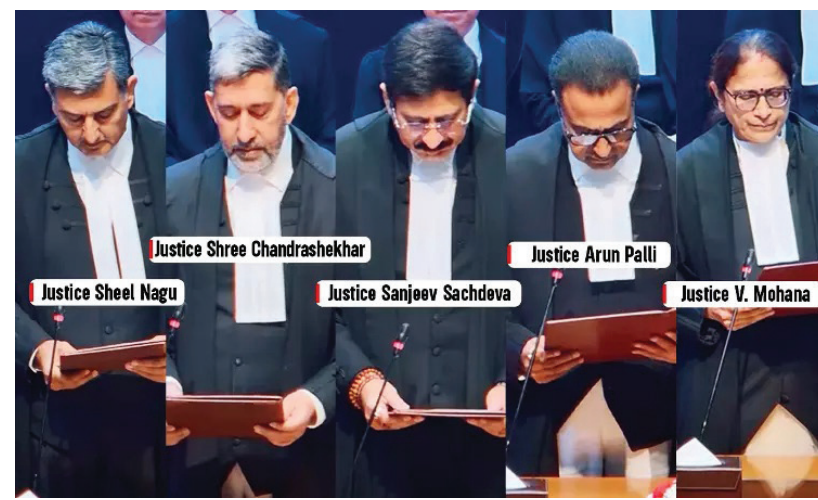


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FIVE NEW JUDGES TAKE OATH IN SUPREME COURT

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

Five newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court were administered the oath of office on Tuesday, taking the strength of the Apex Court closer to its sanctioned capacity of 38 judges.

Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant administered the oath to Justice Sheel Nagu, Justice Shree Chandrashekhhar, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Justice Arun Palli and Senior Advocate V. Mohana at a ceremony held in the Supreme Court.

The appointments were notified by the Central Government on Monday following recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium during its meetings held on May 22 and May 27.

Among the new appointees, four are serving Chief Justices of various High Courts. Justice Sheel Nagu was the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, with the Madhya Pradesh High Court as his parent High Court.

TELANGANA STATEHOOD BUILT ON SACRIFICES OF OVER 1200 YOUTH: T-BJP CHIEF

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao on Tuesday paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Telangana movement, stating that the state was achieved through the sacrifices of more than 1,200 youth and a historic people's struggle.

Speaking at Telangana Formation Day celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi, Ramchander Rao said Telangana was not merely another state but the outcome of a movement driven by aspirations, self-respect and sacrifices of its people.

Welcoming BJP National President Nitin Nabin, he said the latter's presence made the occasion more special. Rao also recalled the role of late Sushma Swaraj in supporting Telangana's statehood demand in Parliament. "If the senior BJP leader Sushma Swaraj had not stood firmly for

Telangana, the voice of Telangana would not have been heard so powerfully in Parliament", he said, adding that the people of Telangana would always remember her contribution with gratitude.

Highlighting the Centre's commitment to Telangana's development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ramchander Rao called upon the citizens to work towards the goal of a "Viksit Telangana" as part of the broader vision of "Viksit Bharat". On this occasion, he stressed the importance of maintaining cordial relations between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, advocating healthy competition in development rather than rivalry. "Viksit Telangana and Viksit Andhra Pradesh together will strengthen the vision of Viksit Bharat", he noted. The event was attended by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, MP Raghunandan Rao and several party leaders and supporters.



SENSEX ENDS 382 POINTS HIGHER

MONEY MATTERS 09

PREITY FANS TROLL TOLLYWOOD



BOX-OFFICE 12

Revanth highlights Telangana's UNPARALLELED DEVELOPMENT

HYDERABAD, JUNE 2

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has articulated his aspiration to establish Telangana as a prominent international gateway, extending beyond national borders.

During the Telangana Formation Day celebrations held at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad on Tuesday, he unveiled a strategic document titled 'Telangana Rising - 2047'. This plan outlines ambitious economic targets, aiming for a one trillion dollar economy by 2034 and a three trillion dollar economy by 2047.

Revanth Reddy emphasised that achieving these objectives necessitates public support and cooperation, expressing confidence that these goals will be met with collective effort and blessings. He encouraged widespread participation in the state's economic advancement and the revitalisation of Telangana's development.

The Chief Minister highlighted the State government's two-and-a-half years



of dedicated work, characterised by numerous policy decisions aimed at ensuring social justice and holistic development. He stressed that alongside developmental initiatives, welfare programmes are being given equal importance, asserting that Telan-

gana is implementing welfare schemes unparalleled by any other state in the nation.

Furthermore, he proudly declared Telangana's leadership in paddy procurement, noting that the state contributes 60 percent of the total grain collected nationwide

during the Yasangi season.

The Chief Minister also pointed to significant reforms in government education, evidenced by Telangana's strong performance in a recently released central government grading index.

He attributed this success to efforts in establishing institutions like Telangana Public Schools and Young India Integrated Schools, all focused on enhancing the education system, equipping students with skills, and improving school infrastructure.

Regarding the Indiramma Housing Scheme, Revanth Reddy reported that in its inaugural year, the state allocated Rs. 22,500 crore and approved 4.50 lakh housing units. He stated that construction of one lakh houses was completed within 13 months of the scheme's February launch, with the remaining two lakh units slated for completion by September 17. He expressed satisfaction that this initiative has become a benchmark for the country.

ANNAMALAI'S POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE THE MAN WHO WALKED AWAY FROM BJP IS NOW BETTING HIS ENTIRE FUTURE AGAINST TAMIL NADU'S POLITICAL HISTORY



ANNAMALAI WALKS OUT. THE GAME JUST CHANGED A NEW CHAPTER IN TAMIL NADU POLITICS BEGINS NOW

BEYOND BORDERS 08

CS directs district collectors to hold gram, ward sabhas from June 4

Hyderabad, June 2: Chief Secretary K.Ramakrishna Rao on Tuesday conducted a video conference with district collectors and reviewed arrangements for the conduct of 99 days Praja Palana Pragathi Pranali, along with environment aware-

ness initiatives as part of the Environment Week.

Addressing the district collectors, the Chief Secretary informed that, as per the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, gram sabhas and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Uttam hails free fine-rice scheme

Suryapet, June 2: Describing the state government's free fine-rice distribution programme as a landmark welfare initiative unmatched anywhere in the country, Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the scheme was unique not only in Telangana's history, but also in the history of India and the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh.

Addressing Telangana State Formation Day celebrations after unfurling the National Flag in Suryapet on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said nearly 3.20 crore people, representing about 85 per cent of Telangana's population, were receiving quality fine rice free of cost under the programme.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

PUSHKARALU 2027 TO REFLECT AP HERITAGE: AP CM

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to organise the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu on a grand scale, highlighting the state's cultural, historical and spiritual heritage. Reviewing preparations at the Secretariat, he stressed coordinated planning, improved road and railway connectivity, special trains, crowd management systems and development of an "Akhanda Go-

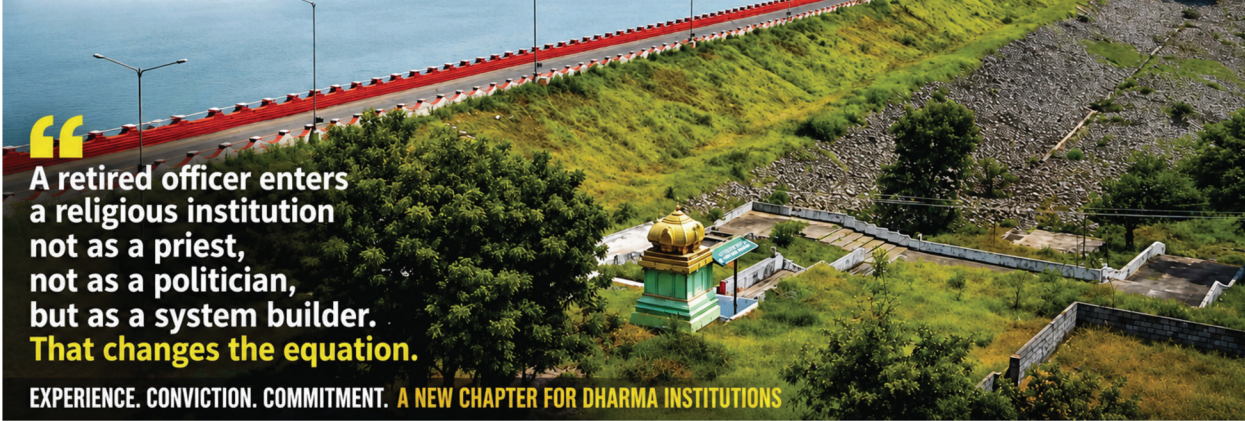
davari Corridor" from Dhavaleswaram to Polavaram. The Chief Minister also instructed officials to launch a dedicated Akhanda Godavari Pushkaralu-2027 website, develop tent cities and hostels, beautify river embankments and submit a comprehensive action plan by June 24. The government plans to prepare 525 ghats across six districts, expecting nearly 9.95 crore pilgrims during the event.

DR DASARI SRINIVASULU'S GREEN DHARMA MISSION FOR GUNDLAKAMMA

WHEN A RIVER CALLS FOR PROTECTION, LEADERSHIP MUST ANSWER

FROM FILES TO FAITH: THE RETURN OF A BUREAUCRAT WHO REFUSED TO RETIRE

DR DASARI SRINIVASULU, IAS, CHAIRMAN OF HDPT



A retired officer enters a religious institution not as a priest, not as a politician, but as a system builder. That changes the equation.

EXPERIENCE. CONVICTION. COMMITMENT. A NEW CHAPTER FOR DHARMA INSTITUTIONS

At a time when rivers across India are battling pollution, shrinking water flows, encroachments and ecological neglect, a remarkable initiative is taking shape in Andhra Pradesh. Under the leadership of Dr Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust, an ambitious effort is being launched to transform the 280-kilometre stretch of the Gundlakamma River into a living corridor of greenery, spirituality and environmental resilience. More than a plantation drive, this initiative seeks to unite Dharma, ecology, culture and public participation into a single movement that could become a model for river conservation across the country.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

There are government programmes. There are ceremonial events. Then there are missions that carry the potential to alter the destiny of an entire region. The Gundlakamma Haritha Haram belongs to the third category. At the centre of this vision stands Dr Dasari Srinivasulu, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust. His decision to undertake plantation activity along both banks of the Gundlakamma River is not merely an

administrative exercise. It is a declaration that environmental protection and cultural preservation cannot be separated.

At a time when public discourse often divides development and conservation into opposing camps, Dr Srinivasulu has chosen a different path. He has placed both on the same platform and asked society to move forward together. That is what makes this initiative significant. It is not about planting saplings. It is about planting responsibility.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

ONE MEETING DENIED. ONE NARRATIVE DELIVERED.

JUBILEE HILLS TO TELANGANA POLITICS PAWAN'S NEXT SCRIPT?

CONGRESS HITS BACK

AP DEPUTY CM SHOULD APOLOGISE BEFORE PLANNING BIG EVENTS - TELANGANA MINISTER

BRS SKEPTICAL

POLITICAL STUNTS WON'T CHANGE TELANGANA'S MOOD - BRS LEADER

BJP'S MIXED SIGNALS

RIGHT TO CAMPAIGN ANYWHERE, BUT WE HAVE OUR PATH - BJP LEADER

"Is Telangana your father's place? Who are you to threaten me?"

- PAWAN KALYAN

FORMATION DAY TURNED INTO A POLITICAL FIRESTORM. THE BATTLE FOR TELANGANA HAS ENTERED A NEW CHAPTER.

