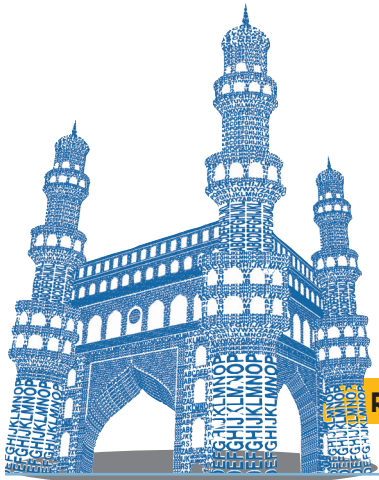




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A SILENT THREAT TO FAMILY AND SOCIAL HARMONY

OPINION

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TRIBUTE TO OPERATION SINDOOR MARTYRS



SPECIAL

02

CMO shake-up in IAS reshuffle: N. Sridhar in, Ajith Reddy out

HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

The Telangana government on Friday issued orders executing a reshuffle of several senior IAS officers across key departments. According to the official directives, B. Ajith Reddy, who previously served as Special Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been moved out of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). He has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Invest Telangana under the Industries and Commerce (I&C) department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

SANJAY JAJU APPOINTED AS NEW CS



HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

Telangana is set to welcome Sanjay Jaju, a senior IAS officer, as its new Chief Secretary. His appointment follows the conclusion of the current Chief Secretary, K. Ramakrishna Rao's tenure on June 30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

AMIT SHAH'S HIGH STAKES RENDEZVOUS WITH PRESIDENT MURMU IGNITES FIERCE SPECULATION ON CABINET OVERHAUL WITH POTENTIAL DROPS OF UNDERPERFORMERS AND BOLD ENTRIES OF FRESH LEADERS

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

Delhi's political grapevine has gone into overdrive after Union Home Minister Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, barely days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself met the President. While neither meeting has officially been linked to any government decision, the timing has reignited intense speculation across political circles that a long-anticipated reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers may finally be

around the corner.

As always in Delhi, perception often races ahead of confirmation. Yet experienced political observers point out that meetings involving the President acquire added significance whenever reshuffle rumours are already circulating. Since Cabinet changes require presidential approval, every such engagement inevitably attracts close attention.

Sources familiar with discussions within the ruling establishment indicate that the BJP

leadership has been reviewing ministerial performance over the past several weeks. With the Monsoon Session approaching and several crucial state elections on the horizon, there is growing expectation that the government may seek to refresh both its administrative and political messaging.

Among those whose names are circulating in political discussions as possible exits or portfolio changes are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Double-Bedroom Houses for Musi Dwellers: CM



Hyderabad, June 26: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday reviewed the progress of the ambitious Musi Riverfront Development Project at the Bodhi Pavilion in the MCR HRD Institute and issued several key directions for the implementation of the project's first phase.

The review meeting was attended by Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, MP Vem Narender Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited Managing Director Narsimha Reddy, Joint Managing Director Gauthami, HMDA Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed, CMO Secretary Manik Raj, and senior officials of the

Municipal Administration Department.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed officials to allot double-bedroom houses to families residing in the Musi riverbed as part of the rehabilitation process.

Regarding land acquisition for the project, the Chief Minister instructed officials to provide Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or adequate compensation to landowners willing to part with their lands. The State Government was also asked to take steps to relocate existing structures on the Defence land proposed to be acquired for the Gandhi Sarovar Project. The Chief Minister proposed the

establishment of a Musi Experience Centre on Necklace Road to create public awareness about the riverfront development initiative. The centre is expected to showcase the various components and proposed works under the Musi Riverfront Project.

Officials were also directed to utilize the centre as a platform to collect public opinions and feedback on the project, ensuring greater public participation in the development process. The Musi Riverfront Project is one of the flagship urban development initiatives of the State Government, aimed at rejuvenating the river and improving the city's infrastructure and environment.

BHATTI APPEALS TO TFI TO JOIN ANTI-DRUG CRUSADE



Hyderabad, June 26 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has appealed to the entire Telugu film industry to record video messages promoting the "Say No to Drugs" campaign as part of their responsibility toward the state's development. "If necessary, the government will send officials from the Information and the Cinematography departments to facilitate the recording of these messages and ensure they are widely broadcast across the state," he said.

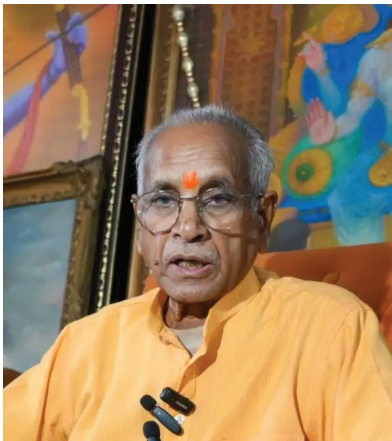
Bhatti Vikramarka said that even a short message from film personalities, including heroes, heroines, actors, directors, and character artists, could transform the lives of countless young people.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a special event held at Shilpakala Vedika

on Friday on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Day Against Human Trafficking.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the entire cabinet are firmly committed to ensuring that not a single person in Telangana falls victim to drug addiction. Bhatti Vikramarka made it clear that there should be no room for the sale or supply of drugs anywhere in the state. The Deputy Chief Minister said the government is taking stringent measures to build a healthy and drug-free youth population. As part of this effort, a dedicated EAGLE Force has been established to combat narcotics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >



Champat Rai Resigns Amid Donation Row

AYODHYA

In a major development amid the alleged donation embezzlement case at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, senior trust official Champat Rai and trustee Anil Mishra have resigned from the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust on moral grounds, sources said.

Champat Rai served as the general secretary of the Trust, the independent body responsible for managing the Ram Temple. An official confirmed that both Rai and trustee Anil Mishra submitted their resignations following the emergence of allegations related to the siphoning of cash offerings at the shrine.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PASSPORT NOT PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, OWAISI MUST KNOW LAW: NRR

HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

BJP State president N. Ramchander Rao on Friday slammed MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for his remarks on passports, asserting that a passport is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship. "It was an established fact that a passport is not a conclusive proof of citizenship. The Mumbai High Court in 2013 judgement made it clear that a passport is a travel documents", he noted. Addressing a press conference here, Rao accused the Congress and AIMIM of spreading misinformation on



the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, similar to the "false propaganda" allegedly carried out during the CAA debate.

Citing a 2013 Bombay High Court judgment, Rao said a

passport is merely a travel document and not definitive proof of citizenship. Referring to the Dalai Lama, he noted that despite possessing an Indian passport, the Tibetan spiritual leader is not an Indian citizen.

"Being an educated person and a barrister, Owaisi should study the rule of law before making such statements", Rao remarked.

On the Tungabhadra water issue, the BJP leader demanded that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy disclose details of his discussions with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, alleging that Telangana was receiving only 5 TMC of water against its rightful share of 15.9 TMC. Rao also accused both the Congress and BRS of compromising Telangana's interests in securing its share of Godavari river waters.

CEMENTING DREAMS WITH SUPERIOR STRENGTH.

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY
ROBOTIC QUALITY CONTROL
TAMPER PROOF PACKING

3 TIMES BETTER

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION SINDOOR MARTYRS

Fallen Heroes of Operation Sindoor Remembered at National War Memorial

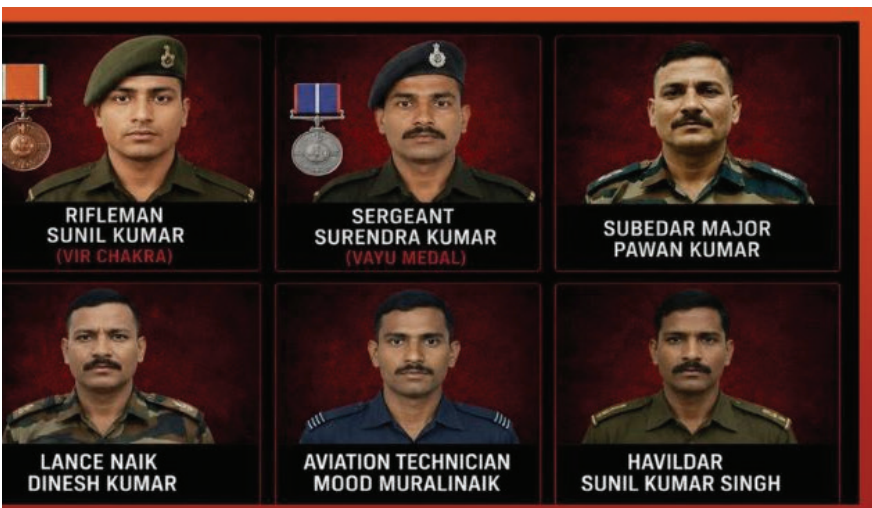


NEW DELHI

The government has, for the first time, officially revealed the names of six Indian armed forces personnel who lost their lives during Operation Sindoor, the military operation launched against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in May 2025.

The names of the fallen soldiers have been included in the Roll of Honour on the National War Memorial website and engraved on the memorial in New Delhi, marking the first official acknowledgment of military casualties during the operation.

The six personnel honoured are: **Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, Headquarters 10 Infantry Brigade Rifleman Sunil Kumar, Vir Chakra, 4 Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry**
Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar, 5 Field Regiment Aviation Technician Mood Muralinaik, 851 Light Regiment
Havildar Sunil Kumar Singh, 237 Field Workshop Company



Sergeant Surendra Kumar, Vayu Medal, 39 Wing

Their names have been inscribed on Wall 3D of the National War Memorial under the 2025 section dedicated to military personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation.

Until now, the government had not officially disclosed the identities of personnel killed during Operation Sindoor, despite widespread reports regarding casualties during the four-day military confrontation between India and Pakistan in May 2025. The publication of these names serves as the first formal confirmation of the

losses suffered by the armed forces during the operation.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of 26 civilians, most of them tourists. Indian armed forces carried out precision strikes on nine terror-related sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, targeting infrastructure linked to terrorist organisations.

Military action between India and Pakistan continued for four days before both countries agreed to halt hostilities on May 10 after talks between their respective Directors General of Military Operations.

The inclusion of personnel from both the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force highlights the joint-service nature of Operation Sindoor. Among those honoured are Rifleman Sunil Kumar, who was awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry, and Sergeant Surendra Kumar, a recipient of the Vayu Medal.

The National War Memorial, inaugurated in 2019 near India Gate in New Delhi, commemorates members of the Indian armed forces who have laid down their lives in service of the nation. The addition of these six names formally places Operation Sindoor among the military operations remembered at the memorial.

ROTARY TO LAUNCH Rs.40-LAKH NABL FOOD SCIENCE LAB AT WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

The Rotary Club of Hyderabad East, in partnership with The Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Club of Canton, USA, will inaugurate a state-of-the-art Food Science & Testing Laboratory at Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University on June 29.

The Rs.40-lakh NABL-accredited facility, funded through a Rotary Global Grant, aims to strengthen food science education, research, innovation and industry-oriented training.

Sridevasena, Commissioner of Technical & Collegiate Education, will inaugurate the laboratory. Prof. Surya Dhananjay, Vice-Chancellor, Veeranari Chakali Ilamma Women's University, and Dr. S.V. Ram Prasad, District Governor, Rotary International District 3150 will attend as guests of honour, while K Prabhakar, District Rotary Foundation Chair, RI District 3150, will be the special guest.

The laboratory includes four dedicated units—Food Testing & Quality Assurance,

Product Development & Innovation, Research & Analysis, and Training & Skill Development. It is expected to provide students and researchers with advanced facilities for product development, quality testing, and industry-focused skill enhancement.

Calling the project a milestone in educational infrastructure, Govind Putta said the initiative would help nurture skilled professionals and promote food safety, quality, and technological advancement.

Thousands Join Bibi ka Alam Procession in Hyderabad on Youm-e-Ashoora

Hyderabad: Thousands of mourners participated in the annual Bibi ka Alam procession in Hyderabad on Friday to mark Youm-e-Ashoora, the 10th day of Muharram, observing solemn rituals in memory of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain at Karbala.

The city witnessed special prayers, religious gatherings, food distribution camps and acts of charity at several locations. Muharram commemorates the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, who was martyred in the historic Battle of Karbala.

Religious meetings were organised across different parts of Hyderabad, while food camps served devotees

and the needy. Young volunteers distributed sherbet through temporary kiosks, and several groups visited hospitals and old-age homes to distribute cooked food and fruits.

The historic Bibi ka Alam procession began from Bibi ka Alawa at Dabeerpura around 1 pm. The procession passed through Shaik Faiz Kaman, Yakutpura Road, Etebar Chowk, Alijah Kotla, Charminar, Gulzar Houz, Panjeshah, Mandi Mir Alam and Darulshifa before concluding at Masjid-e-Ilahi in Chaderghat in the evening.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, elephant Sreedevi carried the revered Bibi ka Alam during the procession. Thousands of members of the

Shia community participated in the procession, performing maatam (ritual chest beating) and chanting "Ya Hussain." Large crowds gathered along the route, while prominent personalities and government officials offered dhatti to the Bibi ka Alam at various points.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, along with senior police officials, offered dhatti near Charminar. Several smaller processions from different parts of the city merged with the main procession. The Hyderabad Police made elaborate security and traffic arrangements to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the annual procession, which concluded without any major incidents.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

SANJAY JAJU APPOINTED AS NEW CS

FROM PAGE 1

The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, made the decision to appoint Jaju after careful consideration of potential candidates.

Sanjay Jaju, who joined the IAS in 1992, brings a wealth of administrative expertise cultivated through his service in both the unified Andhra Pradesh and the subsequent Telangana. Notably, he previously held significant positions as the Commissioner of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. Furthermore, he was instrumental in developing innovative citizen service platforms, such as 'MeeSeva,' within the IT domain.

His career also includes several years on deputation with the Central government, where he served as Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. Upon the Telangana government's request, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet authorized Jaju's repatriation to his home cadre. He is slated to officially assume his new role as Chief Secretary immediately after Ramakrishna Rao's retirement on June 30.

Champat Rai Resigns Amid Donation Row

FROM PAGE 1

The resignations come after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took a strong stand on the issue and an initial report was submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged theft.

According to reports, nearly ₹7 crore to ₹7.5 crore in donation money is suspected to be missing.

A police case has been registered under charges including theft by clerk, criminal breach of trust, dishonestly receiving stolen property and criminal conspiracy.

Eight accused have been named in the FIR, including six employees involved in counting cash donations. The accused are Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava and Ramshankar Yadav alias Tinnu. Authorities claim that CCTV footage captured the alleged embezzlement, and all eight accused have been arrested.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that action be-



gan immediately after the SIT submitted its report and assured that the investigation would establish the truth.

The controversy has also sparked political reactions. Opposition leaders, particularly from the Samajwadi Party, have questioned whether senior trust officials have been held accountable. Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Lal Suman alleged that influential individuals were being protected and called for action against all those responsible.

The issue was initially raised by the Samajwadi Party, after which the temple trust requested the government to conduct an inquiry. The Uttar Pradesh government subsequently constituted an SIT com-

prising Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General Kiran S and Finance Department Special Secretary Neel Ratan. The SIT submitted a preliminary report earlier this week, reportedly making strong recommendations. Since its inauguration in January 2024, the Ram Temple has received substantial donations. According to the trust's latest annual report, it recorded earnings of nearly ₹327 crore during the financial year, including ₹153 crore in donations and ₹173 crore in interest income.

The temple receives between 70,000 and 80,000 visitors daily, with the number increasing significantly during weekends and festivals.

KTR ACCUSES CONGRESS GOVT OF FORCIBLY SEIZING DALIT, TRIBAL LANDS



HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

BRS working president KT Rama Rao has leveled accusations against the current Congress government, alleging that it is forcibly seizing assigned lands belonging to Dalit and Tribal communities under the guise of promoting industrial development.

The BRS leader asserted that despite the Congress's pre-election promises to grant ownership of government lands to impoverished farmers, the government is now dispossessing them of their livelihoods in the name of development.

During a general body

meeting of the BRS Parigi Assembly constituency held in Parigi on Friday, KT Rama Rao further claimed that the government is illegally acquiring assigned lands in collusion with the local Congress MLA. He pledged that the BRS would provide both legal and political backing to the affected families if the land acquisition proceeds without their consent or without fair compensation.

Citing the Lagacherla incident, the BRS working president accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of targeting tribal communities for their opposition to land acquisition. He further alleged that fabri-

cated police cases were filed against the villagers and that those taken into custody faced harassment.

Rama Rao stated that the Congress has reneged on its commitments to all segments of society since assuming power. He highlighted the government's failure to fulfill promises concerning Rythu Bharosa, pensions, crop bonuses, and financial aid for tenant farmers and agricultural laborers. KT Rama Rao asserted that both the Congress party and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had misled the public across all sections of society with their election pledges.

Retiring Telangana CS appointed as CM's advisor



HYDERABAD, JUNE 26

The Telangana government has made another significant decision. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, who is set to retire on June 30, has been appointed as an Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. This decision was formalised by the state government through a Government Order (G.O.) issued on Friday. The appointment, effective on his retirement day, aims to leverage his extensive administrative experience. It has been clarified in the order that the terms and conditions related to this appointment will be issued separately.

AMIT SHAH'S HIGH STAKES RENDEZVOUS

FROM PAGE 1

Dharmendra Pradhan, Hardeep Singh Puri, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, Manohar Lal Khattar, Ravneet Singh Bittu, G. Kishan Reddy, Pankaj Chaudhary, Harsh Malhotra and Shobha Karandlaje. Former Minister of State George Kurian has already demitted office, further fuelling speculation about a broader exercise.

Equally interesting is the list of names being discussed as possible entrants. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das tops several speculative lists because of his long experience in economic administration. Senior BJP leader Tarun Chugh is also being mentioned in party circles.

Political chatter has also thrown up names cutting across alliance and regional considerations, including Raghav Chadha, Ashok Mittal, K. Laxman, D. K. Aruna, Anurag Thakur, Shrikant Shinde of the Shiv Sena, Arun Govil, Vinod Tawde, Vanathi Srinivasan and Vishnu Sharma.

None of these names has been officially confirmed by either the BJP or the government.

If a reshuffle does take place, the political message is likely to be as important as the personnel changes themselves. The BJP leadership has consistently projected performance as the principal benchmark for ministerial continuity. Every Cabinet exercise under Prime Minister Modi has attempted to combine governance, electoral arithmetic, regional representation, caste balance and alliance management.

The government also faces an increasingly demanding policy calendar. Economic growth, inflation, employment, infrastructure, education, agriculture and welfare delivery will all remain under close public scrutiny. A Cabinet reset could therefore be used to reinforce accountability while positioning the government for the next phase of governance.

