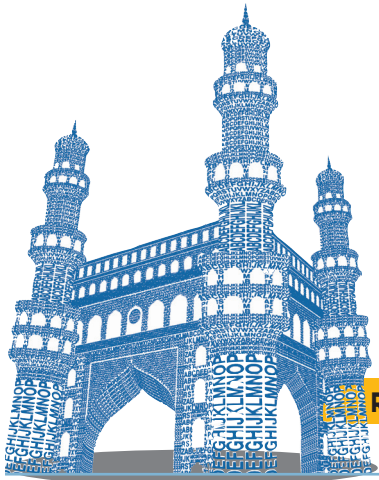




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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TOGETHER
AGAINST A
GLOBAL THREAT

OPINION

06

KRITIS
NEW LOOK IS
MAKING WAVES



BOX-OFFICE

12

CM's SIR Warning

The party got a report on leaders who are not active in the campaign Set a 10 day deadline for the leaders to fulfill party directions

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy warned of strict action if any party leader is found not following the party instructions in implementing the SIR campaign.

Participating in a Zoom meeting on SIR with party leaders today, the Chief Minister instructed the Ministers, MLAs, MPs and constituency in-charges to be extra vigilant on SIR in the wake of the reports of possible deletion of genuine voters names from the voters list. "The SIR issue is a very serious matter. Some leaders are being negligent about the SIR", the CM said that he will not remain a silent spectator when the party suffers damage as he already received district-wise reports regarding the SIR awareness meetings.

CM Revanth Reddy instructed the leaders to organise more awareness meetings on SIR and entrusted the In-charge ministers with more responsibilities to make the meetings successful. The Chief Minister emphasized that the voting rights of the poor should be safeguarded during the SIR. If the poor lose their votes, they will also lose their Aadhaar and ration cards.

All leaders should strictly adhere to party directives, the CM said that the in-charges will be replaced with new ones if they failed to implement the party instructions. "We will not tolerate any negligence and are observing the performance of the in-charges for 10 days". The CM also appealed to the party Sarpanches to organise the SIR and create awareness among people in the villages.



Hyderabad, June 24:

The Telangana Government has initiated an intensive exercise to identify both immediate and long-term solutions to safeguard its rightful share of waters under the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS), amid continuing concerns over poor water availability, silt accumulation and structural constraints affecting canal flows. The State could avail hardly 5 to 6 times as against and entitlement of close to 16 TMC annually.

At a high-level brainstorming session chaired by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and attended by Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, senior irrigation engineers, water resources experts and officials reviewed the challenges confronting the decades-old irrigation system and examined a range of engineering,

administrative and interstate coordination measures to ensure effective utilisation of Telangana's allocated waters.

The Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister wanted the State officials to prepared the ground to engage with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Centre to evolve mutually acceptable solutions that can improve water management within the Tungabhadra basin while safeguarding Telangana's legitimate rights.

The discussions focused on the persistent difficulties in drawing adequate water into the RDS canal despite allocations available to Telangana. Heavy silt deposits near the canal head regulator, changes in river morphology and structural impediments have significantly affected the free flow of water into the canal system over the years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Kolkata Warehouse Collapse Kills Four



Kolkata, June 25: At least four workers were killed and 18 others rescued after a three-storey under-construction warehouse collapsed in the Taratala area of west Kolkata on Wednesday afternoon. Several workers are still feared trapped beneath the debris as rescue operations continue.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenudh Adhikari, who visited the accident site, said emergency teams were working round the clock to locate and rescue those believed to be trapped. He alleged that the building plan appeared to be faulty and indicated possible construction deficiencies.

The warehouse reportedly collapsed around noon while construction work was underway. According to officials, several workers were present at the site

when large sections of concrete and iron beams suddenly gave way, bringing down the structure.

A massive rescue operation was launched involving personnel from Kolkata Police, the Disaster Management Group, Fire and Emergency Services, Civil Defence, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the Army's Eastern Command.

Heavy cranes, earth-moving machinery and gas cutters were deployed to clear the debris. Rescue teams also used sniffer dogs, drones and vertical drilling equipment to detect and reach survivors trapped under the rubble.

Eyewitnesses said cries for help could be heard immediately after the collapse.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PM chairs PRAGATI Meeting

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired the 52nd meeting of PRAGATI, the ICT-enabled multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, at Seva Teerth in New Delhi. During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed four major infrastructure projects in the road, power, industrial corridor and metro rail sectors across four states, involving an investment of nearly ₹30,000 crore.

The projects, aimed at boosting economic growth, regional connectivity, industrial development and public welfare, were reviewed with a focus on timely completion, inter-agency coordination and the

resolution of pending issues.

Mr. Modi stressed that delays in infrastructure projects result in cost escalation and deprive citizens and industries of timely benefits. He directed the concerned ministries and state governments to resolve bottlenecks in a mission mode and ensure close monitoring of project implementation. The Prime Minister also emphasized the effective use of the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for efficient planning and execution of infrastructure projects. He called for regular updating of project details, utility information, infrastructure layers and clearances on the portal to facilitate real-time monitoring and improve coordination among agencies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Nurture students like saplings to build nation's future: Governor

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Every student is like a sapling that, nurtured with love, education, discipline and good conduct, can grow into a mighty tree, Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said. Addressing students at a free notebook distribution programme at Lok Bhavan Community Hall on Wednesday organised by Bharat Sevashram Sangh, the Governor stressed that "students' future is the nation's future."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



TGSRTC Opens 694 Spaces for Lease

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

In a major revenue-generation initiative, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has decided to lease out its commercial complexes and vacant shop spaces across the state. The corporation will soon invite tenders for 694 vacant shops located in bus stations, depots and commercial complexes.

With lakhs of commuters passing through RTC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Harish Rao demands Telangana intervention over Karnataka's illegal river projects

Hyderabad, June 24 (NSS): Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao has written an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy demanding immediate intervention to protect Telangana's rightful share in the Tungabhadra river waters and prevent Karnataka from proceeding with what he termed as illegal projects that could severely im-

pact irrigation and drinking water needs in Telangana. In his letter on Wednesday, Harish Rao stated that one of the greatest injustices suffered by Telangana during the united Andhra Pradesh era was the denial of its legitimate share of Krishna and Godavari river waters.

He said the Telangana movement was driven in part by the need to secure wa-

ter rights and that after statehood, the BRS government successfully redirected river waters to drought-prone regions, transforming districts like Palamuru through large-scale irrigation projects.

Harish Rao alleged that since coming to power, the Congress government has failed to safeguard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

People Want KCR's Governance Back: KTR

Congress Has Betrayed Every Section of Society



KHAMMAM, JUNE 24

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that it had deceived farmers, students, youth, women and weaker sections, and asserted that people across the state were yearning for the return of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao's leadership.

Addressing a meeting of key BRS party workers at Sathupalli in Khammam district, KTR said the only task

left before the people was to "send the anti-people Congress government packing." He alleged that despite having three ministers from Khammam district holding powerful portfolios, the district had gained nothing under the present administration. KTR questioned CM Revanth Reddy's stand on crop procurement and reminded him of his earlier promises as PCC president. "The Chief Minister now says Telangana can procure only as much crop as the Centre permits.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BALKA SUMAN GETS BAIL AFTER 25 DAYS IN JAIL



HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

In a relief to former BRS MLA Balka Suman, the Telangana High Court on Wednesday granted him conditional bail in a case related to remarks allegedly made against Singareni Collieries. The court directed him to furnish a personal bond of Rs.25,000. A case was registered against Suman at Nampally Police Station over the comments made during a meeting of the Telangana Boggu Gani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS). He was arrested on May 29 and lodged in Chanchalguda Central Jail. During his incarceration, BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao and several senior party leaders met him in jail. Suman was granted bail after spending 25 days in custody.

Beginning of a Golden chapter in AP

PAGE 5 >

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

TPCC Vice President Emphasizes Youth as the Engine of Party Strategy

MEDCHAL-MALKAJIGIRI, JUNE 24

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee leader framed youth empowerment as central to both party building and national progress. Bandi Ramesh, a prominent TPCC vice president, kamma corporation chairman, and kukatpally constituency congress party in-charge, addressed a district Executive Committee meeting led by Saleem, the Youth Congress president. The gathering took place at the Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple in KPHB Colony, with Ramesh as the chief guest, signalling a strategic mobilization of young activists at the grassroots level.

Ramesh articulated a clear strategic priority: recruit and mobilize youth at every touchpoint of the party to sustain long-term electoral viability. He argued that political parties derive strength from the next generation, and that sustained, issue-driven engagement with the public will translate into recognition, trust, and electoral momentum. By framing public service as a pathway to opportunity, he positioned the youth as



both operators and beneficiaries of the party's growth agenda.

The meeting highlighted a coordinated youth-centric slate of leaders, including Youth State In-charge Bhavya, Medchal-Malkajigiri District In-charge Ram Prasad, State Secretary Ramya, and Medchal-Malkajigiri District Youth Congress President Bomma Ajay, among others. This lineup signals a deliberate effort to build a robust bench of young leaders who can organize, cam-

paign, and govern with a clearly defined youth roadmap. Ramesh urged every level of leadership—from constituency to state to national—to unite and intensify their efforts immediately, citing a need for bold messaging around youth empowerment and development-focused policies.

Additionally, Ramesh referenced prominent national figures and broad strategic goals to galvanize support and illustrate the party's potential to

deliver tangible benefits to young voters and their families. By aligning local mobilization with national leadership narratives, the party intends to craft a consistent, resonant storyline that can be scaled across districts and states. The session underscored a deliberate, forward-looking plan to position youth as the backbone of both party resilience and overall national development, signalling a calculated shift toward sustained youth-driven political expansion.

Rajanarsimha mandates equitable medical access for remotest tribal areas



HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Reiterating the State government's commitment to ensuring equitable healthcare for every citizen, Minister for Health, Medical & Family Welfare Damodar Rajanarsimha has directed officials to ensure that people living in the remotest tribal areas receive quality healthcare services without any barriers.

He asserted that forests, hilly terrain, remote habitations and transportation challenges should never become obstacles to providing timely medical care.

The Minister conducted a comprehensive review meeting with Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officers, senior officials of the Health and Tribal Welfare departments at the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust office in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on Wednesday. He also reviewed the implementation of decisions taken during the previous review meeting with ITDA officials.

With the onset of the monsoon season, the Minister reviewed the preparedness of the Health department in tribal areas, including the availability of healthcare services, hospital infrastructure, manpower, emergency medical response, and the challenges faced in delivering healthcare in remote locations. Officials also briefed the Minister on the progress made in strengthening health facilities across Agency areas.

Directing officials to remain on high alert during the monsoon, Damodar Rajanarsimha instructed them to take preventive measures against seasonal diseases such as malaria, dengue, viral fevers and diarrhoeal illnesses.

He stressed that all government hospitals should maintain adequate stocks of medicines, diagnostic kits, IV fluids and other essential medical supplies. The Minister also directed officials to organise special medical camps in vulnerable tribal habitations wherever necessary and ensure uninterrupted functioning of 108 and 102 ambulance services.

Referring to the recent maternal death reported at Gundala PHC, the Minister said every official should treat the incident as a lesson and ensure that such incidents do not recur. He directed officials to identify all high-risk pregnancies well in advance, closely monitor expectant mothers, and shift them to Birth Waiting Homes before the expected date of delivery wherever required. "There will be no compromise on maternal and child health-care," he asserted. Reviewing dialysis services in Agency districts, Damodar Rajanarsimha was informed that 25 dialysis centres were currently providing treatment to 1,373 active patients. He reviewed the government's plan to further strengthen dialysis services through the establishment of 34 additional dialysis centres with 170 additional dialysis beds in Agency areas.

Women capable of extraordinary success in every field: Vivek

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Minister for Labour, Employment, and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkatswamy said there is nothing women cannot achieve and they are capable of creating extraordinary success stories in every field when provided with opportunities and encouragement. The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the Women Empowerment Conference organised in connection with the launch of the India Chapter of WETA (Women Empowerment Telugu Association) at Jubilee Hills Convention Centre, Hyderabad on Wednesday. The conference

focused on key themes such as women's empowerment, employment opportunities, and the global impact of rural women.

A large number of women, young professionals, and students attended the event. The programme, organised under the aegis of WETA Founder Hanumandla Jhansi Reddy, was attended by Ministers Seethakka, Ponnamp Prabhakar and Adhuri Laxman, and several other dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vivek Venkatswamy appreciated the efforts of organisations like WETA in promoting women's empowerment. He expressed

hope that such platforms would expand further with the objective of strengthening women economically, socially, and politically.

The Minister described the journey of WETA founder Hanumandla Jhansi Reddy as truly inspirational. Starting as a homemaker and growing into a successful entrepreneur, she went on to establish WETA in the United States and has now expanded its activities to India.

He said her journey demonstrates how women can scale great heights when given the right opportunities and support.

The Minister also lauded women leaders such as Yashaswini Reddy, who have transitioned from being homemakers to active participants in public life, earning the trust of people and demonstrating effective leadership. He emphasized the need for greater participation of women in politics and decision-making positions.

Vivek Venkatswamy stressed that family support, particularly encouragement from men, plays a crucial role in women's success. He called upon families to respect women's time and efforts and to support their aspirations and ambitions.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Focus on Maximising RDS Water Share

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting reviewed the status of the Tummilli Lift Irrigation Scheme, which was conceived as a supplementary source to stabilise the RDS ayacut and provide greater irrigation security to farmers in the region. Chief Minister wanted the irrigation officials to examine the scope for enhancing the storage capacity of the Mallammakunta reservoir to 5 to 6 tmcns even if it involved acquisition of more land.

The project was planned in two stages, with Stage-I involving the construction of three pump houses and Stage-II comprising three balancing reservoirs including the one at Mallammakunta to augment water availability and improve irrigation reliability.

Structural and hydraulic challenge requiring a durable solution capable of serving the system for the next 15 to 20 years were discussed threadbare. Several recommendations made by an Expert Committee in 2004 were revisited during the deliberations.

Among the key recommendations discussed were the removal of silt mounds and sediment deposits near the canal entrance, restoration of proper gradients to facilitate smooth water entry, and execution of revetment works to stabilise river flows and protect vulnerable stretches

Experts also pointed to the need for construction of a retainer wall as recom-

mended by the expert panel to prevent silting of the RDS water source putting the Telangana farmers at the receiving end. According to technical assessments, a substantial portion of the river flow tends to move towards the Andhra Pradesh side under certain conditions, reducing water availability at the Telangana canal head.

As an immediate measure, dredging emerged as one of the most practical options under consideration. Engineers explained that systematic dredging near the canal head could remove accumulated silt and improve water conveyance during critical irrigation periods.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan examining all available alternatives, including dredging, canal head improvements, modernisation works, supplementary lift irrigation options and interstate coordination mechanisms.

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised that Telangana would continue to pursue solutions to protect the interests of farmers dependent on the RDS ayacut. He stressed that the objective was not merely to secure allocations on paper but to ensure that allocated waters physically reach farmers' fields.

Minister for Excise and Tourism, Juppalli Krishna Rao, Malli Ravi, MP and AP Jitender Reddy, Advisor to Government were among those who attended.

Nurture students like saplings to build nation's future: Governor

FROM PAGE 1

He urged them to scale the highest peaks in their chosen fields and bring laurels to their families, villages and the country. Recalling that he had planted a sapling on the premises of Lok Bhavan Government School earlier in the day, the Governor drew a parallel.

"Just as a sapling needs daily watering and protection from harsh elements to become a mahavriksha, students too must be shielded from drugs and the ill effects of social me-

dia, and shaped through quality education," he told teachers.

Shiv Pratap Shukla described Lok Bhavan school as more than an academic institution. "It is proof of Lok Bhavan's resolve to provide quality education to children from marginalised sections of society," he said. Praising Bharat Sevashram Sangh as an embodiment of service, compassion and human values, the Governor said its motto, "Manava Seva Madhava Seva", was an inspiration. He lauded

its work in disaster relief, healthcare and education.

"The state government is working to make Telangana a hub for education and sports. Initiatives like 'Young India Integrated Residential Schools' will ensure equal opportunities for all," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Governor visited Lok Bhavan Government High School, planted a sapling on the campus, and interacted with children at an anganwadi centre before distributing notebooks.

Kolkata Warehouse...

FROM PAGE 1

Construction work was in progress on the ground floor, while RCC structures on the upper floors had already been completed. Suddenly, the entire building came crashing down," an eyewitness said. The injured were shifted to the state-run SSKM Hospital, where several are reported to be in critical condition.

Officials said it remains difficult to determine the exact number of people trapped as the rescue operation is still in progress. Control rooms have been set up to assist families seeking information about missing workers. Preliminary assessments suggest possible structural flaws. A fire department official alleged that substandard materials may have been used during construction, while civic authorities pointed to potential design and engineering deficiencies.

A structural engineer at the site observed that the iron beams appeared inadequate to support the weight of the concrete slab and noted the absence of essential braces required during RCC casting. The state government has ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the collapse



and examine whether any safety violations or irregularities contributed to the tragedy. Authorities said rescuing those still trapped remains the top priority.

"INDIA'S FUTURE BELONGS TO COMMUNISM": KUNAMNENI

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24:

CPI state secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasivarao on Wednesday asserted that communism is the only ideology with a future in India, citing rising inequality, unemployment and economic distress under the current system.

Addressing political training classes for party cadres in Hyderabad, Sambasivarao argued that capitalism is facing challenges globally while Left-oriented movements are gaining strength in several countries. He expressed concern over rising prices, unemployment, hunger, and growing wealth dispari-

ties, claiming that marginalized communities, workers, farmers, women and youth are increasingly looking towards communist ideals.

The CPI leader pointed to developments in countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal and China as examples of growing Left influence. He also called for greater unity among communist parties in India and reiterated the CPI's commitment to its century-old ideological foundations.

Sambasivarao criticized the BJP-led Central government over economic and social issues and maintained that Left forces would play a larger role in India's future political landscape.

PM chairs PRAGATI Meeting

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting also reviewed the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Highlighting the role of emerging technologies in combating tuberculosis, Mr. Modi advocated the use of Artificial Intelligence in disease management and monitoring. He suggested involving NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers in awareness campaigns, patient follow-up and community mobilisation efforts.

The Prime Minister further reviewed grievances related to cybercrime and digital arrest cases. Expressing concern over the increasing misuse of digital platforms to defraud citizens, he

stressed the need for coordinated, sensitive and time-bound action by all concerned agencies.