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

If there is one lesson Indian politicians never stop teaching us, it is this: never waste a denial. A public meeting is denied. A politician gets upset. The politician returns home. The story ends. That is how ordinary citizens imagine events unfold. Politicians, however, belong to a different species. A denied meeting is not a setback. It is raw material. And thus, Telangana witnessed a fascinating spectacle on its Formation Day. Pawan Kalyan was denied permission for a large public programme. The police cited law and order concerns. The courts did not interfere. The stage disappeared. The microphones remained. The cameras multiplied. And suddenly, what could have been a routine political gathering became a prime time political drama. The police denied him a ground. Politics handed him a bigger platform.

THE GREAT NATIONAL UNITY DISCOVERY Pawan Kalyan reminded everyone

that India is one country and citizens can travel, speak and campaign anywhere. A perfectly valid statement. Nobody can seriously argue against it. The Constitution agrees. The Supreme Court agrees. Even common sense agrees.

The problem begins when politicians discover constitutional principles only after receiving police denials.

One wonders whether the Constitution would have received equal enthusiasm had the meeting proceeded without controversy. Still, national unity is a noble slogan. Every politician loves it. Particularly when it places opponents in an uncomfortable position.

THE CONGRESS REACTION MACHINE

The Telangana Congress immediately reacted as if somebody had attempted to relocate the Assembly building overnight. The outrage was swift. The accusations were colourful. The warnings were plentiful. One would think a constitutional crisis had arrived in Hydera-

bad. What actually arrived was a press conference. Congress leaders accused Pawan Kalyan of disturbing Telangana's atmosphere. This raises an interesting question. If Telangana's political atmosphere can be disturbed by one press conference in Jubilee Hills, perhaps the political atmosphere requires stronger foundations.

Political confidence is usually measured by how much criticism one can tolerate. Not by how quickly one discovers outrage.

THE FAMOUS QUESTION

Then came the line that guaranteed TV channel debates for the next three to four days.

"Is Telangana your father's place?"

Now, in Indian politics, whenever a leader invokes somebody's father, the discussion has officially left the policy department and entered the entertainment department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Aparanji Bommalu

DR. KANDEPI RANI PRASAD

One day, when everyone woke up and looked at their phones, they all took photos with their daughters. Some women even took photos with their mothers. The thing is, that day was International Daughters' Day. International Daughters' Day is celebrated in some countries on September 25th. But in India, the last Sunday of September is celebrated as Daughters' Day. When I saw everyone's messages and photos on my phone, I wanted to take them. But I have two boys. I don't have any girls. How should I take photos? - I want to take a photo of my mother, but my mother died last August. How should I take photos? My mother is no longer alive. I don't have any girls.

These Aparanji dolls were born from the ideas that came to mind then. I started making girls' dolls. I completed 60 dolls in a year. I just held an exhibition with the girls. Everyone appreciated them very much. Another three years passed. The hundred mark has been crossed. I have held two or three more exhibitions. Let me introduce our hundred girls.

Kauravas think that there are a lot of them. No, they are not. All these children were born in the 'Srujan Children's Hospital'. They were brought up in a very systematic way. They are the definition of the most beautiful girls. Poets describe girls in many ways, such as having a face like a lotus, hands like lotus petals, and sensitivity like flowers! Why bother describing them? I tried to describe girls with flowers.

I have made girls using many types of flowers such as zinnias, sampengas, chamantulas, balls, kanakambaras, lilies, lilies, peace lilies, conch flowers, carnations, pomegranate flowers, nuru varah-



ala flowers, banana flowers, roses, billaganneru flowers, sanna jajus, vira jajus, paper flowers, chukakakura flowers, gongura flowers, sitamma varai jadalalu, gunugu flowers, gul mohar flowers, kodi punjula tree flowers, kesaras, and raya flowers. How cute they are! No matter who I show them to, they keep praising the Aparanji dolls. We introduce our flower children to everyone who comes to our house, along with our two boys and our dog. The flower girls are also waiting to see who will come.

Our poets describe girls as having lips like a plum, fruits like pomegranate seeds, and roots like tender okra! But I thought that the other vegetables had done no wrong, so I made girls out of all vegetables. No, no, I gave birth to vegetable girls. Along with vegetables, I used fruits as well.

Many types of vegetable girls like eggplants, zucchini, pumpkins, cauliflower, cabbage, sweet potatoes, carrots, onions, beans, chickpeas, taro, coconuts, green chilies, dosa, donda, and munaga were born in our hospital. All of them are also being prepared for exhibitions. They showed their beauty in front of the guests on International Girl Child Day.

Ancient poets described the beauty of women as red, like the gums of a woman, and skin like the skin of a woman. In ancient poems, the beauty of girls is described as a characteristic of the poems. And I too should join those great poets! That is why I have made beautiful ornaments without leaving out any part of the tree like leaves, twigs, branches, and vines.

Gourd leaves, Pari leaves, Gunner leaves, color-changing flower leaves, Neem tree leaves, leaves in flower bouquets, Christmas tree leaves, Christmas tree leaves, Croton tree leaves, Curry Neem, and Tamarinds. I have created Ativalni with many types of leaves like cotton leaves, cinnabar leaves, leaves of many unknown trees, Ginseng Bares leaves, and money plant leaves. I have created many bodies with shoots, branches, dried fruits, and fallen leaves and placed them in the museum.

I didn't leave out fruits and nuts either. I made seed cakes using seeds like Lobia, Chia seeds, Sabja seeds, Pomegranate seeds, Coconut kernels, Apple seeds, Grape seeds, Sweet potato seeds, Mariyam, Fenugreek seeds, Peanuts, Sapota seeds, Coriander seeds,

Chickpeas, and Chickpeas. Fruits like Mango slices, Apple pieces, Date palms, Mulberries, and Blackberries are also part of the Tarun's preparations. Gone. I don't think our ancient poets used the seeds and fruits that I used. I also used coffee, tea powders and packets found in the kitchen. Our girls should be more innovative and unique than everyone else!

Now I have also sewn chocolates, biscuits and wafers into gowns, sarees, skirts and onis for the girls. Our girls are wearing all kinds of clothes. But they are not very modern. They are not the batch that goes to pubs. Traditional girls are the ones who wear muggu. To know the ones who wear muggu, you have to make a girl with muggu! The twisted muggu has turned into a beautiful girl with curves and ornaments. Some girls are also trapped in muggu. Some girls are studying well in girl care. Some are just playing and enjoying the games.

How can we leave out the home-cooked dishes like garis, bures, chapatis, idlis, and rice? What a pity, they are not suffering? That is why I created Komangul with puris, idlis, and chapatis. I felt like making it true that Idli is a



face of Dana, Chapati is a face of Dana. We have given our children various nicknames like a child who is full of puris, a child who is plump like idli, a child who is round like dumplings, and a child with cheeks like bures. What can we do? As a mother of a girl, I am enduring it.

Now let's talk about sweets. I have created children who delight their mouths with sweet treats like jalebis, jhangris, laddus, badushas, kajas, kala kands, soni papids, and arisas. Along with many types of sweets, I have also made girls out of kara like karappusa boondi, pretzels, and mixtures. As soon as they eat sweets, they make the kara children drool as soon as they see the sweet ones. They stand on the walls of the hospital,

mouth watering the patients who come to our hospital, what a pity!

Now those who say that plastic is plastic, all the plastic waste in the hospital, plastic bottles and tins thrown away at home have become girls. Using my magic wand, I am turning anything I see into a girl. Not the magic fakir in the movie Vitalachari, but the waste that comes in front of me, automatically turns into girls. What should I do? Already, there are more than a hundred people. Let's not be a baby anymore, girls are being born. And I turned my mind to the Indian flags, thinking what can we say to prevent these girls from being born. Now, look at our girls' modesty and tell them how beautiful they are.

CS directs district collectors to hold gram, ward sabhas from June 4

>FROM PAGE 1

ward sabhas should be organised on June 4, 6, 8 and 10 in all villages and urban wards.

He emphasised that these public meetings should be utilised as an effective platform to create awareness among citizens on several important issues concerning governance, development and public participation.

The Chief Secretary stated that special focus should be given to creating awareness on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) being undertaken as per the instructions of the Election Commission of India.

He directed the district administration to ensure that citizens are adequately informed about the voter list revision process and the importance of participation in electoral roll updating activities.

Ramakrishna Rao further instructed the Collectors to use the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas to educate people about crop diversification, enabling farmers to adopt sustainable and remunerative agricultural practices.

Awareness should also be generated on monsoon preparedness measures, including precautions to be taken before and during the rainy season, he said.

Highlighting the importance of sanitation and environmental protection, the Chief Secretary directed officials to focus on prevention of water stagnation. He also stressed the need for promoting plantation activities and creating awareness about Solid Waste Management Rules, encouraging communities to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness and environmental sustainability.

The Chief Secretary clarified that the activities proposed to be taken up through the Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas are in addition to the thematic week programmes already being implemented under the 99-Day Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika initiative.

He instructed officials to ensure convergence of all departmental efforts for effective outreach and maximum public participation.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

FROM FILES TO FAITH..

>FROM PAGE 1

GUNDLAKAMMA HARITHA HARAM

World Environment Day Launch. 280 Kilometres of River Stretch. Seven Assembly Constituencies. Mass Public Participation. Long Term Sapling Protection Plan. Environmental and Spiritual Integration.

A RIVER THAT BUILT CIVILISATIONS DESERVES GRATITUDE

The Gundlakamma is not an ordinary river. Born in the sacred surroundings of Gundla Brahmeswaram in the Nallamala forests and finally embracing the Bay of Bengal near Gundayapalem, the river has nurtured generations of farmers, sustained villages, filled reservoirs and supplied drinking water to countless households.

Its waters have travelled through history. Its flow has witnessed temples rise, communities flourish and agricultural prosperity spread across large stretches of Andhra Pradesh. The river feeds the historic Kambham Cheruvu and supports the Gundlakamma Reservoir Project, lifelines for irrigation and drinking water in Prakasam district. Yet like many rivers across India, Gundlakamma faces mounting pressure from erosion, pollution, environmental degradation and changing climatic conditions.

The question before society is simple. If the river protected us for generations, who will protect the river? Dr Dasari Srinivasulu's answer is equally simple. Everyone must.

DHARMA MEETS ECOLOGY

One of the strongest features of this programme is its intellectual clarity. Many environmental campaigns struggle because they rely solely on scientific arguments. Many cultural campaigns struggle because they ignore environmental realities. The Gundlakamma Haritha Haram attempts something far more powerful. It combines both. The programme draws in-

spiration from the timeless principle of Sanatan Dharma that regards rivers as sacred life givers and trees as living embodiments of divinity. At the same time, it is firmly rooted in environmental science. Peepal trees improve oxygen levels. Banyan trees strengthen riverbanks. Neem trees help purify the environment. Bilva trees possess medicinal value. Other indigenous species contribute to biodiversity, groundwater recharge and ecological stability.

This is not mythology versus science. This is mythology working alongside science. That is precisely why the initiative carries such potential.

"A river gives water to the body. Trees give life to the landscape. Together they create the foundation of civilisation."

A MOVEMENT, NOT A CEREMONY

The true test of any plantation drive begins after the photographs are taken. India has witnessed countless plantation campaigns where enthusiasm lasted for a day and saplings disappeared within months.

The Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Trust appears determined not to repeat that mistake. What deserves appreciation is the emphasis on nurturing saplings until they become mature trees.

This may sound like a small detail. In reality, it is the difference between success and failure. A planted sapling is a promise. A surviving tree is an achievement. Dr Srinivasulu's insistence on long term maintenance demonstrates an understanding that environmental restoration requires patience, discipline and community ownership. That approach elevates the programme from symbolism to substance.

SEVEN CONSTITUENCIES. ONE COMMON RESPONSIBILITY

The simultaneous launch across seven assembly constituencies on World Environment Day sends a strong message. Rivers do not recognise political boundaries. Water does not carry party affiliations. Envi-

ronmental degradation does not discriminate between communities.