There is another political dimension. The BJP has expanded significantly in southern and eastern India but contin-

ues to seek deeper organisational consolidation. Any fresh appointments could therefore reflect not merely administrative priorities but also electoral calculations ahead of forthcoming Assembly contests.

For now, however, the only confirmed development remains the meetings at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Everything beyond that is part of intense political speculation. Delhi has often witnessed dramatic Cabinet rumours that eventually proved inaccurate, just as genuine reshuffles have frequently arrived without warning.

Whether this latest round of speculation culminates in a major overhaul or fades into another episode of Delhi's perpetual rumour mill should become clear only when the Prime Minister's Office makes an official announcement. Until then, the capital's political class will continue doing what it does best—reading signals, interpreting silences and trying to anticipate the next move in one of Indian politics' most closely guarded games.

DY.CM BHATTI APPEALS TO TFI TO JOIN ANTI-DRUG CRUSADE

FROM PAGE 1

The government has provided the force with adequate financial resources and vehicles to function effectively. Recognising the risks faced by police personnel working to protect society, the government has also approved special incentives to encourage and support them, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government is conducting extensive awareness campaigns in government and private schools and colleges. The police force is working with unwavering dedication to safeguard society, and any-

one found endangering the future of children will face strict action, regardless of their status, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister observed that merely enacting laws is not enough; lasting change must come from society itself. Referring to the Dowry Prohibition Act, he said laws become effective only when society accepts and supports them. Along with counseling in schools and colleges, he urged leaders and celebrities who have a strong influence on society to create awareness through videos and social media posts.

CMO SHAKE-UP IN IAS RESHUFFLE..

FROM PAGE 1

In another major placement, N. Sridhar, formerly the Principal Secretary for Mines and Geology, has been posted as the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister. Additionally, Sabyasachi Ghosh has been assigned the responsibilities of Special Chief Secretary for the Handlooms, Textiles, and Handicrafts department.

Furthermore, the government has appointed Shailaja Ramaier as the Principal Secretary of the Forest department, Ahmed Nadeem as the General Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD), and Rahul Bojja as the Principal Secretary for the Disaster Management department. Md. Musharraf Ali Faruqui, who held the positions of Chairman and Managing Director at the Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited (TGRPDCL), has been appointed as Vice Chairman and Managing Director (VC & MD) of TGREDCO.

'Telangana Handicrafts' Creates History

■ **TGHDC records profits for the first time in its history**

■ **Strategic vision of Chairman Naidu Satyanarayana leads to a new milestone**

HYDERABAD

A new chapter has been written in Telangana's cultural heritage and artistic legacy under the state's self-governance. The Telangana Handicrafts Development Corporation (TGHDC), which had struggled for decades and largely depended on government subsidies, has, for the first time in its history, achieved significant profits.

According to the statement, the turnaround was made possible through the vision and strategic decisions of Chairman Naidu Satyanarayana, who was appointed by the Congress government. An organization once burdened by losses has now recorded historic net profits, setting an example even for corporate



enterprises. Under his leadership, the "Golconda" handicrafts and handloom retail divisions have achieved net profits for the first time in their history.

From Crisis to Prosperity

When Naidu Satyanarayana (Naidu Satyam) assumed charge as Chairman, the Telangana Handicrafts Development Corporation was facing severe financial difficulties. He reportedly accepted the challenge and

transformed the organization's direction through his business acumen.

To improve the corporation's performance, he focused on three key strategies: Regularly reviewing accumulated inventory and aligning supply with market demand.

Modernizing the retail divisions to make them more competitive in the marketplace.

Expanding the customer base by integrating Golconda Handicrafts and Handloom retail outlets with digital

e-commerce platforms.

Targeting the Global Market

The Chairman introduced contemporary designs to traditional Telangana handloom brands such as Gadwal, Narayanpet, and Pochampally, making them more appealing to young and modern consumers. Beyond production, he also established a stronger supply chain and initiated major improvements in the distribution system.

Renewed Motivation Among Employees and Artisans

He upgraded the technological platforms used daily by field staff and retail employees. Clear performance goals were set for employees and artisans, fostering greater accountability and renewed enthusiasm within the organization.

Recognition for the Chairman's Vision

Employees and workers of the Telangana Handicrafts Development Corporation honored Chairman Naidu Satyanarayana, stating that he had demonstrated how capable leadership can transform a loss-making public sector enterprise into a profitable organization. Worker groups praised him, saying that his vision had helped promote Telangana's handicrafts globally while bringing well-deserved recognition to the hard work of the state's handloom weavers and artisans. They described the corporation's record profits as clear evidence of his leadership.

GITAM Faculty to Lead AI Launchpad Bootcamp in Vietnam

HYDERABAD

Dr. Niranjan Appaswamy, Associate Professor in the Department of AI & DS at the GITAM School of CSE, has been invited to serve as a mentor and resource person for the AI Launchpad Bootcamp at Truong Cao Dang Vien Dong, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, from June 22 to July 4, 2026. The two-week international academic engagement reflects the growing global recognition of GITAM faculty expertise and academic leadership.

This marks Dr. Niranjan Appaswamy's sixth academic engagement at Vien Dong, further strengthening the collaborative relationship between the institutions. Recognizing his expertise and contributions to emerging technologies, the



leadership of GITAM Deemed to be University has extended its support for him to share his knowledge and experience with students in Vietnam.

The 72-hour hands-on AI Launchpad Bootcamp is designed to introduce students to Artificial Intelligence from the ground up, enabling them to build real-world AI applications without requiring exten-

sive prior knowledge of coding or mathematics. The program emphasizes experiential learning through open-source tools and practical applications.

The bootcamp curriculum is structured into four learning phases: AI Fundamentals (Visual Learning – No Coding Required), Python and Machine Learning Fundamentals, Practical AI Applications, and AI Project Development and Deployment. Through these modules, participants will gain hands-on experience in building, testing, and deploying real-world AI solutions.

Dr. Niranjan Appaswamy is a distinguished cybersecurity thought leader, international educator, and academic mentor. He has authored 22 textbooks and currently serves as the Secretary of the IEEE Cy-

bersecurity Special Technical Community (STC). He is also the editor of The Cyber Defender and Teaching Beyond the Textbook Newsletters of LinkedIn and is a sought-after speaker on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies.

The GITAM leadership appreciated Dr. Niranjan's international academic engagement, noting that such opportunities not only recognize the expertise and accomplishments of faculty members but also enhance the global visibility and academic reputation of the university. His participation in the AI Bootcamp underscores GITAM's commitment to fostering international collaborations and promoting excellence in teaching, research, and innovation.

Cyber crime police bust Rs.1.46 cr matrimony-investment fraud, four arrested



HYDERABAD

The city Cyber crime police cracked a Rs.1.46 crore matrimony-cum-investment fraud and arrested four accused from Telangana for facilitating the movement of cheated funds through mule bank accounts. The arrested accused were identified as Chokkala Sampath (Siddipet), Secunderabad-based Hechu Naresh, Endla Suresh and Vadkala Mahesh.

According to police, the victim was trapped through a fake profile on the matrimonial platform "Sangam Matrimony", where fraudsters posed as a woman, developed a relationship, promised marriage and convinced him to invest in a bogus investment platform with assurances of high returns.

Believing the claims, the victim transferred Rs.46.65 lakh to multiple accounts. When he attempted to withdraw the amount, the fraudsters demanded additional charges and later blocked access, prompting him to file a complaint. Cyber Crime Police reg-

istered the case and traced the money trail to mule accounts spread across Telangana and Maharashtra. Investigators found that Rs.35 lakh of the cheated amount was routed through accounts in Indian Overseas Bank before being funneled to Singapore-based cyber fraudsters through hawala channels.

Police said the accused played key roles in opening and operating mule accounts, withdrawing funds, and transferring proceeds on behalf of higher-level handlers. One mobile phone was seized during the operation.

Officials cautioned the public against trusting unknown individuals on social media, matrimonial platforms, Telegram, WhatsApp, Instagram and Facebook who promise lucrative investment returns or task-based earnings. Under the supervision of ACP Siva Maruthi, the Cybercrime Police Station team, led by Inspector K.M. Raghavendra along with supporting staff, played a crucial role in apprehending the accused persons.

Cong app flags duplicate voters, tracks SIR progress

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad DCC president Syed Khalid Saifullah on Friday said the Congress BLA App is helping Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to identify potential duplicate voters and monitor electoral roll verification under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Speaking at a training programme for BLAs, Saifullah said the app enables booth-level workers to track mapped and unmapped voters, detect anomalies and assist citizens in completing required documentation.

The application provides booth-wise voter data and highlights possible duplicate entries based on similarities in names, family details, house numbers and other identifiers. Suspected cases are referred to Election Commission authorities for verification. Saifullah said Congress volunteers had already digitised and analysed electoral data across Hyderabad district, allowing BLAs to monitor voter-list corrections and enrolment activities more effectively.

The app also tracks the status of voter forms, helping the party assess the progress of the SIR exercise and identify areas requiring greater outreach, he added.

Chaderghat police arrest chain snatcher, recover stolen gold chain

HYDERABAD

The Chaderghat Police Station successfully solved a gold chain theft case and arrested a habitual property offender, recovering a stolen gold chain weighing approximately 2.5 tulas.

According to police, complainant Gattu Seetha Rama Rao (61) was travelling in a TGSRTC bus on June 23 when unidentified persons crowded around him near the foot-board and stole his gold chain. The theft came to light after he reached Yashoda Hospital, following which he lodged a complaint.

Using CCTV footage and technical evidence, police identified and arrested Kamle Rathana alias Rathana Badal



(42), an auto driver from Malapally. During the arrest, police recovered the stolen gold chain with its locket from his possession.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to

committing the offence along with three associates - Salman, Ismail and Ibrahim - who remain absconding.

Special teams have been formed to trace and apprehend the remaining accused. Senior

officers of the Charminar Zone commended the investigating team for the swift detection and recovery of the stolen property.

The detection was carried out under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Charminar Zone, who highly appreciates the diligent and prompt work done by the Investigating Officer B. Krishna Reddy, SI, PS Chaderghat and his team, under the guidance of K B Murari, Inspector of Police and B. Srinivasa Rao, DI of Police, PS Chaderghat.

The entire operation was conducted under the direct supervision of L. Raja Venkat Reddy, ACP, Malakpet Division, and K. Md. Majeed, Addl. DCP, Charminar Zone, Hyderabad.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tender is invited online by the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Chowrah, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, New DRM Building, 4th Floor, Near Rail Museum, Howrah-71101 from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work:- Under Sr. DEN/HQ/ Howrah, **SI. No. 1, E-Tender No. 149_2026-27. Description of work:** P.Way Maintenance work at Howrah Passenger and Non-Passenger Yard in the jurisdiction of SSE(P.Way)/Howrah AEN/Track/Howrah. (In between Jurisdiction Howrah - Bally Main - UP, DN & REV (0/0-2/0), Howrah - Bally, Howrah-Bardhaman Chord-UP Howrah-Bardhaman Chord & DN Howrah-Bardhaman Chord (0/0-2/0), Howrah-Santragachi - UP, DN & DN2 - (0/0-1/0), Howrah Platform Line-1 to 24, Jheel siding Yard, Tikiapara Yard, Howrah Goods Yard & Howrah Goods Flyover). **Approx Cost:** Rs. 1,50,42,823.15. **Earnest Money:** Rs.3,00,900/-. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. **SI. No. 2, E-Tender No. 150_2026-27. Description of work:** Provision for replacement of damage roof sheet including valley gutter, ridge at Sorting Yard Coaching Depot maintenance shed & Sorting Yard Sickline shed in the section of SSE/W/Bamangachhi under AEN/2/Howrah. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 2,33,13,373.29. **Earnest Money:** Rs.4,66,300/-. **Completion Period:** 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. **SI. No. 3, E-Tender No. 151_2026-27. Description of work:** Augmentation of facilities in Diesel Sheds for homing of Electric Locomotives. (Phase-II). **Approx Cost:** Rs. 2,34,07,434.64. **Earnest Money:** Rs.4,68,200/-. **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. **Cost of Tender Form:** Rs. 0.00 [For SI. No. 1, 2 & 3]. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. **Closing date and time of Tender:** 17.07.2026 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD & TDC - Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender document cost in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **NOTE:** Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. HW/H-177/2026-27
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice No. SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_11,
Dated: 23.06.2026

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	SA_A_RS_ED_OT_26_27_11, Dated: 23.06.2026
Description of Work	Works contract for General electrical maintenance at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Rolling Stock / Erode
For and on behalf of the President of India

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

SALEM DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-E6-2026-27-W1-W3, Dated: 19.06.2026

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E6-2026-27-W1 Dated: 19.06.2026 Salem Division: Construction of New Terminal building at Erode Railway Station - Electrical arrangements	Approx. Cost - ₹ 1,35,35,111.00/- EMD - ₹ 2,70,700.00/- Completion Period - 36 Months
2) SA-E6-2026-27-W2 Dated: 19.06.2026 Salem Division: Replacement of Defective LTUG Cable feeding important loads over SSE / Electrical / Erode Section	Approx. Cost - ₹ 7000014.00/- EMD - ₹ 1,40,000.00/- Completion Period - 36 Months
3) SA-E6-2026-27-W3 Dated: 19.06.2026 Provision of Power Supply Arrangements for Three Escalators at Coimbatore North Jn (CBF-NSG4) and three Escalators at Podanur Jn (PTJ-NSG4) - Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 34,40,351.00/- EMD - ₹ 68,800.00/- Completion Period - 12 Months
For all the works Closing Time & Date	15.00 hrs. on 20.07.2026
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date	15.30 hrs. on 20.07.2026

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal www.ireps.gov.in only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical) / Salem - 636005

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division
Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-25-26-26R3, 28R3 Dated: 22.06.2026
Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-03R, 6R2 Dated: 22.06.2026

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager / Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, Southern Railway, Chennai - 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works. For further details, please refer to www.ireps.gov.in

Sl. No.	Tender No. / Name of the Works	Value (₹)	Closing Date / Time
1	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-25-26-26R3 Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection with Provision of up loop line at Kettandapatti (KDY) in AJJ - JTJ section of Chennai Division.	8598670.30	13.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
2	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-25-26-28R3 Replacement of existing 65 sq.mmm weak catenary wire in MAS-RU and AJJ - JTJ section of Chennai Division.	23014130.00	13.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
3	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-03R Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection with Provision of FOB under Amrit Bharat station Scheme in Chennai Division	7029612.62	13.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs
4	Tender No. M-TRD-29-I-OT-2026-27-6R2 Improvements to existing OHE by elimination of silver brazed / codal life completed contact wire on condition basis in non-suburban sections of Chennai Division	29438631.00	13.07.2026 at 15.00 hrs

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai - 3

SHORT
TAKES

“Akshara Govindam”
at Sri Vakulamata
Temple from July 3

TIRUPATI

TTD will launch “Akshara Govindam” and Annaprasana services at Sri Vakulamata Temple, Tirupati, from July 3, to provide a sacred beginning to children’s education and first feeding ceremony with the blessings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy and Sri Vakulamata. Children aged 3 to 5 years can participate in the Aksharabhyasam ceremony, conducted with Vedic chanting. Participants will receive blessings, prasadam, and a complimentary Akshara Govindam Kit containing educational and devotional items. The Annaprasana ceremony will also be performed traditionally under the guidance of temple priests with Vedic rituals. From July 4, the services will be held on all days except Tuesdays in two batches of 25 children each (50 per day). Advance registration at the temple one hour before the ceremony is mandatory. Parents are advised to attend in traditional attire. TTD appealed to devotees to make use of these special services for the auspicious beginning of their children’s education and life.

Govt appoints Vinay
Kumar as Telangana
forest force chief

HYDERABAD

The state government on Friday issued orders appointing Vinay Kumar, an IFS officer of the 1992 batch, as the Head of Forest Force (HoFF) for Telangana on a Full Additional Charge (FAC) basis. He is set to assume his new responsibilities accordingly. The tenure of the incumbent, C. Suvarna, concludes on June 30. With over three decades of experience in forest administration, Vinay Kumar has previously served in various key positions across the Forest, Rural Development, and Irrigation departments. In addition to working as the Project Director for the Adilabad DPAP and as a Conservator of Forests, he also served as the Commissioner of Irrigation and Command Area Development for the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Having served as the field director of the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana, he also acted as the State Project Director for projects implemented with the support of the World Bank and JICA. He was honoured as the first runner-up for the United Nations’ ‘Water for Life’ Award in 2014 in recognition of his efforts.

"Telangana needs vision, not
a stopwatch": MLC Sravan
hits back at CM Revanth

HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Dasoju Sravan launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his reported remarks asking government employees to work an extra hour daily to boost state revenues and curb revenue leakages. Calling the statement a reflection of the government's "administrative bankruptcy and lack of vision", Sravan said governance cannot be improved by merely extending office hours. "Clocks measure time, but visionary leadership measures impact. Revenue generation depends on sound policies, efficient execution, institutional reforms and inspiring leadership - not on forcing employees to stay longer in offices", he remarked. The BRS leader alleged that the Congress government has pushed Telangana into financial distress through corruption, poor policy choices, and reckless governance. Instead of creating

Industrial growth is about
livelihoods, not just statistics: Bhatti



HYDERABAD

During the inauguration of the Industrial Innovation & Technology Expo 2026 at HITECH on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised that for the Praja government, industrial growth is not merely about investment statistics but about creating livelihoods for people. Addressing the gathering, he said the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) serves as a strong bridge between the government and industry.

Bhatti Vikramarka described the industrial expo as more than just a showcase of machines and products. It is an excellent platform for exchanging ideas. The event provides small businesses with opportunities to find new customers, manufacturers to access cutting-edge technologies, and startups to connect with their first buyers, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that Telangana has earned the confidence of investors and witnessed robust industrial growth since the formation of the state. Hyderabad has gained global recognition in the IT, pharmaceuticals, and life sciences sectors. However, he emphasised that the state's growth should not remain confined to the services sector.

Bhatti Vikramarka stressed the need to increase the contribution of industry, particularly MSMEs, to the state's GDP, noting that manufacturing plays a vital role in employment generation and strengthening the rural economy.

Reiterating that industrial growth is about improving people's livelihoods rather than just attracting investments, he said the government's vision is to ensure that Ease of Doing Business benefits not only large companies but also small industries, women entrepreneurs, and rural entrepreneurs. To achieve this, he officially announced that he would dedicate every Friday to meeting MSME associations and representatives of the industrial sector to discuss their issues and suggestions. Bhatti Vikramarka appreciated the Expo's focus on future technologies such as electric mobility, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence, and smart manufacturing. He also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, recalling his pioneering role in ushering India into the computer age.