Mr. Modi underlined the importance of clear accountability, faster response mechanisms and stronger coordination among law enforcement agencies, banks and digital platforms. He also called for intensified public awareness campaigns and directed stakeholders to strengthen systems for prevention, reporting, investigation and grievance redressal of cyber fraud cases. He urged states to work towards implementing e-Zero FIR mechanisms to enable quicker registration and response to cyber fraud complaints.

Harish Rao demands Telangana intervention over Karnataka's illegal river projects

FROM PAGE 1

Telangana's water interests and has instead adopted policies that compromise the state's rights for political considerations. He accused the government of remaining silent while Karnataka proceeds with projects on the Tungbhadra River that could adversely affect Telangana.

Questioning the State government's stand, Harish Rao asked whether Telangana had indirectly consented to Karnataka's proposed Kurdi Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Chikkalaparvi and

Chikkalamanchi bridge-cum-barrages. He sought clarification on whether the approval granted by Karnataka for the Kodagall Lift Irrigation Scheme had come at the cost of Telangana's long-term water interests.

He warned that the projects being taken up by Karnataka upstream of the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) would significantly reduce water flows into Telangana. He said that if these projects are completed, irrigation benefits under RDS would be severely affected, putting thousands of farmers at risk.

Harish Rao questioned why the Telangana government had failed to officially object to Karnataka's activities despite the projects allegedly proceeding without mandatory approvals from the Central Water Commission (CWC), Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. He pointed out that Karnataka was already utilising water far beyond its allocated share in the RDS system and cautioned that the new projects could further diminish Telangana's rightful allocation.

TGSRTC Opens 694 Spaces for Lease

FROM PAGE 1

premises daily, the spaces offer a lucrative opportunity for entrepreneurs, retailers, food courts, hotels, supermarkets, branded outlets and small businesses. TGSRTC has published details of all available commercial spaces on its official website, including occupancy status, lease periods, rental rates and locations. TGSRTC Managing Director Y. Nagi Reddy said the leasing process has been simplified and made transparent, eliminating middlemen and enhancing digital accountability. He urged entrepreneurs to utilize the opportunity and become partners in the corporation's growth. "Join hands with TGSRTC and grow your business", he added.



SHORT
TAKES

Action Against
Illegal Private
Security Agencies

HYDERABAD: The Karimnagar police have taken strict action against private security agencies operating without valid licenses and in violation of the provisions of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA), 2005. Acting on the directions of the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) of the Intelligence and Security Wing, inspections were conducted and cases were registered against seven private security agencies found to be operating illegally. Following instructions from Additional Director General of Intelligence and Controlling Authority for Private Security Agencies, Mr. Vijay Kumar, and specific directions from Intelligence and Security Wing (ISW) OSD Mr. V.B. Kamalasan Reddy, the Karimnagar police carried out inspections and initiated legal action against the agencies violating the regulations.

From Tribal Hamlet to
Rashtrapati Bhavan:
EFLU scholar meets
President Murmu

HYDERABAD: Ramavath Munilal, a second-year PhD scholar in Media and Communication at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, participated in an interactive meeting with President of India Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. The programme, organized by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as part of nationwide celebrations of Janajatiya Garima Utsav and "Birsa Lives in New Bharat Week", brought together tribal scholars, students and achievers from across the country. unilal also toured Rashtrapati Bhavan and its museum, gaining insights into India's democratic and diplomatic heritage. Hailing from a tribal hamlet, he described the interaction with the President.

Karimnagar Should Lead in Implementation of Government Schemes: Sandeep Kumar Sultania

■ **Officials must adopt a humanitarian approach, stay connected with people, and ensure welfare benefits reach every eligible beneficiary**

KARIMNAGAR

State Finance Department Principal Secretary and District Special Officer Sandeep Kumar Sultania directed officials to make Karimnagar district a frontrunner in the implementation of the welfare and development schemes being undertaken by the state government. Chairing the district-level review meeting on Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika at the Karimnagar Collectorate on Wednesday, Sultania emphasized that government officials should remain closely connected with the people, identify their problems, and work continuously toward resolving them. He said public service should be considered a

privilege and urged officials to approach people's issues with sensitivity and commitment. Highlighting the need for inter-departmental coordination, he stated that problem identification and resolution should be an ongoing process. He noted that the state government has launched several innovative welfare and development initiatives and that the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme was designed to bring governance closer to the people. Sultania instructed officials not only to implement government schemes effectively but also to create widespread awareness among the public. He informed that the implementation of welfare programmes is being monitored continuously at the state level. He also stated that the government is taking steps to ensure timely salary payments on the first day of every month to regular employees as well as contract and outsourcing staff. Congratulating the district



administration for the successful conduct of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme, Sultania appreciated the coordinated efforts of ministers, MLAs, public representatives, District Collector Chitra Mishra, and officials. He directed officials to ensure that every eligible beneficiary receives welfare benefits and noted that the government is giving special emphasis to women's empowerment through initiatives such as Indira Mahila Shakti

Canteens, solar power plants, petrol pumps, and rental bus operations managed by women's groups. Stressing the importance of basic amenities, he instructed officials to prioritize the provision of drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and infrastructure in villages and urban areas. He clarified that there is no shortage of funds for development and welfare programmes and directed officials to ensure that schemes such as pensions and Indi-

ramma Housing reach all eligible beneficiaries. **Collector Presents Achievements of 99-Day Programme** District Collector Chitra Mishra delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the achievements of the 99-day Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme implemented between March 6 and June 12 across ten key focus areas. She informed that under cleanliness and file-disposal

initiatives, 4,290 files were cleared and 3,835 applications were processed. As part of the Arrive Alive road safety campaign, Road Safety Committees were constituted in 318 Gram Panchayats. In the agriculture sector, 1.93 lakh farmers received ₹143.35 crore under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, while 206 farmer families were provided ₹14 crore under Rythu Bima. Through 319 procurement centres, nearly 3 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were procured and ₹554 crore was directly credited to farmers' bank accounts. Under welfare programmes, 45,920 new ration cards were issued and 96,775 family members were added to ration card records. Women received benefits worth ₹334 crore under the Mahalakshmi Scheme, while beneficiaries received ₹153.10 crore under the Gruha Jyothi Scheme. Regarding housing, the Collector said 10,209 beneficiaries were selected under the

Indiramma Housing Scheme, with 7,220 houses currently under construction. Other notable achievements included 292 youth securing employment through a Mega Job Mela, resolution of 2,144 out of 2,995 applications received through Prajavani, and admission of 9,435 students into government schools through the Badi Bata enrolment campaign. Collector Chitra Mishra stated that the success of the Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika programme in Karimnagar was made possible through the collective efforts of citizens, public representatives, and government officials. Her presentation received appreciation from the Special Officer and other participants. Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, and officials from various departments also presented reports on the achievements of their respective departments during the 99-day programme.

Follow Traffic Rules for Safe Travel



■ **District Collector Tejas Nandalal Power and SP K. Narasimha**

SURYAPET

District Collector Tejas Nandalal Power and District Superintendent of Police (SP) K. Narasimha urged the residents of the town to strictly follow traffic rules and en-

sure safe travel. On Wednesday, they inaugurated a traffic signal at Khammam Cross Road in the district headquarters along with Municipal Chairperson Morishetty Nivedita Lakshadi. Speaking on the occasion, they said that surveillance has been strengthened to regulate traffic and warned that violators of traffic rules would inevitably

face e-challans. They stated that traffic management in the district headquarters has been scientifically redesigned in line with the increasing vehicular traffic. CCTV cameras equipped with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology will help identify traffic violations and facilitate legal action. The officials informed that 20

advanced CCTV cameras have been installed at nine major junctions across the town. These cameras can automatically detect violations such as signal jumping, wrong-route driving, riding without a helmet, and using a mobile phone while driving, and will generate e-challans accordingly. They appealed to motorists to cooperate by following traffic regulations and contributing to safer roads. As part of modern urban development, the municipality is committed to providing a safer and more convenient environment for the public. They also emphasized that public participation is essential for effective traffic management. Among those present at the event were DSP Prasanna Kumar, Municipal Vice-Chairman Shafi Ulla, Councillors Srividya Jyothi Karunakar and Zaheer, CI Venkataiah, Municipal Commissioner Hanumantha Reddy, Traffic SI Sai Ram, and other police and municipal officials.

BRIDGES (On the occasion of “Deafblind Awareness Week” from 25 June to 01 July)



The term deaf blindness refers to a combination of visual and auditory impairments and is much more common than many people realise. Over 15 million unfortunate people worldwide are estimated to be living with severe deafblindness. To commemorate Helen Kelley's birthday on 27 June and her accomplishments and to raise awareness about the deafblind people's daily life miseries, “Deafblind Awareness Week” is observed annually from 25 June to 01 July. This week observe through taking measures to make the world more deafblind-friendly, learn to interact with a deafblind persons, and reading books authored by Helen Keller. The “Deafblind Awareness Week-2026” theme is “Connected by Touch : Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges” dedicating to raising public awareness about individuals with combined hearing and vision loss and is strategically timed to coincide with Helen Kelley's birthday on 27 June.

Influential Speaker Helen Keller - A Deaf and Blind Helen Keller was an influential speaker who advocated for the rights of people with disabilities. Helen Keller was born in Alabama USA on 27 June 1880. An illness at the age of 19 months made her deaf and blind. As

an adult, her spirit and determination ignited a spark that would illuminate the lives of countless people around the globe. With the support of her teacher Anne Sullivan, Keller embarked on a journey of learning and self-discovery. Keller became the first Deafblind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. Helen Keller authored several books, including her autobiography, “The Story of My Life”, which inspired and educated countless people worldwide. Her writing touched upon themes of overcoming adversity, and the beauty of human connection. Keller travelled to 35 countries as a counsellor of Internationally for deaf and blind people. She was a fund raiser for Foundation for Blind and advocated for racial and sexual equality. Sullivan was Kelley's interpreter and companion until the older woman's death in 1936. Keller died in 1968 at the age 87. The week aims to promote understanding and celebrate the lives of people with deafblind, highlighting their achievements, host events, launch campaigns, share success, breakdown misconceptions, promote better access stories and the importance of support and inclusion for positive change in their lives.

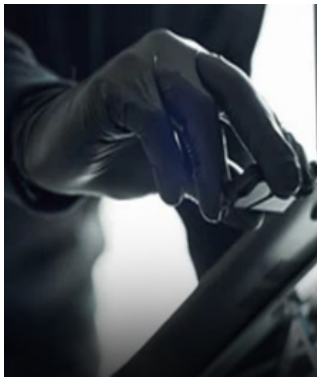
- Prof : Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
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Police urge parents to monitor kids' gaming habits amid rising financial fraud cases

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad city police have issued a strong recommendation for parents to meticulously oversee their children's engagement with online games. This advisory comes in response to a growing number of complaints concerning unauthorised in-game purchases and excessive gameplay. According to a statement released by Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Wednesday, many reported cybercrime incidents, initially classified as online fraud, were actually instances where children utilised saved debit card details,

UPI accounts, or net banking information stored on family devices to make purchases within multiplayer games. Investigations have indicated that a notable portion of these unauthorised transactions originated from smartphones belonging to grandparents, which frequently retain saved payment credentials and are subject to less stringent supervision. The advisory highlighted that popular battle royale games, especially among boys aged 10 to 17, have become a central element of their social lives. Peer pressure within these gaming communities often drives the need to ac-



quire premium virtual items like skins and elite passes. Furthermore, devices intended for online learning are increasingly being

repurposed for extended gaming sessions, sometimes extending late into the night. The police expressed significant concern regarding the detrimental effects of excessive gaming on children's overall well-being. These impacts include disrupted sleep, a decline in academic performance, eye strain, diminished real-world social engagement, and behavioral problems. The advisory also referenced the World Health Organisation's recognition of Gaming Disorder as a legitimate medical condition, defined by a persistent inability to control gaming habits, even when faced with negative consequenc-

es. In an effort to assist, the police department is offering support and awareness programmes for parents and educational institutions upon request. Parents are strongly advised to remove any saved payment information from devices that children have access to. It is also recommended that parents remain vigilant towards their children for warning signs such as declining grades, increased irritability, disturbed sleep patterns, and secretive behaviour, and to establish clear limits on screen time. Seeking professional counseling should be considered if these issues persist.

GITAM Invites Applications for Senior Research Fellow Position

Research Fellow Position

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, has invited applications for the post of Senior Research Fellow (SRF) under a project funded by the Anusandhan Research Foundation (ANRF), Government of India. The position is available under the research project titled, “Clindamycin nanoparticles integrated chitosan-sialyllactose gel scaffold as localized targeted modality against resistant vaginal bacteria: Pre-clinical efficacy validation,” led by Dr. Bhabani Sankar Satapathy, Department of Pharmacuetics, GITAM School of Pharmacy. Candidates with an M.Pharm in Pharmaceutics or Pharmacology, along with first division and a strong academic record, are eligible to apply. Preference will be given to applicants with research experience in polymeric or lipid nanodrug carrier formulation

development, animal handling, antimicrobial testing, analytical instrumental techniques, and relevant publications in indexed journals. The appointment is temporary, initially for one year, and may be extended up to three years based on satisfactory performance. Selected candidates will receive a fellowship of Rs. 42,000 per month along with applicable House Rent Allowance (HRA). The upper age limit is 28 years as on the last date of application, with relaxation applicable as per Government of India norms. Interested candidates should email their updated CV, mark sheets, GPAT/ NET qualification certificate (if applicable), and first-author publication list (if any) as a single PDF file to bsatapat@gitam.edu with the subject line: “"Application for SRF Position under ANRF Project The last date for submission of applications is 10 th July 2026. Interviews are likely to be held on 14 th July 2026. Only shortlisted candidates will be informed via email.

KTR Appreciates Abdul Muqet Chanda

- **for Redirecting Wedding Expenses Towards Students' Education**
- **Foregoes Wedding Extravagance, Invests 50 Lakh in Students' Future**
- **‘Gift A Smile’ Initiative to Support Orphaned and Meritorious Students**
- **Educational Institutions Offer 50% Fee Concession to Expand Reach**
- **KTR Hails Abdul Muqet Chanda's Gesture as a Model of Social Responsibility**

HYDERABAD

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has appreciated senior BRS leader Abdul Muqet Chanda for dedicating ₹50 lakh towards the education of orphaned and meritorious students



by redirecting savings from his elder son's wedding expenses to a meaningful social cause. In an exemplary gesture, Abdul Muqet Chanda and his family chose to minimize unnecessary and extravagant expenditures associated with the wedding, including excessive décor and other avoidable expenses. Instead, the amount saved has been committed towards supporting deserving students from economically dis-

advantaged backgrounds through the “Gift A Smile” initiative. Implemented in collaboration with the Sir Syed Society, the initiative aims to identify academically bright students studying in government educational institutions, with special focus on orphaned students and those facing financial hardship. Under the programme, the annual tuition fees of selected students will be paid for one academic year, help-

ing them continue their education without financial constraints. Adding further strength to the initiative, several participating educational institutions have agreed to extend a 50 percent concession in tuition fees following an appeal by the Sir Syed Society. This collaborative effort will enable a larger number of deserving students to benefit from the programme and pursue their educational aspirations. Appreciating the initiative, KTR said Abdul Muqet Chanda had set a commendable example by converting a personal family celebration into an opportunity to uplift the lives of deserving students. He observed that while weddings often involve significant expenditure, dedicating such resources towards education reflects a deep commitment to social welfare and community development. KTR noted that education remains one of the most powerful

instruments for empowering individuals and transforming society. He said initiatives such as “Gift A Smile” not only provide financial assistance to students but also inspire hope and confidence among families struggling to educate their children. The BRS Working President expressed hope that more individuals and families would draw inspiration from such efforts and contribute towards educational empowerment during important personal occasions. He described the initiative as a model of responsible philanthropy and a meaningful way to celebrate milestones while creating a lasting impact on society. Through “Gift A Smile,” Abdul Muqet Chanda has reaffirmed his commitment to social service by ensuring that financial difficulties do not stand in the way of talented students achieving their dreams and building a brighter future.



HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Hyderabad In-Charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar directed officials to work in coordination to organize this year's Bonalu celebrations on a grand scale. He stated that since the formation of Telangana, the state government has been giving utmost importance to Bonalu, which symbolizes Telangana's culture, traditions, beliefs, and spiritual heritage.

He chaired a high-level review meeting on Wednesday at the Dasarathi Auditorium of the Dr. Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute in Jubilee Hills regarding arrangements for the Bonalu festivities to be conducted by the Endowments Department in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajigiri districts from July 16 to August 13.

Bonalu Represents the Spirit of Telangana

Speaking at the meeting, the Minister said that Bonalu is not merely a religious festival but a cultural symbol reflecting the spirit of Telangana. During the Ashada month, lakhs of devotees from across the state visit Hyderabad to seek blessings at various temples. He instructed Endowments Department officials to ensure that every devotee gets an opportunity for darshan.

He noted that the Hyderabad administration has extensive experience in successfully organizing large-scale religious and cultural events such as Bonalu, Ganesh festivals, Ramzan, and Muharram. He urged officials to apply the same level of planning, coordination, and dedication to this year's Bonalu celebrations. Since Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, ministers, public representatives, senior officials, and lakhs of devotees

Bonalu Festival Should Be Celebrated Grandly

The government has sanctioned ₹20 crore for the conduct of Bonalu celebrations. Telangana means Bonalu, and Bonalu means Telangana.. All departments should work in coordination. Bonalu festivities should be conducted magnificently without causing any inconvenience to devotees. Hyderabad In-Charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar



are expected to participate, all departments were directed to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Government Allocates ₹20 Crore

The Minister announced that the state government has allocated ₹20 crore for organizing Bonalu festivities. He also stated that the government has been steadily increasing financial assistance to temples:

- 2021: Assistance to 1,028 temples
- 2022 & 2023: Assistance to 1,073 temples each year
- 2024: Assistance to 1,253 temples
- 2025: A record 3,026 temples received financial aid totaling ₹5.80 crore

He instructed district administrations and Endowments Department officials to ensure transparency in identifying eligible temples and to consider devotee turnout, temple requirements, and local conditions while providing

assistance. **Priority for Devotee Facilities**

The Minister emphasized that devotee convenience should be the top priority. He directed officials to ensure:

- Uninterrupted power supply at major temples
- Special illumination and floral decorations
- Drinking water facilities
- Distribution of prasadam
- Sanitation maintenance

Queue management systems

- CCTV surveillance
- Medical camps
- Emergency response systems
- Fire safety arrangements

Since a large number of devotees are expected to use the free bus travel scheme for women, he instructed TGS-RTC to operate special bus services. Security and Traffic Management

As large crowds are expected at temples such as:

- Golconda Sri Jagadamba

- Mahankali Temple
- Balkampet Sri Yellamma Pochamma Temple
- Ujjaini Mahankali Temple
- Subzi Mandi Temple
- Akkanna Madanna Temple

The Minister directed police, traffic, intelligence, GHMC, and other civic departments to prepare comprehensive plans for security, traffic regulation, and crowd management. He also stressed special protection for women devotees and women employees on duty and called for advance planning to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Public Awareness Campaign

The Minister instructed the Information and Public Relations Department to undertake extensive publicity regarding:

The significance and history of Bonalu

- Traditional customs
- Festival schedules
- Traffic restrictions
- Facilities provided by the government

He also called for wide coverage through electronic and print media and urged all officials to work together in coordination throughout the celebrations.