The participation of elected representatives, students, women, spiritual organisations, environmental activists, villagers, artists and volunteers reflects a recognition that river conservation cannot be outsourced to government departments alone.

Every successful environmental movement ultimately becomes a people's movement. The wider the participation, the stronger the results. This initiative understands that reality.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

- ✦ Protects Riverbanks
- ✦ Improves Groundwater Recharge
- ✦ Reduces Pollution
- ✦ Enhances Biodiversity
- ✦ Strengthens Sacred Landscapes
- ✦ Supports Rural Livelihoods
- ✦ Promotes Spiritual Tourism
- ✦ Creates Community Ownership

THE BIGGER VISION BEYOND GUNDLAKAMMA

What makes this initiative especially noteworthy is its potential to become a template. India's rivers are under stress. From the Himalayas to the southern coast, concerns over pollution, encroachment, declining water quality and ecological imbalance are growing. Large national programmes have their place. But lasting success often emerges from local solutions driven by local communities.

The Gundlakamma model offers precisely that possibility. A river. A community. A cultural identity. A scientific framework. A long term maintenance strategy. And committed leadership. If these ingredients succeed here, other river basins may well study this experiment closely.

FROM NALLAMALA TO THE SEA: THE JOURNEY OF GUNDLAKAMMA

Emerging from the sacred landscape of Gundla Brahmeswaram in the Nallamala hills, the Gundlakamma travels through regions that depend heavily on its waters for agriculture and drinking purposes. Along its journey, it receives support from numerous streams and tributaries before reaching the Bay of Bengal near Gundayapalem.

The river sustains irrigation systems, nourishes agricultural fields and supports major water infrastructure including the Gundlakamma Reservoir. Its banks are dotted with temples and sacred sites that have shaped the cultural identity of the region for centuries. The proposed green corridor seeks to strengthen this relationship between nature, faith and human development.

THE RIVER WILL REMEMBER

History often remembers leaders not for the speeches they delivered but for the legacies they created. The Gundlakamma Haritha Haram represents an opportunity to create such a legacy.

Dr Dasari Srinivasulu has placed before society a vision that is both practical and inspiring. It speaks the language of environmental science while drawing strength from the civilisational wisdom of Sanatan Dharma. It seeks to protect a river that has protected millions.

The challenge now is execution. If the saplings survive, if communities remain engaged, if institutions stay committed and if public participation continues beyond the inaugural ceremonies, the Gundlakamma of tomorrow could become greener, healthier and more vibrant than it is today.

That would not merely be a plantation success. It would be a victory for ecology, culture, public responsibility and future generations.

And it would stand as a lasting tribute to the leadership and vision of Dr Dasari Srinivasulu.

Uttam hails free fine-rice scheme

>FROM PAGE 1

"No government anywhere in India has implemented a scheme of this scale. Even in united Andhra Pradesh, people never received fine rice free of cost on such a massive scale. Telangana has become a model for food security and social welfare," he said.

The Minister said the scheme had restored dignity to poor families by providing them the same quality rice consumed by affluent sections. In Suryapet district alone, fine rice distribution for April, May and June covered more than 20.51 lakh beneficiaries at a cost of Rs 82.46 crore, he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the Congress government, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the district had made remarkable progress under the

99-Day Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika, a ten-point governance and service delivery campaign aimed at strengthening welfare implementation and addressing public grievances.

He said the district had secured leading positions in several sectors including health, agriculture, sanitation, education, women and child welfare, revenue administration, infrastructure development, skill development and women's empowerment.

The Minister said the government had issued 46,587 new ration cards after a gap of nearly ten years. Suryapet district now has 3.70 lakh ration cards and all eligible families without cards were encouraged to apply, he said.

Referring to paddy procurement, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana was carrying

out one of the largest procurement operations in the country. In Suryapet district alone, 3.39 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had been procured from 48,897 farmers through 313 procurement centres at a cost of Rs 810 crore, he said.

Under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, Rs 602.56 crore had been deposited into the accounts of 5.79 lakh farmers covering the Vanakalam and Yasangi seasons. Under Rythu Bima, Rs 20.45 crore had been paid to nominees of 409 deceased farmers, Uttam Kumar Reddy said.

The Minister said welfare measures were reaching every section of society. Under the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme, women had undertaken 5.13 crore journeys, resulting in savings of Rs 307 crore. Under the Griha Jyoti

scheme, 1.89 lakh households were receiving free electricity up to 200 units with a subsidy support of Rs 144.78 crore. Free power supply for agriculture was benefiting 1.60 lakh farm connections, he said.

The Minister said students in government institutions were being provided breakfast, eggs, ragi java, milk and nutritious midday meals. Young India Integrated Residential Schools had been sanctioned in Huzurnagar, Kodad and Thungathurthi at an estimated cost of Rs 600 crore, he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy further announced that Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya had been sanctioned in Kodad on 100 acres at a cost of Rs 53 crore, while a Government Agricultural College was sanctioned in Huzurnagar on 100 acres at a cost of Rs 124 crore.

Uttam outlines CM's upcoming IRRIGATION TOUR

HYDERABAD, JUNE 2

Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's forthcoming two-day visit to examine irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district, scheduled for June 4 and 5, represents a pivotal undertaking. He believes this inspection will significantly influence the future trajectory of irrigation development within the Palamuru region. Chairing a high-level preparatory meeting with senior officials at Jala Soudha on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the visit was expected to provide strategic direction for the completion of several long-pending irrigation projects and unlock fresh funding for their accelerated execution.

He said the Chief Minister's tour would focus on reviewing the status of ongoing and proposed irrigation works across the region, assessing bottlenecks, and identifying measures required for their early completion.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the inspection is likely to be followed by major policy decisions, sanctions and the release of substantial funds for key irrigation projects, aimed at maximising irrigation potential and benefiting lakhs of farmers in the drought-prone Palamuru region.

The Minister described the proposed visit as a historic and unprecedented exercise, reflecting the State government's commitment to transforming the irrigation landscape of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district.

>FROM PAGE 1

Supporters applauded. Opponents protested. TV news channels celebrated. After all, governance may be complicated. A political one liner is much easier to broadcast.

THE TELANGANA PARADOX

The most curious part of this episode is that everybody claims to be protecting Telangana. Congress says it is protecting Telangana. BRS says it is protecting Telangana. BJP says it is strengthening Telangana. Janasena says it wants to serve Telangana.

At this rate, Telangana may soon become the safest political territory in India. Protected simultaneously by every party.

The only remaining mystery is why voters continue to have complaints.

THE REAL QUESTION NOBODY WANTS TO ANSWER

Behind all the shouting lies a serious issue. Can Janasena become a meaningful force in Telangana? That question cannot be answered by slogans. Nor by police permissions. Nor by dramatic press conferences. It requires organisation. It requires local leadership. It requires policies. Most importantly, it requires voters.

Political parties often mistake media attention for political expansion. The two are not identical. A trending hashtag is not a booth committee. A viral speech is not a vote bank. A crowd is not a cadre.

Jubilee hills to Telangana politics

History has repeatedly demonstrated this unpleasant fact.

THE BJP'S COMFORTABLE CONFUSION

The BJP's position is especially interesting. Janasena is an ally.

The BJP wants to grow independently. The BJP welcomes friends. The BJP wants its own space.

Everybody is together. Everybody is separate. Everybody is cooperating. Everybody is competing.

Indian coalition politics has always possessed the clarity of a crossword puzzle.

TELANGANA'S VOTERS HOLD THE LAST LAUGH

Pawan Kalyan succeeded in achieving something important. A denied public meeting became the biggest political conversation of the day. That is not accidental. It reflects political instinct and media understanding. But the excitement surrounding a controversy and the hard work of building a political movement are very different enterprises.

Telangana voters will eventually examine not the size of the headlines but the substance behind them. Until then, every party will continue claiming ownership of Telangana's future, while Telangana's voters quietly reserve the right to decide who, if anyone, deserves the keys.

Quality Education and Environmental Protection are the Foundations of Telangana's Progress

■ **Telangana Formation Day Celebrated Grandly at Lotus Lap Public Schools**

HYDERABAD

Telangana Formation Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at the Dilsukhnagar, Boduppal, and Badangpet campuses of Lotus Lap Public Schools. Students, teachers, parents, and staff members actively participated in the celebrations, paying tribute to the sacrifices made for the formation of Telangana State.

The event was graced by renowned educationist, environmentalist, and Chairman of Lotus Lap Group of Schools, Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he stated that Telangana's formation was a historic achievement and emphasized that the next phase of development should focus on strengthening education and environmental sustainability.

Speaking on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of Telangana State, Dr. Gopal Reddy highlighted that education and environmental conservation play a crucial role in the overall development of society. He stressed that students should not be confined merely to academic examinations but should be nurtured into responsible citizens with strong values, leadership qualities, social responsibility, and environmental awareness.



He described the teaching profession as one of the noblest professions in the world and emphasized that teachers are the architects of society. A dedicated teacher, he noted, has the power to transform the lives of thousands of students and contribute significantly to nation-building. He urged teachers to continue inspiring students with commitment, compassion, and excellence.

Addressing parents, Dr. Gopal Reddy pointed out that many students experienced a decline in concentration, reading habits, writing skills, and communication abilities after the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts between schools and families to rebuild these essential

skills. Encouraging children to read, write, think critically, and communicate effectively, he said, would help shape them into successful and responsible individuals.

On this occasion, he congratulated the students of Lotus Lap Public Schools for achieving recognition in the Genius Book of Records through their large-scale writing initiatives in Telugu, Hindi, and English. He appreciated the students for their dedication and hard work and extended special congratulations to the teachers and parents whose support contributed to this remarkable achievement.

Dr. Gopal Reddy also announced that Lotus Lap Educational Institutions

would further strengthen their commitment to international standards of education in the coming academic year. The schools plan to implement innovative teaching methodologies, skill-based learning programs, value-based education, and technology-enabled learning systems. He reiterated that the institution's mission is to identify the unique potential of every student and help them become successful individuals and future leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Komatireddy Abhishek Reddy emphasized that while technological knowledge is essential in today's world, students should not become overly dependent on mobile phones, gadgets, and social media. Instead, they should focus on creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and personality development. He urged teachers and young parents to play an active role in guiding children toward balanced and productive use of technology. The program was attended by Vice Principals Madhavi, Gangadhara, and Shrutilaya Reddy, Administrative Officers Swarna, Latha, and Swathi Reddy, Heads of Departments, faculty members from Telugu, Hindi, English, and Science departments, students, parents, and administrative staff.

The management of Lotus Lap Public Schools expressed its appreciation to all students, teachers, parents, and staff members for making the Telangana Formation Day celebrations a grand success across all campuses.



RG RAO Educational Trust Celebrates 20 Years of Educational Service

■ **Telangana Formation Day Also Observed**

HYDERABAD (BACHUPALLY)

RG RAO Educational Trust celebrated its 20th Formation Day at Surya Global School, Bachupally, marking two decades of dedicated service in the field of education. Over the past 20 years, the Trust has positively impacted the lives of more than 1,000 children, particularly from rural and underserved communities.

The event was graced by eminent dignitaries including Sri S. Narasingha Rao, Retired IAS Officer, Prof. Ramaiah,

Gandra Mohana Rao, High Court Advocate and other distinguished guests from the fields of education and public service.

The speakers appreciated the Trust's sustained efforts in providing quality education and creating opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds.

The occasion also coincided with Telangana Formation Day, which was celebrated with enthusiasm, highlighting the State's journey of growth and development.

The combined celebrations reflected the shared values of progress, empowerment, and

community development. Students presented colourful cultural performances, while several alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in the celebrations and share their inspiring success stories.

Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries congratulated RG RAO Educational Trust on its remarkable journey and expressed confidence in its continued contribution to educational and social advancement. The event concluded with a renewed commitment by the Trust to continue its mission of delivering accessible, value-based, and transformative education to future generations.