He said that the Telangana Government has provided 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees for all categories of electric vehicles, and emphasized that the state's objective is not merely to promote EV adoption but also to develop the entire EV supply chain and related technologies within Telangana.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that despite the state's peak power demand rising from 15,000 MW to 18,500 MW over the past two and a half years, Telangana has ensured uninterrupted, quality power supply without any power cuts. Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated the government's vision of transforming Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. To achieve this goal, he said the government is ready to promote investments through both public funding and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. He invited industrialists to seize these opportunities and invest in Telangana.

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Presents
**Industrial
Innovation &
Technology
Expo 2026**

Where Industry Shapes the Future

Discipline and Proper Guidance
Are the Foundations of Success

- Former IPS Officer
JD Lakshmi Narayana

SURYAPET

Former IPS officer JD Lakshmi Narayana stated that discipline and proper guidance are the key foundations of success. He inaugurated the Resonance Foundation Center at Hotel Sri Grand in the district headquarters on Friday. Resonance is one of India's leading educational institutions for IIT-JEE and NEET coaching.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that students should build a strong academic foundation from the school level itself. He appreciated Resonance for bringing foundation coaching to Suryapet, stating that it would greatly benefit students from Classes 6 to 10.

He said that disciplined learning, conceptual clarity, and proper guidance are crucial for shaping students' future success. According to him, systematic academic training at an



early age helps students build a solid foundation for future competitive examinations. Through this Foundation Course, students will receive comprehensive training in various subjects. Developing a strong grasp of concepts at an early stage will enhance conceptual understanding, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills, enabling students to perform well in competitive entrance examinations such as IIT-JEE and NEET after Intermediate.

Later, Resonance Managing Director Poornachandra Rao Narra said that the institution is committed to providing result-oriented education through experienced faculty, systematic teaching methods, and continuous academic monitoring. He stated that in just seven years, more than 6,100 students from Resonance have secured admissions to prestigious institutions, including IITs, NITs, IIITs, AIIMS, and other top universities.

"Gold Man" booked for
alleged Rs. 32 lakh fraud

HYDERABAD

Police have registered a criminal case against Surya Bhai, popularly known as "Gold Man", following allegations of cheating and criminal intimidation by a city businessman.

According to the complaint, Surya Bhai alias Gold Man allegedly lured the businessman with promises of supplying gold at prices far below market

rates. Claiming access to a shipment containing kilograms of gold, he reportedly offered to sell one kilogram for Rs.50 lakh. Believing the claims, the victim allegedly paid Rs.32 lakh in installments.

When the promised gold was not delivered for several months, the businessman sought clarification. The complaint alleges that Surya Bhai then began threatening him and falsely

claimed close connections with the Telangana Chief Minister and senior police officials, including former Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, to avoid repaying the money.

Suspecting fraud, the victim approached the police. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered at Attapur Police Station, and investigators have launched a detailed probe into the allegations.

TPCC forms statewide SIR
monitoring committee, appoints
parliamentary coordinators

HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud has constituted a special committee to monitor the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process across Telangana.

The TPCC appointed Pulipati Rajesh Kumar as Chairman of the Election Commission Coordination Committee to oversee coordination with election authorities. While Gampa Venu Gopal has been entrusted with supervising the Congress Party's administrative process related to the SIR exercise.

The party also named parliamentary consti-

ty-wise control room coordinators for all 17 Lok Sabha segments, including Adilabad, Karimnagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad, Chevella, Nalgonda, Warangal, Khammam and others.

According to Rajesh Kumar, committee members will remain in constant touch with Booth Level Agents (BLAs), Assembly and Parliament leaders during the revision process. Any issues arising during the exercise will be brought to the notice of the Election Commission for prompt resolution.

The TPCC said the initiative aims to ensure smooth coordination and address voter-list related concerns during the Special Intensive Revision process.

Cyberabad police crack down on drug
abuse in educational institutions



HYDERABAD

In a major preventive initiative against the growing menace of drug abuse among students, the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has issued a comprehensive notification mandating all educational institutions within its jurisdiction to establish Anti-Drug Committees and implement strict monitoring mechanisms.

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Dr. M. Ramesh stated that reports of narcotic drug consumption, possession, sale, transpor-

tation and trafficking among students have raised serious concerns over public safety, educational standards, and law and order.

Under the notification, all schools, colleges, universities, professional institutions, sports academies, coaching centres, private hostels, PG accommodations, and co-living facilities must constitute Anti-Drug Committees, appoint nodal officers, conduct awareness programmes, display anti-drug warning materials, and promptly report drug-related activities to police authorities.

Any information regarding drug peddling, drug consumption, or any illegal activity relating to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances shall be promptly reported to the jurisdictional Police Station, Dial-112, or the Helpline Numbers 8712663333, 8712663236, and 040-27853412, or such other numbers as may be notified by the Cyberabad Police from time to time.

The order, issued under provisions of the Hyderabad City Police Act and the Cyberabad Metropolitan Area Police Act, came into effect on June 26, 2026, and will remain in force until further orders. (NSS)

Empowering MSMEs through
Innovation and sustainable
Industrial Development

(On the occasion of
"World MSME Day"
on 27 June)

MSMEs (Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises) are the backbone of any nation's economy and overall development. They contribute to the local and national economies and sustainable livelihoods, in particular among the working poor, women, youth, and vulnerable groups. MSMEs account for 90 percent of total businesses worldwide, 60 - 70 percent of employment and 50 percent of world GDP. MSMEs transform economies, foster job creation, income, and promote equitable economic growth. To raise the awareness of the contributions of MSMEs to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, UN general assembly designated 27 June as "World MSME Day" annually since 2017.

Current MSME Classification Criteria in India

Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises are businesses defined by specific thresholds of financial investment and annual turnover. In India, MSMEs are classified under MSMED Act. Micro enterprise involves investment upto 1 crore and annual turnover upto 5 crores. Small enterprises record upto 5 crore investment and 50 crore annual turnover. The Medium scale enterprises are those having an investment upto 50 crore and annual turnover upto 250 crore. These MSMEs are the pillars of financial growth and industrialisation of rural and backward localities.

Importance of MSMEs for National Development

MSMEs are the powerful engines of innovation, job creation, and sustainable development. MSMEs drive inclusive growth, strengthen resilience and contribute to industrial development by expanding access to technology, digital infrastructure, affordable finance and market opportunities, governments and partnerships. The rapid advances in digital

technologies, AI and green innovation offer unprecedented opportunities for MSMEs to increase productivity. The better ways to promote MSMEs are skills training, innovation, and fairer rules. Present day MSMEs are facing the challenges like political instability, wars and conflicts, climate change, and digital shifts make it even harder them to survive.



Theme of World MSMEs Day-2026

The reasons like lack of sufficient loan facilities, poor infrastructure, and work under tough conditions making MSMEs more difficult to run smoothly. The theme of World MSMEs Day-2026 is "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and sustainable Industrial Development" and "Human-Centred Entrepreneurship in an AI driven Future". The UN-affiliated Human-Centred Entrepreneurship Forum is running under the parallel theme of "The Future Generation of MSMEs". The 2026 observance arrives at a moment when AI is rapidly reshaping production, finance, and labour, with profound consequences for the women CEOs, youth founders, and micro enterprises who will define the next generation of the sector.

In India, the government and industry bodies use this day to highlight policy reforms, financial inclusion efforts and digital transformation initiatives for small businesses. India has over 7.4 crore MSMEs, employing more than 32 crore people and contributing around 31.1 percent to the national GDP. These enterprises also contribute approximately 48.6 percent of total exports.

- Prof : Burra Madhusudan Reddy
9949700037.



South Goa Gets
No Development
Zone
PANAJI: (JUN 26)

The Goa government has notified 1.03 crore square metres of ecologically sensitive land in South Goa's Salcete taluka as No Development Zone (NDZ) under the Regional Plan, Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane announced on Friday. The notified area comprises salt pans, paddy fields and other environmentally sensitive lands spread across seven villages under Salcete taluka. According to the minister, the largest chunk of the notified land is in Talaulim village, covering 29.13 lakh square metres, followed by Majorda (17.64 lakh square metres), Seraulim (16.81 lakh square metres), Loutolim (16.71 lakh square metres), Utorda (9.92 lakh square metres), Orlim (9.49 lakh square metres) and Calata (4.08 lakh square metres) (total 103.78 lakh square metres).

PM Modi
Congratulates
Colombia's
President-Elect
NEW DELHI: (JUN 26)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Abelardo de la Espriella on his victory in the Colombian presidential elections and said he looks forward to working together to further deepen the bilateral relations in the years ahead. De la Espriella, a millionaire political novice, will be Colombia's next president after electoral authorities on Wednesday declared him the winner of the presidential elections. "Heartiest congratulations, Abelardo de la Espriella, on your victory in the Colombian presidential elections," Modi said in a post on X.

NEXT DOOR
Human rights panel pulls up Andhra
Police over custodial death of 26-year-old

The National Human Rights Commission has issued notices over Sai Krishna's alleged custodial death in Vijayawada. It said the case points to serious human rights violations and possible evidence tampering.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken serious note of the alleged custodial death of 26-year-old Sai Krishna in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada, holding the state police prima facie accountable for what it described as a grave violation of the victim's right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Commission has issued a notice to the Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) and the Vijayawada Police Commissioner, seeking a comprehensive Action Taken



Report within one week.

The NHRC's intervention follows a petition filed by rights lawyer Rama Rao Immaneni, which led to a detailed inquiry into the incident. According to the Commission, preliminary findings by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) indicate suspected illegal detention and custodial

torture that allegedly resulted in Sai Krishna's death.

The Commission has also taken note of allegations that police personnel attempted to destroy evidence by cremating the victim's body and disposing of the ashes in a river. It further observed that CCTV footage from the Krishnalanka Police Station was alleg-

edly deleted during crucial hours, raising concerns over possible evidence tampering. The NHRC has directed authorities to initiate efforts to recover the deleted footage as well as the victim's mortal remains.

NHRC TERMS IT A GROSS
ABUSE OF POWER

Calling the incident a "brutal assault" on the constitutional right to life and a violation of international human rights standards, the NHRC criticised what it termed a gross abuse of power by law enforcement authorities.

Meanwhile, Krishnalanka Circle Inspector Nagaraju has been suspended and remanded to judicial custody after the SIT reportedly found evidence suggesting foul play in the case. The Commission

has also sought details of the FIR registered in connection with the incident, the names of officers implicated, and steps taken to provide interim compensation to Sai Krishna's family. The NHRC further directed the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure adequate security and protection for the victim's mother, Gade Vijayalakshmi, considering the sensitivity of the case.

The custodial death has triggered widespread concern over police accountability in Andhra Pradesh, with the NHRC making it clear that the matter involves serious violations of constitutional safeguards and human rights. The Commission has asked the state police to submit a detailed status report within seven days.

Nellai Express Partial
Cancellation Revised; Services
to End/Begin at Talaiyuthu

CHENNAI, JUNE 26:

The Southern Railway has revised the partial cancellation of the Nellai Superfast Express due to operational reasons, modifying an earlier notification issued on June 11. As per the revised schedule, Train No. 12631 Chennai Egmore-Tirunelveli Chennai Superfast Express, scheduled to depart Chennai Egmore at 8.50 pm on June 27, will now be partially cancelled between Talaiyuthu and Tirunelveli. The train will terminate at Talaiyuthu instead of Tirunelveli. Earlier, the partial cancellation had been announced be-

tween Vanchi Maniyachchi and Tirunelveli. Similarly, Train No. 12632 Tirunelveli-Chennai Egmore Nellai Superfast Express, scheduled to leave Tirunelveli at 8.50 pm on June 28, will now be partially cancelled between Tirunelveli and Talaiyuthu. The service will originate from Talaiyuthu at 9 pm. The earlier notification had stated that the train would be partially cancelled between Tirunelveli and Vanchi Maniyachchi.

Railway authorities have advised passengers to take note of the revised arrangements and plan their journeys accordingly.



SRWHQO Organised a tree
plantation drive under the
aegis of Smt Sonia Singh

CHENNAI, JUNE 26:

The Southern Railway Women's Headquarters Organisation (SRWHQO) organised a tree plantation drive on 24th June 2026, under the aegis of Smt. Sonia Singh, President, SRWHQO, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Smt. Charu Gupta, Vice-President, Smt. Tina Rajpal, Secretary, Smt. Hasana Meena, Treasurer and other members of SRWHQO actively participated in the event. Various fruit plants like Guava, Chickoo, sweet lime, and pomegranate were planted. Over 200 saplings of flowers like jasmine, coral jasmine and Hibiscus were distributed to the students and staff of Ashraya, with the aim of encouraging tree planting, raising environmental awareness, and promoting community participation in protecting nature. Smt. Sonia Singh, President, SRWHQO encouraged the children to plant more trees and also nourish the plants given to them. The students of Ashraya School took part in the initiative with great enthusiasm, contributing actively to the spirit of environmental awareness and green ac-

tion. A similar tree plantation programme was also conducted at the Blossom Creeche & Day Care Centre, run by SRWHQO. Snacks were distributed to all the children, teachers and staff. **About Ashraya School for Special Children, run by SRWHQO**

Ashraya, a school-cum-vocational training centre exclusively for special children, was established on 8th February 1993. The institution offers an individualised educational programme for children from the age of six, with the primary objective of making them independent and self-reliant through a focus on self-help skills, academics, pre-vocational skills, and vocational training, delivered by specially qualified staff. Ashraya provides vocational training to students aged 16 and above in making envelopes, paper bags, phenyl, diya and candles. With the right environment and training, the students of Ashraya have shown that they can not only become self-sufficient but also excel in computer education, sports, and arts and crafts.

Vaiko's MDMK Likely to Exit DMK Alliance After Nine Years

The MDMK is poised to decide on quitting the DMK-led alliance at Saturday's general council. Vaiko says years of perceived disrespect have pushed the party to a breaking point. MDMK leader Vaiko loses temper at Sathur meeting, orders cadres to snatch cameras, journalists attacked over filming empty chairs

The Vaiko-led Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

(MDMK) is likely to finalise its exit from the DMK-led alliance at its general council meeting on Saturday, after expressing what it called "pain" and "deep anguish" over how it was treated in the coalition over the past nine years. The move follows a charged high-level committee meeting on Friday, where the party signalled its intention to break ties. However, MDMK principal secretary

Durai Vaiko said individual leaders could not unilaterally sever ties, and that the final decision on whether to remain with the DMK or walk out of the alliance would be announced after office-bearers and cadres vote at the general council. At Friday's meeting, the absence of the party's legislator Senthil Selvan, who won from Sikrazhi, triggered speculation that he could resign and join the

ruling TVK led by its founder and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay. Rajendran, the Kadayannallur MLA, attended the meeting.

There are also indications that the MDMK, which contested four constituencies as part of the DMK-led alliance on the DMK's rising sun symbol and won two seats, may explore future alliance options with the Vijay-led party. Vaiko, the party's general

secretary, made his displeasure clear at a meeting in Virudhunagar earlier in the day, saying he was unhappy and resentful over how his party had been treated in the DMK alliance despite his loyalty and efforts to promote the DMK leadership and the Dravidian movement over the last nine years. Vaiko had earlier been with the DMK before launching the MDMK. In an apparent ref-

erence to the Premalatha Vijayakanth-led MDMK, which was given more Assembly seats in the April 23 polls as well as a Rajya Sabha seat, Vaiko said smaller parties were given greater importance in the DMK camp. He said his biggest source of anguish was that the MDMK had to contest on the DMK's rising sun symbol while other allies were allowed to use their own party symbols.

Delhi Child
Rape-Murder:
Sources Reveal
Accused's
Criminal History
NEW DELHI: (JUN 26)

A cab driver arrested for the kidnapping, sexual assault and killing of an 11-year-old girl in south Delhi has allegedly given inconsistent statements during interrogation, while investigators have found that he was arrested in Bihar in 2021 and has a criminal record dating back to his juvenile years, sources said on Friday.

Accused Bashu Kumar Singh (29) was arrested within hours of the crime. He is in police custody as the investigators continue to piece together the sequence of events.

The sources in the Delhi Police said Singh was arrested in Bihar's Khagaria district in 2021 and was released after executing a bond under section 109 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). He was also apprehended earlier in connection with a crime when he was a minor, they said.

Chief Minister made announcements
in honor of democracy fighters

DR.BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal : Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav made many important announcements in the honor of democracy fighters. He announced to run special trains for pilgrimage for democracy fighters, provide two days free stay in rest houses and circuit houses of the state, free treatment and air ambulance facilities. It was also announced to install inscriptions in the memory of the deceased democracy fighters in their villages and towns and to name parks, roads and sports grounds after them. The Chief Minister said that the democracy fighters deprived of copper plates will also be honored soon. Let us tell you that Tamrapatra is a certificate of honor given by the government. This is provided in the form of a copper plate or special certificate. Tamrapatra for Democracy Fighters certifies that the person concerned fought to protect democracy during the Emergency of 1975-77 and has been officially recognized as a democracy fighter by the Government.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan



Yadav participated as the chief guest in the Loktantra Senani Regional Conference organized at Ravindra Bhawan. He started the program by lighting the lamp and honored the democracy fighters by showering flowers on them. On this occasion, 96 year old democracy fighter Laxmi Narayan Patidar, 95 year old Shanti Lal Sanghvi and former minister Uma Shankar Gupta were specially felicitated.

The Chief Minister said that the struggle of the democracy fighters was similar to the second battle of the freedom movement. He said that during the difficult times of Emergency, people were put in jail without appeal, without plea and without trial. At such a time, it is because of those who fought

to protect democracy that India is the largest democratic nation in the world. He said that a person from a poor family can become the Prime Minister of the country today, this is the strength of democracy.

Taking aim at the Congress, the Chief Minister said that the Constitution was misused the most by the Congress. He alleged that Congress weakened democratic institutions and promoted single-family politics. He said that today the country is developing rapidly, while Pakistan, which became independent along with India, is struggling with democratic instability. Referring to the centenary of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Chief Minister said that the Sangh has

played its role in the national interest in every difficult time. Remembered the struggle during the Emergency.

State President of Democracy Fighters Association Tapan Bhowmik said that the tradition of honoring democracy fighters is continuing in the state for the last ten years. He said that Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav's father had himself been a Misabandi, hence the Chief Minister has closely seen the struggle and suffering of democracy fighters. National President of Loktantra Senani Sangh and former MP Kailash Soni said that Emergency was the darkest chapter of Indian democracy. He reiterated the demand to give equal respect to democracy fighters as freedom fighters and to make the financial assistance received by them income tax free. Former Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki said that the Madhya Pradesh government is respectfully providing financial assistance to democracy fighters and is continuously taking positive initiatives to honor them. A short film on Emergency was also screened.

Vijay Chinthakayala Salutes
Mangalagiri Weavers

VISAKHAPATNAM, JUNE 26, 2026:

On a historic day for the nation's capital, newly elected Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyannapatrudu took oath as a Member of the Rajya Sabha on June 25. He was joined by fellow TDP MPs Sana Satish Babu and Bhashyam Rama Krishna, alongside Jana Sena Party's Lingamaneni Ramesh, marking a significant sweep for NDA in Rajya Sabha.