Free Entry to Golconda Fort

Highlighting the historical significance of Golconda Bonalu, the Minister suggested

continuing free entry to Golconda Fort for devotees visiting during the Ashada month.

He appealed to all departments, temple committees, public representatives, and citizens to work collectively to ensure that Bonalu celebrations are conducted peacefully, devotionally, and grandly.

Bonalu Festival Schedule 2025

July 16 Bonalu celebrations begin with the fair at Sri Jagadamba Mahankali Temple, Golconda.

The State Government will offer Pattu Vastrams (silk robes).

July 21 Kalyanotsavam and offering of Pattu Vastrams at Sri Yellamma Pochamma Temple, Balkampet.

July 22 Rathotsavam (Chariot Festival) at Balkampet Temple.

August 2 Main Bonalu celebrations and offering of Pattu Vastrams at Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, Secunderabad.

August 3 Rangam ceremony and Ambari procession.

August 9 Government offering of Pattu Vastrams at other major temples.

Bonalu celebrations at Subzi Mandi and Karwan areas.

August 10 Celebrations at Sri Akkan-

na Madanna Mahankali Temple, Haribowli.

Throughout the festival period, traditional events such as:

- Ghatotsavam
- Bonam offerings
- Thottela processions
- Pothuraju performances
- Shivasattulu rituals
- Rangam ceremonies
- will be conducted.

Other Speakers

Earlier, Endowments Minister Konda Surekha participated virtually and urged all departments to coordinate and ensure the success of the festivities.

Minorities Welfare and Public Sector Enterprises Minister Mohammed Azharuddin stated that meticulous planning and efficient execution are essential for the successful conduct of these historic and spiritual celebrations.

Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, Jubilee Hills MLA Naveen Yadav, and Malkajigiri MLA Marri Rajasekar Reddy also spoke about the significance of Bonalu during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Endowments Department, Police Department, GHMC, HMDA, TGSRTC, Tourism Department, Revenue Department, Medical and Health Department, Fire Services Department, Information & Public Relations Department, and representatives of temple committees.

Train Services Altered Due to Yard Remodelling Works at Tirunelveli and Lalitpur

CHENNAI, JUNE 24:

Railway authorities have announced changes in train operations owing to ongoing yard remodeling works at Tirunelveli Yard in Southern Railway and Lalitpur Station under North Central Railway's Jhansi Division. As part of the Tirunelveli yard works, Train No. 26267 Tiruchirappalli-Thiruvananthapuram Central Superfast Express, scheduled to depart on June 30, 2026, will be diverted via Virudunagar, Rajapalayam, Tenkasi and Kollam. The train will skip stoppages at Satur, Kovilpatti, Tirunelveli, Valliyur, Nagercoil Town and Kulithurai. To facilitate passengers, additional halts will be provided at Tenkasi, Sengottai, Punalur and Kollam.

The Vande Bharat Express services between Chennai Egmore and Nagercoil will also be rescheduled on June 30. Train No. 20627 Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express will depart 45 minutes late at 5:45 a.m., while Train No. 20628 Nagercoil-Chennai Egmore Vande Bharat Express will leave at 3:30 p.m., delayed by 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, North Central Railway has announced cancellations, diversions and regulations of several long-distance trains due to yard remodeling works at Lalitpur Station in the Jhansi-Bina section.

Train Nos. 05074 Lucknow-KSR Bengaluru Special and 05073 KSR Bengaluru-Lucknow Special have been fully cancelled on their respective scheduled dates in July.

Several trains, including the Madurai-Chandigarh Superfast Express, Hazrat Nizamuddin-Thiruvananthapuram Swarna Jayanthi Express, Chennai Central-New Delhi Grand Trunk Express and Chennai Central-Lucknow Express, will be diverted on specified dates, bypassing Virangana Lakshmi Jhansi station.

Additionally, Train No. 12648 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Coimbatore Kongu Express will be regulated for 1 hour and 50 minutes on July 15, while Train No. 12645 Ernakulam-Hazrat Nizamuddin Millennium Superfast Express will be regulated for 25 minutes on July 11 over Jhansi Division.

Passengers are advised to check train schedules and running status before commencing their journey.

Don't entertain those lobbying for Cabinet berths: Congress to DK Shivakumar

Congress leadership has instructed CM DK Shivakumar not to entertain any lobbying for ministerial berths, warning of zero tolerance for pressure tactics by aspirants, supporters, religious leaders or legislators.

In a move to prevent any embarrassment to the party and the government, the Congress high command on Wednesday called Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and instructed him not to entertain any kind of lobbying for ministerial berths.

The directions come amid reports of growing efforts by aspirants and their supporters to secure positions in the state Cabinet. In recent weeks, several incidents involving protests by supporters seeking ministerial berths for their leaders, lobbying by religious heads and swamis, and meetings held by different camps have received wide media attention, causing embarrassment to the party.

Sources said the Congress high command has taken serious note of the developments and remains seized of the matter. According to sources, the party leadership told Shivakumar that decisions regarding Cabinet expansion would be taken at an appropriate time by the high command. The leadership also conveyed that it would show zero tolerance towards any form of lobbying for ministerial positions. "Any kind of unwanted developments in this regard will be seriously viewed by the party," sources privy to the phone conversations said. Sources further said Shivakumar was specifically instructed not to entertain groups of leaders, MLAs and MLCs who may approach him in batches seeking inclusion in the Cabinet. The development comes days after Shivakumar clarified that decisions related to Cabinet expansion rest entirely with the party's central leadership.

Take stringent measures to curb cybercrimes

Amaravati, June 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed state governments to take stringent measures to curb cybercrimes and "digital arrest" scams, noting that the time has come to crack down on these rising threats across the country. On Wednesday, the Prime Minister held a video conference from Delhi with Chief Secretaries of various states and Administrators of Union Territories to review progress on several initiatives, including railway projects, national highways, metro rail projects, industrial corridors, the integration of renewable energy zones, the 'TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' (TB-free India campaign), and issues related

to cybercrime and digital arrests. During the meeting, he reviewed the progress of various infrastructure projects and the challenges associated with them, instructing the Chief Secretaries to resolve issues through inter-departmental coordination.

In addition to these projects, he directed the Chief Secretaries to focus specifically on curbing the rise in digital crimes and accelerating progress under the 'TB-Mukt Bharat' initiative.

Prime Minister Modi directed the Chief Secretaries to implement strict measures—leveraging technology—to immediately control the menace of "digital arrests" and cyber



fraud. He emphasized the need to conduct large-scale public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about these cyber scams and digital arrest tactics. Furthermore, the Prime Minister directed states to strengthen e-FIR and Zero FIR systems to ensure that cyber complaints are swiftly converted into actionable cases. Prime Minister

Modi also emphasized the need for coordinated action among banks, the police, the RBI, and the Ministry of Home Affairs to freeze and recover fraudulently siphoned-off funds and to identify 'mule' accounts.

To protect citizens from cyber fraud, the Prime Minister suggested establishing dedicated institutional mechanisms

for cybercrime and further strengthening the capabilities of the cyber police. He directed Chief Secretaries to identify hotspots prone to such crimes and to conduct massive awareness campaigns.

Regarding the 'TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' (TB-Free India Campaign), he called for efforts to reduce TB prevalence and TB-related deaths by focusing on early detection, comprehensive treatment, nutritional support, and community participation.

He urged a focus on high-risk villages and wards, the identification of vulnerable areas using AI-based tools, and the implementation of widespread screening, X-ray examinations,

and early laboratory testing. Prime Minister Modi stated that approximately 67,933 Gram Panchayats across the country have already been certified as TB-free. He directed states to conduct comprehensive tuberculosis (TB) screening, ensure 100% testing for high-risk individuals, provide preventive treatment to family members, and offer specialized care to vulnerable patients.

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, Special Chief Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu, Principal Secretary S. Suresh Kumar, CID SP Gangadhar Rao, and other police officials participated in the event from the Chief Secretary's camp office in Vijayawada.

Y. S. Jagan Participates in the Inauguration of Gattu Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple



PULIVENDULA, JUNE 24:

YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy participated in the inauguration ceremony of the newly constructed Gattu Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Bhoomayagari-palle village of Vemula Mandal on Wednesday as part of his Pulivendula tour.

Upon his arrival at the temple, priests accorded him a grand welcome with a Purna Kumbham ceremony amid the chanting of Vedic hymns. He then took part in the temple inauguration and performed special prayers.

On the occasion, Y. S. Jagan participated in the Kalasha

Shankusthapana (foundation ritual) and also attended the Sudarshana Homam being conducted for the deity, offering special prayers.

He expressed his wish that the blessings of Lord Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy continue to be bestowed upon all the people and devotees of the state. He prayed for the well-being, happiness, long life, and good health of the people. He also warmly interacted with devotees and villagers present at the temple premises.

Condolence Visit to Obul Reddy Srirami Reddy's Family

Following the temple event, Y. S. Jagan visited the residence of senior YSRCP leader

Obul Reddy Srirami Reddy and met with his family members.

As Srirami Reddy had recently passed away due to illness, Jagan conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

During the visit, he comforted the family members and assured them that the party would always stand by and support them. Remembering Srirami Reddy's services to the party, he stated that his death was an irreparable loss to the YSR Congress Party.

A large number of party leaders, workers, supporters, and admirers attended the tour and accorded a warm welcome to Y. S. Jagan.

JONNAGIRI (KURNOOL DIST)

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurating Jonnagiri Gold mining project in Kurnool district today said it's beginning of golden era in Andhra Pradesh. He stated that the extraction of gold at Jonnagiri would restore the past glory of Rayalaseema. The Chief Minister inaugurated the gold mining project established by Geo Mysore Services and Deccan Gold Mines at Jonnagiri and also laid foundation for the project's second expansion unit and flagged off heavy vehicles transporting gold-bearing ore for processing. The Chief Minister visited the training centre where women and youth are being trained on simulator machines to operate heavy mining vehicles. The companies are investing Rs 405 crore in mining, processing and marketing gold from Jonnagiri. The project will initially produce 400 kilograms of gold annually, increasing to 900 kilograms in the next phase and eventually reaching 2 tonnes of annual production. CM Chandrababu personally inspected the mining and gold extraction processes and en-

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates Gold mining project in Jonnagiri 'Let us rename Jonnagiri as Swarnagiri:CM

quired about the final products, including gold bars, and was briefed by Geo Mysore Chairman Prabhakaran and Managing Director Naveen Lal Chandra on the entire process from mining to final production. Later addressing a public meeting, the Chief Minister said today marks the beginning of a golden chapter in the history of Andhra Pradesh and this golden chapter begins in Ratnala Seema-Rayalaseema. The launch of the country's largest private-sector gold mining project is a historic and auspicious development. The glory of Jonnagiri is not new. This region was once known as Swarnagiri and was renowned during Emperor Ashoka's period. The Ashokan inscriptions found near Erragudi stand testimony to this region's rich heritage. Rayalaseema has always been the land of precious stones and minerals. During the reign of Sri Krishnadevaraya, gems and precious stones were traded here in abundance. He said Gold mining will now restore its past glory and let us rename Jonnagiri as Swarnagiri.

The Chief Minister said with

the arrival of gold mine, the lives of the local people should become prosperous. This village will be adopted and developed as a model village. India currently imports around 800 tonnes of gold annually, making it the country's second-largest import after crude oil. Starting with 400 kilograms, we aim to eventually reach 50 metric tonnes of annual gold production, thereby reducing imports and conserving foreign exchange reserves. This project will generate substantial employment opportunities for local youth and become a growth engine for the region. Instead of transporting gold elsewhere for making jewellery, we will establish a Jewellery Park right here in Swarnagiri. The Chief Minister said Industrialists are queuing up to invest in Andhra Pradesh because of the NDA Government's credibility and governance. Every district in Rayalaseema is being developed industrially. Massive investments are coming in sectors such as space, aerospace, defence, electronics, automobiles, steel, cement and clean energy. India's largest Drone

City is being established in Kurnool. The Orvakal Industrial Node is being developed, and a High Court Bench will be brought to Kurnool. We brought Kia to Anantapur earlier, and now we have secured a Fifth Generation Fighter Jet project. On July 3, foundation stone will be laid for the Rayalaseema Steel Plant in Kadapa with a production target for 2028. The Kopparthi Industrial Node is also being developed, and Royal Enfield has been brought to Tirupati. As a son of Rayalaseema I will transform Rayalaseema into Ratnala Seema once again. A new history has begun from Swarnagiri Gold Fields. Together, let us realise the dream of Swarna Andhra Vision 2047. The transformation of Rayalaseema through irrigation is also the achievement of our coalition government. In just two years, the government spent Rs 12,484 crore on irrigation projects in the region. Projects such as Telugu Ganga, Galeru-Nagari, Handri-Neeva, HLC, LLC, KC Canal and SRBC have changed the destiny of Rayalaseema. Under the Purvodaya Project, we have pre-

pared plans worth Rs 40,000 crore to make Rayalaseema a horticulture hub.

The Chief Minister said 10,800 employees were brought back from the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), benefiting each employee by up to Rs 3 crore. Despite the financial burden on the government, these decisions were taken in the interest of employees.

On the occasion, Geo Mysore Services and Deccan Gold Mines presented the Government of Andhra Pradesh with a map of Andhra Pradesh made from gold produced at Jonnagiri. The Chief Minister announced that the memento would be displayed in the proposed museum at Amaravati. The first batch of gold produced at Jonnagiri Gold Fields was handed over by the Chief Minister to jewellery companies from Andhra Pradesh. The company management announced that the gold produced in Andhra Pradesh would be sold exclusively to jewellers within the state, ensuring benefits to the local economy.

Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Nimmala Ramanaidu, T.G. Bharat and officials participated in the programme.

EDITORIAL.

The Swiss Tightrope: Can Congressional Mandate and Alpine Diplomacy Deliver

The air in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, is notoriously clear, but the geopolitical fog rolling off Lake Lucerne this week could not be thicker. As US negotiators sit down with Iranian officials to iron out the fine print of an interim peace agreement, they are operating under an unprecedented dual reality: a fragile diplomatic slate in Europe, and a loud, fractious institutional backdrop back home. For the first time since its inception, the 1973 War Powers Act has been fully leveraged by both chambers of the US Congress. By joining the House to pass a war powers resolution aimed at halting military involvement in Iran, the Senate hasn't just sent a message to Tehran—it has tied a structural anchor to the executive branch's foreign policy maneuvers. This institutional tug-of-war sets a volatile stage for negotiators. On one side of the Atlantic, Congress is signaling a profound institutional exhaustion with protracted regional hostilities, effectively mandating a framework for withdrawal. On the other side, the administration continues to deploy sharp rhetorical threats, maintaining a posture of maximum leverage even as formal talks begin. This "diplomacy under fire" dynamic might look like a calculated strategy from the outside, but inside the negotiating rooms—quietly mediated by Pakistan and Qatar—it introduces a dangerous variable: unpredictability. In international relations, a memorandum of understanding is only as stable as a government's perceived internal alignment. When foreign adversaries look at a divided Washington, they don't just see a hard bargain; they see a potential structural inability to guarantee that any deal struck today will survive the political crosswinds of tomorrow.

The clock is officially ticking on a critical 60-day negotiation period to formalize a lasting peace. To move past a reactive ceasefire and build a durable framework, the summit must pivot toward concrete, structural guarantees. Establishing transparent, independent oversight mechanisms that satisfy international security concerns without triggering sovereign defensive reflexes. Mapping out a strict, step-by-step timeline where economic sanctions relief directly and traceably corresponds to verifiable military rollbacks. Securing explicit, long-term diplomatic compliance from regional mediators to ensure the agreement remains policed long after the Swiss summits conclude.

True diplomacy isn't about operating in a vacuum; it's about absorbing domestic friction and translating it into international leverage. The historic push by lawmakers to assert constitutional authority over war powers should not be viewed as a hindrance to peace, but as the realistic boundary within which a sustainable deal must be built. If negotiators can stitch together an agreement that respects both the security realities of the Middle East and the explicit mandates of domestic law, they won't just end a conflict—they will safeguard the fragile balance of global governance.



THE GRAMMAR OF SILENCE

Pay more attention.
Respond less.
Not every voice deserves an answer.
Not every challenge deserves a response.
Not every passing shadow deserves a place within your light.
For silence is not emptiness it is strength in repose.
Patience is not passivity it is wisdom learning the rhythm of time.
To know and yet not boast, to understand and yet not condemn, to endure and yet not become bitter, to remain silent despite knowing the truth this is the quiet grandeur of maturity.
The river does not argue with the rock it shapes it through persistence.
The mountain does not announce its height; it simply stands beneath the stars.
The sun does not proclaim its arrival its light is introduction enough.
Observe more.
React less.
For the eye that watches carefully travels farther than the tongue that hurries to reply.
A reckless word is a spark in dry grass; a thoughtful silence is rain upon a thirsty field.
One moment of patience can spare a lifetime of regret.
The deepest ocean conceals its treasures.
The richest soil hides its abundance.
The strongest roots remain unseen, yet they uphold entire forests.
So too, true character grows quietly.
Many speak to be noticed.
Few listen to understand.
Many seek the last word.
Few seek the lasting truth.
Yet wisdom is not born in the marketplace of noise.
It blossoms in the sanctuary of stillness, where reflection ripens before speech.
Nature repeats this lesson endlessly.
The moon shines without applause.
The stars glitter without recognition.
The seed breaks open in darkness before it blossoms into light.
The dawn arrives without announcement, yet every shadow yields before its presence.
What is truly powerful rarely needs to proclaim itself.
The eagle does not debate with sparrows.
The banyan does not compete with grass.
The ocean does not quarrel with rivers.
Greatness has no need for argument.
It simply becomes.