Valedictory Session and Convocation of the International Training Program on SEED

HYDERABAD

The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad, in collaboration with Taraba Seeds Limited (Nigeria), and Prasad Seeds Private Limited (India) is pleased to announce the Valedictory and Convocation of the International Training Program on Seed Education and Enterprise Development (SEED).

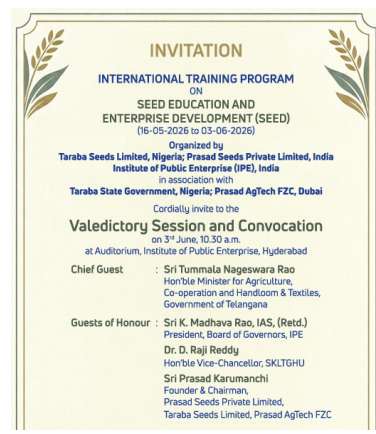
The programme, held from 16 May to 3 June 2026, brought together participants from Nigeria for intensive training in seed education, enterprise development, and agri-tech innovations.

The Valedictory Session will be held

on Wednesday, 3rd June 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Auditorium, IPE, Hyderabad. Chief Guest Sri Tummala Nag-eswara Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Co-operation and Handloom & Textiles, Government of Telangana Guests of Honour • Sri K. Madhava Rao, IAS (Retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and President, Board of Governors, IPE

• Dr. D. Raji Reddy, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SKLTHU

• Sri Prasad Karumanchi, Founder & Chairman, Prasad Seeds Pvt. Ltd., Taraba Seeds Ltd., Prasad AgTech FZC
The other dignitaries include:



• Dr. Dileepkumar Guntuku, Founder & CEO, Taraba Seeds Limited, Prasad AgTech FZC, AgTech Innovations Labs LLC Prof S. Sreenivasa Murthy, Director, IPE Dr. Ali Sarah Sabo Danjuma, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Taraba State Dr. Joshua Mark Maaku, Director General, TAGIS

• Dr. K Veeranjanyulu, Former University Librarian & Professor, PJTASU

We request your esteemed media organization to kindly cover this international event, which marks a milestone in Indo Nigerian collaboration in agriculture and enterprise development.

GITAM Launches Summer Sports Camp for Faculty and Staff Children



HYDERABAD

As part of its commitment to holistic development and employee well-being, the Directorate of Campus Life at GITAM Hyderabad has launched a Summer Sports Camp for the children of faculty and staff members. The camp is designed for children aged 6 to 15 years and aims to provide structured sports coaching during the summer break.

The camp offers professional coaching in Table Ten-

nis, Badminton, Football, and Cricket under the guidance of experienced campus coaches. Through regular training sessions, participants will have the opportunity to develop fundamental sporting skills while embracing the values of teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Sports play a vital role in shaping young minds by fostering physical fitness, confidence, resilience, and leadership qualities. By introducing children to sports at a young age, GITAM

Hyderabad seeks to nurture healthy habits and instil discipline at the grassroots level.

This initiative, led by the Directorate of Campus Life, reflects GITAM Hyderabad's continued focus on creating a vibrant and inclusive campus ecosystem. It also aligns with the institution's broader Human Resources vision of fostering a "Great Place to Work" culture by extending meaningful engagement opportunities to employees and their families.

Speaking about the initiative,

officials from the Directorate of Campus Life emphasized that the camp is not merely about sports training but about creating memorable experiences, encouraging active lifestyles, and strengthening the sense of community among GITAM families.

The Summer Sports Camp reinforces GITAM Hyderabad's belief that learning and development extend beyond classrooms and workplaces, contributing to the overall growth and well-being of individuals and families alike.



NITHM Celebrated Telangana Formation Day

HYDERABAD

The National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) celebrated Telangana Formation Day with great joy. The Director of NITHM, Prof. V. Venkata Ramana, unveiled the national flag to mark the day. The institute's faculty and staff attended the event. Trainees from Gundala Village in the Adilabad district, who are joining the ongoing Resort Management Skill Development Program, also took part in the event. Trainees performed a beautiful traditional dance of the Adilabad District. Event Coordinated by Dr. N. Yadagiri.



All-Party Meeting on Recognition of Telangana Movement Activists on June 4

HYDERABAD

The committee constituted by the government to identify and appropriately honor activists who participated in the Telangana movement will hold an all-party meeting with representatives of various political parties on June 4. The meeting will take place at 11:30 AM on June 4 in Room No. 33 on the 6th floor of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat in Hyderabad.

The government has requested all political parties to nominate two representatives each to attend the meeting and provide their valuable suggestions and opinions regarding the recognition of Telangana movement activists.

To ensure smooth entry into the Secretariat without any inconvenience, party representatives attending the meeting have been advised to contact Chief Security Officer Devidas in advance at 87126 66004, according to an official statement.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, dated 01.06.2026. Following e-tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager/ Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Remote Control Building, Room No.-44, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **Tender No.: TN-95-26-27. Name of the Work :** Deep screening work by BCM Machine for Deep screening of 6.919 km at main line & TBR [P&C]-41 Sels alongwith other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer/Barasat. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,96,20,823.16. **EMD :** ₹ 3,92,400/- **Completion period for the work :** 12 (Twelve) Months. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 30.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 30.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Tender Document and details at : www.irops.gov.in The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender Form is NIL. (SDAH-60/2026-27) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at : [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway)
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Handloom Textile Exhibition at HITEX on June 5, 6, and 7

HYDERABAD

A special textile exhibition will be organized on June 5, 6, and 7 to promote the internationally renowned Pochampally Ikat textile products.

With the objective of improving the livelihoods of Pochampally handloom artisans, a textile exhibition titled "Thread Pochampally" will be held at HITEX Exhibition Centre on June 5, 6, and 7.

According to an official statement, the exhibition is being organized to enhance marketing opportunities

for handloom products. The event will feature more than 100 stalls, including stalls set up by women's self-help groups, showcasing a wide range of handloom textiles and related products.

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BRAOU marks Telangana Formation Day; VC announces AI trng Initiative for Teachers

HYDERABAD: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) celebrated Telangana Formation Day with patriotic fervour on its campus here on Tuesday. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani unfurled the National Flag and extended greetings to faculty, staff and students on the occasion. Paying homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the creation of Telangana state, Prof. Chakrapani said the University remains committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all sections of society. He highlighted BRAOU's efforts in providing free education to children from tribal communities, including Gond, Koya and Chenchu groups, under its Equal Opportunity Plan. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor announced that the University is planning to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the State Government to organize Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programmes for government teachers. He also said that the construction of DRC building under PM-USHA funding is progressing rapidly and will be completed soon.

Patriotism & pride mark Telangana Formation Day celebrations at HRC

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) celebrated Telangana Formation Day with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at its headquarters here on Tuesday. Sivadi Praveena, Member (Judicial) TGHRC, unfurled the National Flag at 10 a.m. and conveyed her greetings to the people of Telangana on the state's formation anniversary. The programme was attended by Dr. B. Kishore, Member (Non-Judicial), A.N. Kanthi Wesley, IAS, Secretary and CEO, Mohd. Shahab Uddin, Assistant Registrar (Judicial), P. Srinivas Rao, PRO-Cum-AO (FAC), K. Ramulu, DSP, along with senior officers, staff members, police personnel, petitioners, media representatives and visitors. Speakers at the event reflected on Telangana's journey of progress and development since its formation and emphasized the importance of protecting human rights while advancing inclusive growth. The celebrations were held in a cordial and patriotic atmosphere.

20 yrs behind bars: Hyd court delivers justice in POCSO case

HYDERABAD
In a major victory for child protection and justice, a Hyderabad POCSO Court sentenced a 70-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor girl in Santoshnagar Police Station limits. The judgment was delivered by M Archana Kumari, the XII Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Sessions Judge for Trial and Disposal of POCSO Act Cases, Hyderabad, convicting Mohammed Zameeruddin (70) under Section 376(2)(f) of the IPC and relevant provisions of the POCSO Act.
According to the prosecution, the horrific incident occurred on May 11, 2023, when the child visited a stationery-cum-kirana shop in Gulshan Iqbal Colony to purchase a milk packet. The accused allegedly lured the child into the shop, sexually assaulted her, showed obscene material, and threatened her with dire consequences.
The traumatized child later



Aim is to Take Singareni to International Standards

- Bring Greater Honour to Telangana State
- Company's Growth Depends on Every Employee Performing Their Duties Efficiently
- Work with Dedication to Remain Competitive in the Market
- Singareni Chairman & Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti's Call at Telangana Formation Day Celebrations

SINGARENI BHAVAN

Singareni Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, IAS, stated that taking Singareni, one of Telangana's most important enterprises, to international standards would be a matter of pride for the state. He called upon all employees to discharge their responsibilities with dedication and commitment to achieve this goal. He was addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest at the Telangana State Formation Day celebrations held at Singareni Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti said that Singareni is expanding not only within Telangana but also into other states, and that the organization should work with the vision of gradually establishing its presence at the international level. He noted that



Telangana was achieved through the sacrifices of numerous youth, leaders, and people from all walks of life. Since becoming a separate state, Telangana has made remarkable progress in various sectors and has created significant employment opportunities for its youth, he added.

Highlighting Singareni's bright future, he emphasized the need to increase production and productivity by making optimum use of machinery in both opencast and underground mines, while also improving the quality of operations and output. Prior to the meeting, Dr. Jyoti paid floral tributes to the statues

and portraits of Telangana Thalli, the Martyrs' Memorial, and Professor K. Jayashankar. He later unfurled the National Flag.

As part of the Telangana Formation Day celebrations, employees who rendered outstanding services were felicitated by the dignitaries. The awardees included: L. Srinivas, AGM (Purchase), Y. Lakshminarayana, MV Driver, D. Rudramma, Outsourcing Employee. The programme was also attended by Sri Gowtham Potru, Director (Personnel & Finance), and Sri. T. Srinivas, General Manager (Coordination & Marketing), among others.

BJP claims credit for Telangana statehood at Formation Day celebrations

HYDERABAD

Telangana Formation Day was celebrated with grandeur at the BJP state headquarters, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Bhavan in Nampally, where Union Minister for State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar attended as chief guest.

BJP State Vice President Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud hoisted the national flag and asserted that the BJP played a decisive role in achieving Telangana statehood. Addressing party leaders and workers, he credited the BJP's long-standing support for separate statehood and highlighted the contributions of leaders such as Sushma Swaraj, Bandaru Datatreya and G. Kishan Reddy.

He accused successive Congress governments of delaying Telangana's forma-

tion and criticized the state government over unemployment, debt and the welfare of Telangana movement activists. Goud also claimed that the BJP would ensure better support for farmers and movement veterans if voted to power.

The celebrations saw the participation of former Haryana Governor Bandaru Datatreya, Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, BJP Legislative Party Leader A Maheswar Reddy, MLCs Malika Komaraiah and Anji Reddy, National Leader Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, BJP State General Secretaries Dr. Goutham Rao and Ashok, former ministers Peddireddy and Ramulu, former MLA Chintala Ramachandra Reddy, along with various other leaders and a large number of the party workers.

AI policing: Hyd police showcase future-ready force on State Formation Day

HYDERABAD

Telangana State Formation Day celebrations at the City Armed Reserve Headquarters turned into a showcase of Hyderabad Police's technological transformation and people-centric policing initiatives as police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar unveiled a series of achievements and reforms.

After unfurling the National Flag and paying homage to Telangana martyrs, the Commissioner highlighted how Hyderabad Police is leveraging Artificial Intelligence, digital innovation and community participation to build a safer city.

Among the standout initiatives was 'C-Mitra', India's first Virtual Police Officer platform, which allows citizens to file complaints and register FIRs from their homes. The system has already facilitated more than 1,100 Zero FIRs and hundreds of cybercrime cases.