Elected under the leadership of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and TDP Minister Nara Lokesh, MP Vijay marked the occasion by wearing a traditional Mangalagiri cotton shawl, bringing national attention to one of Andhra Pradesh's most cherished handloom traditions.

The shawl carries a significance far beyond ceremonial attire. Every thread of that shawl traces its origins to Mangalagiri, the historic temple town in Guntur district and the Assembly constituency represented by Andhra Pradesh IT, Elec-



P. Andhra Pradesh
సభాపతి, శ్రీ సీ.పీ. సదాకృష్ణన్
AATION సాధ్య అభివృద్ధిని సాధించు < OATH OR

tronics and Human Resources Minister Nara Lokesh. Mangalagiri cotton carries over 500 years of recorded history.

During the Qutub Shahi period in 1593, heavy taxes on handloom products forced many weavers to leave the region, dealing a severe blow to the industry. Yet the craft endured. It adapted, recovered and continued to be passed down through generations. Today, Mangalagiri cotton enjoys Geographical Indication (GI) status, recognised for its distinctive weave and craftsmanship. Yet behind this celebrated legacy lies a painful reality.

In the early 1990s, Mangalagiri was home to nearly 20,000 weavers. Today, only about 6,000 active hand-

loom weavers remain. Rising costs, shrinking margins and competition from machine-made imitations have steadily reduced the community that once made Mangalagiri one of India's most vibrant weaving centres.

That is why Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyannapatrudu's choice resonated far beyond symbolism. The gesture reflects the vision of TDP Minister Nara Lokesh who has been unambiguous about his commitment to this community. "Weavers are not workers. They are craftsmen. It is a God-given skill," Nara Lokesh once remarked, announcing a Rs. 250 crore market intervention fund for international branding of Mangalagiri cotton back in 2019. "It will be my responsibility to attend the grievances of each and every weaver," he pledged.

When Vijay Chinthakayala Ayyannapatrudu took oath in the Rajya Sabha, the shawl on his shoulders carried the hopes of thousands of weaving families, the pride of a centuries-old tradition and the promise that the voice of Mangalagiri's artisans would be heard in the highest forums of the nation.



EDITORIAL.

Solidarity and
Survival in Venezuela

The devastating twin earthquakes that struck north-central Venezuela on Wednesday evening have laid bare both the terrifying power of nature and the urgent necessity of global solidarity. Hitting less than a minute apart, the 7.2 magnitude foreshock and the catastrophic 7.5 magnitude mainshock along the San Sebastián fault system mark the most violent seismic activity the nation has witnessed in over 125 years. With the death toll already climbing past 235, thousands injured, and tens of thousands missing under the rubble of collapsed high-rises in Caracas and the devastated coastal disaster zone of La Guaira, the immediate focus must be entirely on the human element: rescue, relief, and recovery. What seismologists call a “doublet”—two major quakes occurring in rapid succession with nearly equal intensity—presents a nightmare scenario for structural integrity and emergency response. The first shock (7.2) weakened structural foundations, cracked support columns, and panicked populations across northern Venezuela. Striking just 39 seconds later, the second shock (7.5) brought those compromised structures completely down. In upscale neighborhoods like Altamira and heavily populated areas across southeastern Caracas, modern multi-story apartment buildings collapsed into layers of concrete dust. Essential lifelines were cut instantly: the Caracas Metro was halted, main natural gas lines were shut off to prevent explosions, and the country’s primary aviation hub, Simón Bolívar International Airport, sustained severe structural damage, closing its runways just when emergency supply lines were needed most.Disasters of this scale do not occur in a vacuum. Venezuela was already navigating complex economic and political transitions, meaning its internal healthcare and emergency systems were under profound strain before the ground even shook. The declaration of a state of emergency by Acting President Delcy Rodríguez and the creation of an emergency reconstruction fund are necessary initial steps, but domestic resources alone cannot close a gap of this magnitude.This is a moment that demands an uncompromised international response. Geopolitical differences must be pushed aside. Offers of technical rescue teams from Spain and France, satellite connectivity support from Starlink, and expressions of humanitarian solidarity from neighboring South American nations and India are a welcome start. However, the true test will be the logistics of the coming weeks—ensuring that field hospitals, clean water filtration kits, and heavy lifting equipment reach the hardest-hit municipal zones like Veroes and La Guaira without bureaucratic delay.As search-and-rescue teams race against the clock to pull survivors from the debris, the long-term lesson for regional urban planning is clear. Northern Venezuela sits on a complex, active plate boundary between the Caribbean and South American tectonic plates. When the dust finally settles and reconstruction begins, building codes cannot simply aim to replace what was lost. They must enforce rigid, seismic-resistant engineering standards capable of withstanding the literal shifting of the earth. For today, however, the world’s singular priority must be to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Venezuela as they navigate their darkest hour.



MEASURE OF
ENOUGH

We entered this world
with unclenched hands.
We shall leave it
the same way.
Between those two silences,
we spend a lifetime
forgetting that nothing we hold
was ever ours.
The earth remembers.
It has watched emperors become dust,
palaces become echoes and monu-
ments lose the names they were built
to preserve.
Only goodness
refuses to perish.
Still, we run
toward horizons
that retreat forever,
mistaking movement
for meaning, achievement
for awakening, possession
for peace. Beyond necessity,
desire ceases to serve us.
It begins to rule us.
The heart that cannot whisper,
“Enough,” will never hear
the quiet music of contentment.
How strange we seek abundance
in what can be counted, while life’s
greatest riches have never accepted
a number. Some dwell
among multitudes,
yet remain profoundly alone.
Some possess almost nothing,
yet carry an inexhaustible sky
within. The deepest poverty
is not an empty hand,
but an empty spirit.
Wisdom does not announce itself. The
deepest river
flows without applause.
The ripest branch
bows lowest.
The brightest stars
simply shine.
So does character.
Measure no life by title,fortune,
or power. Measure it by the peace that
remains
after its footsteps
have passed. Power
commands obedience.
Love cannot be commanded.
Wealth buys comfort.
Compassion alone
outlives its owner.
Let your words be shelter.

Let your silence be mercy.
Let your life become
a quiet sunrise
in someone else’s darkness.
Rise not to stand
above another,
but to become
the hand that refuses
to let another fall.
Every soul carries
an unseen mountain,
an untold sorrow,
an undiscovered light.
Comparison is gratitude
losing its sight.Victory
is a season. Defeat
is another. Neither
remains long enough
to become our identity.
The opportunist borrows time.
The visionary creates tomorrow.
History does not remember
those who merely accumulated.
It remembers those who illuminated.
Life is only
a dewdrop upon
the leaf of dawn.
One sunrise it glitters.
One breeze it is gone.
When evening gathers
our name into silence,
no throne will answer.
No treasure will follow.
No applause will cross
the invisible river.
Only the unseen will remain
the tears we quietly dried,
the burdens we willingly carried,
the hope we gently rekindled,
the truth we fearlessly defended, the
forgiveness
we freely offered, the love
we scattered without asking
who deserved it. Then Eternity
will ask no question
about our possessions.
Only this
When your voice became silence, did
your kindness
keep speaking?
For the truest wealth
was never what rested
in our hands but what continued
to blossom in human hearts
long after our hands
had returned to dust. The New Engine
of Economic Forecasting:

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



OPINION

| The Collapse of Trust:

A SILENT THREAT TO
FAMILY AND SOCIAL HARMONY

The arrest of Siya Goyal for allegedly pushing her fiancé, Ketan Agrawal, to death from the lofty heights of Lohagad Fort near Pune has sent shockwaves across the country. Earlier, the alleged murder of Indore resident Raja Raghuvanshi during his honeymoon in Meghalaya, reportedly orchestrated by his wife Sonam Raghuvanshi in collusion with her lover, had also stunned society. These incidents cannot simply be categorized as crimes and forgotten. They represent a deep assault on the very foundation of values, trust, and relationships upon which Indian society has stood for centuries. In Indian culture, marriage is not merely a union between two individuals; it is considered a sacred bond uniting two families, two cultures, and two worldviews. Marriage is traditionally regarded as a bond extending across seven lifetimes. Therefore, when a husband, wife, fiancé, or lover begins to perceive the other not as a life partner but as an obstacle or a burden, it signifies not merely a personal tragedy but a profound crisis in social consciousness.

The most disturbing aspect of cases such as those involving Raja Raghuvanshi and Ketan Agrawal is that the murders were allegedly committed by those in whom the victims had placed their deepest trust. It is this betrayal of trust that terrifies society. The strength of any civilization lies not in its military or economic power, but in the trust embedded within its relationships. When that trust begins to erode, society weakens from within. A natural question arises: if a young man or woman is dissatisfied with a relationship, was there no option to simply say “no”? Modern society has accorded considerable space to individual freedom. Breaking an engagement, refusing marriage, or separating by mutual consent are all legally and socially accepted options. Why, then, is such a horrifying mentality culminating in murder emerging with increasing frequency?

The answer to this question cannot be provided by law enforcement agencies alone. Sociologists, psychologists, educators, religious leaders, and family institutions must collectively deliberate upon it. Today’s youth are passing through a transitional phase marked by a deep conflict between traditional values and modern lifestyles. On one hand are familial expectations; on the other, personal aspirations. In the absence of meaningful dialogue, this conflict often manifests itself in the form of psychological stress, rebellion, and violence. Over the past few years, India has witnessed several gruesome crimes linked to intimate relationships, including



the Shraddha Walkar murder case, the Nikki Yadav case, and numerous similar incidents in Bengaluru, Delhi, and other metropolitan cities. These events clearly indicate a growing instability and distrust regarding love, marriage, and relationships. This instability is not confined to either women or men alone; violent tendencies are increasingly visible on both sides.

The culture of mobile phones and the digital world has further complicated this crisis. Mobile phones, once intended to bridge distances, are increasingly becoming instruments of conspiracy, deception, and crime in many instances. Social media has promoted comparison, consumerism, instant gratification, and virtual relationships. Relationships formed in the digital sphere often remain disconnected from the responsibilities and moral boundaries of real life. Consequently, qualities essential to family life—such as patience, tolerance, sacrifice, and commitment—are gradually weakening. Another serious dimension emerges in the context of communal distrust and controversies surrounding the so-called “Love Jihad.” When love, marriage, or relationships are used as instruments of deception, concealment of identity, religious conversion, economic exploitation, or emotional abuse, it damages not only individuals but also trust between communities. It is imperative that all relationships be founded upon transparency, free will, equality, and honesty. Relationships established through concealed identities, deceit, or ideological agendas inevitably undermine social harmony.

However, it is equally important to maintain a balanced perspective. Holding an entire community responsible on the basis of isolated incidents is not only unjust but also detrimental to social harmony. India’s strength lies in its diversity and communal coexistence. For centuries, people belonging to different religions, castes, and cultures have lived together on the basis of mutual respect and trust. Therefore, every crime must be viewed as the responsibility of the individual offend-

er rather than as a reflection of an entire community. While deception in the name of love must be opposed, social harmony and human unity must also remain inviolate. The greatest challenge before us today is to strengthen the institution of the family once again. The disintegration of joint families, urban lifestyles, loneliness, and excessive professional engagements have significantly reduced communication within families. The gap between parents and children is widening. While children are being provided with material comforts, they are often deprived of emotional security and value-based upbringing.

Educational institutions, including schools and universities, cannot remain confined to imparting employment-oriented education alone. They must also seriously engage with life skills, moral education, emotional balance, relationship management, and family values. The younger generation must be taught that love signifies responsibility rather than possession; relationships imply commitment rather than consumption; and disagreements are to be resolved through dialogue rather than violence. Religious and spiritual institutions also have a vital role to play. All religions advocate love, compassion, truth, non-violence, and coexistence. If religious institutions can connect the youth with human values, self-discipline, and a culture of dialogue, many social distortions can be prevented. Thinkers such as Acharya Tulsi, Acharya Mahapragya, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda consistently emphasized character, morality, and self-discipline as the foundation of society.

The incidents in Pune and Meghalaya serve as a warning. If we fail to act now, the crisis of relationships may deepen further. There is an urgent need to launch a campaign for restoring trust at the levels of family, society, and the nation. Families must encourage greater dialogue; young people should be granted freedom of choice alongside a sense of responsibility; digital culture must be exercised with restraint; and social and communal harmony must be strengthened. The identity of a civilization is not determined by towering buildings, technological advancement, or economic prosperity. It is determined by

the extent to which people trust one another. If trust collapses, the very soul of society will be wounded. Therefore, the foremost national responsibility today is to preserve trust in relationships, revive human sensitivities, and reinforce the traditions of love, trust, and harmony that have sustained Indian society for centuries.

In the transitional phase through which Indian society is currently passing, the crisis of relationships is no longer confined merely to marriages or romantic associations. While incidents such as those in Pune and Meghalaya are destroying trust within personal relationships, administrative negligence leading to fires and accidents in hospitals, schools, and public places—resulting in the deaths of innocent people—is simultaneously eroding public confidence in institutions and governance. Communal tensions, religious extremism, relationships built on concealed identities, and exploitation or deception in the name of love are also weakening the foundations of social harmony. The forces of materialism, consumerism, and relentless competition have pushed life values such as restraint, simplicity, sacrifice, and familial dignity to the margins. Simultaneously, the growing prevalence of alcohol and narcotic addiction is alienating the younger generation from family and society, driving them towards violence, crime, and emotional insensitivity.

When individuals begin to regard self-interest, lust, and immediate gratification as supreme, relationships cease to be a form of spiritual discipline and instead become transactions. In such circumstances, it becomes imperative for families, educational institutions, religious organizations, media, and governments to collectively revive a culture rooted in human values, transparency, dialogue, morality, and mutual respect. For if the very foundation of human relationships is shaken, not only will families disintegrate, but social harmony, national unity, and the entire edifice of civilization itself will stand endangered.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

WHY INDIA URGENTLY NEEDS THE INDEX OF SERVICES PRODUCTION (ISP)

The monetary decisions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)—which directly influence the monthly EMI of millions of middle-class households—have long been made with only a partial view of the economy. While India’s services sector contributes more than 54% of Gross Value Added (GVA) and serves as the principal source of employment and income growth, policymakers have historically lacked a high-frequency instrument to measure its monthly performance. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has tracked manufacturing activity for decades, but the country’s largest economic sector remains visible only through delayed quarterly GDP and GVA estimates.

The issue has acquired fresh relevance following reports that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is finalising the methodology for India’s proposed Index of Services Production (ISP). Conceived as the services-sector counterpart to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the proposed indicator seeks to address one of the most significant gaps in India’s economic data architecture. At a time when private indicators such as the HSBC India Services PMI often shape market expectations and the RBI faces growing pressure to calibrate interest-rate decisions with greater precision, the arrival of an official monthly measure of services activity is no longer merely a statistical exercise. It is an economic necessity.

The Missing Link in
Monetary Policy:

The absence of a high-frequency services indicator places the RBI in a persistent policy dilemma. While the central bank relies extensively on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to assess inflationary trends—where services account for a substantial share—it lacks an equally robust monthly measure of services output. As a result, policymakers often struggle to determine whether rising prices stem from genuine demand expansion or temporary supply-side constraints. This information gap becomes particularly significant during meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Decisions on whether to raise, reduce, or maintain the Repo Rate are frequently made before comprehensive official growth data becomes available. Since GVA estimates are released only on a quarterly basis, policymakers are often

compelled to act using incomplete information.

An official ISP can fundamentally alter this landscape. By providing timely monthly insights into sectors such as transport, logistics, finance, hospitality, communications, and business services, it would enable the RBI to move from reactive decision-making towards more forward-looking policy formulation. Monetary interventions could then be guided by real-time evidence rather than retrospective assessments.

Why the World
Measures Services:

Advanced economies recognized long ago that manufacturing indicators alone cannot adequately represent modern economic activity. As services emerged as the dominant driver of growth, employment, and consumption, governments developed dedicated frameworks to monitor the sector with the same rigor applied to industry.

The United States closely tracks services activity through the widely followed Services PMI. The United Kingdom publishes its Index of Services (IoS), while Japan maintains the Indices of Tertiary Industry Activity. These indicators are treated as critical measures of economic momentum and are monitored closely by investors, businesses, and central banks alike. Their importance reflects a broader reality: in contemporary economies, services are no longer a supplementary sector but the primary engine of growth. Policymaking therefore requires a statistical framework capable of capturing that reality in real time.

The Challenge of Measuring
the Invisible:

Designing a services index, however, is considerably more complex than measuring industrial production. Manufacturing output can be quantified through physical units such as tonnes, litres, or finished products. Services, by contrast, often lack a standardized measure of volume. How does one quantify software consulting, digital advertising, financial intermediation, medical services, or hospitality activity on a monthly basis? The challenge becomes even greater because rising revenues may reflect inflation rather than an actual increase in service output.

To address this problem, advanced economies employ sophisticated statistical techniques that separate price

effects from genuine activity growth. Inflation-adjusted turnover data allows policymakers to estimate the real volume of services being delivered rather than merely their monetary value. Regular revisions to classification systems also ensure that emerging sectors such as cloud computing, platform-based services, and digital commerce are incorporated into official statistics. These experiences offer valuable lessons for India as it develops its own methodology.

India’s Unique Structural Reality:

Adopting international practices without adaptation would be a mistake. India’s services economy differs significantly from that of most advanced nations. More than 80% of services employment remains concentrated in the informal sector, encompassing small retailers, local transport operators, independent service providers, and countless micro-enterprises that rarely appear in corporate databases. If the ISP relies predominantly on formal-sector balance sheets or listed-company disclosures, it risks presenting an incomplete and potentially distorted picture of economic activity.

This challenge demands innovation. Rather than depending exclusively on traditional surveys, India has the opportunity to harness the digital footprints generated by its rapidly expanding formalization process. High-frequency indicators such as GST e-way bills, FASTag traffic volumes, digital payments through UPI, logistics data, and other transactional records can provide a far more representative picture of grassroots economic activity. Equally important is the question of relevance. One of the major criticisms of the current IIP is its continued dependence on an outdated base year. The ISP must avoid a similar fate. A rolling revision mechanism, ideally every five years, would ensure that the index evolves alongside technological change and accurately reflects the growing importance of new-age digital services.

More fundamentally, the ISP represents an important policy principle: what gets measured gets governed. For decades, India has possessed a sophisticated monthly framework for tracking factories and industrial output. Yet as the economy increasingly derives its strength from services, the absence of an equivalent indicator has created a significant statistical imbalance. An effective ISP would help correct

that anomaly.