Therefore, pay more attention.
Respond less.
Let your eyes gather wisdom.
Let your mind cultivate patience.
Let your heart master stillness.
For not every word increases our worth.
Not every battle deserves our energy.
Not every opinion deserves our peace.
There is a strength beyond speaking, a victory beyond winning, a power beyond proving.
It is the courage to remain calm when noise demands reaction; the discipline to remain patient when haste demands movement; the wisdom to remain silent when ego demands a voice.
For thunder may command the sky, yet it is the silent rain that persuades the seed to rise.
The wave may dazzle the eye, yet it is the unseen current that guides the sea.
The star does not compete with darkness; it simply shines.
The mountain does not answer the storm; it simply remains.
And the tree that outlives the seasons is not the one that challenged the wind, but the one that listened to the earth.
So let your wisdom be deeper than your words, your patience longer than your anger, your understanding greater than your need to be understood.
For maturity is not measured by how much we speak, but by how much we comprehend in silence.
And when the noise of the world has faded, when arguments have turned to dust, when echoes have forgotten their source, what remains is not the loudest voice but the quiet soul that learned the timeless art of observing without judging, enduring without complaining, and growing without announcing its growth.
For the deepest truths never knock upon the door of noise.
They enter quietly—like dawn crossing a sleeping horizon, like roots drinking from hidden springs, like light finding its way through the smallest crack of darkness.
And before the world can name them, they have already changed everything.



...: Dr. Peruka Raju ...
National Poet
7810032847



OPINION

| Smartphone Addiction:

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE DEMANDING COLLECTIVE ACTION



Science and technology have propelled human civilization at an unprecedented pace. We live in a digital age where the entire world has virtually been compressed into the palm of our hands. Smartphones have transformed communication, education, commerce, banking, healthcare, governance, and social interactions, opening new horizons for human progress. However, every technological revolution brings with it a set of profound challenges. The smartphone is perhaps the most striking example of this paradox. While it has emerged as an extraordinary boon, it is increasingly becoming a source of serious concern and, in many ways, a modern-day curse.

The adverse effects of excessive smartphone use, particularly on children and adolescents, have alarmed societies across the globe. Today, there is a growing consensus worldwide that a smartphone is not merely a device; it is a powerful tool whose use demands wisdom, restraint, and responsibility. Unfortunately, in the absence of discipline and ethical awareness, its negative consequences have become increasingly evident. Smartphone addiction among children and young people is contributing to mental stress, depression, loneliness, violent tendencies, exposure to pornography, cybercrime, and social disintegration. Consequently, not only traditional and developing societies but also advanced nations are taking stringent measures to address this challenge.

A recent initiative in Sukhpuri village in the Nuh district of Haryana, India, attracted nationwide attention. As the village began acquiring notoriety as a hub of cybercrime, distressed residents collectively decided to abandon smartphones and revert to basic mobile phones. This was not merely an act of breaking mobile phones; it was an expression of society's anguish over the misuse of technology. The resistance from the village youth was equally understandable, as education, employment, digital payments, and access to government services today largely depend on smartphones. This incident raises a critical question: Is rejecting technology the solution, or should society cultivate the values and discipline necessary for its responsible use?

Many countries around the world have already begun serious deliberations on this issue. Nations such as Australia, France, the United Kingdom, the Nether-

lands, China, and the United States have introduced various measures to regulate smartphone use among children and adolescents. Australia has moved towards establishing age restrictions for social media access by minors. France has implemented bans on smartphone use in schools, while the United Kingdom has issued guidelines limiting mobile phone usage within educational institutions. In the United States, legal actions have been initiated against social media companies, resulting in substantial penalties. The objective of these initiatives is not to oppose technology, but to safeguard the mental and social well-being of children. Indeed, smartphones embody both promise and peril. They offer a vast reservoir of knowledge, yet they also create a universe of misinformation and illusion. They serve as powerful educational tools, but simultaneously act as gateways to pornography and violence. They generate employment opportunities, while also facilitating cybercrime. Today, many young people, lured by the dream of becoming wealthy overnight, are falling prey to cyber fraud, sextortion, online gambling, and digital scams. The proliferation of obscene content, fake news, hate speech, and trolling on social media has severely undermined social values and civic harmony.

Perhaps the gravest concern is the impact of excessive smartphone use on the mental health of children and adolescents. Numerous studies indicate that prolonged screen time adversely affects concentration, memory, and creativity. Sleep disorders, irritability, anxiety, depression, suicidal tendencies, and social isolation are increasing at an alarming rate. Family communication has diminished, and despite digital connectivity, emotional distances within households have widened.

search, and governance, concerns regarding its misuse are also escalating rapidly. Deepfake videos, fabricated audio recordings, cyber fraud, identity theft, fake news, and digital blackmail are increasingly being facilitated through AI technologies. Smartphones have become the most accessible and effective medium for carrying out such activities.

Today, even an ordinary smartphone enables individuals to use AI-powered applications to create manipulated images and videos, disseminate misleading information, or perpetrate cybercrimes. Adolescents and young adults, who often possess technical proficiency but lack ethical maturity and adequate guidance, may unknowingly—or in pursuit of quick financial gains—become involved in such activities. Therefore, alongside the promotion of AI and smartphone usage, it is imperative to provide comprehensive education in digital ethics, human values, and legal responsibilities. Technology must remain an instrument for the advancement of humanity, not a force of destruction. In this context, the following observation assumes profound significance: "Science without wisdom becomes a cause of destruction, whereas guided by wisdom, the same science becomes a blessing for humanity."

India, too, requires a broad national discourse on this issue. As the country with the world's largest youth population and as a nation steadily progressing towards becoming a developed economy, India must establish a harmonious balance between technological advancement and human values. If India aspires to fulfill its role as a global moral and intellectual leader, its policies must serve as guiding examples not only for the nation but also for the wider world. Several concrete meas-

ures can be considered in this direction. First, age limits and time restrictions for smartphone use among children and adolescents should be established. Until a certain age, children should be provided only essential and regulated digital access. Second, cyber literacy and digital ethics should be made compulsory components of school curricula. Children should learn not only how to use technology, but also understand its risks, consequences, and legal implications.

Third, parents should be trained in digital parenting. Merely handing a smartphone to children does not fulfill parental responsibility; guidance, communication, and value-based upbringing are equally essential. Fourth, social media companies must be held accountable. Effective regulation of harmful and obscene content, robust age verification mechanisms, and transparency in algorithms should be ensured. Fifth, greater opportunities for employment, skill development, and constructive engagement should be created for young people so that they are not tempted towards criminal activities in pursuit of quick wealth. Indian culture has always upheld the virtue of moderation. Our sages taught that the true value of any instrument lies in the manner in which it is used. Fire can cook food, but it can also burn down a home; the fault lies not in the fire, but in its misuse. The same principle applies to smartphones.

Today, the need is not to disconnect from the digital world, but to cultivate digital responsibility, cyber literacy, and disciplined usage. Opposing technology is not the solution; rather, integrating technology with ethics, wisdom, and human values offers the only sustainable path forward. Smartphones must remain instruments that serve humanity, not masters that dominate it. In this lies the well-being of individuals, society, and the nation.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist, Columnist

| Political Diary

BJP ON RAMPAGE.. CAN CONGRESS HOLD?

BY POONAM I KAUSHISH

Political Delhi resembles a battle field as Parties trade charges and finger point on ghisi-piti real politik where public morality and practical politics have acquired a particularly grotesque dimension. Underscored by defections and broken loyalties. Fair or foul means do not matter as long as it culminates with the winner serenading satta.

Undeniably, the results of the recent Assembly elections along-with the splintering of TMC, Shiv Sena and AAP have opened up an opportunity for BJP to weaken its bête noir Congress, which had shown signs of revival in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, inching towards its dream: Congress Mukht Bharat. Said Prime Minister Modi, "The Congress identity now is that of a parasite Party. It will betray even its allies."

Its aggressive moves stem from its disappointment of 'below-expectation performance' in 2024 polls and defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 providing reservation for women linked to Delimitation Bill 2026 due to lack of two-third majority in Lok Sabha April. Thereby, strengthening BJP's resolve to expand its Parliamentary strength further.

Consequently, its political strategy is aimed at giving disgruntled regional Parties MPs a leg up resulting in defections (TMC-AAP-SS) and alongside isolating and systematically weakening Congress, eroding its traditional support bases, undercutting Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and diminishing his political influence.

But this is easier said than done against the backdrop of Congress sway in three of five Southern States: Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana and piggy-backing on TVK in Tamil Nadu and Himachal in the North though it continues to struggle in large parts of northern and western India where BJP remains dominant.

Certainly, the Party's political standing today is stronger than it was a decade ago, it remains the largest Opposition Party nationally having won 99 Lok Sabha seats in 2024, its best performance since 2014 and is still the central pillar of India Bloc, though the alliance has become increasingly strained post TMC-DMK defeat. It has influence but still far from being the dominant national alternative to BJP.

Rahul supporters aver the Party has recovered somewhat since he took charge. His campaigns and outreach like Bharat Jodo Yatra helped revive Congress's visibility and trajectory. Moreover, he has been resolute in his convictions and held steadfast to his beliefs and ideology despite being derided as 'Pappu' and trolled by Sanghites on social media.

Many argue leadership change is the need of the hour. The Congress needs to get out of the morass of the First Family. Its feudal functioning and outlook, jo hukam mindset feeding on the undaata's goodwill. Only those who serve loyally flourish in the "nomination culture". Both disagreements and debate are viewed as betrayal.

Besides, internal divisions remain a major weakness. Recent reports highlight factionalism, leadership disagreements and public criticism among leaders. Add to this, defections and organizational weaknesses continue to hurt the Party in several States. Its relations with allies are under strain. Its recent ugly spat-and split with long term ally DMK a case in point.

Clearly, Congress's future depends on whether it can resolve internal factionalism, retain Opposition unity, expand beyond its current strongholds and present a clear ideological and organizational alternative to the BJP.

But that alone will not solve organizational weaknesses at States level. It has not consistently expanded its vote base and the Party remains heavily dependent on the Gandhi family's aura. To expand it needs a new leader who

would energize the organization and attract younger voters and regional allies.

Others feel leadership is only one side of the coin. Congress today faces structural problems, lack of strong State-level leaders in key regions, weak grassroots organization in several States, dependence on alliances and difficulty converting anti-incumbency sentiment into votes.

Further, Congress's ability to challenge BJP nationally depends not only on its own strength but also strength and unity of regional Parties. If regional forces splinter and significant factions join BJP-led NDA, Congress faces several difficulties: One, reduced alliance arithmetic to avoid splitting anti-BJP votes.

Two, it loses local networks as regional Parties have strong State-level organizations and social coalitions which Congress may not be able to replace quickly. Three, when prominent regional leaders or factions join BJP, it could create a perception that it's the natural pole of politics, attracting more defections.

Four, in many States where Congress is not the principal opposition Party, if regional Parties weaken, the Party does not automatically inherit their support base but it creates space for BJP to revive itself, as has happened in some States in the past. Much depends on whether Congress can absorb former regional Party voters and leaders.

As things stand today, politics has increasingly become a contest between BJP and a fragmented Opposition consisting of Congress plus multiple regional Parties with differing interests. When Parties prioritize State-level interests over a common national strategy maintaining a united front becomes difficult. The reason why India Bloc faces recurring tensions.

So, if regional forces continue to fragment and move toward BJP, Congress's path back to national power becomes more challenging. But whether

Congress weakens further or rebuilds depends on its ability to expand its own organization rather than relying primarily on coalition arithmetic.

A debatable question. If the measure is electoral success, Rahul's leadership has yet to translate into a sustained national revival. It continues to remain well behind BJP nationally, suffering setbacks in several States due to failing to expand its vote base and remains heavily dependent on the Gandhi family.

Historically, successful Parties often renew themselves through a mix of leadership change, organizational reform and emergence of strong regional leaders. Whether Congress chooses a different national leader or not, time will tell, but it definitely needs a broader leadership bench rather than relying on a single family or personality.

If Indian politics is viewed as a cricket match: BJP-led JP/NDA is still batting from a position of strength nationally. Though Congress has avoided being bowled out and has rebuilt some credibility since 2024 it has not yet convinced enough voters that it could be an alternate to BJP juggernaut.

Undeniably, Congress is relevant and recovering, but not resurgent. It needs to remember that the best political systems are based on holding free, fair and regular Party elections. In the long run, short-term hereditary gain would sound the death-knell of the Party. The time has come for it to do some soul-searching. Is the dynasty a panacea for the Party's and nation's ills?

For how long can one bank on family background and sacrifices and uphold true democracy? Or else continue to wallow in the political cesspool of my feudal Congress. So the real question is not, should the Gandhis' go? But more important: Can Congress build a leadership structure that is bigger than the Gandhis? Until that question is answered, everything is up in the air.





DIPR Hosts Workshop on AI in Journalism and Media Fact-Checking

IMPHAL, JUN 24, 2026

The Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, held a one-day workshop on “Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Journalism and Media Fact-Checking” at the DIPR Auditorium, Imphal, on Tuesday.

Chief Guest Hungyo Worshang said journalism’s core remains gathering and sharing accurate information responsibly. With the rise of social media, he noted, news consumption has changed rapidly, making AI increasingly relevant. While AI may seem like a competitor, he said it should be seen as a tool

to support and strengthen journalism. He stressed that AI-generated content must be critically analyzed and fact-checked before publication, with the responsibility for accuracy resting on journalists.

Keynote speaker Director, IPR, Dr. Th. Charanjeet Singh said the workshop aimed to update journalists and government officials on AI applications in the media. He flagged concerns over deepfakes and AI-generated misinformation, urging vigilance to protect credibility. He added that AI is already being used by many media organisations to assist in reporting, content curation, and automating routine tasks, improving efficiency.

Technical Session The workshop featured three resource persons:

1. Dr. Haobam Joyremba Singh, Chairman/Managing Director, Cube Ten Technologies Pvt. Ltd – AI: Myth and Reality
2. Dr. Hanjabam Saratchandra, HOD, Computer Science Department, Manipur Technical University – Foundations of AI in

Journalism & Misinformation

3. Dr. Angom Buboo Singh, Academic Head, NEILIT
Dr. Charanjeet Singh said the sessions helped participants strengthen their understanding of AI and its practical applications in journalism. He urged journalists to keep pace with emerging technologies and use them responsibly.

Speaker to decide fate of rebel Sena UBT, TMC MPs before Monsoon Session

A crucial decision on the future of rebel MPs from the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Trinamool Congress is expected before Parliament’s Monsoon Session begins in July, with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla completing hearings with all sides and moving towards the final stage of consultations.

Sources said Birla on Wednesday heard submissions from leaders of the Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray faction in the dispute involving six Shiv Sena MPs who crossed over to the Eknath Shinde-led camp. The interaction is understood to be the final round of consultations before the Speaker takes a call on the matter.

The ruling could have major implications for both parties, which have sought the disqualification of the rebel MPs under the anti-defection law.



FINAL HEARINGS COMPLETE

According to sources, the Speaker has already met representatives of both camps twice over the past few weeks. The first round of interactions took place after rival groups sought meetings with him. A second round followed after the MPs were formally summoned, when their submissions were recorded on the record. Wednesday’s meeting with Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders

was aimed at hearing their arguments in detail before a final decision is taken. Sources said hearings in both the Shiv Sena and TMC matters have now been completed. The Speaker’s office is expected to consult constitutional and legal experts before arriving at a final ruling. Past precedents in similar cases are also being examined to ensure that any decision is constitutionally sound and legally sustainable.

SHIV SENA ROW

The dispute arose after six of the nine Lok Sabha MPs elected on Shiv Sena (UBT) tickets joined the rival Shiv Sena led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. The switch triggered a battle over the recognition of the party’s parliamentary group in the Lok Sabha. Shiv Sena (UBT) has argued that the six MPs should

be disqualified under the anti-defection law. After meeting Birla on Wednesday, party MPs Anil Desai and Arvind Sawant said they urged the Speaker to uphold constitutional provisions and sought details of the submissions made by the rebel MPs. “We asked him if he had received any appeal from the rebels...” Sawant told reporters, adding that the Speaker informed them that nothing had been received in writing from the rebel MPs. Desai said the party had stressed that the Tenth Schedule leaves little room for interpretation. “Any group of a legislature party cannot merge into some other party on its own, even if they have a two-thirds majority,” he said. “We expect justice,” Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said when asked about the issue.

NE Railway Administration is operating several Summer Special Trains

GORAKHPUR, JUNE 24, 2026

To ensure convenient and comfortable travel for passengers during the summer season, the Railway Administration is operating several Summer Special Trains. As of the evening of June 24, 2026, berth/seat availability in these special trains up to July 20, 2026, is as follows:

In Train No. 05101 Gorakhpur–New Delhi Summer Special, departing from Gorakhpur, 252 berths are available in AC Third Economy Class on July 4, 2026, and 809 berths are available in the same class on July 11, 2026.

In Train No. 05301 Mau–Ambala Cantt Summer Special, departing from Mau, the following berths are available on July 9, 2026:

- AC First Class: 6
 - AC Second Class: 87
 - AC Third Class: 285
 - AC Third Economy Class: 65
- On July 16, 2026, availability is:**
- AC First Class: 6
 - AC Second Class: 87
 - AC Third Class: 285
 - AC Third Economy Class: 65
- Sleeper Class: 183**
- In Train No. 04315 Gorakhpur–Yognagari Rishikesh Special, departing from Gorakhpur:

On July 8, 2026, 212 berths are available in Sleeper Class.

On July 15, 2026, 29 berths are available in AC Second Class and 366 berths in Sleeper Class.

In Train No. 05193 Chhapra–Pathankot Summer Special, departing from Chhapra, on July 13, 2026:

AC Second Class: 64 berths
AC Third Class: 124 berths
In Train No. 01416 Gorakhpur–Hadapsar Summer Special, departing from Gorakhpur:

On July 12, 2026, 112 berths are available in AC Third Class.

On July 13, 2026, 211 berths are available in AC Third Class and 47 berths in Sleeper Class.

In Train No. 01432 Ghazipur City–Hadapsar Summer Special, departing from Ghazipur City: On July 9, 2026, 131 berths are available in AC Third Class. On July 12, 2026, 105 berths are available in AC Third Class and 166 berths in Sleeper Class.

