans an exciting glimpse into the world of OG 2.

Birthday releases have become a popular trend in the film industry, with makers unveiling posters, teasers or special promotional content to celebrate the occasion. If the reports are true,



the animated presentation will continue that tradition and build anticipation for one of the most awaited Telugu films currently in development.

Sources indicate that the animated video will not only announce the project in style but may also reveal a few intriguing details about the sequel. While the makers have not officially confirmed the reports, the speculation has already created excitement among Pawan Kalyan's fan base.

OG 2 has entered the initial stages of production, with Sujeeth focusing on finalising the

screenplay and other pre-production work. Expectations are high after the success and popularity of the OG franchise, making every update on the sequel a major talking point among movie lovers.

Adding to the excitement, Pawan Kalyan will reportedly produce the sequel himself, taking an active role in bringing the project to the big screen. Music director Thaman has also been roped in to compose the soundtrack, raising expectations for a powerful background score and chart-topping songs.

Although an official announcement is still awaited, fans are eagerly counting down to September 2 in the hope of witnessing the first glimpse of OG 2. If the animated video is indeed released as planned, it is expected to kick-start the film's promotional campaign and set the stage for one of the biggest Telugu releases in the coming years.

Pooja Hegde in Talks for Ravi Teja Film

A new update surrounding Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu's much-talked-about multistarrer has created excitement among Telugu cinema fans. While the project is yet to receive an official announcement, reports suggest that actress Pooja Hegde is being considered for a key role in the upcoming entertainer.

According to the latest industry buzz, the makers are in discussions with Pooja Hegde to play the female lead opposite Ravi Teja. If the deal is finalised, it will mark the first time that Ravi Teja and Pooja Hegde share screen space, making it a fresh

on-screen pairing for audiences.

The untitled project is reportedly a comedy entertainer and is expected to be directed by Hasith Goli, who is known for his entertaining storytelling. The film has already generated considerable curiosity because it brings together Ravi Teja and Sree Vishnu in a multistarrer for the first time.

Reports also suggest that the film has been tentatively titled Veeradhi Veerulanta. Though the title and cast details are yet to be officially confirmed, the project is already among the

most discussed upcoming Telugu films on social media.

Pooja Hegde is currently busy with Sri Sri, starring Dulquer Salmaan, and continues to juggle multiple projects across languages. Her addition to Ravi Teja's film would further strengthen the cast and add star value to the comedy entertainer.

The project is reportedly being backed by noted producer Dil Raju, who is expected to bankroll the film under his production banner. With an experienced production team and an interesting combination of ac-

tors, expectations are steadily rising even before the official launch. If everything goes according to plan, the film is expected to release during the Sankranti 2027 festive season, a period considered highly favourable for major Telugu releases. However, the makers are yet to announce the cast, title and release schedule officially.

Until then, fans will have to wait for confirmation on whether Pooja Hegde will indeed romance Ravi Teja in what is shaping up to be one of the most exciting multistarrers in the Telugu film industry.



SJ Suryah Declined Cameo in Idhayam Murali

A surprising revelation has emerged about the recently released Tamil romantic comedy Idhayam Murali, which turned out to be a successful box-office performer. Director Akash Baskaran has disclosed that actor-director SJ Suryah was originally approached for a key cameo in the film, but he declined the offer.

The role eventually went to Malayalam star Fahadh Faasil, whose special appearance received appreciation from audiences. Speaking about the casting process, Akash Baskaran said SJ Suryah was his first choice for the cameo. However, the actor politely refused the role, explaining that he was not interested in doing cameo appearances.

Following SJ Suryah's decision, the director approached Fahadh Faasil and showed him the business cut of the film. Akash admitted that he initially expected Fahadh to turn down the offer, but the actor surprised him by agreeing to be part of the project.

Due to Fahadh Faasil's busy schedule, filming his scenes required careful planning. According to the director, the actor was available only on Sun-



days, and the entire cameo was completed over four consecutive Sundays. Despite the limited shooting time, Fahadh's performance added significant value to the film and became one of its major highlights.

Idhayam Murali stars Atharvaa in the lead role, with Kayadu Lohar and Preity Mukhundhan playing the female leads. The romantic

comedy has been well received by audiences for its entertaining storyline and performances.

The supporting cast includes Natarajan Subramaniam, Niharika NM, singer Jonita Gandhi and music director Thaman, who also composed the film's soundtrack. Their performances contributed to the film's overall success and positive word of

mouth.

The director's latest revelation has generated fresh interest among fans, with many wondering how the film might have looked had SJ Suryah accepted the cameo. Nevertheless, Fahadh Faasil's memorable appearance ultimately proved to be an effective addition, helping Idhayam Murali leave a strong impression at the box office.

Nayanthara's Bold Look in Toxic Goes Viral

Nayanthara has once again grabbed the spotlight with her striking transformation in the upcoming action drama Toxic. The actress, known for portraying powerful women on screen throughout her 23-year career, is set to appear in one of her boldest roles yet, and her latest look from the film has already created a buzz on social media.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic features Nayanthara as Ganga, a fearless and intense character who breaks away from the actress' familiar on-screen image. Sporting a sharp short hairstyle and taking part in high-octane action sequences, she is expected to showcase a completely different side of her acting abilities.

One particular scene from the recently released song Manasaagadhe has become the talking point among fans. In the sequence, Nayanthara is seen smoking a cigar and sharing it with co-star Yash, a moment that has quickly gone viral across social media platforms. The stylish visuals have sparked widespread discussion, with many praising her bold makeover and confident screen presence.



The unconventional portrayal has surprised audiences, as Nayanthara has rarely appeared in such a rugged and edgy avatar during her career. Fans are especially curious about how director Geetu Mohandas convinced the actress to take on such a distinctive role, which marks a significant departure from her previous performances.

While the makers have not revealed many details about Ganga's character, the latest promotional material suggests she will play a crucial role in the film's narrative. The viral response to her look has further increased anticipation for

the action drama.

Toxic stars Yash in the lead role and is one of the most awaited pan-Indian films of the year. The film is jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash, with the makers aiming to deliver a visually grand action entertainer.

Scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on August 26, 2026, Toxic will be released in multiple languages. With Nayanthara's bold transformation already creating headlines and the promotional campaign gathering momentum, expectations for the film continue to rise as fans eagerly await its arrival on the big screen.