The Commissioner also highlighted the AI-powered 'Cop-Writer' application, the 'SOC-EYE' digital monitoring platform, and the strengthened Hyderabad Narcot-

ics Enforcement Wing's crackdown on drug networks. A major focus was placed on personnel welfare, with nearly 20,000 police personnel undergoing comprehensive health screening under the Grand Health Challenge initiative. Health volunteers have also been deployed across police stations to monitor wellness and provide support.

The department's anti-food adulteration wing, H-FAST, has registered 173 cases and seized nearly 95 tonnes of adulterated food products, while emergency response teams under 'Spandana' continue to provide rapid assistance to citizens across the city.

Calling upon citizens to actively support law enforcement efforts, the Commissioner reaffirmed Hyderabad Police's commitment to building a safe, technology-driven, and globally respected city. The event witnessed the participation of senior police officers, including M. Srinivas, Addl. CP (Crime & SIT); Tafseer Iqbal, Addl. CP (Law & Order); D. Joel Davis, Joint CP (Traffic); N. Swetha, Joint CP (North Range); R. Venkateswarlu, DCP (CAR Headquarters), along with Zonal, Traffic, CCS, and Cybercrime DCPs, other senior officers and staff.

Third Phase of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Being Conducted Thoroughly in the State

HYDERABAD

A review meeting was held in Hyderabad on Tuesday to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the third phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) across the country to cleanse and update voter lists.

The meeting was led by senior ECI officials, including Principal Secretary Mr. Avinash Kumar and Deputy Secretary Mr. Sanjay Kumar. Participants included the GHMC Commissioner, District Election Officer (DEO) and Hyderabad Collector, as well as Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) from Hyderabad and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts. Addressing the officials, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Telangana, C. Sudarshan Reddy, IAS, provided details about the Assembly constituencies, the personnel appointed for the SIR process (EROs, AEROs, BLO Supervisors, and Booth Level Officers), and the help centers established for the exercise. He informed the meeting that 68.30% of the mapping process has been completed across the state so far.

ECI officials delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Special Intensive Revision. They explained the rele-



vant provisions of the Constitution of India, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. They also highlighted the importance of the SIR process and elaborated on its key stages, including publication of the draft electoral roll, filing of claims and objections, issuance of notices, disposal of claims and objections, and publication of the final electoral roll.

The ECI officials emphasized the need for utmost care while filling enumeration forms. They instructed officials to widely publicize the online submission of forms through the official voter portal and to promote the "Book a Call" facility, which enables voters to receive quick information about the SIR process. They also advised District Election Officers to hold regular meetings with all political

parties and ensure the active participation of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in the revision process.

The review meeting was attended by Additional Chief Electoral Officer Dr. Vasam Venkateshwar Reddy, IAS, Joint Chief Electoral Officer M. Satyavani, GHMC Commissioner, Hyderabad District Election Officer R.V. Karman, IAS, Medchal District Collector and District Election Officer M. Manu Choudhary, IAS, Additional Secretary and State Media Nodal Officer N. Shankar, Deputy CEO (FAC) G.S. Chari, State Nodal Officers B. Chennayya and N. Prasonamba, and PM (IT) Chiranjeevi. During the interactive session, the ECI team provided detailed clarifications on several technical and administrative issues raised by the EROs and AEROs.

MGU celebrates Telangana Formation Day

Dr Srinivas Vooradi

NALGONDA

"The establishment of Telangana State is a monumental achievement born from countless sacrifices, struggles, and the courage of martyrs," stated Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University Prof. Khaja Althaf Hussain. Participating as the chief guest at the Telangana State Formation Day celebrations on Tuesday, he expressed his warmest greetings to all citizens and the university community after hoisting the national flag.

In tribute to the martyrs who gave their lives for Telangana, he urged every individual to embrace a renewed commitment to the state's progress, so their sacrifices may not be in vain. "We have a responsibility not just for the advancement of Telangana, but for the betterment of India as a whole," the Vice Chancellor emphasized.

He further conveyed that honouring the martyrs goes beyond celebrating their an-



angana. He called on everyone to acknowledge their role in the State's development and to strive to make Telangana a model State within the country, showcasing their talents in their respective fields. "The everlasting spirit of Telangana should guide us, motivating us to serve our State and nation with integrity, sensitivity, and dedication," he remarked.

Varsity Registrar Prof. Koppula Anji Reddy, Director (Infrastructure) Prof.

Akula Ravi, Principals of University constituent colleges Prof. Rekha, Prof. Vasantha, and Prof. Sridevi, along with Convener of TG ICET-26 Prof. Aluvula Ravi, IQAC Director Dr. Miriyala Ramesh Controller of Exams Dr. G. Upender Reddy, NSS Programme Coordinator Dr. Venkataramana Reddy, and various faculty members, officers, non-teaching staff, and students participated in the celebrations.

universaries; it calls for a life marked by discipline, social responsibility, sensitivity, and honesty. According to Prof. Khaja Althaf Hussain, the future of Telangana hinges on equipping the youth with values like respect for labour and a dedication to public service. He encouraged the implementation of self-respect, social justice, and inclusive development in everyday life, as these ideals inspired the formation of Tel-

Martyrs' dreams driving Telangana's growth: Shabbir Ali

ADILABAD

Telangana Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir said the State government was pursuing a welfare-driven development model to fulfil the aspirations of the people and honour the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs. "Congress government pursuing a welfare-driven development model to fulfil the aspirations of the people and honour the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the creation of Telangana", he noted. Address-

ing Telangana Formation Day celebrations in Adilabad on Tuesday, the senior Congress leader said development would be meaningful only when benefits reached farmers, women, students, workers and weaker sections. He highlighted the government's 99-day "Praja Palana-Pragathi Pranalika" programme aimed at accelerating development and improving governance.

Shabbir Ali outlined achievements in education, healthcare, housing, women's welfare and employment. He

said 16,759 Indiramma houses were sanctioned in the district, over one lakh women benefited from LPG subsidies, and more than 1,000 youth secured jobs through recent mega job fairs.

He also highlighted expansion of healthcare facilities at RIMS Adilabad, welfare measures for SCs, BCs and minorities, and progress in irrigation, drinking water supply and rural development. Praising Adilabad's water conservation efforts, he noted that the district had earned national recognition.

Telangana adopts global economic framework to accelerate GDP scaling: Bhatti



KHAMMAM

The Telangana State Formation Day celebrations were held in a grand manner at the local Police Parade Grounds in Khammam on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka hoisted the national flag. After receiving the guard of honour from the armed forces, he addressed the people and emphasised that inspired by the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the People's government is governance in the state with the sole objective of providing social, economic, and political justice to every citizen.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister detailed the revolutionary schemes and plans introduced by the government to elevate Telangana's economy to international standards and extend welfare benefits to every household.

Bhatti Vikramarka revealed that a magnificent target has been set to position the state's economic growth alongside developed nations.

"Plans have been finalised to scale up Telangana's current economy from \$200 billion to \$1 trillion by 2034, and eventually into a massive \$3 trillion economy by 2047," he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka announced that following international models, the state's economy has been categorised

into three segments—'Pure, Rare'—to kick-start planned and structured growth. He stated that the government has launched a novel initiative with the aim of providing social security to every family in the state, unmatched by even developed countries globally.

The "Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bima Pathakam" (Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme) will provide free life insurance worth ₹5 lakh per family to 1.15 crore families in the state, without any distinction between poor, middle class, or rich, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka assured that this scheme would provide immense financial support to families during times of crisis when they lose their sole breadwinner.

The Deputy Chief Minister provided statistical details regarding the benefits delivered under the Abhayashtham programme and the progress of Indiramma Houses in Khammam district.

Bhatti Vikramarka made a major announcement regarding a free nutritious breakfast scheme across the state for government school students from Pre-Primary to Intermediate levels, starting from the upcoming academic year (2026-27). The goal is to ensure that no child in Telangana goes to school on an empty stomach, he said.

Resignation of Sri Arava Sreedhar as Government Whip Accepted

AMARAVATI, JUNE 2:

Arava Sreedhar, Hon'ble AMLA from Railway Koduru Assembly Constituency, had submitted his resignation from the post of Government Whip citing personal and unforeseen circumstances, expressing his inability to continue discharging his responsibilities in the said position. The resignation was forwarded by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Sri Konidala Pawan Kalyan Garu to the competent authority for consideration. Accordingly, the resignation of Sri Arava Sreedhar from the post of Government Whip has been accepted with immediate effect.

Annammalai slams TVK over rape incidents involving Vijay's party members

KAnnammalai attacked Vijay's TVK after allegations that two party functionaries were involved in the gang rape of a young woman. The remarks sharpened the political focus on women's safety as TVK had not responded publicly. Tamil Nadu's political landscape witnessed a fresh confrontation on women's safety after former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annammalai launched a sharp attack on actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), citing allegations that two party functionaries were involved in the gang sexual rape of a young woman. In a post on X, Annammalai said reports of a young woman from Tamil Nadu allegedly being deceived with the promise of employment and then subjected to gang sexual violence by two TVK-linked functionaries were "utterly shocking". The BJP leader identified the accused as Balamurugan, described as the organiser of TVK's Thoothukudi West District Youth Wing, and Jayapal, a party administrator from the Ramanathapuram region.

POLITICAL ATTACK ON TVK

Using the allegations to target TVK's leadership, Annammalai questioned how the party would respond when its own members were accused of serious crimes. "What response does TVK leader Mr Vijay have in store for the fact that members of his own party are engaging in criminal acts—something he spoke about regarding women's safety during election campaigns?" Annammalai asked.

Kharge Demands Education Minister's Sacking Over CBSE Row

NEW DELHI: (JUN 2)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said the transfer of the CBSE chairman and secretary is a "mere eye-wash", and demanded that Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should immediately be sacked. "The transfer of CBSE Chairman and Secretary is a mere eye-wash. Modi ji should immediately sack Dharmendra Pradhan. Nothing less than that would provide a sense of justice to 18.5 lakh CBSE students," Kharge said in a post on X. "Big Breaking" is not this whitewashing, the real news is Pradhan's continuation despite all this!" the leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha added.

Vaiko's MDMK at crossroads as calls mount to leave DMK alliance, back TVK

CHENNAI, JUNE 2

The MDMK, led by veteran politician Vaiko, appears to be heading towards a significant political decision amid growing calls within the party to reconsider its alliance with the DMK and extend support to the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government headed by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay. In the recently concluded Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the MDMK contested as part of the DMK-led alliance and was allotted four constituencies -- Sirkazhi, Kadayannallur, Modakkurichi and Madurai South. The party fielded Senthil Selvan in Sirkazhi, Rajendran in Kadayannallur, Senthil



Nathan in Modakkurichi and Bhoominathan in Madurai South, all of whom contested on the DMK's iconic Rising Sun symbol as part of the alliance arrangement. Of the four candidates, Senthil Selvan and Rajendran emerged victorious in Sirkazhi and Kadayannallur respectively, giving the MDMK two seats in the state Assembly. However, with the political landscape in Tamil Nadu undergoing a major shift following the formation of the TVK government, several MDMK leaders and party executives

are reportedly urging Vaiko to reassess the party's political future and break away from the DMK alliance. Speculation gained momentum on Monday when MDMK Principal Secretary and Tiruchirappalli MP Durai Vaiko personally received Chief Minister Vijay during his visit to the Tiruchi East Assembly constituency. Vijay had travelled to the constituency to thank voters after vacating the seat upon assuming office as Chief Minister. Speaking to reporters later, Durai Vaiko made remarks that triggered fresh political discussions. "Unfortunately, we contested on the DMK symbol. We are a separate movement. Since we were

contesting on the Rising Sun symbol, we could not support TVK," he said.