On July 16, 2026, availability is:

- AC Second Class: 11 berths
 - AC Third Class: 194 berths
 - Sleeper Class: 269 berths
- In Train No. 05057 Gorakhpur–Delhi Summer Special, departing from Gorakhpur:**
- On July 2, 2026, 559 berths are available in AC Third Economy Class. On July 9, 2026, 824 berths are available.

Rahul Gandhi expresses regret in defamation case filed by Shivraj Singh Chouhan's son

JABALPUR: (JUN 24)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday filed an application before the Madhya Pradesh High Court expressing regret for his allegedly defamatory statement about Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s son Kartikeya Singh. Kartikeya Singh has filed a defamation complaint in a Bhopal court against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Gandhi’s application, filed by his lawyer, said that his statement was not related to Singh. Kartikeya Singh filed the defamation complaint against Rahul Gandhi in the Bhopal court for cases against MPs–MLAs, alleging that during an election rally in Jhabua in 2018, the Congress leader mentioned his name while referring to the Panama Papers leak scandal, thus damaging his reputation.

Pune Realtor Murder: Lover Plot Exposed

PUNE: (JUN 24)

Pune realtor Ketan Agarwal’s fiancée Siya Goyal and her lover Chetan Chaudhary had been in constant touch for nearly six months, exchanging a staggering 2,004 phone calls and spending 238 hours talking to each other, before allegedly pushing him to death off the Lohagad Fort, police said. Investigators suspect that the extensive communication was part of the planning that culminated in Agarwal’s killing on June 18. On the day of the incident, Goyal and Chaudhary allegedly met at a cafe and discussed the plan to eliminate Agarwal, even identifying a suitable spot on the fort from where Agarwal could be pushed, a police officer said on Wednesday.

Whoever comes to Madhya Pradesh, stays in Madhya Pradesh: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav

Addressed the conclave organized on developed Madhya Pradesh

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal : Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that time changes only when the resolution is big. It is a matter of pride for all Indians that India’s times have changed under the determination and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Many countries of the world have honored Prime Minister Modi with their highest civilian honour. Prime Minister Modi has pledged to achieve a developed India @2047 and a \$30 trillion economy. It will be the effort of the state government that out of this, Madhya Pradesh contributes about \$2 trillion. Madhya Pradesh is continuously trying to fulfill the resolutions of Prime Minister Shri Modi for service, good governance and public welfare. At present Madhya Pradesh is being counted among the fastest progressing states of the country. We are continuously



moving forward on the path of heritage and development. Chief Minister DrYadav said that today is the sacrifice day of the brave queen Durgavati. Remembering Rani Durgavati, he said that the people of the state will always remember the sacrifice of Rani Durgavati. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the conclave organized on the topic “Developed Madhya Pradesh”. Chief Minister DrYadav inaugurated the program organized in Bhopal by lighting the lamp. Public Works Minister Rakesh Singh, Micro Small Industries and Industries

Minister Chaitanya Kashyap, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain were specially present in the conclave. Chief Minister DrWhile calling upon the industrialists participating in the conclave to take advantage of the investment possibilities present in the state, Yadav said that the specialty of Madhya Pradesh is that once one comes to Madhya Pradesh, he stays here. Representatives of industry, trade, investors, representatives of banking and financial institutions and policy makers participated in the program. The caravan of development has

been continuously moving forward in the state for the last three years. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the caravan of development has been continuously moving forward in the state for the last three years. There is sufficient land bank for setting up new industries in Madhya Pradesh. The state government has implemented transparent and industry friendly policies to create an industry friendly environment. Due to these characteristics of Madhya Pradesh, investors are coming to the state to set up industries. Being located in the center of the country, they will also get special benefits of connectivity and logistics. The state government has laid special emphasis on infrastructure development to improve road connectivity in all directions.

The state government has brought investment proposals worth Rs 10 lakh crore to the ground
Chief Minister DrYadav

said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Modi, Global Investors Summit 2025 was organized for the first time in Bhopal, in which unprecedented investments were received and MOUs were signed. It is a matter of happiness that the state government has brought investment proposals worth Rs 10 lakh crore to the ground. The image of Madhya Pradesh has been created as an agriculture friendly state as well as an industry friendly state. The state government had dedicated the year 2025 to industry and employment. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Indian young talents have increased the prestige of India by reaching top positions in the biggest companies of the world. Indian scientists have created new records in space technology. The state government has also launched its space-tech policy. We are making continuous efforts to make Madhya Pradesh the best state.



A coordination meeting between the Personnel Department and the Staff Council

VARANASI, JUNE 24:

A significant coordination meeting between the Personnel Department and the Staff Council was held today, 24 June 2026, in the Hall of Fame, the Administrative Building at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) under the chairmanship of Shri Lalji Chaudhary, Principal Chief Personnel Officer. During the meeting, representatives of the Staff Council presented various employee-related issues, concerns, and suggestions in detail. The Personnel Department held constructive and positive discussions on all the points raised, addressed the queries, and assured that necessary action would be taken expeditiously, as per rules, on pending and other important matters. The primary objective of the meeting was to strengthen communication, coordination, and mutual cooperation between the administration and employees.

Various employee welfare issues were deliberated upon with a solution-oriented approach. The meeting concluded in a cordial and positive atmosphere. The meeting was attended by Shri Sameer Paul, Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (Headquarters); Shri Rajkumar Gupta, Senior Personnel Officer (Headquarters); Shri M. A. Ansari, Senior Personnel Officer (Workshop); Shri Piyush Minj, Assistant Personnel Officer (Workshop); Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Joint Secretary, Staff Council; and other Staff Council members Shri Shrikant Yadav, Shri Amit Kumar, Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav, Shri Naveen Kumar Sinha, Shri Dharmendra Kumar Singh, and Shri Manish Kumar Singh, along with officials and staff of the Personnel Department. All participants emphasized the importance of maintaining continuous dialogue and coordination for the effective resolution of employees’ issues.



NFR Energizes Haflong–New Haflong Line

MALIGAON, 24 JUNE, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a significant milestone in its mission towards complete railway electrification with the successful energization of the 132 KV transmission line from Haflong Grid Sub-Station (GSS) to New Haflong Traction Sub-Station (NHLG TSS) at 14:22 hrs on 17 th June 2026. The energization of the transmission line marks the completion of a crucial component of the railway electrification project in the strategically important Lumding – Badarpur Hill section. The commissioning of the New Haflong Traction Sub-Station is a major step forward in enabling electric train operations across this challenging hill route, which serves as a vital rail link connecting the Barak Valley and the northeastern

states with the rest of the country. With the successful energization, all major physical works related to the traction power supply infrastructure have now been completed. The project has entered its final stage, and the section is expected to be commissioned for electric train operations in the coming weeks following the completion of mandatory testing, inspection and trial runs. The electrification of the Lumding – Badarpur Hill section will enhance operational efficiency, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, improve hauling capacity, lower maintenance costs and contribute significantly towards environmentally sustainable railway operations. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to modernizing its infrastructure and providing faster, greener and more efficient rail services across the region.



Congress submitted memorandum in protest against increase in market fee

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Shivpuri : District Trade and Industry Cell Congress, Shivpuri submitted a memorandum to the Mandi Secretary supporting the call of Mandi Bandh in protest against the huge increase in Mandi fees made by the State Government. District President of District Trade and Industry Cell, Rajendra Saklecha (Golu) said that due to the policies of the state government, the financial burden on traders is continuously increasing. The increase in market fees will put additional burden on both traders and farmers, which the District

Trade and Industry Cell opposes. On this occasion, under the leadership of District Congress Committee District President Mohit Aggarwal, District Trade and Industry Cell District President Rajendra Saklecha (Golu), District Congress Committee Organization General Secretary Sanjay Chaturvedi, Rohit Aggarwal, Ashish Purnani, Anam Dhakad Ramavtar Pranjapati, Deepesh Jain, Mahesh Kushwaha, Congress leaders participated. Officials, workers and traders submitted a memorandum to the market secretary demanding withdrawal of the market fee increase.

India seeks to build partnerships across Europe to advance its interests in trade, technology: Report

NEW DELHI

India wants to build partnerships in Europe to advance its interests in trade, investment, defence, and the green transition, and while many economic decisions are taken at the European Union (EU) level, political goodwill and strong bilateral relationships with individual member states continue to hold importance, as showcased during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to France and Slovakia, according to a report.

The ties between India and the EU have gained momentum since the conclusion of negotiations on the bilateral trade agreement and the signing of a dedicated Security and Defence Partnership.

PM Modi's recent visit to Slovakia and France was the latest in a series of high-level engagements between India and Europe. In May, PM Modi travelled to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, and attended the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, demonstrating the growing momentum in India's ties with Europe, according to a report in Politeia Research Foundation (PRF).

In the meantime, the Presidents



of Finland and Cyprus and the Austrian Chancellor visited India. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also visited Belgium, France, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Finland. These engagements have resulted in the establishment of three new strategic partnerships with the Netherlands, Sweden, and Cyprus. They have also led to the elevation of bilateral ties, including a Special Strategic Partnership with Italy, a Green Strategic Partnership with Norway, and a Comprehensive Partnership with Slovakia.

"In the context of evolving global

geopolitics and shifting political dynamics in Europe, India is seeking to build partnerships across Europe to advance its interests in trade, technology, investment, defence, and the green transition. A clear strategy is now emerging in New Delhi's engagement with Europe. This reflects a deeper understanding of how the EU functions and how competencies are shared between the Union and its member states," Gulshan Sachdeva, Professor and Jean Monnet Chair at the Centre for European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, wrote in a PRF report.

"Even in an increasingly integrated Europe, where many economic decisions are taken at the EU level, political goodwill and strong bilateral relationships with individual member states continue to matter. This was clearly evident during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France and Slovakia. While showcasing India's innovation ecosystem, startups, and technological capabilities, and strengthening technology partnerships, were key focus areas of the France visit, the visit to Slovakia formed part of India's broader strategy to re-engage with the geopolitically significant Central and Eastern Europe," Dr Sachdeva added.

PM Modi was on a two-nation visit from June 13-18. During his visit to France, he attended the Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Evian, held bilateral talks with President Emmanuel Macron, and attended Bharat Innovates Programme and VivaTech 2026.

Following the talks, PM Modi in a post on X wrote, "Today's talks with my friend, President Macron, were exceptionally productive. Considering the longstanding friendship between our nations, we have decided

to elevate our ties to a Special Global Strategic Partnership."

After the G7 Summit in Evian, PM Modi travelled to Paris, where he and Macron participated in the VivaTech 2026 programme. In Paris, PM Modi also met several top CEOs and business leaders, including Alstom CEO Martin Sion, Saint-Gobain CEO Benoit Bazin and Mistral AI CEO Arthur Mensch.

During his two-day State visit to Slovakia, PM Modi met his counterpart, Robert Fico and President Peter Pellegrini. PM Modi and President Pellegrini witnessed an exhibition centred on Varanasi, including works by Slovak artists who had recently visited the city, at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

Slovakia also conferred its highest honour, the Order of the White Double Cross (1st Class), on PM Modi.

PM Modi held extensive delegation-level talks with PM Fico, at the historic Bratislava Castle, following which the two leaders witnessed the exchange of 11 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). The two nations also elevated bilateral ties to the status of a "Comprehensive Partnership".

Pakistan: Shutter-down strike held across Balochistan against life terms for Baloch activists

QUETTA

People across several regions of Balochistan on Wednesday observed a shutter-down strike in protest against the life imprisonment sentences handed down to Baloch activists, including the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leader Mahrang Baloch, describing the verdict as "unfair".

These strikes came after a Pakistani anti-terrorism court on Monday sentenced four activists, including Mahrang Baloch, to life imprisonment in connection with a case relating to the killing of a Frontier Corps official, local media reported.

Alongside Mahrang Baloch, the court also handed life sentences to Baloch Students Organisation (BSO) Chairman Balach Qadir, central leader Abu Bakr Kalanchi, and BYC leader Sibghatullah Shah Jee.

Sharing the pictures of the complete shutdown across various parts of Balochistan on its X handle, the BYC said: "The strike reflected the collective rejection of repression, political victimisation, and the misuse of judicial processes. People from different walks of life expressed their solidarity and sent a clear message that Balochistan will continue to stand against injustice and the suppression of democratic voices."

Condemning the verdict, the rights body further said that



the state prosecution brought "baseless" charges against the leaders and that the trial lacked essential "judicial transparency". "The closed-door proceedings inside Quetta jail, described as a 'faceless trial', are seen as a tactic by the state to silence the political voices of Balochistan. The Constitution and the law are being used to suppress political dissent rather than deliver impartial justice. The people of Balochistan reject these injustices against their leaders and stand steadfast," it added.

Meanwhile, several leading human rights organisations condemned the ruling, describing it as an "affront to fair trial" and a "blatant miscarriage of justice". Reacting to the life sentences given by the Anti-Terrorism Court to Baloch activists, Amnesty International's Acting Regional Director for South Asia, Isabelle Lassee, said.

US Senators raise questions over Pakistan's involvement in Iran talks

WASHINGTON

Two US Senators, both from the Republican Party, have raised questions over the involvement of Qatar and Pakistan as intermediaries in the ceasefire negotiations with Iran, accusing both nations of supporting terrorism.

Senator Rick Scott accused Qatar and Pakistan of harbouring terrorists and mentioned that recent developments made clear that "who our friends really are".

"It should be clear to everybody by now who our friends really are. Qatar and Pakistan have long histories of harboring terrorists, and right now they seem far more invested in proping up Iran's decades-long terror campaign than achieving a meaningful peace. There is still room for a workable agreement that benefits everyone. HOWEVER, what everybody needs to get through their heads here is that there is ZERO chance Iran comes out of this able to build a nuclear weapon," the Florida Senator posted on X. Senator

Tim Sheehy raised questions over Pakistan's involvement as an intermediary, recalling that it hid Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden. He accused Qatar of laundering money for terrorist groups. In his remarks on Fox News 'Fox and Friends', Sheehy, who represents Montana, called for having Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Israel at the negotiation table, stressing that the US should unequivocally stand with the UAE and Israel.

Asked whether he had a problem with Pakistan and Qatar serving as intermediaries, Sheehy responded: "I do. I think Qatar and Pakistan... they have a role to play for sure, but if they're going to be at the table, we better have the UAE and Saudi and Israel at the table, too, because Qatar's been laundering money for terrorist organisations for decades. The Pakistanis, through ISI, funded insurgencies against us and hid bin Laden. So, to assume they're going to be objective middlemen here, I don't think is accurate.

Vietnam values and gives high priority to ties with India: Vietnam National Assembly Chairman

HANOI

Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) Chairman Tran Thanh Man has said that Vietnam values and gives high priority to its relations with India. He described India as a "loyal, trusted and longstanding friend" and noted that the two nations share deep historical and cultural ties, local media reported on Wednesday. Tran Thanh Man made the remarks during his meeting with India's Ambassador to Vietnam Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa in Hanoi on Tuesday. During the meeting, Man praised Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa's efforts in advancing bilateral ties, especially his active contributions in coordinating arrangements for Vietnam President To Lam's recent State visit to India, Vietnam Pictorial reported.

Tran Thanh Man conveyed his greetings to Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and expressed his wish to welcome Indian parliamentary leaders to Vietnam in the near future.

He expressed his happiness at the strong progress made in India-Vietnam ties in recent years, especially following To Lam's visit to India and the elevation of bilateral ties to an enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Vietnam Pictorial reported.



Tran Thanh Man said that Vietnam-ese National Assembly will work closely with India's legislature in implementing arrangements and common understanding reached between leaders of India and Vietnam. He called for deepening cooperation in defence and security, education, health care, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

During the meeting, Tshering Wangchuk Sherpa handed over an invitation from Om Birla to Tran Thanh Man, inviting him to travel to India at a mutually convenient time. He noted that the close linkages between Vietnam's National Assembly and India's Parliament showcase deep people-to-people ties.

"People form the heart of any partnership. The close linkages between the National Assembly of Viet Nam and the Parliament of India reflect deep peo-

ple-to-people ties. Ambassador Tshering W. Sherpa called on H.E. Mr. Tran Thanh Man, Chairman of the National Assembly, today," Indian Embassy in Vietnam posted on X.

"The Ambassador handed over an invitation from the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, H.E. Mr. Om Birla, inviting the Chairman Tran Thanh Man to visit India at a mutually convenient time. The Government of India accords the highest priority to this visit and remains committed to strengthening the close relationship between the two Parliaments," it added. India and Vietnam share close and warm bilateral relations that are denominated as Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (ECSP). Ties between two nations were enhanced to ECSP during President To Lam's State visit to India in May.

Joginipally Santosh Kumar Leads a Commonwealth Climate Dialogue

LONDON

Palace of Westminster. The House of Lords this evening hosted Playing for the Planet — A Green Commonwealth Dialogue on Sport and Climate Action, convened by the Ramphal Institute, the London-based think tank accredited to the Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with Igniting Minds Organisation of India. Held during London Climate Action Week, Europe's largest climate festival, the dialogue brought together parliamentarians, diplomats, researchers, youth leaders, and sports advocates from across the Commonwealth to advance a single proposition: that citizen-led, measurable climate action proven in the Global South offers a replicable model for the world.

The evening marked a significant step in elevating community-driven climate delivery from aspiration to accountable, verifiable practice, and in positioning youth and the global sports community as engines of environmental transformation.

A Bridge Between South and North

Opening the evening, Lord Uday Nagaraju expressed pride in supporting a movement powered by youth, sporting icons, and 44 million citizens, describing young people as the true agents of change in climate action. He affirmed his commitment to helping

the movement travel from the Global South to the Global North, and to building the institutional bridges that allow proven community models to scale across continents.

Mobilising the Global Sports Community

Delivering the keynote, Her Excellency Karen-Mae Hill, High Commissioner of Antigua & Barbuda, highlighted the unmatched reach of the global sports community in shaping younger generations. She commended Igniting Minds for engaging icons from cricket, tennis, and other sports, and encouraged the involvement of the world's leading sporting figures to inspire mass climate and tree-planting movements. She described "Playing for the Planet" as a timely and unifying theme capable of mobilising millions and underscored why small island and coastal nations must remain at the heart of climate action.

Youth at the Heart of Commonwealth Climate Action

Representing the Commonwealth Secretariat, Shri Suresh Yadav, Senior Director, Climate Change & Oceans, emphasised that the initiative taps a vast and underused reservoir of youth potential across the Commonwealth's 56 member states. He noted the alignment of "Playing for the Planet" with Commonwealth priorities including the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the 56-nation agreement on ocean action and



blue carbon and reaffirmed the Secretariat's commitment to empowering youth-led institutions working to protect ocean ecology and strengthen climate resilience.