Why It Matters to Ordinary
Citizens:

The significance of the ISP extends far beyond economists, statisticians, and financial markets. In a country where millions of young people enter the labour force every year, services remain the largest generator of employment opportunities. A rising ISP would indicate expanding activity in sectors such as retail, transport, hospitality, finance, and technology—sectors that directly influence job creation and wage growth. The index would also carry important implications for household finances. Because it would improve the RBI’s understanding of economic conditions, it could contribute to more timely and accurate interest-rate decisions. Those decisions ultimately shape the cost of home loans, vehicle financing, educational borrowing, and business credit. In addition, by identifying emerging supply constraints in transportation, communication, and other service networks, the ISP could function as an early-warning system for inflationary pressures that eventually affect household budgets.

As India advances toward its long-term economic ambitions, the need for better measurement becomes increasingly urgent. For decades, the country measured the factories that powered its development. Today, the challenge is to measure the sector that truly drives modern India. The Index of Services Production is therefore not merely another statistical publication. It is an essential instrument for better policymaking, stronger economic forecasting, and greater financial predictability for millions of citizens.



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GM NFR Conducts Inspection of Rangapara North, Dekargaon and Tezpur

MALIGAON, 26 JUNE, 2026

Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), on 26th June, 2026 conducted an inspection of Rangapara North and Dekargaon railway stations to review the progress of on-going infrastructure development works and assess future railway expansion projects in the region. He also visited the old Tezpur railway station, which is presently in abandoned state, and reviewed the condition of the building and other infrastructure at the location. During the visit, the General Manager inspected the redevelopment work of Rangapara North Railway Station being undertaken under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The station is being upgraded at an approximate cost of more than Rs 55 crore with modern passenger amenities and improved infrastructure. Around 80% of the redevelopment work has already been completed and the remaining works are progressing steadily towards completion. The General Manager also visited Dekargaon station and yard and reviewed the status of the proposed new railway line projects between Agthori – Dekargaon and Tezpur

– Silghat. Survey works of the two proposed new railway line projects, including from Agthorito Dekargaon via Darrang district and Tezpur to Silghat including a new bridge over the Brahmaputra River have already been completed and is under review in the Central Ministry. These proposed rail connectivity projects are expected to significantly enhance transportation infrastructure, improve regional connectivity and contribute to the socio-economic development of the area. As part of the inspection programme, Shri Shrivastava also conducted window trailing inspection from Kamakhya to Dekargaonto assess the condition of railway infrastructure and monitor operational aspects along the route. During the inspection, he reviewed the upkeep of tracks, bridges, stations and other railway assets, while also evaluating on-going development works and identifying areas requiring further improvement to enhance safety, efficiency and passenger services. The inspection reflects Northeast Frontier Railway's continued commitment towards strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing passenger facilities and expanding rail connectivity across the Northeast.

CM Flags Off 10-km Mega Awareness Run Against Drug Abuse in Imphal

Imphal, June 26, 2026: Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh today flagged off a 10-km Mega Awareness Run organised by Manipur Police to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2026 at Kangla Western Gate, Imphal. The awareness run saw nearly 2,000 participants from different walks of life, including students, youth volunteers, civil society representatives, government officials, and police personnel. Director General of Police Rajiv Singh also participated in the run. The run commenced from Kangla Western Gate, proceeded up to Iroisemba Chingjin as the turning point, and concluded at the starting

point. The flagging-off ceremony was attended by Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam, the Chief Secretary, senior police officers, and other dignitaries. Addressing reporters, the Chief Minister said the awareness run symbolised the collective commitment of the government, police, and the people of Manipur to build a drug-free society. "Manipur Police is organising this 10-km run on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It is a combined fight by the police and the people of the state to ensure that society becomes drug-free. Let us pledge to fight against drug abuse and make our society healthy," he said.

Sarpanch Honorarium Increased to ₹10,000

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced a five-fold hike in sarpanch honorarium, from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 per month, while urging village heads to eliminate groupism and ensure transparent, inclusive development. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday asked village heads to rise above parochial considerations and work for the all-round development of villages, while also announcing that sarpanchs will get an honorarium of Rs 10,000 a month from August 15. Speaking at a 'Sarpanch Milni' programme, Mann said sarpanchs must ensure transparent use of public funds, end groupism, promote communal harmony and lead efforts to make villages drug-free, clean, green and pollution-free. The announcement comes with Punjab set to go to polls early next year. Addressing the gathering, Mann



said, "Panchayats are known as the foundation of democracy because they have immense power and their decisions are obeyed by the entire village with respect. It is the bounden duty of every sarpanch to safeguard the interests of villagers and cherish their aspirations." He added, "Around 70 per cent of our country's population lives in villages, due to which panchayati raj institutions are regarded as the lighthouse of democracy. These institutions act as a catalyst for disseminating the benefits of the state government's pro-people and development-oriented schemes at the grassroots level."

He said while the state government frames policies, sarpanchs and panchs play a major role in implementing them on the ground. "I urge all sarpanchs to dedicate themselves to development works from today so that the people are immensely benefited," he said. Mann said the honorarium for sarpanchs would be raised from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 a month from August 15. "Earlier, my predecessors had promised an honorarium of Rs 1,200 to the sarpanchs, but that decision never saw the light of day," he said. The Chief Minister added the government was issuing grants for works of public importance that were already under the direct supervision of panchayats, and that several village development works were also carried out under their guidance. He asked sarpanchs to supervise these works and services closely and said, "Sarpanchs should remain away from any sort of undue interference in these works. It is very unfortunate that in the past, several works in villages were jeopardised due to widespread groupism." He said ending groupism should be a top priority for the holistic development of rural areas, adding that in a democracy, the person or party that secures a majority wins, but once elected, "the sarpanch belongs to the whole village". In his address, Mann combined the announcement of a higher monthly honorarium with a call for sarpanchs to focus on clean administration, social harmony and village development, while asking them to work for the entire village instead of narrow interests.

Media's Role in Char Dham Yatra Discussed at Journalists' Convention

Outstanding Contributors Honoured

BY SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand:

The two-day convention and felicitation ceremony organised by the District Journalists Association (Trust), Uttarkashi, concluded at Barkot with deliberations on the role of the media in the Char Dham Yatra and recognition of distinguished contributions in journalism, governance, and social service. The event was attended by former Zila Panchayat Chairman Deepak Bijalwan, District Magistrate Prashant Arya, Superintendent of Police Kamlesh Upadhyay, and President of the Uttarakhand Press Club, Ajay Rana, as chief and distinguished guests.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and floral tributes to Goddess Saraswati. A special session on "The Role of Media in the Char Dham Yatra" focused on the responsibilities, challenges, and constructive role of journalism in ensuring accurate and responsible reporting during the annual pilgrimage. Several eminent personalities were honoured for their exceptional contributions in different fields. Mrs. Jamuna Rawat, founder of Ravain Rasoi, was presented the Garh Bhoj Gaurav Samman-2026 for promoting the traditional cuisine of the Ravain region across India. For their efficient administration and successful management of the Char Dham Yatra, District Magistrate Prashant Arya and Superintendent of Police Kamlesh Upadhyay were honoured with the Excellence in Good Governance Award-2026. District Information Officer Karmveer Sharma received the Outstanding Service Award-2026 for his notable contribution through the Information and Public Relations Department. Senior journalists Surat Singh Rawat, Surendra Bhatt, Rama Bhatt, Dr. Ramchandra Uniyal, Dinesh Rawat, and Radhe Krishna Uniyal were felicitated with the Devrishi Nard Gaurav Seva Samman-2026 in recognition of their long-standing contribution to journalism. Addressing the gathering, former



Zila Panchayat Chairman Deepak Bijalwan described journalists as guiding forces of society who play a vital role in shaping public opinion. He appreciated the District Journalists Association for its unity and continued efforts towards journalists' welfare. Uttarakhand Press Club President Ajay Rana urged media professionals to uphold balanced and fact-based journalism by presenting all sides of a story before publication. He also announced that positive steps would be taken to affiliate district-level press clubs, including the Yamunotri Press Club, with the Uttarakhand Press Club. District Magistrate Prashant Arya said that journalists serve as an important bridge between the administration and the public. He noted that responsible journalism not only highlights shortcomings but also

contributes to better governance by suggesting constructive solutions. Superintendent of Police Kamlesh Upadhyay emphasised that journalists are the mirror of society and called upon media persons to avoid rumours and misinformation while maintaining fairness and responsibility in reporting. She also expressed gratitude to the organisers for the honour. District Journalists Association (Trust) President Sunil Thapliyal thanked journalists from across the district and raised several key issues concerning journalists' welfare. He urged the government to provide ₹50 lakh insurance coverage for working journalists in disaster-prone Uttarkashi, construct a District Journalists Association building, and extend official accreditation to journalists working at tehsil and block headquarters. The convention concluded in a cordial atmosphere, reinforcing the message of unity among journalists and their commitment to responsible journalism and public service. The event was attended by Trust General Secretary Surendra Nautiyal, senior journalist Rajesh Bahuguna (Polkhol), Shivraj Singh Rana, and dozens of journalists from different parts of Uttarkashi district.

Mailani–Nanpara Passenger Trains Get Revised Timings from June 28

GORAKHPUR, JUNE 26:

The Railway Administration has revised the timings of four passenger trains operating between Mailani and Nanpara to improve passenger convenience. The new schedule will come into effect from June 28, 2026. Under the revised timetable, Train No. 52262 Mailani–Nanpara Passenger will depart Mailani at 10:50 am and reach Nanpara at 5:50 pm, while Train No. 52264 Mailani–Nanpara Passenger will leave Mailani at 7:05 am and arrive at Nanpara at 2:30 pm. Similarly, Train No. 52261 Nanpara–Mailani Passenger

will depart Nanpara at 7:20 am and reach Mailani at 1:55 pm. Train No. 52263 Nanpara–Mailani Passenger will leave Nanpara at 11:10 am and arrive at Mailani at 5:55 pm. The revised schedule also includes updated arrival and departure timings at all intermediate stations, including Bhira Kheri, Palia Kalan, Dudhwa, Belrayan, Tikunia, Khairatiya Bandh Road, Manjhra Purab, Bichhia, Nishangara, Murtiha, Kakraha Rest House, Mihipurwa, Gai Ghat Halt, and Raibojha. Railway officials have advised passengers to check the revised timings before commencing their journey to avoid inconvenience.



Delegation of International Janaki Sena met the Chief Minister

Demand to the Chief Minister regarding Mata Janaki Manifesto
DR. BHUPENDRA VIKAL

Bhopal : About 13,000 letters have been delivered so far by the International Janaki Sena organization regarding the ongoing demand for the manifestation of Mata Janaki. On June 25, a five-member delegation met Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and reiterated their demands to him and also sent a demand letter. A large level press conference was also held in Bhopal on behalf of Janaki Seva Sangathan in which the officials of the organization addressed the respected journalists from Bhopal and discussed in detail about their eternal demand. Purushottam Das Ji Maharaj from Rashtriya Vistarak Mahamandal arrived in the delegation from Shivpuri, International Patron Dr. Raghuveer Singh Gaur Gu-

ruji, National President Vikram Singh Rawat, International Patron. Dr. Kerin, who came from America, Mahamandaleshwar Anilnand Ji Maharaj, Bhopal District President Manohar Mehra, State Youth Unit President of the organization Rajpal Ban, guidance and advisor of the organization Pandit Ajay Shankar Bhargava, Pandit Devkinandan Parashar besides General Secretary Naresh Pratap Singh, State Vice President Lekhraj Rathore, Media Head Sanjay Azad, Organization Minister Ashok Rawat, Pramod Shrivastava, Sudama Aggarwal, Mohan Rathore, spokesperson Dharmendra Tiwari, Secretary Brajesh Soni, Mukesh Soni, Jagdish Soni, Jai Kumar Bairagi Vijay Tiwari Shyambaran Singh Rawat Sanjay Ojha and two dozen Janaki soldiers had reached Bhopal.

On 28-29 June, the national villagers will gather in New Delhi

S N VERMA

New Delhi :Under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 28 and 29 June, Bharat Ratna C. The National Rural Development Conference is being organised at Subramanian Auditorium. The important conference will be attended by Rural Development Ministers, senior officials and experts from all States and UTs of the country, where comprehensive discussions will be held on the overall development of villages, review of major schemes and future strategy. In line with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Central Government is going to take a big brainstorming at the national level to give a new direction to the rapid, inclusive and sustainable development of rural India. This National Rural Development Conference-2026, which is widely organized for the first time under the leadership of Union Minister Shivraj Sin-

gh Chouhan, will prepare a common strategy for the development of villages by establishing better coordination between the Centre and the States. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the main objective of the conference is to bring the vision of 'Developed Village, Developed India' on the ground. Under this, special attention will be given to effective implementation of the VB-GRAM-G Act-2025, better planning process of schemes at the Gram Panchayat level and efficient utilisation of resources. He informed that the conference will review in detail the progress of major schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM), Rural Skill Development Programme and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). **Rural development ministers of all states will be involved** The biggest highlight of this

conference is that the Rural Development Ministers of all the States and Union Territories of the country will participate in it. The conference will also be attended by active participation of senior officials from the Centre and States, policy makers and experts associated with various schemes. This national brainstorming will openly discuss the experience, innovation and ground challenges of the states, leading to strong and practical solutions at the policy level. **Focus on thematic sessions and best practises** Shivraj Singh said that various thematic and breakout sessions will be organised during the conference, in which issues related to rural housing, road connectivity, livelihood, skill development and social security will be discussed in detail. The successful initiatives and innovations adopted by the states will be shared, so that they can be implemented in other states also. Union Minister Shri Chouhan said that under the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative, there will

be a special discussion on measures to promote women's economic empowerment, rural entrepreneurship and employment generation through self-help groups. Along with this, there will also be a focus on skill development and market connectivity of rural youth. **Emphasise on the use of technology and AI** Chouhan said that special importance will be given to the use of technology and artificial intelligence in rural development schemes in the conference. Various technological solutions will be discussed to strengthen digital platforms, real-time monitoring, transparency and accountability, thereby bringing speed and effectiveness to the implementation of the schemes. **The direction ahead will be decided** Shivraj Singh said that on the second day of the conference on June 29, the suggestions of all the states will be taken through plenary sessions and ministerial discussions and the future action plan will be finalised. Union Minister

Shivraj Singh will present the conclusions of the conference in the concluding session and will speak on the central role of villages in the goal of a developed India by 2047. **New resolutions and solid action plans for rural India** He said that this conference is not just a review platform but an opportunity to decide new resolve and concrete action plan for rural India, so that every village in the country can be connected to the mainstream of development, which is the priority of the Central Government under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. **Important publications will be released** Several important publications related to rural development will also be released during the conference. These will include documents related to water security, village development scheme, women empowerment, livelihood and success stories, which will serve as a guide for states and gram panchayats.



Barkot Mountaineers Reach Trishul Peak

Ashutosh Rana from Yamuna Valley Plays Key Role in ONGC-Sponsored Climb

SUNIL THAPLIYAL

Barkot, Uttarakashi **uttarakhand:** A proud moment for Uttarkashi's Yamuna Valley as Ashutosh Rana, a mountaineering guide from Barkot, successfully guided the Mt. Trishul Expedition (7,120 metres), marking another significant achievement for the region's adventure tourism and mountaineering community. The expedition was conducted from June 1 to June 22 and was or-

ganized by Parvat Exploration with sponsorship from ONGC. The climbing team was led by Sourabh Rawat from Bhukki Ganga Valley, while Ashutosh Rana from Barkot served as one of the expedition's climbing guides. The summit team also included Neeraj Patel, an ONGC employee from Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The expedition successfully reached the 7,120-metre summit of Mt. Trishul on June 20 at 10:40 a.m., completing the climb safely under

the guidance of the experienced mountaineering team. The successful ascent highlights the expertise of mountaineers from Uttarkashi and reinforces the region's reputation as one of India's leading centres for high-altitude mountaineering and adventure activities. Local residents and adventure enthusiasts have congratulated the expedition team, describing the achievement as an inspiration for young climbers across the state.



Trump warns Europe over digital tax with 100 pc tariff

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Friday threatened to impose a 100 per cent tariff on imports from any country that introduces a Digital Services Tax on American companies, warning that such duties would override existing trade agreements and take effect immediately.

In a statement posted on his social media platform, Trump said several European countries were discussing the imminent implementation of Digital Services Taxes targeting American technology firms and that some were close to moving ahead.

"Numerous European Countries have been discussing the imminent implementation of a Digital Services Tax on American Companies. Some of these Countries are close to actually doing this,"



he added. He warned that any country proceeding with such a tax would face sweeping trade retaliation from the

United States. "Please let this statement serve to represent that any Country that imposes such a Tax will immediate-

ly be met with a 100 per cent TARIFF on any and all Goods sent to the United States of America," Trump said.

He added that the proposed tariff would override any trade agreement with the affected country.

"This TARIFF will supersede Trade Deals made with the Country, whether implemented, signed, or not," he said. He added that the measure would take effect without delay.

"Additionally, the 100 per cent TARIFF will be immediately imposed, if they proceed. Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump said. The statement did not identify the countries under consideration or specify which Digital Services

Tax proposals had prompted the warning. It also did not announce any formal trade investigation or legal action. The warning reflects Trump's opposition to unilateral digital taxes. Washington says such taxes unfairly target

large American technology companies. Several European countries already impose them. Others have discussed similar measures. Brazil and Turkey have also moved on to digital taxation.

Trump's remarks show that digital taxes remain a trade flashpoint for the United States. A 100 per cent tariff would be one of Washington's strongest retaliatory steps against countries using such taxes.

The United States has for years said that unilateral Digital Services Taxes unfairly discriminate against American technology companies.

Previous US administrations initiated investigations into such taxes in several jurisdictions, including India, France, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and others, saying that they placed an unfair burden on US-based firms.



PM Modi congratulates De la Espriella on winning Colombian Presidential elections

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated Colombia's President-elect Abelardo de la Espriella and said he looked forward to working together with him to deepen bilateral relations.

"Heartiest congratulations, Abelardo de la Espriella, on your victory in the Colombian presidential elections," PM Modi wrote on social media platform X.

"India values its close friendship with Colombia which continues to grow in all areas. I convey my best wishes for a successful tenure and look forward to working together to further deepen our bilateral relations in the years ahead," he added.

Colombia's National Electoral Council on Wednesday officially declared Abelardo de la Espriella, a right-wing candidate, President-elect for the 2026-2030 term following ballot counting for Sunday's election.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ivan Cepeda, the candidate of the Left-wing coalition Historic Pact, conceded defeat during a livestream. Colombia held the second round of its Presidential election on Sunday, in which De la Espriella faced Cepeda, Xinhua news agency reported.

Preliminary results released by Colombia's National Civil Reg-

istry on Sunday night showed De la Espriella leading Cepeda by about 1 percentage point.