His comments have fuelled reports that MDMK legislators Senthil Selvan and Rajendran could resign from the Assembly if the party decides to chart an independent course. Political observers are closely watching developments ahead of the MDMK General Council meeting scheduled to be held in Chennai on June 27. The meeting is expected to discuss the party's future political strategy, including the possibility of severing ties with the DMK alliance and extending support to the TVK government, a move that could reshape alliance equations in Tamil Nadu politics.

Will fight or die: Mamata holds massive dharna, only 5 MLAs, 3 MPs attend

Mamata Banerjee staged a dharna in central Kolkata and accused the BJP of attacking Trinamool leaders and intimidating the party. The protest marked her return to street politics after the Bengal election loss, even as only five party MLAs attended amid a buzz of a split.



Returning to her 'street fighter' avatar in her first major protest since losing the Bengal elections, Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee vowed to "fight or die" as she accused the BJP of attacks on party leaders, including her nephew Abhishek, and intimidation. Staging a dharna at central Kolkata, which was attended by only five of the party's 80 MLAs, Mamata accused the BJP of attempting to break the Trinamool after "looting votes" in the polls.

"Ladenge ya mareng (I will fight or die). I will not die until I remove all of you from power," Mamata, 71, roared at the dharna site, taking potshots at the BJP. While the gritty

Mamata turned up at the protest, only five MLAs and three MPs were there to support her.

ONLY 5 MLAS ATTEND PROTEST

The MLAs present at the protest site in central Kolkata's Esplanade were Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, Nanya Bandyopadhyay, Madan Mitra, Ashok Deb and Asima Patra. Dola Sen, Kalyan Banerjee and Dereek O'Brien were the MPs seen beside Mamata.

It told a story in itself, signalling how Mamata is struggling to keep her flock together after the crushing defeat to the BJP. Marred by internal dissent, the Trinamool seems to

be on the verge of a split.

On Monday, expelled MLAs Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha met several TMC legislators at the MLA hostel in Kolkata. He development came amid allegations that signatures of several TMC MLAs were forged in a letter endorsing Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of the Opposition. A day before, 60 of the 80 TMC MLAs skipped a meeting chaired by Mamata at her residence. Moreover, not many TMC leaders came out in public to condemn the attack on MP Abhishek Banerjee, who was targeted with stones and eggs during his visit to

Sonarpur to meet victims of post-poll violence.

Already, over 100 councillors have ditched the party. Several MPs have also quit key party posts while expressing dissatisfaction with the TMC leadership, especially Abhishek. Among the prominent voices has been TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar.

The back-to-back developments signal a looming crisis for the Trinamool. Mamata Banerjee at the central Kolkata protest site on Tuesday

'ATTEMPTING TO BREAK TMC'

On Tuesday, Mamata raised the attack on Abhishek and MP Kalyan Banerjee, who was targeted by a mob in Hooghly. "Had the stone hit Abhishek's head that day, he could have been dead," Mamata said.

"This misrule, this atrocity, the way they have looted the vote, and now our MLAs and councillors are being threatened by the police. They are now attempting to break TMC," she further said.

The Trinamool chief also accused the Suwendu Adhikari government of throwing a

spanner in party activities. "We have not been allowed to fix a mic. We were not allowed to erect a stage. TMC is not being allowed to do our political activity," Mamata said. Initially, the TMC planned to hold the protest at Rani Rashmoni Avenue. However, the Kolkata Police denied permission at the key intersection. Mamata eventually shifted the protest venue to Esplanade's Y-channel. The firebrand TMC chief did not spare her once-trusted aide Suwendu Adhikari, alleging that the alleged eviction of hawkers and "bulldozer raj" would only push the state into darkness. "Modi ji has left Bengal in the hands of anti-socials, bulldozer-happy politicians, pushing the state into darkness. The homes of poor people in Bengal have been demolished," she further said. Mamata ended her speech with a stern warning, vowing that the agitation would not be easily quieted. "The dharna will continue," she said. Bengal OG 'street fighter' has returned. Will she be able to galvanise the required support from her party MLAs and MPs?

Punjab hikes kisan credit card crop loan limits to assist farmers

Bhagwant Mann announced higher Kisan Credit Card loan limits for crops and allied sectors in Punjab. The changes add new crops, support diversification and include residue management credit.

various traditional crops and adding new ones to encourage agricultural diversification across the state. Addressing the media, Mann detailed the revised credit limits, highlighting that the loan ceiling for the wheat crop has been raised from Rs 24,300 to Rs 30,000 per acre. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the state government will also provide a loan of Rs 2,000 per acre specifically earmarked for crop residue management. Furthermore, the loan limit for sugarcane farmers has seen a substantial jump, in-



creasing from Rs 44,000 per acre to Rs 1 lakh per acre. As part of the state's push toward crop diversification, several new crops have been integrated into the

KCC scheme with dedicated loan structures. Farmers will now be eligible for loans of Rs 1.57 lakh per acre for garhi, Rs 92,686 per acre for the Rabi onion crop, and Rs 80,981 per acre for hybrid tomatoes. The scheme also extends to lemon grass at Rs 30,000 per acre, 'jamun' at Rs 23,000 per acre, bamboo at Rs 13,000 per acre, and poplar farming at Rs 2,000 per acre. For fruit growers, a loan of Rs 47,000 per acre will be provided for cultivating dragon fruit. The allied agricultural sectors have also received finan-

cial boosts under the new policy. In fisheries, the standard loan limit has been enhanced from Rs 2.50 lakh to Rs 3 lakh per hectare, while the credit limit for white shrimp farming has been increased from Rs 4.50 lakh to Rs 5.50 lakh per hectare. Concluding his address, Chief Minister Mann emphasised that these revisions would simultaneously help improve the financial health of the state's cooperative banks, which currently claim to offer the lowest interest rate in Punjab at 7 per cent.

BJD forms fact-finding team to probe 'custodial' death case in Odisha's Ganjam

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 2

The Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Tuesday constituted a fact-finding team to inquire into the tragic death of a 32-year-old physically disabled person due to alleged custodial torture at the Kabisuryanagar police station in Odisha's Ganjam district.

As per a press statement issued by the party, the team will visit the native place of the victim and meet his family members and others to ascertain the facts related to the unfortunate death.

"With the approval of the Hon'ble President of Biju Ja-



nata Dal, Naveen Patnaik, a fact-finding team has been constituted to visit the family of Susant Sahu in connection with the alleged custodial death at Kabisuryanagar Po-

lice Station in Ganjam district. The team will visit the victim's family, ascertain the facts surrounding the incident, interact with local residents and other stakeholders, and submit a detailed report to Patnaik," reads the statement. The 17-member fact-finding team includes senior BJD leader Ramesh Chyau Patnaik, Bhruagu Baxipatra, Pramila Bisoi, Ranjita Sahu, Latika Pradhan, Purna Chandra Swain, etc.

The regional party also expressed deep concern over the allegations surrounding the incident and reiterates its commitment to safeguarding human rights, ensuring jus-

tice for victims, and upholding the rule of law. The party stated that it stands in solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

According to allegations by family members, the victim, Susant Sahu, a native of Subalaya village in Ganjam district, was brought to Kabisuryanagar police station on May 25 during a raid and detained for questioning in connection with a case related to illegal stone blasting. Earlier, two people had reportedly been arrested in the same case. However, Susant's involvement was allegedly not established. It has been alleged that he was subjected

to custodial torture during his seven-day detention. On Sunday, he was reportedly handed over to his family members in a critical condition. After receiving preliminary treatment at Aska hospital, he was referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur, where doctors declared him dead on Monday.

The unfortunate development triggered massive outrage, prompting the suspension of three police officials and the withdrawal of an under-training IPS officer who was holding independent charge of the Kabisuryanagar police station.

New Principal Chief Commercial Manager for Southern Railway

CHENNAI, JUNE 2:

R.SENTHILKUMAR, ARTS has assumed charge as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager (PCCM) of Southern Railway on 2nd June 2026. Prior to taking over as Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Southern Railway, he held the post of Chief Commercial Manager (Passenger Marketing), Southern Railway. In addition to CCM-PM/SR, he had held additional charge of the posts of Chief Claims Officer, Southern Railway, and Chief Information Security Officer, Southern Railway. During his illustrious service spanning three decades, he made significant contributions to railway operations, safety, and commercial management. He also served on deputa- tion under the Ministry



of Shipping for seven years, where he held the positions of General Manager (Operations) and General Manager (Corporate Strategy & Business Development), contributing to strategic planning and operational excellence in the maritime sector. Shri Senthilkumar received several prestigious awards, including the Director General's Gold Medal from Railway Staff College and the Railway Minister's National Award for Outstanding Service, in recognition of his exemplary dedication and professional achievements.

Changes in the pattern of Train Services

Chennai, June 2: Fixed Time Corridor Block for various safety and maintenance work has been approved in Madurai Division for the month of June 2026, hence the following changes have been made in the pattern of train services:

I. Partial Cancellation of Train Services:

- Train No. 22671 Chennai Egmore - Madurai Tejas Express scheduled to leave Chennai Egmore at 06.00 hrs on 20th June, 2026 will be partially cancelled between Dindigul and Madurai. The train will be short terminated at Dindigul
- Train No. 22672 Madurai - Chennai Egmore Tejas Express scheduled to leave Madurai at 15.30 hrs on 20th June, 2026 will be partially cancelled between Madurai and Dindigul. The train will originate from Dindigul at its scheduled departure time of 16.15 hrs

II. Diversion of Train Services:

- Train No. 16352 Nagercoil - Lokmanya Tilak Express scheduled to leave Nagercoil at 06.15 hrs on 11th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 25th, 28th, June, 02nd, 05th July, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppage at Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai
- Train No. 12666 Kanniyakumari - Howrah Superfast Express scheduled to leave Kanniyakumari at 05.50 hrs on 13th, 20th, 27th June, 04th July, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppages at Kodaikanal Road and Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai, Sivaganga, Karaikkudi and Pudukkottai
- Train No. 22631 Madurai - Bikaner Anuvrat Superfast Express scheduled to leave Madurai at 12.10 hrs on 18th June, 2026 will be diverted to run via Madurai, Manamadurai, Karaikkudi and Tiruchchirappalli skipping stoppage at Dindigul. Additional stoppages will be provided at Manamadurai and Karaikkudi

III. Rescheduling of Train Service:

- Train No. 16128 Guruvayur Express scheduled to leave Guruvayur at 23.15 hrs on 07th June to 06th July, 2026 (Except 16th, 23rd & 30th June, 2026) will be diverted to run via Virudunagar,
- Train No. 22672 Madurai - Chennai Egmore Tejas Express scheduled to leave Madurai at 15.30 hrs on 17th June, 2026 will be rescheduled to leave Madurai at 16.30 hrs (Late by 1 hour)

Bihar: Octogenarian among 5 men gets jail term in 34-year-old attempt to murder case

HAIJIPUR (BIHAR): (Jun 2) A court in Bihar's Vaishali district on Tuesday sentenced five members of a family, including an 84-year-old man, to rigorous imprisonment in a 34-year-old attempt to murder case. District and Additional Sessions Judge-I Manoj Kumar Tiwari awarded 10 years of imprisonment

each to four convicts, while octogenarian Deepa Rai was sentenced to three years in prison. However, Rai was granted provisional bail due to his old age. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on each of the five convicts—Deepa Rai, Jagdish Rai, Naresh Rai, Nagdev Rai and Nakeshwar Rai.

EDITORIAL

The Next Test for
Karnataka's Leadership

As Karnataka enters a new phase of political leadership, the larger question before the state is not who occupies the highest office, but how that office is used. Political transitions often generate excitement, expectations, and speculation. Yet history shows that leadership is ultimately judged not by electoral victories, party strategies, or political symbolism, but by governance and delivery.