Delivering the World's Greenest Commonwealth Games

Pritpal Surj, Advocacy and Partnerships Manager at Commonwealth Sport, outlined an ambitious sustainability agenda ahead of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. He presented Commonwealth Sport's commitment to delivering a Low-Carbon, Circular, and Zero Waste to Land-fill Games, diverting 95% of Games-related waste from landfill and eliminating single-use plastics across all venues.

Surj also highlighted the King's Baton Relay's partnership with the Royal Commonwealth Society to remove one million pieces of plastic from Commonwealth waterways before the Games commence.

Grounded in the principle that a love of sport is the one thing we all share, he affirmed that sport's unparalleled global reach makes it one of the most powerful platforms available for driving measurable environmental and social change across the Commonwealth.

Research Partnerships for a Sustainable Future

Dr David Gomez, Director of the Ramphal Institute, offered a striking measure of the movement's scale, observing that Igniting Minds has mobilised more trees than many times the population of entire nations. He expressed strong interest in partnering with Igniting Minds on scientific research, sustainable development, and nature-based solutions, including seaweed and blue-carbon approaches, signalling a new chapter of Commonwealth-wide research collaboration.

A Strong Voice for Af-

rica

The Special Guest of Honour, Senator Kathuri Muringi, MGH, MP, Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, led a distinguished delegation of Kenyan parliamentarians:

Senator Moses Kajwang', CBS, MP — Convener and Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on Climate Action

Hon. Charity Kathambi Chepkwony, MP — Chairperson, Parliamentary Conservation and Climate Change Caucus

Senator Faki Mohamed Mvinyihaji, CBS — Chairperson, Senate Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Hamida Kibwana, MP — climate-action advocate and Chairperson Emeritus, Kenya Women Senators Association

Praising the initiative as a noble and globally relevant movement, members of the delegation paid tribute to Shri Joginipally Santosh Kumar, stating that his citizen-led cli-

mate action makes him worthy of nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In a significant gesture of partnership, the delegation expressed their interest in inviting Shri Santosh Kumar to serve as a Green Ambassador for Kenya — to help replicate the people-led climate action movement across the nation. The delegation further expressed a concrete interest in collaborating with Igniting Minds on rewilding and afforestation programmes in Kenya, positioning the country as a leading partner in climate restoration and South-South cooperation.

From a Village Spark to a Global Movement

In his keynote, Shri Joginipally Santosh Kumar, Chairman of Igniting Minds Organisation and former Member of the Rajya Sabha, traced the movement's journey from a village in Telangana to the House of Lords — from a single idea to engage youth in climate action, to one of the world's largest citizen-led environmental movements. He reaffirmed his commitment to working closely with Commonwealth nations, and especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to accelerate climate resilience and youth-driven environmental action, carrying the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family.

A Verified Legacy — Proof, Not Promises

The Green India Challenge, founded in 2018 and delivered

through Igniting Minds Organisation, has achieved measurable, independently monitored outcomes: 196+ million saplings mobilised, with geo-tagging introduced from 2024 and impact monitored through satellite-based assessment

44 million citizens engaged across communities

21,000+ water conservation structures across 33 countries, saving an estimated 3.57 TMC of water annually

Recognised by the President of India; holder of UNFCCC COP29 and UNCCD COP16 Observer status (accredited via Cornell University, USA, and APSWDP respectively)

A Platform for Global Partnership

The dialogue closed with a shared commitment to carry the movement forward — to the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, to CHOGM 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda, and to Hyderabad Climate Action Week 2026, positioned as the Global South's premier climate-delivery platform under the promise From Ambition to Delivery.

Igniting Minds and its partners extended an open invitation to intergovernmental and global institutions — including UN bodies, Commonwealth climate and ocean mechanisms, research universities, and corporate sustainability leaders — to collaborate on scaling a transparent, verifiable, and investable model of nature-based climate action aligned with the Sustainable

Development Goals (notably SDG 6, 13, 14, 15 and 17).

The evening reaffirmed a simple truth: when youth, policymakers, scientists, and sporting communities unite around measurable action, climate progress becomes unstoppable.

Acknowledgements

The organisers thanked moderators Ashraf Nehal and Ito Victor-Akpan; coordinator Sanjeev Raghava; Mr M. Karunakar Reddy; Mr Samuel Dyas (FCDO); and Mr Gurdit Singh Vohra (Commonwealth Youth Council).

About Igniting Minds Organisation Igniting Minds Organisation is a Hyderabad-based non-profit advancing community-led climate action, water security, and youth empowerment, guided by the vision of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Through the Green India Challenge, Walk for Water, and Climate Action Campus Talks, it has mobilised 196+ million saplings and 44 million citizens across 33 countries. www.ignitingminds.org

About the Ramphal Institute Launched in 2008 and named for Sir Shridath "Sonny" Ramphal, the longest-serving Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Ramphal Institute is a not-for-profit organisation accredited to the Commonwealth Secretariat, working across social, economic, governance, and environmental policy for the benefit of the Commonwealth's member states. ramphalinstitute.org



No More Painful Walks: After Years of Suffering

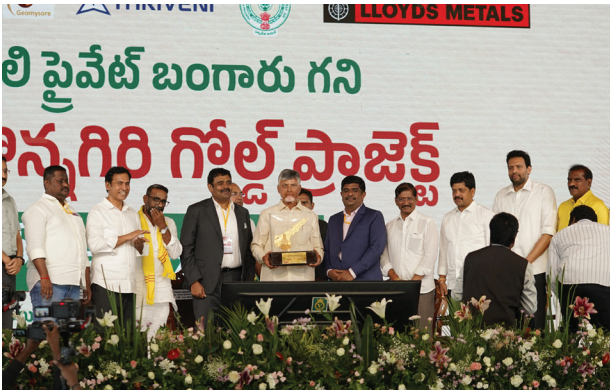
Maniki Comes to Vantara for Healing Jannagar, 24th June 2026: For 48 years, Maniki has walked this Earth. In recent years, however, every step became increasingly difficult. A long-standing deformity in her left front leg affected her gait and mobility, while age-related health concerns, infected wounds, impaired vision in one eye, dehydration, and poor body condition added to her suffering. Maniki's condition came to public attention after a video showed her limping painfully along a highway in Assam while being taken for medical treatment. The visuals deeply moved people across the country. Concerned citizens, animal welfare advocates, and members of the public came together to seek urgent support for her care. Petitions were signed, appeals were made, and Maniki's condition became a matter of collective concern. Recognising that Maniki required sustained hospital-based care, her owner, Ruchi Chetia, wrote to the Supreme Court appointed committee for rescue and care of suffering wild animals, requesting that she be transferred to Vantara for advanced treatment and long-term care. With the necessary approvals from the committee and the governments of Assam and Gujarat, Vantara has now safely transported her to Jannagar. At Vantara, Maniki will receive advanced hospital care, sustained treatment, and a permanent home designed around her comfort and wellbeing. A Vantara spokesperson said: "Maniki's health report indicates that she requires comprehensive veterinary attention in a protected and specialised care environment. Her impaired gait, lameness, dehydration, poor body condition, infected wounds, and other health concerns make a structured long-term treatment plan essential. Our immediate priorities include pain management through medication, hydrotherapy, and acupuncture, along with wound care and nutritional rehabilitation, all guided by her welfare and recovery needs. We are grateful to the authorities for their timely intervention and to Mr. Ruchi Chetia for his informed decision, which helped enable Maniki's transfer to Vantara for the urgent care she requires." But Maniki's healing will go beyond medicine.

B Prabhakaran's Jonnagiri Mine opens a New Chapter for India

- Andhra Pradesh CM Launches it as the First Private Gold Mine Since Independence
- First private-sector gold mine since Independence to deliver commercial-scale domestic gold production
- Positions India to strengthen domestic gold supply and reduce dependence on imports
- Lays the foundation for "Made in India" refined gold for domestic and global markets

KURNOOL/HYDERABAD, JUNE 24, 2026:

BPrabhakaran, MD and Chairman, Lloyds Metals and Energy, and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N Chandrababu Naidu, today jointly inaugurated the Jonnagiri Gold Mine in Kurnool district, marking the start of India's first commercial-scale private-sector gold mining operation since Independence. Located across Jonnagiri, Erragudi and Pagidirayi villages in Tuggali mandal,



the project is an important step towards strengthening India's domestic gold production capabilities. At a time when the country remains one of the world's largest consumers of gold, Jonnagiri brings commercial-scale gold mining back into focus. Spread across nearly 598 hectares with investments exceeding Rs 400 crore, Jonnagiri is expected to produce up to 1,000 kg of refined gold annually at peak capacity and has an estimated mine life of around 15 years. Current certified gold resources stand at approximately 13.1 tonnes, with exploration indicating the potential for larger

resources across the broader mineralised belt. Developed through Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd., and backed by Lloyds and Thriveni Group, the mine brings commercial-scale gold production back to India at a time when the country imports between 700 and 1,000 tonnes of gold annually to meet domestic demand. Spread across nearly 598 hectares with investments exceeding Rs 400 crore, Jonnagiri is expected to produce up to 1,000 kg of refined gold annually at peak capacity and has an estimated mine life of around 15 years. Current certified gold resources

stand at approximately 13.1 tonnes, with exploration indicating the potential for larger resources across the broader mineralised belt. Speaking on the occasion, B Prabhakaran, MD & Chairman, Lloyds Metals & Energy, said, "Jonnagiri Gold Mine marks the beginning of a new chapter for India's gold mining industry. For decades, India has been one of the world's largest consumers of gold while remaining heavily dependent on imports. Today, we are demonstrating that India can discover, develop and operate world-class gold mining assets at commercial scale. Our vision extends beyond a single project. We aim to build a sustainable domestic gold ecosystem that supports economic growth, generates employment, contributes to national resource security and positions 'Made in India' refined gold in both domestic and international markets. Jonnagiri is a true testament of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' towards creating a portfolio of globally competitive gold mining assets in the

country." The inauguration comes at a time when gold prices are at historic highs and market volatility remains elevated. In such an environment, the development of a domestic source of gold is not only commercially significant but also strategically important for India. Jonnagiri Gold Mine marks an important step towards reducing India's dependence on imported gold and strengthening domestic production. The project is expected to generate employment, support local businesses and contribute to the regional economy through investment, royalties and taxes. The mine is also expected to encourage further exploration and investment in India's gold sector. With additional exploration underway across the region, Andhra Pradesh is well placed to emerge as a leading gold-producing state. As commercial production begins, Jonnagiri lays the foundation for a stronger domestic gold value chain and supports the vision of bringing "Made in India" gold to both Indian and international markets.

Reliance-owned Karkinos Healthcare crosses one lakh HPV DNA tests

strengthening India's cervical cancer prevention efforts
Karkinos Healthcare's digitally enabled care continuum combines community outreach, HPV DNA testing, navigation, and follow-up, helping women remain connected to care from screening to treatment, where needed.

MUMBAI, JUNE 24, 2026

Karkinos Healthcare, a 100% step-down subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, has completed HPV DNA screening for over one lakh women across India, marking an important milestone in expanding access to high-quality cervical cancer screening and follow-up care. Cervical cancer prevention is often limited not only by access to screening, but also by loss to follow-up after a positive result. Karkinos Healthcare's model addresses both challenges through World Health Organization-recommended HPV DNA testing and a digitally enabled continuum of care that integrates awareness, screening, tracking, triage, navigation, and follow-up. Commenting on this milestone, Dr Neerja Bhatla, Consultant, Early Detection and Women Wellness, Karkinos Healthcare, who is also a Padma Shri awardee and globally acclaimed leader in women's health and oncology, said, "The evidence has been clear for some time that HPV DNA testing is the most reliable primary screen we have for cervical cancer. What matters now is not testing at scale alone but also ensuring that every woman who tests positive is carried through to diagnosis and treatment across the care continuum. A program that can demonstrate that linkage at this volume, and well beyond the big cities, is exactly the direction India's cervical cancer elimination effort needs." "For decades, the obstacle in this country has not been our understanding of cervical cancer; it has been the reach. Bringing a high-quality test to women in districts and small towns and then carrying them through the system rather than leaving them with only a result, is how a public-health gain is actually made. This is the model that has to scale," added Dr Goura Kishore Rath, Senior Oncology Advisor, Karkinos Healthcare, who has also served as Head, NCI-India, and Chief, DRBIRACH-AIIMS. Ms Sripriya Rao, Chief Growth Officer – Women Wellness, and Head of Distributed Cancer Care Network (DCCN), Karkinos Healthcare, further said, "Every one of these one lakh tests represents a woman who was met where she was. The measure of this work is

not how many women we reached, but how many we did not lose along the way, and whether we did it with dignity, and sustainably, for women who have historically been the last to be served. That is the standard we hold ourselves to." "At Karkinos, we dedicate this milestone to the late Dr R. Sankaranarayanan, fondly known to us as 'Shankar Sir', whose scientific leadership and unwavering conviction in early detection laid the foundation for this work. Shankar Sir believed that no woman should die of a cancer we already know how to prevent. Backed by the belief, conviction, and unflinching support of Reliance, we are confident of carrying this journey forward to one million tests next, and to one hundred million responsibly, sustainably, and without ever letting a single woman fall through the pathway. We also acknowledge the continued guidance of Dr Partha Basu of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in the science of cancer prevention," says Ms Sripriya Rao. The milestone has been achieved through multiple implementation models across diverse geographies, including public-health programmes, public-private partnerships, CSR-supported initiatives, nurse-assisted and self-sampling programmes, district-level screening efforts, and focused outreach for underserved and high-risk communities. A large share of the women reached are those who, by circumstance or distance, may not otherwise have had access to screening. The achievement demonstrates that high-quality HPV DNA testing can be delivered at scale in India through technology-driven care pathways. The learnings and infrastructure developed through this program can support wider adoption of organised cervical cancer screening and contribute to India's cervical cancer elimination efforts. Cervical cancer remains one of the most preventable cancers. With timely screening, early detection, and appropriate follow-up care, most cervical cancer deaths can be avoided. Expanding access to high-quality screening remains one of the most powerful opportunities to improve women's health outcomes in India.

Menthra Launches in India to Build the Emotional Wellbeing Infrastructure the World Has Not Yet Had

Founded by serial entrepreneur and technologist Dinakara Nagalla, the US-headquartered platform begins with India, where the need is most acute, and is built on a thesis the category is not. Resolution, not management. Continuity is core to the experience. Conversations build on each other over time, so users do not have to start over each time they return. India, 24 June 2026. Menthra, an emotional wellbeing platform built on the thesis that people can work through what is weighing them down and get to the other side, today launched publicly in India as its first market, following a beta in which the platform grew to 30,000 users and a network of 500 therapists, coaches, and wellbeing professionals. The company was founded in late 2025 by Dinakara Nagalla, the serial entrepreneur and technologist behind EmpowerMX, which was acquired by Swedish enterprise software firm IFS in 2024. Nagalla is the author of Becoming Human: Embracing Imperfection and Finding Purpose, and the speaker behind the TEDx talk The Algorithm That Broke Me. Headquartered in Frisco, Texas, with Indian operations through Menthra India Private Limited, the company is building

ing from a global team across the United States and India, with India chosen deliberately as the first market. India is the largest underserved population for emotional wellbeing in the world, with clinical care scarce, stigmatized, and unaffordable for most, and millions of Indians turning to generic AI tools that were never designed for the task. The vision is global. The work begins where the need is most urgent. A person can open Menthra at midnight, type in Hindi, Hinglish, or English, and have a conversation that picks up where the last one left off. There is no waitlist. There is no human reviewing what they say. Over time, the platform comes to understand the patterns of what they are working through, the language they use when they are struggling, and the support that has helped them most. Hindi, Hinglish, and regional languages are core to the product, not an afterthought. Menthra meets users through a continuum of care.

- Companions. Everyday emotional support, available around the clock, with full anonymity.
- Coaches and mentors. Deeper work on growth, life transitions, and relationships.
- Menthra Care India. Clinical care, led by a clinical advisory board of NIMHANS-trained

psychiatrists. Most users will resolve what they are working through with the companion and coaching layers. For those who need clinical care, Menthra Care India provides a pathway. The same platform, deepening over time, meeting people at whatever layer of care fits their moment. "Most platforms in this space help people cope. We built Menthra to help people resolve. For two decades I built systems that moved planes, money, and information around the world. But the systems people need for emotional wellbeing, care that meets them where they actually are, in the language they actually think in, at the hours they actually struggle, have never been built. Menthra is building that layer. We are starting in India because India needs it most. The vision is global because the gap is global." **Dinakara Nagalla, Founder and CEO of Menthra** Nagalla brings more than two decades of experience building mission-critical technology systems at global scale, spanning enterprise software, aviation, and large-scale operations. His book Becoming Human and his TEDx talk The Algorithm That Broke Me reflect the personal conviction behind the company. India's emotional wellbeing landscape remains underserved.

Professionals are concentrated in urban centers, leaving millions without affordable, accessible, or culturally relevant support. At the same time, large numbers of Indians are turning to generic AI tools for emotional conversations, tools that were never designed for the task and offer no continuity, no clinical grounding, and no pathway to deeper care when it is needed. Menthra is designed to address that gap with a purpose-built platform that prioritizes emotional wellbeing outcomes, multilingual accessibility, and culturally grounded support. "Our work is to build the emotional wellbeing infrastructure that the world has not yet had. Care should be available whenever and wherever someone needs it. By combining intelligent companions, human expertise, and continuity across the journey, we can build a system that helps people move forward, not one that asks them to manage the same struggles indefinitely. We are starting in India because the need is most urgent here. The vision is global."

Dinakara Nagalla During its beta, Menthra also began workplace wellbeing pilots with multiple Indian enterprises and established a clinical advisory board led by NIMHANS-trained psychiatrists.

The company operates through Menthra India Private Limited and its parent company Menthra Inc., a Delaware C-Corporation headquartered in Frisco, Texas. A core team of approximately 35 operates across both India and the United States. HIPAA-aligned data practices are core to the platform's architecture. The company plans to scale individual user adoption across India, expand workplace partnerships, grow its therapist and coaching network, introduce future offerings focused on youth and family wellbeing, and ultimately bring this model of care to other markets that face similar gaps in emotional wellbeing infrastructure.