De la Espriella received endorsement from US President Donald Trump for his candidacy. "Congratulations to Colombian Presidential Candidate, 'El Tigre' (THE TIGER), Abelardo de la Espriella, a Smart, Strong, and Tough Leader, on his decisive Victory in the first round of the Colombian Presidential Election! Abelardo fights tirelessly for, and loves, his Great Country and People, just like I do for the United States of America," Trump posted on social media earlier this month.

"As President, Abelardo would be tremendously successful in leading Colombia to Grow the Economy, Create Jobs, Promote Trade, Stop Illegal Immigration, Crack Down on Crime and Drugs, and Restore LAW AND ORDER! Abelardo will face off against a Radical Left Marxist in the Runoff on June 21st — The results of this Election are very important to the future of Colombia and its relationship to the United States.

Because of his tremendous accomplishments in life, and his political support for me, personally, it is my Honor to give Abelardo my Complete and Total Endorsement," he added.

Russia, Ukraine swap 160 prisoners of war each

MOSCOW

Russia and Ukraine each exchanged 160 prisoners of war on Friday in the latest swap between the two sides, Russian and Ukrainian authorities said. The Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement that 160 Russian service members had been returned from territory controlled by Kyiv, while 160 Ukrainian prisoners of war were handed over in return. According to the Ministry, the returned Russian service members are receiving medical and psychological assistance in Belarus before being transferred to Russia for further treatment and rehabilitation, Xinhua news agency reported. The Ministry also said the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Venezuela earthquake death toll rises to 920

CARACAS

The death toll from the devastating twin earthquakes that struck Venezuela earlier this week has risen to 920, National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez said on Friday.

In a televised address, Rodríguez said the death toll had climbed significantly as rescue workers reached more affected areas. He said at least 2,980 people have been injured and thousands more remain unaccounted for. A website created to track missing persons listed nearly 50,000 people as unaccounted for, though this figure has not been independently verified.

The earthquakes, measuring magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5, struck less than a minute apart on Wednesday evening, according to the US Geological Survey. The epicentre was located near



the coastal town of Moron, about 160 km west of Caracas.

The USGS said the tremors constituted a seismic "doublet", a rare phenomenon in which two major earthquakes occur

within seconds in the same area. Early modelling from the USGS estimates that the final death toll could reach between 10,000 and 100,000.

The coastal state of La Gu-

aira, north of Caracas, is the hardest-hit area. Acting President Delcy Rodríguez has declared it a disaster zone, saying dozens of buildings have collapsed and the state has

suffered serious infrastructure damage.

At least 346 buildings have been damaged or destroyed, including eight hospitals and the headquarters of the Venezuelan Red Cross. The Simon Bolívar International Airport, which serves Caracas, has been closed due to structural damage. International rescue teams from several countries, including the United States, Mexico, Spain and El Salvador, have arrived to assist in rescue operations.

The US Treasury Department has temporarily eased sanctions to facilitate aid deliveries. Acting President Rodríguez thanked the international community for its support.

Authorities have warned that the death toll could rise further as rescue teams continue to comb through collapsed buildings.

2,500 seafarers evacuated from Strait of Hormuz since June 23: IMO

LONDON

Nearly 2,500 seafarers aboard 115 vessels have been evacuated from the Strait of Hormuz since the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) launched an evacuation operation for stranded seafarers earlier this week, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez said on Friday.

Speaking at an online press conference, Dominguez said the preliminary figures covered the first three-and-a-half days of the evacuation operation. The IMO on Tuesday announced the evacuation framework, recommending the use of a northern route communicated by Iran and a southern route communicated by Oman, Xinhua news agency reported.

On Thursday, however, the UN maritime body suspended the evacuation after a vessel was attacked in the Gulf



of Oman, saying it needed to further assess whether the security guarantees underpinning the operation remained in place. Shipping data showed that some vessels continued to transit the Strait of Hormuz

after the suspension of the IMO operation. Responding to a question from Xinhua, Dominguez said Iran was still maintaining operations on the northern route, while the United States continued to assist

shipping on the southern route. "What is important for the vessels is to carry out the risk assessment before they make any final decision," he said, urging shipowners and operators to carefully assess the

risks. He added that the IMO would only resume the evacuation operation once it had sufficient assurances that commercial vessels would not come under attack.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Friday underlined his country's position on maritime navigation rules and transit arrangements in the Strait of Hormuz. "Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz under vague arrangements, parallel routes, or decision-making outside Iran's considerations as the coastal state is not guaranteed," Gharibabadi wrote on X.

"Any valid framework must be based on coordination with Iran and the provisions of Paragraph 5 of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding. Otherwise, the result will be the suspension of the designated parallel route," he added.

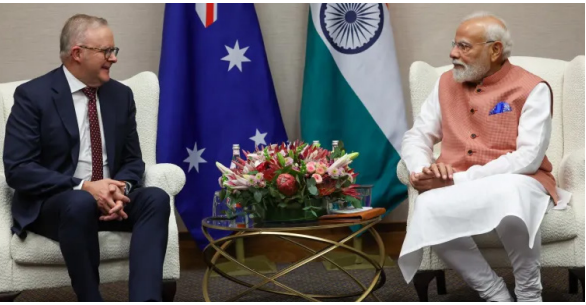
India partnership key to Prime Minister Albanese's vision for Australia in 2050: Report

CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has highlighted that stronger ties with India are a key part of the country's long-term economic and strategic future, a report stated.

Addressing the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) State of the Nation Conference in Canberra, Albanese said that deepening Australia's investment in South East Asia and elevating its ties with India were key priorities for Australia's engagement with the region.

The Prime Minister's remarks come as Australia continues to deepen engagement with India across trade, investment, education, defence and people-to-people links, with both nations seeking to expand cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, said a report by "The



Australia Today.' According to Albanese, Australia's multicultural workforce, international connections, and regional partnerships are among its greatest advantages.

He said that by investing in innovation, manufacturing, energy security and international partnerships, Australia had the opportunity to emerge from a period of global uncertainty as a stronger, fairer and more resilient nation. Albanese described the Indo-Pacific as the

world's fastest-growing region and said Australia must "own our place" in it, emphasising the importance of partnerships with regional neighbours.

Australia and India have strengthened their relationship in recent years through the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, expanded trade cooperation and increased collaboration in areas including critical minerals, technology, education and security, the report noted.

South Sudan urges removal of Ebola-related travel restrictions

JUBA

South Sudan on Friday urged foreign governments to lift Ebola-related travel and visa restrictions imposed on its citizens, saying the measures are affecting those who need to travel abroad for medical treatment and education.

"There is no Ebola here. No one is dying here. But people are now dying because they are unable to travel abroad for medical treatment," Francis Oromo, undersecretary in the Ministry of Health, told a joint press conference with the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

According to Oromo, South Sudan activated its emergency response plan immediately after outbreaks were reported in neighbouring countries by deploying response teams to high-risk states, strengthening surveillance, and expanding isolation capacity, Xinhua



news agency reported. The ministry noted that all seven suspected Ebola cases identified nationwide, including four in Juba, tested negative.

As South Sudan remains at risk due to cross-border movement and its proximity to affected areas, health authorities are collaborating with neighbouring countries, regional health bodies, and international partners to share information and strengthen disease surveillance.

Humphrey Karamagi, WHO

representative in South Sudan, reaffirmed that the country remains Ebola-free, saying the detection and investigation of suspected cases demonstrate that the national surveillance system is functioning effectively. "From a scientific point of view, WHO does not recommend border closures or travel restrictions," Karamagi added.

Meanwhile, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has appealed for 1.4 billion U.S. dollars to finance Ebola outbreak response efforts, as the number of confirmed cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda surpassed 1,130. During an online press briefing on Thursday evening, Africa CDC Director General Jean Kaseya said that a total of 1,138 confirmed Bundibugyo Ebola cases and 293 deaths have been recorded across the DRC and Uganda, representing a case fatality rate of about 25.75 per cent.

Blasphemy business network actively trying to trap people into committing blasphemy in Pakistan: Report

ISLAMABAD

Members of a growing organised blasphemy business network in Pakistan are actively attempting to trap people into committing blasphemy on social media. Some Pakistani officials, including members of Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), conduct work on behalf of the blasphemy network, a report said.

"The main purpose here is to extort bribes from the target in exchange for dropping criminal charges. In the custody of such people, the treatment is appalling. At least several cases have seen the abuse turn fatal. No demographic in Pakistan is safe from for-profit blasphemy accusations. But religious minorities -- Christians, Hindus, and certain sects within Islam deemed heretical -- are at increased risk," a report in Zenit mentioned. Blasphemy accusations against a religious



minority can become so volatile that everyone from the accused person's community have to leave their houses and move to different places. Dozens of houses have been destroyed in mob attacks.

"Simon, a Pakistani Christian, said that majority of blasphemy accusations these days are related to alleged behaviour on social media plat-

forms. He said some people stalk religious minorities online and trap them into saying something that could be considered as blasphemous. He stated that if they target someone, they try to find loopholes in their posts on social media that can be exploited," according to a report in Zenit.

Someone with bad intentions may start conversation

with a person online in Pakistan and reveal a personal detail to build trust before taking the conversation towards faith.

At this point, if the target said even one thing that might be considered critical, mocking or critical, the target is in big trouble as the screenshot of that message will be taken as an indestructible evidence.

"Now you can start extorting him. Or have a few select officials visit him. If the target stays defiant in the face of such pressure, then leak the screenshot to his employer, his family, and, of course, the local imams and activists -- they'll gladly handle it from there, with layers of institutional support behind them," a report in Zenit mentioned.

"Pakistan's blasphemy business network started in the city of Rawalpindi and the capital of Islamabad, but has since expanded across much of the country. Aside from connections to Pakistani officials, the network also has connections to prominent Islamic religious scholars. At blasphemy trials in Pakistan, mobs often surround court-houses to make sure that judges issue the 'correct' ruling. It seems many of these mob participants are motivated more by profit than spiritual indignation.



South Goa Land Declared No Development Zone

PANAJI: (Jun 26) The Goa government has notified 1.03 crore square metres of ecologically sensitive land in South Goa's Salcete taluka as No Development Zone (NDZ) under the Regional Plan, Town and Country Planning (TCP) Minister Vishwajit Rane announced on Friday. The notified area comprises salt pans, paddy fields and other environmentally sensitive lands spread across seven villages under Salcete taluka. According to the minister, the largest chunk of the notified land is in Talaulim village, covering 29.13 lakh square metres, followed by Majorda (17.64 lakh square metres), Seraulim (16.81 lakh square metres), Lou-tolim (16.71 lakh square metres), Utorda (9.92 lakh square metres), Orlim (9.49 lakh square metres) and Calata (4.08 lakh square metres) (total 103.78 lakh square metres).

Whether you're a salaried employee, a business owner or an employer, keeping track of these dates can help you avoid last-minute stress. Here are three key tax deadlines you should not miss in July 2026.

If you've been putting off your tax-related work, July is the month to get organised. From filing your Income Tax Return (ITR) to depositing Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), several important compliance deadlines are lined up over the next few weeks. Missing them could mean late fees, interest charges or unnecessary trouble later. Whether you're a salaried employee, a business owner or an employer, keeping track of these dates can help you avoid last-minute stress. Here are three key tax deadlines you should not miss in July 2026.

JULY 7: DEADLINE FOR



TDS DEPOSIT

The first important deadline falls on July 7. This is the due date for depositing Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) for the April-June quarter in cases where quarterly deposit approval has been granted by the Assessing Officer under the Income-tax Act, 2025. The same deadline also applies to uploading certain declarations and prescribed forms received

during the quarter ending June 2026. Apart from this, several reporting requirements for government offices, stock exchanges, authorised dealers, IFSC units and intermediaries dealing with non-resident investors are also scheduled during the middle of the month. Organisations falling under these categories should ensure they complete the required filings on time.

JULY 30: CHALLAN-CUM-STATEMENT FILING DUE

Another important compliance date is July 30. Tax deductors must submit the challan-cum-statement for specific categories of tax deducted during June 2026 by this date. Filing the statement within the prescribed timeline is important to remain compliant with tax rules and avoid penalties. Businesses and organisations responsible for deducting tax at source should verify their records well in advance to avoid any last-minute errors.

JULY 31: LAST DATE TO FILE INCOME TAX RETURN

The biggest tax deadline of the month is July 31. This is the last date for individuals filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the Financial Year 2025-26 (Assessment Year 2026-27) using ITR-1 and ITR-2 forms.

Taxpayers who miss this deadline could face late filing fees and may also lose the benefit of carrying forward certain losses to future assessment years, wherever applicable. Experts generally advise taxpayers not to wait until the final few days, as heavy traffic on the income tax portal or missing documents can delay the filing process. Don't wait until the last minute

July is packed with important tax and compliance deadlines, making it one of the busiest months of the financial calendar. Completing your tax-related work early not only helps you avoid penalties and interest but also gives you enough time to correct any errors if needed.

Whether it's depositing TDS, filing mandatory statements or submitting your Income Tax Return, planning ahead can make the entire process smoother and far less stressful.



South Korea's Kospi tumbles 8%, Japan's Nikkei down 5%: Why Asian markets are bleeding

South Korea's KOSPI fell 8.2%, prompting authorities to halt program trading for 20 minutes after steep losses rippled across the market. Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped 5%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 2.4%.

Asian stock markets plunged on Friday as a global selloff in technology stocks gathered pace, with South Korea's benchmark KOSPI tumbling more than 8% and triggering a circuit breaker, while Japan's Nikkei slumped nearly 5% amid fears that the artificial intelligence rally may have run too far, too fast.

South Korea's KOSPI fell 8.2%, prompting authorities to halt program trading for 20 minutes after steep losses rippled across the market. Japan's Nikkei 225 dropped 5%, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 2.4%. China's blue-chip CSI300 index slipped 2.9% and the Shanghai Composite lost more than 2%.

Friday's slump followed another broad-based selloff across Asian markets on June 23. The broader MSCI Asia-Pacific index excluding Japan fell 3.8%, putting it on track for its biggest weekly decline in over a year after an extraordinary rally earlier this quarter.

The selloff followed sharp overnight losses on Wall Street, where Apple erased nearly \$250 billion in market value after announcing price increases for iPads and MacBooks to offset soaring memory and storage chip costs.

Apple's shares plunged 6.1%, raising concerns that rising AI infrastructure and semiconductor costs are beginning to squeeze even the world's largest technology companies. The move dampened enthusiasm generated just a day earlier by memory-chip giant Micron Technology, whose blockbuster earnings had fuelled optimism around AI demand and sent its shares to record highs.

"Apple's price increases were a reflection of how big tech may at some point start to feel the pain of these higher component costs," Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo, told news agency Reuters. "That can

become a broader ecosystem headwind. Higher input costs, heavier capital expenditure and rising funding needs are making investors more selective about AI exposure." The technology-heavy selloff was particularly severe across Asia. China's CSI Artificial Intelligence Index dropped 5%, while the CSI 5G Communication Index plunged 6.3%. Optical module maker Zhongji Innolight, a key supplier to global AI infrastructure, fell nearly 6%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Tech Index slid 3.3% on Friday and was headed for its worst weekly performance since October 2025.

Analysts said the declines were also driven by investors locking in profits at the end of the quarter after one of the strongest rallies in years.

South Korea's KOSPI, despite Friday's crash, is still up about 62% for the quarter. Japan's Nikkei has gained roughly 34% over the same period, while the MSCI Asia-Pacific index remains up more than 20%.

Adding to investor caution was weakness in U.S. equity futures. Nasdaq futures dropped 1.7% in Asian trading after reports that OpenAI may delay its long-awaited public listing until next year, raising questions about valuations across the AI ecosystem.

Elsewhere, oil prices extended losses, with Brent crude falling below \$74 a barrel as Saudi Aramco resumed shipments from its Ras Tanura export terminal after months of disruption. Lower oil prices provided little relief to broader market sentiment. Investors also kept a close watch on Japan's currency markets, where the yen hovered near a 40-year low against the U.S. dollar, renewing speculation that Japanese authorities could intervene to support the currency. Market participants said Friday's selloff does not necessarily signal the end of the AI boom, but rather reflects growing concerns that valuations had become stretched after months of relentless gains. With technology stocks accounting for a large share of global equity market returns this year, any signs of pressure on earnings or profit margins are now prompting investors to rapidly trim risk.

Will your family get your EPF pension after your death? Here's what you need to know

No one likes to think about what happens after they're gone. But if you're an EPF member, knowing whether your family can continue receiving your pension could make a big difference to their financial future.

A friend recently told me about a colleague who lost her husband unexpectedly. In the middle of the grief, there were countless questions to deal with—bank accounts, insurance papers and office formalities. But one question kept coming up: Will the family continue to receive any pension from his EPF account? It's not something most of us think about while we're busy earning a living. Yet, understanding what happens to your EPF pension after your death can make a world of difference to the people you leave behind.

The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), linked to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), is designed to do exactly that, i.e., provide financial support to your family when they need it the most.

YOUR EPF PENSION DOESN'T ALWAYS END WITH YOU



Many salaried employees believe that once they are gone, their EPF benefits end too. That isn't entirely true. While the provident fund balance is settled separately, the pension component under the EPS can continue to provide a monthly income to eligible family members. According to Adhil Shetty, CEO of BankBazaar, even a short period of contribution can make a difference. "When an EPF member passes away, their pension benefits transition into a lifelong monthly financial safety net for their family, provided the member contributed for at least a month," he says. That means if an employ-

ee had made at least one month's contribution to the pension scheme, the family may become eligible for monthly pension benefits.

WHO RECEIVES THE PENSION AFTER THE MEMBER'S DEATH?

The first person entitled to receive the pension is usually the surviving spouse. Shetty explains that the widow or widower receives a monthly pension for life or until remarriage. The amount is generally 50% of the member's calculated pension, subject to a minimum monthly pension of Rs 450. Children are also covered under the scheme. "Additionally, up to two children receive a

monthly support pension of 25% of the spouse's pension amount until they turn 25," says Shetty. If both parents are no longer alive, the scheme provides even greater support. "If both parents are deceased, the children receive an enhanced orphan pension, which is 75% of the spouse's pension value," he adds. This ensures that children continue to receive financial assistance during their formative years.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO SPOUSE OR CHILDREN?

Every family is different, and the pension scheme takes that into account. If the member has no surviving spouse or eligible chil-

dren, the pension can still reach the people who depended on them financially. "In the absence of a spouse or children, the pension is payable to the dependent parents or a nominee designated by the member, keeping the family's financial stability intact," says Shetty. This is one reason financial experts recommend updating your EPF nomination details whenever there is a major life event, such as marriage or the birth of a child.