The challenges facing Karnataka are substantial. Rapid urbanisation has placed enormous pressure on cities, particularly Bengaluru, where infrastructure struggles to keep pace with economic growth. Traffic congestion, water scarcity, waste management, and housing affordability continue to affect millions of citizens. At the same time, rural regions seek better irrigation, agricultural support, healthcare access, and employment opportunities.

The state's economic strengths provide reasons for optimism. Karnataka remains one of India's leading centres for technology, innovation, manufacturing, and entrepreneurship. Sustaining this growth, however, requires policy stability, investment in public infrastructure, and a commitment to education and skill development. Economic success cannot be measured solely by investment figures; it must translate into improved quality of life for ordinary citizens.

Political leaders often speak of development, but development must be visible in everyday experiences. Efficient public services, transparent administration, and accountable institutions matter more to citizens than political rhetoric. Governments that focus on implementation rather than announcement are the ones that leave a lasting legacy.

Another important test of leadership is the ability to rise above partisan considerations. Democracy benefits when governments engage constructively with opposition parties, civil society, and experts. Consensus may not always be possible, but consultation strengthens public trust and leads to more durable solutions.

As a new chapter unfolds, citizens have every right to expect both vision and execution. Elections determine who governs; governance determines whether people prosper. The true measure of leadership lies not in attaining power, but in using it responsibly, effectively, and for the benefit of all. In the years ahead, Karnataka's success will depend less on political calculations and more on the capacity of its leaders to transform promises into progress. That is the challenge—and the opportunity—before the state today.

Equally important is the need to strengthen public confidence in institutions. Citizens today are more informed and more demanding than ever before. They expect transparency in decision-making, swift responses to grievances, and efficient delivery of government services. Technology can play a significant role in bridging the gap between administration and the public, but it must be accompanied by accountability and responsiveness. A government that listens to its people, addresses concerns promptly, and communicates clearly is more likely to earn lasting trust. In an era of heightened public scrutiny, credibility has become one of the most valuable assets any administration can possess.

AI: Revolution, Reality, and the
Future of Human Identity

In the history of human civilization, certain revolutions have fundamentally transformed both the course and character of life. The Agricultural Revolution provided stability to human existence, the Industrial Revolution redefined production and labor, and the Information Revolution erased barriers to knowledge and communication. Today, the revolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands at another historic turning point. It is not merely a technological advancement; it has become a profound question intertwined with human intelligence, decision-making, employment, social structures, governance systems, and even human identity and existence itself. This is why an intense global debate has emerged: Will AI prove to be a blessing for humanity, or will it gradually challenge the very significance of human beings?

The most remarkable aspect of AI is that it is no longer confined to operating machines. It is increasingly performing tasks that were once considered uniquely human. From writing and visual art to music composition, disease diagnosis, judicial analysis, scientific research, and administrative decision-making, AI's growing presence has raised a host of new questions. If machines can think, learn, and make decisions, what will remain distinctive about human beings? This is not merely a technological concern; it is also a philosophical and ethical one.

Human identity is rooted in consciousness, sensitivity, creativity, and moral judgment. AI may possess vast stores of information and extraordinary computational power, but it lacks experiential consciousness, compassion, self-awareness, and a sense of values. Yet when machines write poetry, create paintings, and engage in conversations, an illusion emerges that they might eventually replace humans. The real challenge, however, is not that machines will become human, but that humans may begin to behave like machines. If every aspect of life is governed solely by data, calculations, and efficiency, human emotions and ethical values may be pushed to the margins.

Another significant question arises in this context: Will the future witness the emergence of a new form of humanity? Many scientists and technology thinkers believe that the gap between biological humans and digital technology will continue to narrow in the coming decades. Through direct brain-computer interfaces, artificial organs,

memory-enhancement technologies, and biotechnological interventions, a future is being envisioned in which human beings and machines merge into a hybrid form. While this possibility appears fascinating, it is equally unsettling. If technologically enhanced humans gain significant advantages over ordinary individuals, a new and deeper form of social inequality may emerge.

AI's growing influence is already transforming employment and the global economy. Routine and repetitive tasks are increasingly being automated, leading to fears that millions of jobs may disappear. Many major technology companies have reduced their workforce in the name of cost-cutting and productivity enhancement. However, recent experiences suggest that AI has not become a complete substitute for human labor. In areas requiring complex judgment, innovation,

enthusiasm and exaggeration in its early stages. Over time, its real value becomes clearer, leading to more balanced and sustainable development. The Internet followed a similar trajectory. While many early internet companies disappeared, the Internet itself became the foundation of modern global society. AI is likely to follow a comparable path. Therefore, neither exaggerated glorification nor predictions of its imminent collapse reflect reality.

The role of AI in business will continue to expand. It will increasingly influence manufacturing, marketing, customer service, financial analysis, and supply-chain management. While this will enhance speed and efficiency, it will also transform the nature of work. In the future, technical knowledge alone will not be sufficient. Skills such as problem-solving, creativity, leadership, ad-

aptability, and emotional intelligence will become even more valuable. Consequently, education and workforce development systems must be redesigned to prepare individuals for this new reality.

In governance and public administration, AI has the potential to make systems more efficient, transparent, and responsive. It can improve policy analysis, resource allocation, healthcare and education programs, and disaster management. Yet these benefits are accompanied by significant risks. The large-scale collection and analysis of citizens' personal data could threaten privacy and individual freedom. Maintaining a balance between technological efficiency and civil liberties will therefore be essential.

The application of AI in the military sphere is perhaps the most alarming. Autonomous weapons systems, unmanned combat technologies, and machines capable of selecting targets could fundamentally alter the nature of warfare. If machines are granted the power to make life-and-death decisions, profound ethical and humanitarian questions arise. This is why there is a growing global demand for effective regulation and oversight of such technologies. Amid all these



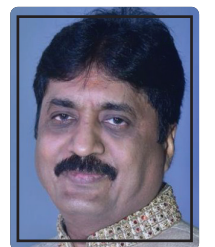
interpersonal relationships, and contextual understanding, the human role remains indispensable. This is where the latest findings of the global research and advisory firm, Gartner, assume particular significance. In its recent analytical report, Gartner suggests that AI is moving beyond the "peak of inflated expectations" and entering a phase of disillusionment. Many organizations expected immediate economic gains and dramatic improvements in productivity, but the actual outcomes have often fallen short of expectations. High implementation costs, concerns about data security, the tendency of AI systems to generate inaccurate or misleading responses, and difficulties in demonstrating clear business value have all emerged as major challenges. The report also warns that nearly one-third of AI projects may be abandoned after their initial stages because they fail to deliver returns commensurate with investment. This conclusion challenges the assumption that AI will instantly solve every problem.

However, this does not mean that AI is merely a temporary bubble destined to burst. History demonstrates that every major technological revolution is accompanied by both

developments, the most important question remains: How can human life remain secure, balanced, and meaningful? The answer does not lie in rejecting technology but in using it wisely. AI must remain a tool that serves humanity rather than a force that dominates it. Educational systems must place greater emphasis on ethics, empathy, coexistence, and human values. Emotional intelligence, compassion, empathy, and spiritual awareness are dimensions of human existence that no machine can truly replicate.

At the same time, there is an urgent need for global policies and regulatory frameworks that ensure AI development serves the broader interests of humanity. If this technology remains concentrated in the hands of a few powerful corporations or nations, it could intensify inequality and conflict. Conversely, if directed toward education, healthcare, environmental protection, and social development, it could unlock unprecedented opportunities for human progress. Ultimately, AI is neither an unquestionable blessing nor an inevitable curse. It is a powerful instrument whose impact will depend on human wisdom and responsibility. The real challenge is not the machine itself, but whether humanity can preserve its compassion, moral consciousness, and human values in an age of rapidly advancing technology.

The defining question of the future is not how powerful AI will become, but how vigilant, responsible, and value-driven human beings will remain. If humanity succeeds in balancing technological advancement with ethical and human values, AI will help write a remarkable new chapter in human development. If not, the same technology could become a source of imbalance, inequality, and existential risk. This is both the greatest challenge and the greatest responsibility of our time.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

From Self-Help to Power Producers:
Women Rewire Rural Energy Economies

What began as modest thrift-based self-help groups struggling for access to credit has, over the past three decades, evolved into a quiet but significant institutional shift in rural India. In parts of the country today, these collectives are no longer confined to microfinance or livelihood programmes. They are entering an entirely different domain: electricity generation and energy markets.

In Telangana, the "Indira Mahila Shakti" scheme has enabled women's collectives to establish solar power plants and supply electricity to the grid. While framed within the language of renewable energy, the development

What distinguishes the model is not merely its technical design, but its ownership structure. Women who have historically participated in self-help networks primarily as borrowers or beneficiaries are now positioned as operators of energy infrastructure—an area traditionally dominated by state utilities and large private players.

The wider energy transition:

This development coincides with a broader structural shift in India's energy sector. Rising industrial demand, urban expansion, and the increasing digitisation of services have pushed electricity consumption upward.



also signals a deeper transition—from welfare-based inclusion to participation in productive infrastructure.

A plant in Khammam as a test case:

In Venkatapuram in Khammam district, a one-megawatt solar power plant operated by women's self-help groups has become an early reference point for this model. Built at an estimated cost of around ₹3 crore, the project is expected to generate a steady monthly revenue stream running into several lakh rupees.

Officials plan to expand similar installations across Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts, suggesting that the initiative is being viewed less as a standalone project and more as a replicable framework.

At the same time, climate commitments and policy pressures are accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels.

India has set an ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, with solar expected to account for the bulk of this expansion. Having already crossed 130 GW of installed renewable capacity, the country is now among the fastest-growing solar markets globally. Within this context, decentralised solar generation is gaining policy attention. Small and medium-scale plants integrated into rural grids are increasingly seen as a complement to large utility-scale projects. The Khammam initiative fits within this emerging distributed model.

From welfare logic to asset ownership:

The evolution of self-help groups in India has largely followed a predictable trajectory: savings mobilisation, credit access, livelihood support, and micro-enterprise development. The entry into energy generation marks a more structural departure. For much of the post-liberalisation period, women's empowerment programmes have been framed within a welfare logic—subsidies, training, and income supplementation. However, such approaches rarely alter underlying economic hierarchies.

Ownership of productive assets, by contrast, has a different implication. It embeds women not only in income generation but in decision-making structures linked to infrastructure and capital. There is also evidence from development economics that income controlled by women is more likely to be directed towards household welfare, particularly in health, education, and nutrition. While such generalisations must be treated cautiously, they have consistently informed policy thinking around gender and development.

Lessons from other countries:

India is not alone in experimenting with gender inclusion in renewable energy systems. In Bangladesh, women have been central to the diffusion of household solar systems through microfinance-linked programmes. In parts of East Africa, including Zanzibar, training initiatives such as the "Solar Mamas" programme have enabled women—many of them with limited formal education—to manage basic solar installations in rural communities. These experiences underline a recurring pattern: technical deployment is only the first step. The sustainability of such initiatives depends on continuous training, maintenance capacity, and local institutional support. Without these, ownership risks becoming largely symbolic.

Structural constraints:

The expansion of women-led solar projects also raises practical constraints that are not easily resolved. Land availability remains a critical issue. The diversion of

fertile agricultural land for solar infrastructure can create tensions with food security priorities. Alternatives such as using wastelands or integrating agriculture with solar generation through agrivoltaic systems are being discussed, but remain at an early stage of adoption.

Financial sustainability is another concern. Distribution companies in several states continue to face balance sheet stress. Delayed payments or weak procurement guarantees could undermine the viability of small producers, including women's collectives.

Finally, grid integration remains a technical bottleneck. Without adequate transmission infrastructure linking rural generation sites to demand centres, decentralised production risks inefficiency and revenue uncertainty.

A shift still in progress:

The significance of projects such as the Khammam solar plant lies less in their immediate output and more in the institutional shift they represent. Rural women, long positioned at the margins of formal economic systems, are being drawn into the core of energy production networks.