About Menthra Menthra is an emotional wellbeing platform built on the belief that people deserve resolution, not lifelong management. The platform meets users through a continuum of care, companions, coaches, mentors, and clinical care, with continuity at the center of the experience. Designed for India first, Menthra is available in Hindi, Hinglish, and regional languages, with full anonymity in companion conversations and HIPAA-aligned data practices throughout. Menthra was founded in 2025 by Dinakara Nagalla and operates across the United States and India.

Navi UPI introduces 'Navi Secure'

bringing together its fraud prevention user protection capabilities under a unified safety framework

HYDERABAD, 24 JUNE 2026

Navi UPI, one of India's fastest-growing UPI apps, introduced Navi Secure, a unified safety framework that brings together the platform's existing fraud prevention, risk monitoring and user protection capabilities under a single trust and security proposition. As digital payments scale rapidly across India, fraud patterns are becoming increasingly sophisticated, spanning social engineering attempts, fake merchants, compromised devices and high-risk digital environments. Navi Secure reflects Navi's continued focus on strengthening customer protection through intelligent risk detection, proactive user alerts and layered safeguards designed to help users make safer payment decisions. Instead of relying only on post-facto reporting and recovery, the capability focuses on identifying risk signals early and enabling preventive interventions where applicable.

A layered approach to safer



digital payments Navi Secure brings together multiple existing and evolving capabilities across fraud detection, risk monitoring and user protection to strengthen payment safety without adding unnecessary friction to the customer experience. The framework combines intelligent risk signals, contextual alerts and preventive safeguards across different stages of the user journey. This includes measures introduced even at onboarding such as WhatsApp-based verification flows designed to strengthen user validation and reduce impersonation or fraudulent account creation attempts alongside ongoing transaction monitoring and risk-based in-

terventions. Together, these capabilities are intended to help users make more informed payment decisions while reducing exposure to high-risk scenarios. As fraud patterns continue to evolve, Navi will continue investing in stronger prevention capabilities and risk intelligence to make digital payments safer and more seamless over time. What Navi Secure is designed to help address Navi Secure focuses on helping reduce risk across key fraud scenarios: **Scam-driven payments** Protection measures aimed at reducing manipulation-led fraud scenarios, including suspicious payment patterns, risky recipients and known scam behaviours.

Compromised devices & apps Risk checks intended to identify device conditions that may indicate elevated vulnerability. **Unsafe networks & environments** Additional scrutiny in situations that may indicate elevated transaction risk. **High-risk entities and transaction behaviour** Monitoring mechanisms designed to identify unusual or potentially unsafe payment activity. Speaking on this, Rajiv Naresh, MD & CEO, Navi Limited (formerly Navi Technologies Limited), said: "Given digital payments have become central to everyday life, fraud prevention needs to be real-time and contextual. Navi Secure reflects our commitment to building trust-first financial infrastructure, where safety is embedded into every transaction, not added as an afterthought. By combining advanced risk intelligence with user-friendly safeguards, we are ensuring that customers can use UPI with confidence, knowing that Navi is actively working in the background to protect their money."

Vijay Sales Launches Back-to-School Sale on Laptops & Tablets

Instant Bank Discount, No Cost EMI and Loyalty Reward Benefits Across Leading Technology Brands

HYDERABAD, JUNE 2026:

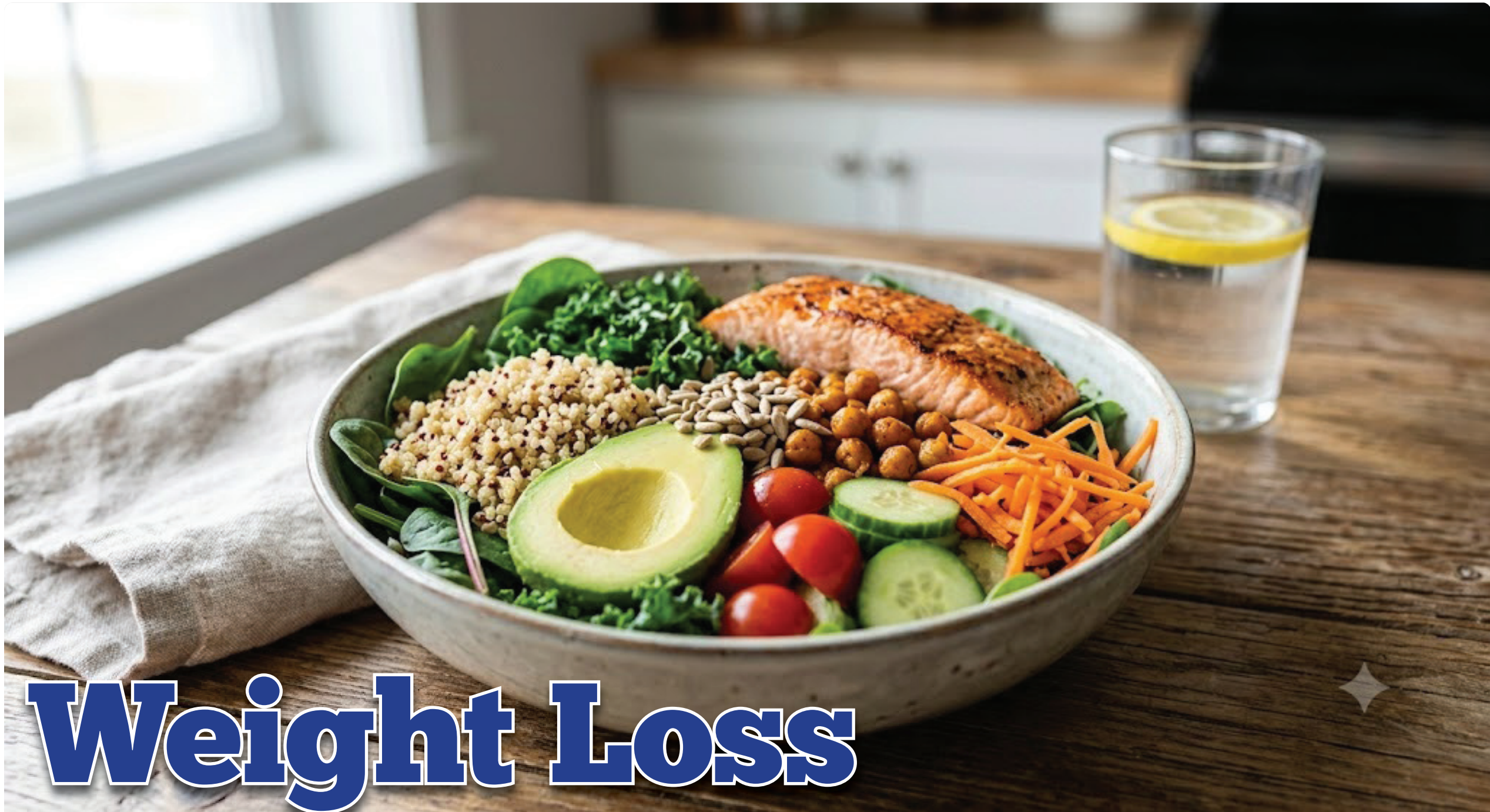
Vijay Sales, one of India's leading electronics retail chains, has announced its 'Back to School' Sale, bringing attractive offers across a wide range of laptops, smartphones, tablets and everyday technology essentials. As students, young professionals and families continue to rely on technology for learning, productivity and entertainment, the sale offers access to some of the most sought-after devices across categories at compelling prices. **Computing Power for Every Student** The wide range of computing devices at Vijay Sales are just perfect for students preparing to set the stage for academic achievements. To elevate the learning experience, the powerful Apple MacBook range is available at an effective starting price of just ₹60,490, inclusive of instant bank cashback. For those looking to tackle assignments and online courses with ease, high-performance laptops start at an accessible ₹46,499.



Meanwhile, those who prefer a more portable option for reading e-books or taking notes on the go can find great deals on a versatile range of tablets starting at ₹16,999. **Stay Connected with Smart Devices** Staying connected for both studies and social life is easier than ever with amazing deals on smartphones, starting from ₹10,499. To complement your device, Truly Wireless Stereo (TWS) earbuds start from just ₹799 - perfect for online classes or even enjoying music between study sessions. Additionally, Vijay Sales also features a wide selection of other earphones and

headphones to choose from. **Tech Accessories to Boost Productivity** To help build the perfect study-from-home workspace, the sale includes everyday essentials like printers starting at ₹4,999 and pocket-friendly storage devices from just ₹949. Students can further enhance their productivity and stay stylish with trendy smartwatches starting from ₹1,299. Additionally, high-speed routers are available from ₹1,549 and mobile accessories start from just ₹189, ensuring students have all the right tools for a seamless academic year. Whether it's a student purchasing their first laptop, upgrading

to a more powerful device for college projects, or investing in accessories to enhance productivity, Vijay Sales offers solutions across multiple budgets and requirements. Commenting on the sale, Mr. Nilesh Gupta, Director, Vijay Sales, said: "At Vijay Sales, our goal is to help students start the academic year equipped with the tools they need to learn, create, and succeed. Along with attractive offers on laptops, smartphones, tablets and accessories, we are also providing flexible payment options and additional benefits to make technology purchases more accessible and rewarding." To make purchases even more rewarding, Vijay Sales is offering its guests, 0.75% MyVS loyalty reward points on every purchase through the My VS Rewards programme. The same is redeemable at stores at ₹1 per point The Back to School Sale is currently live across Vijay Sales stores and on the Vijay Sales website, allowing customers to shop from a wide selection of products and take advantage of these limited-period offers.



Weight Loss Made Simple

How to Create a Calorie Deficit and Achieve Sustainable Results

Every year, millions of people begin their fitness journey with enthusiasm and determination. New Year resolutions are filled with promises of healthier eating, regular exercise, and significant weight loss. However, as weeks turn into months, many people find themselves struggling to stay committed. The excitement fades when the weighing scale does not show immediate results, and eventually, fitness goals are abandoned.

The truth is that successful weight loss is not about quick fixes or temporary diets. It is about adopting a healthier lifestyle and creating habits that can be maintained for years. One of the most important principles of weight loss is creating a calorie deficit. Understanding how calorie deficits work and implementing them correctly can help individuals lose weight effectively while maintaining overall health and well-being.

Understanding a Calorie Deficit

A calorie deficit occurs when the body burns more calories than it consumes. Calories are units of energy obtained from food and beverages. The body uses these calories to perform essential functions such as breathing, digestion, circulation, and physical activity.

When calorie intake exceeds calorie expenditure, the excess energy is stored as body fat, leading to weight gain. Conversely, when the body burns more calories than it receives from food, it begins using stored fat as an energy source, resulting in weight loss.

While the concept sounds simple, creating a calorie deficit should be done carefully. Extreme calorie restriction can slow metabolism, cause nutrient deficiencies, and negatively affect overall health. Experts generally recommend creat-

ing a moderate calorie deficit of about 300 to 500 calories per day for safe and sustainable weight loss.

Set Realistic Weight Loss Goals

Before making changes to your diet, it is important to establish realistic goals. Many people expect dramatic transformations within a few weeks, but healthy weight loss typically occurs at a rate of 0.5 to 1 kilogram per week.

Setting achievable targets helps maintain motivation and reduces the likelihood of giving up. Rather than focusing solely on the number on the scale, consider other indicators of progress such as improved energy levels, better sleep quality, increased stamina, and healthier eating habits.

Consulting a qualified nutritionist or dietitian can help determine the appropriate calorie intake and weight loss strategy based on age, gender, activity level, and health conditions.

1. Reduce Portion Sizes

One of the easiest and most effective ways to create a calorie deficit is by reducing portion sizes. Many people consume more food than their bodies actually need, often without realizing it.

Cutting portions does not mean starving yourself or skipping meals. Instead, it involves eating balanced meals in moderate quantities. Smaller portions naturally reduce calorie intake while still providing essential nutrients.

Some practical ways to control portions include:

- Using smaller plates and bowls.
- Measuring serving sizes.
- Eating slowly and mindfully.
- Avoiding second servings unless genuinely hungry.
- Filling half the plate with vegetables.

It is important to continue eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner regularly. Skipping meals can lead to excessive hunger later in the day, increasing the risk of overeat-

ing.

2. Increase Intake of Low-Calorie Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and vegetables are essential components of a healthy weight-loss diet. They are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and dietary fiber while being relatively low in calories.

Many nutrition experts refer to certain foods as "negative calorie foods." Although no food truly has negative calories, some foods require more energy for digestion and metabolism relative to the calories they provide. These foods can help increase satiety while contributing minimal calories.

Celery

Celery is among the most popular low-calorie vegetables. With approximately 16 calories per 100 grams, it provides fiber and hydration while helping control hunger.

Berries

Strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries are nutritional powerhouses. They contain antioxidants that support heart health and combat inflammation. Their natural sweetness can also help satisfy sugar cravings without adding excessive calories.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are nutrient-dense and low in calories. Rich in vitamin C, potassium, fiber, and antioxidants such as lycopene, they contribute to overall health while supporting weight-management efforts.

Cucumbers

Cucumbers are highly hydrating and contain very few calories. They are ideal for salads, snacks, and meal additions, helping increase fullness without significantly increasing calorie intake.

Watermelon

Watermelon is a refreshing fruit that contains high water content and relatively few calories. It is rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and compounds that support cardiovascular health. Its natural sweetness makes it a healthy alternative to processed desserts.

3. Prioritize High-Fiber Foods

Fiber plays a crucial role in weight management. Foods rich in fiber take longer to digest, helping individuals feel full for longer periods and reducing unnecessary snacking.

Excellent sources of fiber include:

- * Whole grains
- * Oats
- * Brown rice

- * Lentils
- * Beans
- * Fruits
- * Vegetables
- * Nuts and seeds

A fiber-rich diet not only supports weight loss but also improves digestive health, regulates blood sugar levels, and promotes heart health.

4. Stay Properly Hydrated

Water is often overlooked as a weight-loss tool, yet it can significantly influence calorie consumption and metabolism.

Drinking sufficient water throughout the day offers several benefits:

- Helps control hunger.
- Supports digestion.
- Improves metabolic processes.
- Enhances physical performance.
- Prevents dehydration-related fatigue.

Many people mistake thirst for hunger and consume unnecessary calories when their bodies simply need water. Drinking a glass of water before meals can help reduce appetite and encourage smaller portion sizes. Replacing sugary beverages with water can also eliminate hundreds of unnecessary calories from the daily diet.

5. Restrict Eating to Specific Time Windows

Intermittent Fasting

Intermittent fasting has become increasingly popular as a weight-management strategy. This approach involves limiting food consumption to a specific time window during the day while fasting during the remaining hours.

Common methods include:

- 12-hour fasting and 12-hour eating window.
- 14-hour fasting and 10-hour eating window.
- 16-hour fasting and 8-hour eating window.

Intermittent fasting may help reduce overall calorie intake while improving insulin sensitivity and fat utilization. However, it is not suitable for everyone. Individuals with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and those with specific dietary needs should seek professional guidance before adopting fasting protocols.

6. Limit High-Calorie Processed Foods

Processed foods often contain excessive amounts of sugar, unhealthy fats, and refined carbohydrates. These foods are usually calorie-dense but nutritionally poor.

Examples include:

- Chips
- Cookies
- Sugary drinks
- Fast food
- Candy
- Packaged snacks

Replacing processed foods with whole, nutrient-dense alternatives can significantly reduce calorie intake while improving overall nutrition.

Healthier alternatives include:

- Fresh fruit instead of sweets.
- Nuts instead of chips.
- Homemade meals instead of fast food.
- Water instead of sugary beverages.

7. Increase Protein Intake

Protein is one of the most effective nutrients for weight loss because it increases feelings of fullness and helps preserve muscle mass during calorie restriction.

Protein-rich foods include:

- Eggs
- Fish
- Chicken
- Lean meat
- Greek yogurt
- Cottage cheese
- Lentils
- Beans
- Tofu

Including protein in every meal can help reduce hunger and prevent overeating throughout the day.

8. Combine Diet with Regular Exercise

Although weight loss primarily depends on calorie balance, exercise plays an important role in increasing calorie expenditure and improving body composition.

A balanced exercise routine should include: **Cardiovascular Exercise**

- Walking
- Running
- Cycling
- Swimming
- Dancing

These exercises burn calories and improve cardiovascular health.

Strength Training

Strength training helps build and maintain muscle mass. Since muscle tissue burns more calories at rest than fat tissue, increasing muscle mass can support long-term weight management.

Examples include:

- Weightlifting
- Resistance bands
- Bodyweight exercises
- Functional training

Combining exercise with a calorie-controlled diet typically produces the best results.

Calculating Your Calorie Deficit

To create a calorie deficit effectively, begin by estimating your maintenance calorie needs—the number of calories required to maintain your current weight.

Once maintenance calories are determined, subtract approximately 300 to 500 calories per day. This creates a moderate deficit that encourages fat loss while preserving energy and muscle mass.

For example:

- Maintenance calories: 2,200 per day
- Target deficit: 500 calories
- Daily intake goal: 1,700 calories
- Tracking food intake

through journals or mobile apps can help maintain consistency and accountability.

Healthy Weight-Loss Salad Recipes

Panzanella Salad

Panzanella is a classic Italian salad that combines fresh vegetables with bread, creating a filling and nutritious meal.

Ingredients

- Tomatoes
- Whole-grain bread cubes
- Cucumber
- Onion
- Basil leaves
- Olive oil
- Lemon juice or vinegar

Benefits

Tomatoes provide vitamins and antioxidants, while whole-grain bread contributes fiber and sustained energy. The combination creates a satisfying meal that can fit comfortably into a calorie-controlled diet.

Carrot Salad with Black Grape Dressing

This refreshing salad combines nutrient-rich vegetables with a naturally sweet dressing.

Ingredients

- Fresh carrots
- Black grapes
- Lemon juice
- Pepper
- Fresh herbs

Benefits

Carrots are rich in fiber, vitamin K, potassium, and antioxidants. Black grapes contain resveratrol, a powerful antioxidant associated with various health benefits. Together, they create a delicious and nutritious salad that supports weight-loss goals.

Consistency Is the Key to Success

One of the biggest mistakes people make during weight-loss journeys is expecting immediate results. Sustainable fat loss requires patience, consistency, and realistic expectations.

There will be days when cravings occur or meal plans are not followed perfectly. Rather than giving up entirely, focus on returning to healthy habits as soon as possible. Long-term success is determined by consistency over months and years, not perfection every single day. Remember that weight loss is not merely about looking better. It is about improving health, increasing energy levels, reducing disease risk, and enhancing overall quality of life. By controlling portions, choosing nutrient-rich foods, drinking enough water, incorporating exercise, and maintaining a moderate calorie deficit, anyone can make steady progress toward their fitness goals.