PROTECTION DOESN'T END WITH DEATH

The EPS is not only meant for retirement or death benefits. It also provides support if a member suffers permanent and total disability while still in service. "If an EPF member suffers permanent and total disability while in service, they are entitled to a monthly disablement pension for life," says Shetty. One of the biggest advantages is that the usual service requirement does not apply. "The standard 10-year service rule is waived; the member is eligible even with just a single month's contribution. The pension begins from the date of disability, determined by their salary and service records

as if they retired on that day, subject to a minimum safety payout of Rs 1,000 per month," he explains.

This ensures that employees facing an unexpected life-changing event continue to receive a regular source of income.

A CONVERSATION EVERY FAMILY SHOULD HAVE

Most of us think of EPF as money we'll use after retirement. But in reality, the pension scheme is also about protecting the people who depend on us today. The monthly pension may not replace a person's income entirely, but it can help pay school fees, buy groceries or cover household bills when a family is trying to rebuild its life after a loss. None of us likes to imagine such situations. Yet spending a few minutes understanding your EPF pension, keeping your nomination details updated and making sure your family knows about these benefits can save them from unnecessary stress during one of the hardest phases of life. Sometimes, the greatest financial gift you leave behind isn't just savings—it's the assurance that your loved ones won't have to face tomorrow completely alone.

MoRTH proposes phased rollout of cybersecurity management systems for vehicles

NEW DELHI: (JUN 26)

The Road Transport Ministry has proposed a phased rollout of cybersecurity and management systems to enhance the safety quotient of automobiles made in the country.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), in a draft notification issued on June 22, said the proposed regulations will apply across the vehicle categories M (passenger vehicles), N (goods carriers), and T (trailers).

Under the draft proposal, motor vehicles of category M, N, T, if fitted with at least one electronic control unit (ECU) and L7 with level 3 automation, as referred in the standard, shall meet requirements of cybersecurity and cybersecurity management systems (CSMS) as per AIS-189.

Hyderabad-Based ZenMD Reports

HYDERABAD, JUNE 24, 2026



As healthcare professionals navigate growing patient volumes, increasing medical complexity, and limited time for information retrieval, the need for reliable clinical support tools is becoming increasingly important. Built to help doctors and medical students access clinical information quickly and efficiently while simplifying everyday clinical workflows, ZenMD is a Hyderabad- and US-based clinical AI platform designed for the realities of Indian healthcare. Recent usage data from Hyderabad indicates that clinicians are increasingly using clinical AI for information access and clinical support. Diagnosis and symptom analysis account for the largest share of queries at 21.6%, followed by drug information and dosing (15.6%), treatment planning and management (10.9%), and lab and imaging interpretation (9.3%). The data suggests that doctors are leveraging AI not merely for documentation but as a support layer for everyday clinical questions, treatment workflows, and information retrieval during patient care. Additional usage

spans medical exam preparation (6.2%), OPD/SOAP note generation (5.3%), patient education (5.0%), and pregnancy and lactation-related queries (4.1%). Founded by Rithika Reddy and Pranav Reddy, ZenMD supports a range of clinical workflows including diagnosis support, drug information, lab interpretation, treatment workflows, documentation, and imaging analysis across more than 80 medical specialties. The platform is used by both doctors and medical students, serving as a first-stop layer for everyday clinical questions, learning, and decision support. Within eight weeks of its public launch, the platform recorded more than 60,000 users and over 90,000 pageviews through organic adoption. ZenMD has also attracted more than 40,000 visitors, reached 8,000 monthly active users, and maintained a customer acquisition cost of under \$0.25. The growing interest in clinical AI extends beyond practicing doctors.

ZenMD is increasingly engaging with medical students and young healthcare professionals through academic outreach initiatives. As part of these efforts, the company is conducting a workshop for approximately 1,500 medical, dental, nursing, and postgraduate students at Malla Reddy University, Hyderabad. The initiative aims to help future clinicians understand how AI can support learning, information access, and clinical decision-making in real-world healthcare settings. Commenting on the company's approach to healthcare AI, Rithika Reddy, Founder & CEO, ZenMD, said: "Healthcare AI cannot be measured by how impressive it sounds. It has to be measured by whether a clinician can trust it on a real patient. We built ZenMD for Indian clinical realities, with the formulary, the disease burden, and the safety layer that demands. Our hallucination correction layer exists because in medicine a con-

fident wrong answer is not a small error. It is the whole problem. That is the standard we hold ourselves to." Speaking about adoption and clinician needs, Pranav Reddy, Co-Founder & Chief Marketing Officer, ZenMD, said: "Indian doctors are seeing forty, fifty patients in a single OPD session, and most of the tools they have were never built for that day. We built ZenMD to make that day lighter. When more than 60,000 doctors and students keep coming back, it tells us we are giving them something real, which is their time and attention back for the patient in front of them. That is what we care about." As a Hyderabad-based company, ZenMD reflects the growing momentum around healthcare and AI innovation emerging from Telangana. The company is also seeing adoption across hospitals, teaching institutions, and universities, reflecting growing interest in clinical AI among both practicing healthcare professionals and students. With engagement spanning clinicians, medical students, and academic institutions, ZenMD is working to build trusted clinical AI tools tailored to the realities of Indian healthcare.

India's Nutraceutical Market to Double by 2030

NEW DELHI, JUNE 26

India's nutraceutical market, valued at around \$29-30 billion in 2024, is projected to reach \$37-38 billion by 2026 and \$55-57 billion by 2030, at a CAGR of approximately 10.5 per cent, a report said on Friday.

The growth is being driven by rising health consciousness, higher disposable incomes, increasing lifestyle-related disorders, and demand for natural, science-backed nutrition, the report from CareEdge Ratings said. The Indian healthcare landscape has shifted from diagnosing and treating illness, to prevention, wellness, and long-term health management. At the heart of this transition lies the rapidly expanding field of nutraceutical products that bridge the gap between nutrition and pharmaceuticals.

The nutraceutical industry in India is witnessing rapid growth, supported by rising health awareness among consumers, increasing concerns around lifestyle diseases and lack of adequate



nutrition. The growth is fuelled by the expansion of digital platforms and e-commerce, along with supportive government policies and initiatives. India's strong bio-agricultural base, with its diverse crops, provides a natural advantage for raw material sourcing.

The pandemic marked a structural turning point, shifting nutraceuticals from niche wellness products to everyday dietary support and prompting larger FMCG players to acquire mid-sized brands, the report noted.

Government support is playing a crucial role in enabling the growth of the nutraceutical sector through improved regulatory frame-

works, standardisation, and quality control measures.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) have undertaken several initiatives to strengthen compliance, promote food safety, and encourage innovation in functional foods and dietary supplements.

"The Indian nutraceutical industry is set for sustained long-term growth, driven by rising health awareness, persistent malnutrition, supportive government policies, increasing adoption of preventive healthcare, and evolving lifestyle trends", said Uday Kumar, lead analyst at CareEdge Ratings.

The Great Indian Float

How Cordelia Cruises Turned the Arabian Sea into a Five-Star Blockbuster

There is a specific moment, usually around 5:30 PM on day one, when the psychological shift occurs. You are standing on Deck 10 of a massive, 11-deck floating city. In your left hand is a perfectly chilled mint mojito; in your right, a small plate of freshly rolled sushi. Below you, the chaotic, beautiful, exhaust-heavy skyline of Mumbai's Ballard Pier is slowly shrinking into a hazy memory. The relentless honk-honk of local traffic is replaced by the deep,

rhythmic thrum of a 48,000-ton marine engine and the gentle hiss of clashing waves. For decades, the standard Indian vacation followed a predictable, ground-bound script: packing the family into an SUV for a hill station getaway, enduring the architectural lottery of mid-tier hotels, or wrestling with airport security for a quick dash to South-east Asia. But lately, a massive white vessel named the MV Empress—the flagship of Cordelia Cruises—has

been rewriting that script entirely. Ocean cruising, once considered the exclusive playground of retired European billionaires or high-rolling Caribbean vacationers, has officially gone local. Cordelia has managed to democratize the luxury cruise liner experience while keeping its glamorous, big-budget soul entirely intact. It is an offbeat, decadent, and slightly surreal way to travel, turning the journey itself into the actual destination.

The Floating Palace: Anatomy of a Megaship

To understand the scale of what is currently drifting through India's coastal waters, you have to look at the numbers. The MV Empress isn't just a boat; it is a sprawling, multi-layered resort that happens to navigate international waters. With 796 cabins, a capacity to host over 2,000 passengers, and a dedicated crew of hundreds working behind the scenes, it functions with the clinical precision of a Swiss watch and the high-energy hospitality of a beach festival.

The architecture of the ship is designed to prevent you from ever feeling trapped. In fact, it is remarkably easy to forget you are on the ocean at all—until you look out of a window.

The design language leans heavily into classic maritime luxury—think polished wood finishes, sweeping glass atriums, chrome accents, and plush carpeting that cushions every step. As the company expands its fleet with upcoming vessels like Cordelia Sky, the aesthetic is shifting toward an even sleeker, contemporary style. Yet, the core charm remains unchanged: it feels like a slice of Las Vegas or

Miami that has been gently placed on top of the Arabian Sea.

From Inside Cabins to the Chairman's Suite

When it comes to where you lay your head after a night of dancing or deck-top stargazing, the vessel operates on a choose-your-own-adventure model of luxury.

The entry-level Interior Cabins are compact, cleverly engineered spaces that maximize every square inch. They are cozy, minimalist sanctuaries designed for travelers who view their room merely as a place to crash between activities. Move up to the Ocean View Cabins, and the wall opens up with a massive window, turning the shifting colors of the sea into live, natural art.

However, if you want to experience cruising the way it was meant to be, the Balcony Cabins are the true sweet spot. There is nothing quite like waking up at 6:00 AM, sliding open a heavy glass door, and stepping out onto your private balcony. The air is cool, completely salt-kissed, and there is absolutely nothing between you and the deep blue expanse except a sturdy metal railing.

For those looking to com-

pletely splurge, the Suites and the legendary Chairman's Suite offer a level of opulence that rivals any five-star land resort. We are talking about expansive living rooms, dining areas, integrated bars, refrigerators, private vanity zones, and sweeping wrap-around balconies where you can host your own private sunset gatherings.

The All-Day Culinary Marathon

If there is one thing Cordelia understands deeply, it is the culinary expectations of the modern traveler. On a cruise ship, food is not just a meal; it is an ongoing event. The cruise fare includes access to the massive, all-day buffets and multi-cuisine food courts that dominate the upper decks, and the variety is staggering.

A Note on Inclusivity: One of the smartest structural choices Cordelia made was setting up an entirely separate, state-of-the-art vegetarian and Jain kitchen. It means traditional dietary preferences are treated with absolute respect, running parallel to an international spread featuring everything from live pasta stations and aromatic tandoors to delicate Asian stir-fries.



For the culinary purists, the ship boasts exceptional specialty restaurants that operate on an à la carte basis:

The Orient: A moody, beautifully lit space serving exceptional Asian fusion, from precise California sushi rolls to rich, fragrant curries. La Cantina: An intimate Italian trattoria where the wood-fired pizzas and fresh pastas make you forget you are sailing past the Konkan coast.

The Chopstick Chop: A premium steakhouse experience focusing on high-quality cuts and perfectly seared proteins. Entertainment: Broadway on the High Seas What do you do when you are stranded in the middle of the ocean between ports? The answer is: significantly more than you would do on land. The heartbeat of the ship's entertainment ecosystem is The Marquee Theatre, a grand, two-tier performance venue equipped with world-class acoustics and projection systems. On any given night, the entertainment lineup includes Broadway-style musical revues, mind-bending illusions by international magicians, and high-energy stand-up comedy sets that keep the room roaring. As the sun dips below the horizon, the ship's nightlife kicks into overdrive. The Schooner Bar, with its nautical-chic decor and dark wood accents, becomes the ultimate hub for classic mixology and live piano sets. Meanwhile, The

Dome, the ship's signature futuristic nightclub, keeps the bass pumping well into the early morning hours for the late-night crowd. And then, there is the Casino. Because the ship operates in international waters, the onboard casino opens up its doors once you are a certain number of nautical miles away from the coast. The unmistakable sound of cards shuffling, roulette wheels spinning, and slot machines chiming adds an undeniable, high-stakes edge to the late-night maritime experience.

Wellness, Pampering, and Unplugging

If the high-energy entertainment feels like too much, the ship offers plenty of ways to slow things down. The Spa and Salon setup onboard is surprisingly comprehensive, offering everything from deep-tissue Balinese massages to specialized skin therapies, with treatment rooms that look directly out onto the water. There is a strange, deeply therapeutic rhythm to getting a foot massage while watching the horizon

slowly rise and fall outside a panoramic window. For the fitness enthusiasts, the ocean-view gym ensures you don't have to skip your routine, while the open-air jogging track on Deck 11 offers arguably the best running views in the country.

The Math: What Does Luxury on the Waves Cost?

Let's talk numbers, because this is where the cruise experience gets genuinely interesting. A common misconception is that ocean cruising requires an astronomical budget. In

reality, when you break down the per-person cost against what you would spend on flights, luxury hotels, multi-city transport, and premium meals on land, the value proposition is incredibly tight.

Prices vary based on seasonality (with school holidays, Diwali, and New Year seeing a 30% to 40% spike) and the day of the week, with Friday weekend sailings carrying a modest premium. Below is a realistic look at the starting price structures for the most popular domestic and international routes:

The "Extra" Ledger: Budgeting for the Ship

While your base ticket covers your room, access to the swimming pools, fitness centers, Broadway-style theater shows, and all your meals at the main buffets, you do need to keep a small buffer for onboard extras.

Liquid Indulgence: Soft drinks, canned beverages, and alcoholic cocktails are billed separately. A domestic beer runs around ₹350–₹500, while premium cocktail sets sit in the ₹600–₹900 bracket.

The Digital Dilemma: Your standard mobile SIM card will lose signal a few hours after departure. Onboard satellite Wi-Fi packages range from ₹999 for basic connectivity to ₹1,999 for high-speed access.

Shore Excursions: When the ship docks in Goa or uses tender boats to

ferry you to the white-sand beaches of Lakshadweep, curated island tours, snorkeling, and banana boat rides are available at an extra charge ranging from ₹1,500 to ₹5,000.

Why It Works: The Magic of the Moveable Feast

Ultimately, the soaring popularity of Cordelia Cruises comes down to a shift in how we choose to spend our time. In an era where every minute of a holiday is often micromanaged through travel apps, flight schedules, and restaurant reservations, a cruise offers the rare luxury of complete surrender.

You unpack your bags exactly once. You don't have to check maps, call cabs, or worry about where the family is going to eat dinner. If the kids want pizza, the grandparents want traditional Jain food, and you want a medium-rare steak, everyone is accommodated within a two-minute walk.

It is a grand, theatrical, and thoroughly refreshing alternative to the standard vacation. Whether you are watching a modern illusionist pull off the impossible in a grand theater, trying your luck at the blackjack tables, or simply sitting quietly on a private balcony watching the sun melt into the endless blue of the Arabian Sea, the conclusion is unavoidable: India's luxury travel scene has officially set sail, and the horizon has never looked better.





Rugby Premier League
Hyderabad Heroes remain top of the table in Season 2



HYDERABAD: The last day of group stage matches in Season 2 of the Rugby Premier League witnessed Hyderabad Heroes remain on top of the points table with a 28-0 victory against the Kolkata Banga Tigers at the Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi Athletic Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad on Friday. The Heroes imposed themselves from the outset with high-tempo attack and quick ball movement, stretching the Tigers' defence across the field. Sumit Roy opened the scoring within minutes before Ravuama Seruvakula sold a clever dummy on the left wing to double Hyderabad's advantage. Their crisp passing and ability to exploit space continued to trouble Kolkata in the second quarter, with Kevin Wekesa breaking through after sustained pressure to add another try.

MAHARAJA TROPHY KSCA T20
Bengaluru Blasters look to extend their lead as event rolls



HUBBALLI: The fifth edition of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 Tournament rolls into Hubballi on Saturday, with six franchises set to continue their quest for valuable points during the second leg of the competition. The Hubballi leg gets underway with a double-header on Saturday, as Shivamogga Yodhas take on Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters in the afternoon before Mysore Warriors face Gulbarga Mystics in the evening fixture. Shivamogga Yodhas captain Smaran R, whose side sits fourth on the points table with four points after two victories in Mysuru, said, "We are all really looking forward to the next leg of the tournament, and the morale in the team is very high. There have been many positives in the Mysore leg, and both our wins have come by big margins.

TG20 Season 1: Jaiswal, Himateja and Milind star as Khammam Aces clinch last-over thriller

HYDERABAD

Khammam Aces held their nerve to script a thrilling eight-run victory over E IPL & eleve Karimnagar Diamonds in a high-scoring contest that went down to the final over, securing victory in the second match on Matchday 6 of the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 in teh Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday.

Half-centuries from Mickil Jaiswal and K Himateja powered the Aces to 213/6, before skipper CV Milind produced a match-winning spell of 4/21, helping the Aces withstand a record-breaking assault from Satwik Reddy to secure a memorable win.

The Diamonds made the perfect start, striking twice in consecutive overs to remove openers Wafi Kachchhi (0 off 2) and Mayank Gupta (2 off 3), leaving the Aces reeling early.

With the innings in trouble, K Himateja (56 off 33) launched a spirited counterattack, taking the attack to the bowlers from the outset. He raced to a well-crafted half-century in just



24 balls, bringing up the milestone with a towering six, and stitched together a game-changing 99-run partnership off just 48 balls with G Sai Krishna Reddy.

Sai Krishna survived a major scare on 43 when Ashish Srivastav held onto a return catch, only for it to be ruled a no-ball. The reprieve proved short-lived, however, as Srivastav trapped him LBW just two deliveries later to break the threatening stand.

The breakthrough slowed the Aces' momentum. Himateja struggled to maintain the scoring rate before holing out to Hrishikesh Simha off Harish Thakur, who claimed his second wicket of the innings.

BELFAST

Reigning T20 World Cup-winner India, playing under a new captain and new-look team, suffered an embarrassing 34-run defeat to Ireland in the opening T20I of the two-match series at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast on Friday. This is India's first-ever defeat to Ireland after surging to eight consecutive wins in the shortest format.

Shreyas Iyer made a disappointing start to his captaincy as Matthew Hollard and Matthew Humphreys claimed three wickets apiece in a disciplined bowling display to help Ireland bowl India out for 148 in 18.5 overs, sealing a historic victory.



Chasing a challenging target of 183, India made a brisk start with Abhishek Sharma taking the attack to the Irish bowlers. The left-hander struck a six and a boundary in the opening over as India raced to 16 without loss.

Ireland responded immediately as Jai Moondra produced a superb delivery to clean up Sanju Samson and hand the hosts an early breakthrough. Abhishek continued his aggressive approach, smashing Liam McCarthy for four boundaries in an over to keep India's chase on track. However, India suffered

another setback when Ishan Kishan mistimed a flick off Matthew Hollard and was dismissed after scoring four.