TG20 Season 1: Nitish Reddy's fifty powers Nalgonda Knights to maiden victory in rain-hit clash

HYDERABAD

A disciplined bowling effort led by Rakshann Readdi and Varun Goud, followed by Nitish Reddy's composed 52, helped Anurag Nalgonda Knights register their first win of the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 Season 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Wednesday.

In what was the second match of the day -- one that was interrupted by rain -- the Knights comfortably chased down a revised target of 117 in 17 overs to defeat EIPL & elev   Karimnagar Diamonds by six wickets.

After a cautious start, Diamonds skipper Tanmay Agarwal shifted gears in the third over, taking 15 runs off Nishanth Saranu to inject momentum into the innings. His aggressive intent set an early tone as the Diamonds began to put pressure on the Nalgonda Knights.

Tanmay continued to dominate, combining crisp boundary-hitting with smart strike rotation alongside Sai Sharan (15 off 18). The pair stitched together a valuable opening partnership, with Tanmay bringing up the 50-run stand in style with a six. However, just as the Diamonds looked set, Arfaz Ahmed provided the breakthrough, dismissing the skipper for a fluent 46 off 26 deliveries.

The Knights capitalised on the wicket immediately. Satwik Reddy managed just 1 off 7 balls before edging behind to hand Varun Goud his first wicket of the evening. Goud struck again in the same over, removing Sai Sharan (15 off 18), who found Nitish Reddy in the field, leaving the Diamonds under pressure.

Following a rain interruption, Goud picked up where he left off, dismissing Rahul Radesh (1 off 2) to claim his third wicket. Rakshann Readdi then joined the party, accounting for Chandan Sahani (1 off 3) as



Karimnagar slumped to 65/5.

With the innings in danger of unravelling, Harish Thakur (21 off 23) and Shubham Sharma (20 off 16) attempted to steady the innings. At 22/2, the Knights needed a steady partnership to regain control of the chase.

Nitish Reddy and skipper Rahul Buddhi responded with a measured stand. The pair kept the scoreboard moving with Nitish hitting timely boundaries before Narayana Teja broke the partnership by removing Buddhi for 5 off 13 balls.

Undeterred, Nitish continued to anchor the chase with a composed knock, finding the perfect balance between caution and aggression. He found an able ally in Divesh Singh, who kept the pressure on the bowlers with an enterprising innings. The pair steadily chipped away at the target, ensuring the required rate never became a concern.

Nitish brought up a well-crafted off just five deliveries. The Diamonds struck again soon after as Gaurav Reddy (4 off 8) holed out to Satish Kumar, giving Rathlavath Dinesh his first wicket of the innings. At 22/2, the Knights needed a steady partnership to regain control of the chase.

Nitish Reddy and skipper Rahul Buddhi responded with a measured stand. The pair kept the scoreboard moving with Nitish hitting timely boundaries before Narayana Teja broke the partnership by removing Buddhi for 5 off 13 balls.

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Nitish brought up a well-crafted

half-century in just 33 deliveries, but his impressive innings came to an end when Ashish Srivastav dismissed him for 52 off 36 balls. By then, however, the Knights were firmly in command of the contest.

With only 16 runs needed for victory, Divesh Singh put the finishing touches on the chase. The unbeaten batter smashed a six off Shubham Sharma to seal the win with three overs to spare, finishing on 36 not out from 18 deliveries and guiding the Knights to their first victory of the season in convincing fashion.

Brief scores:

EIPL & elev   Karimnagar Diamonds 130 all out (Tanmay Agarwal 46, Harish Thakur 21, Rakshann Readdi 4/20, Varun Goud 3/8) lost to Anurag Nalgonda Knights 121/4 in 14 overs (Nitish Reddy 52, Divesh Singh 36*, Rathlavath Dinesh 1/10) by six wickets (DLS).

BCCI Apex Council Member V. Chamundeswaranath Invests in Truzon Solar

HYDERABAD

Truzon Solar, one of India's fastest-growing solar energy companies and a flagship brand of Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., is pleased to announce a strategic investment from Mr. V. Chamundeswaranath, distinguished sports administrator, entrepreneur, former Andhra Cricket Captain, former IPL Governing Council Member, and current BCCI Apex Council Member.

Mr. Chamundeswaranath's association with Truzon Solar reflects growing confidence in the company's vision of accelerating India's transition toward clean, sustainable, and affordable energy solutions. The investment comes at a significant phase of growth for Truzon Solar as the company continues expanding its footprint across multiple states, with its latest entry into Karnataka, while empowering homeowners, businesses, industries, and institutions to embrace solar energy.

Mr. Chamundeswaranath joins an esteemed group of investors associated with Truzon Solar, including renowned cricket icons Sachin Tendulkar, Suryakumar Yadav, and Tilak Varma. Their continued confidence underscores the company's strong business fundamentals, customer-centric approach, and commitment to making renewable energy accessible across India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bhavani Suresh Charugundla, Founder & Managing Director, Truzon Solar, said:

"We are honoured to welcome Mr. V. Chamundeswaranath to the Truzon Solar family. His remarkable journey as a cricketer,



administrator, and entrepreneur resonates strongly with our mission of building a cleaner and more sustainable India. His association further reinforces our belief that solar energy is not merely a business opportunity but a national movement toward energy independence and environmental responsibility.

The confidence shown by respected leaders and investors inspires us to scale faster, expand our reach, and create a meaningful impact in India's renewable energy ecosystem. We remain committed to delivering innovative solar solutions that empower communities while contributing to the nation's clean energy goals."

Sharing his thoughts on the investment, Mr. V. Chamundeswaranath said:

"India's clean energy transition presents one of the greatest opportunities of our time, and Truzon Solar has demonstrated a clear vision, strong execution capabilities, and a deep commitment to making solar energy accessible to every segment of society. I have closely observed the company's growth journey

and am impressed by its customer-centric approach, professional management, and ambitious expansion plans.

I am delighted to be associated with Truzon Solar and look forward to supporting its mission of creating a sustainable and energy-independent India."

With increasing investor confidence, a rapidly expanding presence, and a clear vision for the future, Truzon Solar continues to strengthen its position as a trusted solar energy brand. The company remains dedicated to accelerating solar adoption, reducing carbon emissions, and contributing significantly to India's clean energy transition.

About Truzon Solar

Truzon Solar, a brand of Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., is committed to delivering high-quality solar energy solutions for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Through innovation, reliability, and customer-focused service, the company is helping drive India's transition toward a sustainable and energy-secure future.



MotoGP 2026

Ducati sign Pedro Acosta as Bagnaia to leave at end of season

BOLOGNA: Ducati ushered in a new era on Wednesday by signing rising Spanish star Pedro Acosta for the 2027 and 2028 MotoGP seasons, just hours after confirming that two-time World Champion Francesco Bagnaia will leave the factory team at the end of 2026. The 22-year-old Acosta, considered one of MotoGP's top talents, will team up with seven-time World Champion Marc Marquez in what could be one of the sport's strongest rider line-ups. Marquez recently renewed his contract with Ducati until 2028. Acosta joins Ducati after a quick ascent through the ranks. He won the Moto3 and Moto2 world titles within three years of his championship debut and made an immediate impression in MotoGP.

CRICKET

Everyone has talent; improvement is what matters: Avesh Khan

HYDERABAD: Competition for places in India's fast-bowling attack has rarely been tougher. With a growing pool of pacers consistently performing across formats, staying in contention requires far more than talent alone. For Madhya Pradesh and Lucknow Super Giants pacer Avesh Khan, who has already represented India at the international level, the biggest challenge in earning another opportunity is remarkably simple. "The biggest challenge is consistency," Avesh told IANS when asked to describe the biggest challenge faced during the journey between representing India and then working to earn that opportunity again to make a comeback. The 29-year-old was candid when asked about the journey between wearing the India jersey and working to get back into the national setup.

Japan wins Men's Foil team gold while Korea bags Women's Epee team title in Asian Senior Fencing

NEW DELHI

The competitive action at the 26th Asian Senior Fencing Championships reached its absolute peak on the final day at Bharat Mandapam, with the last two team titles decided in intense clashes on the pistes. The Men's Foil team event delivered a spectacular display of target-priority, rapid baseline transitions, and strategic blade-work.

The unstoppable Japanese squad--anchored by individual champion Kyosuke Matsuyama alongside Kazuki Iimura, Shunsuke Baba, and Ryoga Ono--executed flawless distance control and tight defensive parries to capture the gold medal.

Hong Kong, China, featuring two-time Olympic Individual Champion Cheung Ka Long, Ryan Choi Chun Yin, Harris Ho Shing Him, and Leung Chin Yu, launched a fierce campaign to claim a well-deserved silver medal. The physically imposing roster from China, comprising Yifan Guo, Weiqiao Lyu, Jie



Xu, and Zhaoran Zeng, locked down the bronze medal.

The high-stakes endurance barrier of the Women's Epee team category saw similarly fierce tactical adjustments as nations fought to maximise their final point hauls. The powerhouse squad from South Korea, fielding the formidable lineup of Lee, Lim, Song, and Yang, put on a dominant technical

performance to capture the gold medal. They defeated China's skilled unit of Liu, Tang, Yang, and Yu, who took home the silver medal. The contingent from Kazakhstan, represented by Andreyeva, Bakaldina, Samodelkina, and Nikolaichuk, secured the bronze medal to complete the podium following an outstanding and resilient tournament run.

Host nation India showed clear technical growth and marked a monumental developmental step forward while matching up against Asia's elite, deeply seasoned Olympic-cycle structures. In the Men's Foil Team category, the local rotation of Sachin, Sanasam Hemash Singh, Tejas Manoj Patil, and Aditya relied on rapid blade-work and close-quarter infighting. Backed by an electric home crowd, they minimised unforced errors and stayed highly competitive in their middle-relay blocks against world-class opposition to secure an impressive 8th position, locking in a direct qualification spot for the upcoming Asian Games.

Diksha returns to happy hunting ground as Indian challenge gathers momentum in Czech Ladies Open

BEROUN (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Riding a wave of strong performances, Indian golfers will look to carry their momentum into the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open, with former champion Diksha Dagar leading a six-member challenge at Beroun Golf Club this week.

Dagar, Avani Prashanth, and Pranavi Urs arrive in the Czech Republic after producing impressive results at last week's Dutch Ladies Open, where the trio underlined India's growing presence on the Ladies European Tour (LET). Diksha and Avani shared third place, while Pranavi finished tied fifth,

giving the Indian camp plenty of confidence heading into another important week on the circuit.

Joining them in the field are Hitaa-shee Bakshi, Vani Kapoor, and Ridhima Dilawari, making it one of the strongest Indian representations at a European event this season.

For Diksha, who is supported by Hero, the venue holds special significance. The left-hander captured the Czech Ladies Open title in 2023 and returns seeking a second victory at a course she considers among her favourites on the LET schedule.

The 25-year-old also celebrated a

major milestone recently, making her 150th LET appearance. Since joining the tour in 2019, she has established herself as one of India's most consistent performers and currently sits 11th on the Order of Merit thanks to four top-10 finishes this season.

Coming off back-to-back top-10 results, Diksha believes she is a far more complete player than when she lifted the trophy three years ago. "I'm a much better player than I was when I won here because the learning process continues, and it's all about hard work," she said. "Coming back here brings back amazing memories.

Willing to put my hand up as an all-rounder: Shafali Verma

MANCHESTER

Asserting that she now considers herself a complete all-rounder, opener Shafali Verma said she is ready to raise her hand and deliver in any situation as India look to put their semifinal aspirations on track when they take the field for a crucial 2026 Women's T20 World Cup Group A match against Bangladesh.

Shafali had impressive figures of 1-22 in her four overs against South Africa at the Old Trafford Cricket Ground, though India lost by six wickets and got their first

defeat in the 12-team competition. A win over Bangladesh on Thursday will help them be in contention for entering the semi-finals. "Yes, I would say I am an all-rounder now. In domestic cricket, playing for Haryana, I have always tried to bowl, as a captain too, and used to think about what I could do if I got a chance to bowl for the Indian team. I had prepared for it and worked hard. That is why I could execute well. As a player, I would like to put my hand up and serve the team in a given situation," said Shafali in



the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

She also credited her family for encouraging her to bowl in her formative years. "My brother is a leg-spinner, and he said I too should bowl. My father now is happy and tells me it was good that I bowled in those days."

Acknowledging that the morale of the squad took a hit after the defeat to the Proteas, Shafali stated that the team has regrouped to keep their semifinal hopes alive. "Whenever there is a bad day as a team, we know that the morale of

the entire team will be down. But the next day, everyone knows that we need to come together and motivate each other.

"So yesterday, we spoke about it in the huddle - we know it's a crucial game, but we will back each other. We will give our best in preparation over the next two days. We will take it day by day. We can't take any team lightly. They also came here to play good cricket. We will go game by game and try to play our best cricket and try to win that game," she concluded.



Rashmika Worried About Popping Up Rumours

Just before the release of the film "Cocktail 2", star heroine and national crush, Rashmika Mandanna was everywhere in the media. She has promoted the film big time, appeared before Bollywood media, did some interviews and more. However, after the film released, the actress has not been seen anywhere, either talking about the movie or giving any bites or anything like that. However, there seems to be a reason behind that. During the promotions of Cocktail 2, whatever Rashmika said on the stage, during the interviews and in other promotional videos, everything became a discussion point. At the same time, some of those revelations led to other rumours popping up. In an interview to a Bollywood channel, the actress stated that these days a lot of rumours are popping up about her every day, and she's fearing what new would come up each day. That's the reason she's said to be staying away from the media for some time. Though Rashmika acted in a bold avatar in Cocktail 2, and appeared in a bikini outfit as well in one of the songs, it somehow didn't work out. While the film made ₹100 crores and over already, Rashmika hasn't got any good name for the role she has done. Even Telugu media claimed that Rashmika is being underutilised by Bollywood by giving her routine and hapless roles.

*Film Industry
Is Not Safe?:
Singer
Sunitha*



The Journalist sat with Singer Sunitha to discuss the objectification and exploitation of women. As someone who is in the industry for 31 years, Sunitha discusses the challenges women faces in the industry and society as a whole. However, she has a balanced approach saying that the buck does not stop just with men in this matter and says the women are also equally responsible. She talks about what it takes to say 'No' in the industry and how saying 'No' will trigger male ego and that will have consequences. She also refuses to buy the Feminism being peddled by some women these days. She says Feminism is not about the dresses women wear or about roaming at nights. "Feminism for me is all about the equality. If I am in a room surrounded by men, my opinion should be respected and taken seriously. My Feminism is about fighting against looking down up on women feeling that they are dumb," she says. "Men and women are of course not equal because they are two different kinds. Women does not possess the physical strength men have but they can do many things men can not do. So, the equality is different," she adds.

Kriti's New Look Is Making Waves

Kriti Sanon is enjoying a strong phase in her career, and her latest Filmfare cover shoot is proof that she is owning the spotlight. Dressing in bold, bohemian-inspired outfits, the actress effortlessly blends glamour with confidence. From intricate crochet ensembles to chic ivory looks, Kriti's striking poses and commanding screen presence have left fans impressed. The photoshoot showcases a different side of the actress, highlighting her evolution as a fashion icon. With earthy tones, minimalist styling, and powerful expressions, Kriti proves why she remains one of the most followed and admired stars of her generation. Social media has been buzzing with praise for her stunning new avatar. On the professional front, Kriti's recently released Cocktail 2 faced trolling and mixed reactions online, but the film continues to perform strongly at the box office. Reports suggest the romantic drama is already nearing the ₹100 crore worldwide mark, proving that audience curiosity remains high despite the criticism.



Meenakshi Finds Peace And Style In Kathmandu

Meenakshi Chaudhary is currently soaking in the beauty of Kathmandu, Nepal, and her latest vacation pictures are giving major travel goals. From exploring ancient heritage sites to strolling through vibrant streets decorated with colorful prayer flags, the actress looked effortlessly stylish throughout her trip. Her relaxed fashion choices, paired with scenic backdrops, perfectly captured the charm of the Himalayan city. The actress shared glimpses of her journey on social media, where she was seen visiting historic temples, admiring traditional architecture, and enjoying the local culture. Whether posing against centuries-old monuments or taking candid selfies amid bustling surroundings, Meenakshi's travel album reflected a perfect mix of elegance, simplicity, and adventure. On the professional front, Meenakshi was recently seen in Anaganaga Oka Raju this year and received appreciation for her performance. She is now busy shooting for Vrushakarma, starring alongside Naga Chaitanya. With an interesting project in hand and a steadily growing fan base, the actress is balancing work and travel in style.

‘We Must Win At Any Cost’: Rajini To Young Director!



Superstar Rajinikanth is collaborating with Kamal Haasan for two interesting films. In one of them, the duo will share the screen together, while in the other one, Kamal will be a producer while Rajini headlines the project. Initially, KS Ravikumar was considered later Sundar C was roped in to do the film and then, he was replaced with Cibi Chakravarthy. But finally, Ashwath Marimuthu is playing the film. The film's title was announced today and Rajini will play the titular role in Dharman. After multiple directors entering and exiting, the team finally settled on Ashwath, who has two hits to his credit. Especially after the success of Dragon, there is a lot of positivity around Ashwath's collaborations. It is, in fact, a dream come true moment for the young director who has been waiting to work with Rajinikanth. The film is going to be made on a big budget, and the scale will be massive. If Ashwath delivers a success, he will immediately enter the star league of directors. Director has raised curiosity around Dharman by describing it as a unique blend of Rajinikanth's Padayappa and Kamal Haasan's Vettaiyaadu Vilayadu. He also hinted that Rajinikanth will be seen in a completely different avatar, one that is expected to surprise audiences in a big way. The director also shared an interesting conversation with the Superstar. "When I met Rajinikanth sir, he told me, 'We should win at any cost. We are doing this with RKFI and Kamal Haasan. Consider me your assistant. I'll share my suggestions for Dharman, and you can either take them or ignore them,'" revealed Ashwath, highlighting Rajini's humility despite his legendary stature. While Kamal appears ready to support the film on a grand scale, the real challenge lies with Ashwath Marimuthu, who now has the responsibility of delivering a solid, compelling film that lives up to the faith placed in him by two of Tamil cinema's biggest icons.

Simran and Raashi Khanna are also a part of the film. Anirudh Ravichander is the film's music director. More details of the film are awaited.