The wickets continued to fall as new T20I captain Shreyas Iyer failed to make an impact, managing just three runs from seven deliveries before departing, leaving India under pressure despite Abhishek's counterattack.

Tilak Varma played a few attractive strokes, including two boundaries in the final over of the Power-play, helping India reach 68/3 after six overs.

Abhishek then brought up a breathtaking half-century in just 19 balls, but Ireland struck at the perfect time as the opener was dismissed for 50 off only 20 deliveries. His entertaining knock featured seven fours and two sixes and left India at 85/4. Tilak's promising innings ended soon after as he fell for 19 off 21 balls, while Matthew Hollard further dented India's chase by dismissing Washington Sundar for nine.

Shivam Dube briefly kept India's hopes alive with an attacking cameo, smashing two sixes and a

boundary during his 25-run knock off 16 balls. At the other end, Axar Patel struggled to accelerate and managed only 15 from 16 deliveries before holing out to long-on.

Dube's resistance ended when Jai Moondra completed an excellent return catch off his own bowling, effectively ending India's hopes of a comeback.

Harshit Rana struck a couple of boundaries late in the innings but was dismissed for eight, while Matthew Humphreys wrapped up the innings by removing Arshdeep Singh in the 19th over.

Matthew Hollard (3 wickets) and Matthew Humphreys (3 wickets) starred with the ball for Ireland, while Jai Moondra finished with two wickets. Liam McCarthy and Gareth Delany claimed one wicket each as Ireland completed a memorable victory to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

Earlier, coming to bat after losing the toss, Ireland started aggressively through Tim Tector and Ross Adair before Harshit Rana struck twice in quick succession. Adair departed for 12 off seven balls after edging behind, while Harry Tector also fell early to Arshdeep Singh. Rana then dismissed Tim Tector for 17 with a clever slower delivery, reducing Ireland to 32/3. The hosts reached 36/3 at the end of the power play.

Benjamin Calitz briefly counterattacked with two sixes before Shivam Dube removed him for 15, leaving Ireland in further trouble. However, Tucker and Delany rebuilt the innings with a crucial partnership, mixing sensible strike rotation with timely boundaries. Tucker anchored the innings and accelerated after settling in, taking 16 runs off an Axar Patel over before bringing up his fifty in 35 balls.

Harshit returned to end Tucker's impressive knock of 50 from 36 deliveries, but Ireland continued

to attack. George Dockrell made an immediate impact, smashing 19 runs off Washington Sundar's over before adding quick runs alongside Delany. The pair punished Prasadh Krishna, collecting 27 runs from the 17th over to push Ireland towards a strong finish.

Axar Patel dismissed Dockrell for a brisk 19, while Delany fell agonisingly short of a half-century, scoring 49 off 31 balls with three fours and three sixes before being caught off Arshdeep Singh in the penultimate over. Ireland lost two more wickets in the final over but still finished with an imposing 182/9.

Harshit Rana starred with the ball for India, claiming 3/24, while Arshdeep Singh and Axar Patel picked up two wickets each. Despite India's impressive start with the ball, Ireland's middle-order recovery and powerful finish ensured they posted a challenging total.

Brief scores:

Ireland 182/9 in 20 overs (Locran Tucker 50, Gerath Delany 49, George Dockrell 19; Harshit Rana 3-24, Arshdeep Singh 2-28, Axar Patel 2-33) beat India 148 all out in 18.5 overs (Abhishek Sharma 50, Shivam Dube 25; Matthew Humphreys 3-38, Matthew Hollard 3-28) by 34 runs.

'We lost execution in the middle overs,' says Iyer after India's historic loss to Ireland

BELFAST

India captain Shreyas Iyer admitted his side lost control of the contest in the middle overs despite making an excellent start with the ball, after Ireland scripted a historic 34-run victory in the opening T20I of the two-match series at the Civil Service Cricket Club in Belfast on Friday. Ireland recovered from 36/3 to post 182/9 before bowling India out for 148 to register their first-ever T20I victory over India. Reflecting on the defeat in his first match as India's T20I captain, Shreyas said the bowlers executed their plans well initially but allowed Ireland to rebuild by missing their lengths during the middle phase of the innings.

"I think initially, the bowlers were bowling well. They got lateral movement, and they got a couple of wickets as well. So we got a tremendous start, but in between, we lost execution. We made them hit straight down the ground, where we know that the dimensions are pretty small," he said. The skipper, however, credited the bowlers for pulling things back towards the end and felt India had restricted Ireland to a chaseable total.

"When we had to shut down the overs, they were brilliant as well. So I thought 140 would have been an amazing score considering the start that we got. Nonetheless, it's a great experience over here. We got to play in these conditions, got a fair idea about the wicket," he added.

Despite the disappointing result, Shreyas was keen to move on quickly and insisted the team would learn from the defeat ahead of the



second T20I. "Yes, definitely. We're going to forget what's happened. Definitely a lot to learn from this game and see to it that we come out in the next game all guns blazing," he said.

The India captain also reserved special praise for Harshit Rana, who returned figures of 3/24 in his comeback from injury, and backed all-rounder Shivam Dube for delivering another useful spell.

"Yes, certainly. They were getting help up front at the start, and Shivam has bowled crucial overs in the past. So I always back him. I've played with him in the domestic circuit as well. I know his strengths and weaknesses," Shreyas said.

"And Harshit Rana, he bowled phenomenally. Coming out of an injury to perform at this level and showcase this sort of talent, it's simply brilliant." Shreyas said the defeat served as a reminder that success at the international level requires consistent effort and intensity.

"I think you can't take anything for granted. You can't just turn up and win matches. You have to work hard and see to it that you're in that moment. As I mentioned earlier, you've got to stay in the present and see to it that if you've got that opportunity to squeeze the opponent, we've got to do that. Never take any moment or situation lightly," he said.

Asked about the opportunity to level the series in the final T20I, the skipper replied: "Yes, looking forward to it." Meanwhile, after this defeat, India will look to level the series against Ireland in the second T20I to be played on Sunday at the same ground.

FIH Pro League: Dominant India thrash Pakistan 7-1 in lopsided London clash

LONDON

Olympic bronze medallist India came up with a brilliant performance to fight back from a goal deficit to hand archrivals Pakistan a 7-1 thrashing in a lopsided clash in the FIH Pro League at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centres near London on Friday.

Two days after their narrow escape in the 4-3 win in their first clash with the Men in Green in the London leg of the FIH Pro League matches, India dominated the second and third quarters to score at regular intervals and handed Pakistan a big defeat in their penultimate match in the 2025-26 season of the tournament.

Sukhjeet Singh (19th min), Harmanpreet Singh (26th), Hardik (34th-PS), Jugraj Singh (35th), Abhishek (41st), Raj Kumar Pal (43rd), and Dilpreet Singh (53rd min) scored a goal apiece for India after Abu Mahmood had given Pakistan the lead in the 13th minute off their first penalty corner.

The win extended India's decade-long dominance over the archrivals and marked 17 consecutive wins against Pakistan at all levels.

With this win, India moved ahead of Spain to 7th position in the standings. India have 17 points from 15 matches while Spain, who lost to Argentina in a shoot-out on Thursday, are on 16 points from as many matches. Pakistan have zero points, having lost all 15 matches so



far. The Indians dominated the field, making 36 circle penetrations and earning 13 penalty corners, of which they scored only 3. In contrast, Pakistan made 18 circle penetrations but could not score any field goals. They earned six penalty corners but managed to convert only one.

Hardik Singh and Manpreet Singh superbly marshalled the Indian midfield, while forwards Abhishek, Dilpreet Singh, and Mandeep Singh dominated the Pakistan defence. Hardik was adjudged the FIH Player of the Match for his superb performance.

Pakistan went ahead in the 13th minute when Abuy Mahmood converted a penalty corner to give them the lead. They Indian created some good attacks and earned three penalty

corners in the first quarter, but could not score a goal. Sukhjeet Singh scored the equaliser in the 19th minute, and India went ahead in the 25th minute when skipper Harmanpreet Singh converted a PC to make it 2-1.

India took complete control of the game in the second quarter by using precise long passes to stretch the Pakistan defence. Pakistan suffered a setback in the 18th minute when a deflected pass from Ali Ghazanfar accidentally struck teammate Ahmad Nadeem on the face, forcing him off the field.

India capitalised on the momentum a minute later by earning a penalty corner. Skipper Harmanpreet fired a powerful dragkick, which was expertly deflected into the net by Sukhjeet (20') to make it 1-1. In

the 26th minute, India won another penalty corner, and this time Harmanpreet smashed it directly into the top left corner to give India a 2-1 lead heading into halftime.

The 'Men in Blue' increased their dominance in the second half. In the 34th minute, India earned consecutive penalty corners, the second of which resulted in a penalty stroke. Hardik stepped up and calmly converted it to make it 3-1. Pakistan responded quickly to win two penalty corners, but the Indian defence blocked the attempts cleanly. After blocking the second penalty corner, India launched a rapid counter-attack as the ball found Dilpreet, who combined brilliantly with Sukhjeet before setting up Jugraj (35') to smash it home for a 4-1 lead.

Mirabai Chanu to lead Indian weightlifting squad at Glasgow

NEW DELHI

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will spearhead India's weightlifting campaign at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games once again, hoping to win another medal in the event beginning on July 23.

Chanu, who won a silver medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, has won three medals in the Commonwealth Games — two gold and one silver so far. She will again compete in the women's 48kg category in Glasgow.

The seasoned weightlifter from Manipur will be the favourite to win the gold in her third successive Commonwealth Games, to add to the gold in 2022, 2018, and the silver she won in the CWG 2014 at Glasgow.

Also in the squad is fellow Manipuri lifter Bindyarani Devi (58kg) and Punjab's Harjinder Kaur (69kg), both of whom won silver medals at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and will be aiming to do one better this time.

India's hopes in the men's section will be led by Lovepreet Singh (+110kg), who won a bronze medal in Birmingham 2022. Also in the squad are Commonwealth Games debutants Rishikanta Singh (60kg), Ajaya Babu (79kg), and Dilbag Singh (94kg). The weightlifting events will be held from July 26 to 30 at the SEC Armadillo.



Before the Glasgow CWG, the Indian squad is scheduled to have a conditioning camp at Birmingham, for which it will leave on Sunday. The squad will reach Glasgow on July 23.

India have dominated weightlifting at the Commonwealth Games over the years with stars like Sathisha Rai, Kunjarani Devi, Karnam Malleswari, and Sanamacha Chanu

winning medals. India have dominated the most recent editions, finishing atop the medal table in both 2018 and 2022.

India won nine medals, including five gold, at the Gold Coast in 2018 and followed that up with a haul of 10 medals, including three gold, at Birmingham in 2022.

Indian weightlifting squad for

Glasgow:

Women: Saikom Mirabai Chanu (48kg), Gyaneshwari Yadav (53kg), Bindyarani Devi (58kg), Harjinder Kaur (69kg), Sanjana (77kg), Martina Devi (+86kg).

Men: Rishikanta Singh (60kg), M Raja (65kg), Ajaya Babu (79kg), Dilbag Singh (94kg), Lovepreet Singh (+110kg).

Inter-State Athletics: Dominant performance by triple jumpers steals the show on Day Three

BHUBANESWAR,

Six male triple jumpers were among 13 aspiring athletes breaching Japan Asian Games qualification standards in their respective events on the third day of the 65th National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) selection committee will decide the Asian Games-bound contingent after the conclusion of the Bhubaneswar competition. Two athletes will represent in each of the track and field events.

Hammer throwers set the ball rolling in the evening session. Punjab's Damneet Singh hurled an iron ball to a distance of 69.72m to win gold and a better Asian Games qualification mark of 69.12m. Rajasthan's Praveen Kumar's silver-winning efforts of 69.58m were also good enough to qualify for the Asian Games.

After the hammer throw final, a dominant performance was witnessed at the discus throw arena.



Nandini Shares Samantha's BIG SECRET

The combination of star actress Samantha and director Nandini Reddy enjoys immense popularity in Tollywood. After Jabardasth and Oh! Baby, audiences eagerly awaited their latest collaboration, Maa Inti Bangaram. Living up to the expectations, the film has opened to positive reviews and is receiving a good response from viewers. Recently, during an appearance on an NTV podcast, Nandini Reddy shared an interesting revelation about Samantha's pregnancy. Speaking on the podcast, Nandini Reddy recalled a secret from the film's shooting days. "While Maa Inti Bangaram was being shot at a brisk pace, we came to know that Samantha was pregnant. At that time, I was the only person on the set who knew about it. We made sure the news did not leak to anyone else," she said. She further explained, "Fortunately, we had already completed all the major action sequences before we learned the news, so it did not create much of a problem. For the remaining portions, we planned the schedule keeping Samantha's health in mind. We ensured she didn't have to strain herself and gave her ample rest between shoots."



Bhagyashri Cherishes Bharathi Role

Actress Bhagyashri Borse, who plays the female lead opposite Akhil Akkineni in director Murali Kishor Abburu's 'Lenin', on Friday penned a post expressing gratitude to the film's director for giving her the role of Bharathi, a character that she would always carry in her heart. Taking to her Instagram page to pen the note of gratitude, even as the film gears up to hit screens on July 10 this year, Bhagyashri Borse, who posted pictures of her unit praying, wrote, "This journey began with God by our side...To my dear director, @kishoreabburu, Thankyou for Bharathi, a character I will always carry in my heart, and hope our audience does too! Bharathi, in your hearts..10th July! #Lenin." The film has triggered huge expectations as Telugu star Nagarjuna, who, after watching the first cut of his son Akhil Akkineni's film, said audiences would witness a new Akhil on June 26 when the film released. Taking to his X timeline soon after watching director Murali Kishor Abburu's eagerly awaited film 'Lenin', the top Telugu star had said, "Watched the first cut of our film 'LENIN' last night. I say this with confidence and pride... you are about to witness a new AKHIL on June 26 2026. Mark the date!!! See you in the theatres." However, the release of the film was pushed to July 10 later. Nagarjuna took to his social media timelines to make the announcement. He wrote, "Team #Lenin came to me with a request. They asked for a little more time to give their absolute 100% and create something very special."



PRABHAS TEASES 'BAAHUBALI 3'



The Baahubali phenomenon refuses to fade away. A decade after filmmaker S.S. Rajamouli introduced audiences to the magnificent world of Mahishmati, the franchise continues to captivate millions across the globe. Even after ten years, the emotional connection with the epic saga remains stronger than ever. Adding to the nostalgia, Netflix recently released the documentary series Baahubali: The Torchbearer. Filmed during the making of the original films, the documentary offers fans an emotional behind-the-scenes journey featuring the cast and crew who brought the iconic world to life.

Amid the overwhelming response to the documentary, a promotional video featuring Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, and Anushka Shetty has now become the talk of the internet. The trio surprised fans with the intriguing statement: "The world is not ready for this announcement... Baahubali is coming for you all!"

What truly set social media ablaze was Prabhas holding up three fingers at the end of the video. For millions of fans, it appeared to be a subtle hint towards the long-awaited Baahubali 3. However, there is another possibility. The teaser could simply be building anticipation for the upcoming animated project, Baahubali: The Eternal War, which is expected to release next year.

Even if S.S. Rajamouli and the producers decide to revisit the franchise with a third cinematic installment, the road ahead would be challenging. Almost every major

actor and technician associated with the series is currently occupied with multiple commitments. Moreover, Rajamouli is known for his extensive filmmaking process, often taking three to four years to complete a project.

As things stand, Baahubali 3 remains a dream rather than a confirmed reality. Yet, one thing is certain—if the epic ever returns to the big screen, it would create an unprecedented wave of excitement and become one of the biggest cinematic events in Indian film history.

For now, fans can only wait and wonder: Was Prabhas merely teasing, or was it the first hint of the return of Baahubali?

B'DAY TREAT FOR MAHESH FANS?

S S Rajamouli gave an interview to an international publication. During course of the interview, he also revealed the progress of Varanasi. "What I can say is we have completed a major portion of the shoot, including all the important large-scale action sequences. We are now filming the smaller interconnecting scenes, so hopefully by September, or a little into October, we should be finishing the shoot," Rajamouli said. It is a good news that the shoot will be finish by October. That is one checkbox done for the movie release on April 7, 2027. But then, there is a huge task of VFX and Rajamouli is known to be uncompromising in that department. But then, the fans will be hoping that the film would arrive on time because

Varanasi will have an international release and it is important to proceed as per plan or else it will be a logistical nightmare to plan such a release. So, they are hoping that Varanasi will release as planned. Meanwhile, the update also gives hope for the fans that they can expect something from the film on August 9th as Mahesh Babu's Birthday Special. But then, it is not easy to give video content of the film as it is extremely laborious task.

It is unlikely that Rajamouli will release any video content until closer to the release as he already introduced the world of Varanasi with the glimpse released earlier. So, we may expect a poster that day.



From Struggles to Stardom

Fresh off the massive success of Cocktail 2, Kriti Sanon is enjoying one of the best phases of her career. The actress, who has once again proved her box-office appeal, is also making headlines for reportedly signing a major pan-India project alongside Vijay Deverakonda. But behind the glamour and success lies a journey filled with struggles, disappointments, and relentless determination.

In a recent interview, Kriti got candid about her 12-year journey in the film industry and revealed that her initial days in modeling were far from glamorous. "My first photoshoot and my first ramp walk were both disasters. I went home and cried," the actress confessed. "But I didn't stop. I kept auditioning, kept trying, and that perseverance brought me where I am today."

The actress also spoke openly about the ongoing nepotism debate in Bollywood. While acknowledging that star kids like Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt have proved their talent through hard work, Kriti pointed out that not everyone in the industry earns opportunities on merit alone. "There are people who continue to get chances for eight or nine years despite lacking talent, simply because of their family background," she said. Kriti added that outsiders often face a much harsher reality. According to her, actors without industry connections are expected to deliver hits within their first few years, failing which they are quickly sidelined.



A STORY EVERY PARENT FEELS: KAJAL

T an emotional narrative, the film focuses on the growing health risks posed by toxic substances entering everyday food, especially among children and the younger generation. Shreyas Talpade said the subject immediately drew his attention because pesticide farming affects every household, yet its long-term consequences are rarely discussed. He expressed hope that audiences would connect with the emotional journey of an ordinary parent fighting for justice and that the film would initiate meaningful conversations beyond entertainment.

Director Chettan DK described The India Story as a conversation society needs to have, adding that the teaser is only a glimpse into a much larger issue impacting millions of families. He said the team's goal is to create awareness, provoke thought, and encourage people to question what ends up on their plates. Presented by Zee Studios in association with MIG Production & Studios, The India Story: Slow Poison is written and produced by Sagar B. Shinde. The film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on July 24 in Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil.