Whether this transition can be sustained at scale will depend on how effectively issues of training, infrastructure, and financial governance are addressed. For now, it represents an experiment in reconfiguring both energy systems and gendered economic roles.

If such models expand, their impact may extend beyond renewable energy targets. They may quietly reshape how rural economies define ownership, labour, and participation in infrastructure itself.



KINJARAPU AMARAVATHI
Member, PLUS NGO



THE RAIN THAT NEVER
REACHES THE ROOTS

The clouds above wear silver smiles,
Yet lock their waters beyond the miles;
They wander draped in borrowed light,
While thirsty furrows court the night.
Each season comes with merchant eyes,
Bartering hope and peddling lies;
Justice hangs in the dust-veiled air,
A caged-winged hymn of mute despair.
For a fistful of ancestral earth,
The poor must bargain for their birth;
At every gate dark shadows stand,
Weighing dreams with a hidden hand.
In marble halls where echoes brood,
Need is buried beneath polished wood;
Signatures flower like emerald leeches,
Feasting where silent anguish reaches.
Golden greed with iron claws
Devours duty and mocks the laws;
Service, once a sacred river,
Now survives as a fading shiver.
Where gardens should perfume the land,
They sow the waste of a barren hand;
Where rivers should cradle field and grain,
They scatter deserts harvested from gain.
Oh jeweled throne, Oh gilded height,
Do you behold this vanishing light?
The rainbow crowning your proud fame
Burns with the colours of labour's flame.
Each hue adorning heaven's dome
Rose from hands denied a home
Every arch of celestial grace
Carries a worker's weathered face.
The kingdom rolls on sightless wheels,
Deaf to the wound the nation feels;
Corruption's tides may crash and roar,

Yet power sleeps upon the shore.
But sweat is never merely rain
It is memory distilled from pain;
A seed the centuries have sown,
Breathing beneath the grinding stone.
Beneath the dust, beneath the scar,
Sleep unborn dawns of who we are;
Each silenced cry, each swallowed tear,
Stores a storm the skies shall hear.
The day shall come when buried grief
Shatters the rock of disbelief;
When pain returns as unconquered rain,
Washing the rust from the chains of gain.
No fortress wall shall stem its tide,
No sceptred hand shall turn its stride;
For truth, long shackled underground,
Will rise with an
earthquake's sacred sound.
Then justice, freed from fear and fraud,
Will walk again where hope has trod;
And every field that thirsted long
Will bloom at last in a people's song.
The clouds that never carried trust
Shall fade and fall to nameless dust;
Yet one pure drop from an honest heart
Can rend a thousand storms apart.
And History, raising its deathless pen,
Beyond the verdicts of mighty men,
Shall write upon Time's endless scroll:
"Empires gathered gold and power,
Yet withered like leaves in a single hour;
But the sweat of the humble, the unseen seed,
Became the rain that answered need.
For crowns are echoes, thrones are clay
Only truth and toil outlive the day."

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



Extension of Services of Two Special Trains to Accommodate Extra Rush

Two One-Way Special Trains to Operate for Passenger Convenience

MALIGAON, 2 JUNE, 2026:

To clear the additional footfall of passengers during the summer rush, services of train no. 05932/05931 (Dibrugarh - Kolkata - Dibrugarh) and 03407/03408 (Bhagalpur-Katihar-Bhagalpur) has been extended for additional eight & three trips respectively in both directions. Also, train no. 05630 (Guwahati-Tirupati) and train no. 05862 (Rangapara North-Vijayawada) has been decided to run for one trip as one way special train. Train No. 05932 (Dibrugarh - Kolkata) Special has been extended to run from 6th of June till 25th of July, 2026. While in return direction, train no. 05931 (Kolkata - Dibrugarh) special has been extended to run from 8th of June till 27th of July, 2026. The trains will operate with the existing schedule of service, timings, composition and stoppages for eight additional trips.

Train No. 03407 (Bhagalpur

- Katihar) Special has been extended to run till 4th June, 2026 while in return direction, train no. 03408 (Katihar-Bhagalpur) special has also been extended to run till 4th of June, 2026. The trains will operate with the existing schedule of service, timings, composition and stoppages for three additional trips. Additionally, it has been decided to run two one way Special trains for one trip on 4th June, 2026. Both the trains, i.e. Train no.05630 (Guwahati-Tirupati) and train no. 05862 (Rangapara North-Vijayawada) will run on Thursday. Overall, these special train services will improve connectivity, facilitate smoother passenger movement and ensure a more comfortable travel experience during the summer rush period. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available at IRCTC website and social media platforms of NFR. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

CM Reviews Five-Year Roadmap of Food and Civil Supplies

Consumer Affairs Department under Haryana Vision-2047

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 2

Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has directed officers to ensure adequate storage infrastructure for food grains so that the produce cultivated through the hard work of farmers is protected from damage and minimises post-harvest losses. As part of this initiative, the state will create 20 lakh metric tonnes of additional grain storage capacity during the current year, and officers have been asked to make all necessary preparations to achieve this target.

The Chief Minister issued these directions while chairing a review meeting of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department's five-year roadmap and action plan under Haryana Vision-2047 at the Haryana Civil Secretariat on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Commissioner and Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Sh. J. Ganesan, informed that due to open storage and inadequate warehousing facilities, nearly 4 to 5 percent of food grains produced in the state are lost every year. He emphasized the need to expand covered storage facilities to minimize such losses.

He further informed that Haryana currently produces around 115 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, 71 lakh metric tonnes of rice, 110 lakh metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables, and 115 lakh metric tonnes of milk and dairy products annually. Haryana contributes nearly 25 percent to the country's food grain security, yet the state's existing



Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini presiding over a meeting regarding new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), at Chandigarh on June 2, 2026.

storage capacity stands at only 66 lakh metric tonnes, which needs to be expanded to 130 lakh metric tonnes to meet future requirements.

Taking serious note of post-harvest losses, the Chief Minister directed officers to formulate a comprehensive plan for the construction of covered warehouses, expansion of cold storage infrastructure, and optimum utilization of available resources. He directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and achieve the target of constructing 20 lakh metric tonnes of warehousing capacity on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode during the current year, ensuring that valuable food grains are safeguarded from deterioration.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further stated that the state government would implement a long-term strategy over the next five years to strengthen storage facilities for food grains, horticulture produce, fruits, and vegetables, thereby ensuring maximum utilization of agricultural output and minimizing wastage.

The Chief Minister also emphasized the integration of renewable energy with warehousing infrastructure. He directed that solar panels be installed on

the rooftops of warehouses and connected to the power grid to contribute to electricity generation. In addition, he called for pilot projects in mandis and warehouses to reduce manual handling of grain bags by labourers through the use of conveyor belts and other modern mechanized systems.

Presenting the department's future roadmap, Sh. J. Ganesan highlighted various interventions aimed at reducing post-harvest losses and achieving the targets set by the Chief Minister. He stated that these measures could help prevent losses estimated at Rs 3,000 crore to Rs 5,000 crore over the next five years.

Chief Secretary, Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Cooperation Department, Sh. Pankaj Yadav, Principal Secretary, Department of Future, Smt. Amneet P. Kumar, Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister and Director General of the Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management, Dr. Raj Nehru, Deputy Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sh. Yashpal Yadav, and other senior officers also remained present during the meeting.

SC Says Denial of Compassionate Benefits to Married Daughters Unconstitutional

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

The Supreme Court said on Tuesday that a married daughter cannot be denied appointment as a fair price shop dealer on compassionate grounds solely because of her marital status, holding that such exclusion is based on unconstitutional gender stereotypes and violates the guarantees of equality and non-discrimination. A Bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe allowed an appeal filed by Kulsum Nisha, setting aside orders of the Allahabad High Court, Deputy Commissioner and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) which had rejected her claim solely on the ground that she was a married daughter.

The appellant had sought allotment of a fair price shop following the death of her mother, who was a dealer in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi district.

Her application was rejected under a government order that excluded married daughters from the definition of "family". Examining the Constitutional validity of excluding married daughters from the definition of family, the top court said that the object of allotment under the dependent quota is to provide immediate relief to the family of a deceased dealer facing financial hardship. "The relevant considerations are dependency, financial need, residence, and the ability of the applicant to discharge the obligations attached to the dealership. Marital status bears no rational nexus to any of these considerations," the Justice Narasimha-led bench said. Coming down on the exclusion, the Supreme Court said it was based on a constitutionally impermissible assumption that a daughter ceases to be part of her parental family after marriage.

Vande Mataram row: BJP slams Shashi Tharoor's 'unnecessary imposition' remark

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday hit out at Congress MP Shashi Tharoor after the latter said that Vande Mataram was being "unnecessarily imposed" by the Centre. The BJP leaders accused Congress of indulging in vote bank politics and turning into a "Muslim League Maoist" party. Addressing reporters on Monday, Tharoor said that having to sing the all five verses of the national song every time, was an "unnecessary imposition" by the Central government. He backed the Congress-led Kerala government's decision not to play the full national song.

On the contradictory view taken by Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar, the Congress MP said: "I am afraid it may end up having to be adjudicated. There is no such law passed by the Parliament that specifies any such requirement. It is



more a convention."

He called the controversy surrounding the national song as "unfortunate" and asserted that there is no problem in singing Vande Mataram but standing for the entire duration of the five stanzas in both the beginning and end of a public event turns difficult for the attendees. Reacting on Tharoor's remarks, BJP leader Rohan Gupta said that it is "unfortunate that a leader of a national party is saying

that Vande Mataram is being enforced". "This shows the mindset of the Congress that they indulge in vote bank politics and keep the interests of their party above the country," he told IANS. Asking Congress leaders to refrain from making remarks about the national song, Gupta added: "Congress should not do politics on Vande Mataram."

BJP spokesperson Ujjwal Deepak said: "Shashi Tharoor should understand that the

Congress promoted the initial two stanzas of the song and removed the main stanzas, which contained the main lines of the song." He asserted that it is the BJP which has brought back the nation's old glory and culture. "Shashi Tharoor should go back into history to know how Congress has always attempted to erase the country's rich and prosperous tradition," he added. BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged: "Congress has surrendered itself to the Muslim League. The party is a Muslim League Maoist Congress." He also alleged that the "remote control" of the Congress-led Kerala government is in the hands of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). "Congress has never been irritated by supporting the 'Tukde Tukde lobby'. Because the policy and intention of the Congress Party is not patriotism, but 'anti-nation'," he told IANS.

Railways Records 145 MT Freight Loading in May 2026

Strong Performance in Iron Ore, Fertilisers and Other Goods Traffic Supports Freight Growth
Passenger Traffic Crosses 61 Crore Mark Last Month; Demand for Long-Distance Travel Continues to Rise

Indian Railways maintained its freight growth momentum by loading 145 million tonnes of freight in May 2026, registering a 1.3 per cent increase over May 2025. The growth was led by strong performance in Iron Ore, Steel, Fertilisers and Balance Other Goods segments.

The increase in loading has been achieved despite challenges arising from the ongoing geopolitical situation in West Asia and its indirect impact on logistics and supply chains. Indian Railways remained focused on ensuring uninterrupted movement of essential commodities across the country through continuous operational monitoring and efficient asset utilisation.

Among major commodities, Balance Other Goods registered a robust growth of 16 per cent, while Iron Ore

loading increased by 4.8 per cent and Pig Iron & Finished Steel loading grew by 3.5 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year. Loading of fertilizers also recorded healthy growth of 6.2 per cent, reflecting the Railways' commitment towards supporting key sectors of the economy.

Coal, which continues to constitute the largest share of railway freight traffic, maintained steady growth with loading increasing by nearly 1 per cent over the previous year. To meet the requirements of thermal power plants and ensure energy security, Indian Railways accorded priority to coal movement and closely monitored its transit across the network.

Indian Railways has also intensified monitoring of both domestic and EXIM container

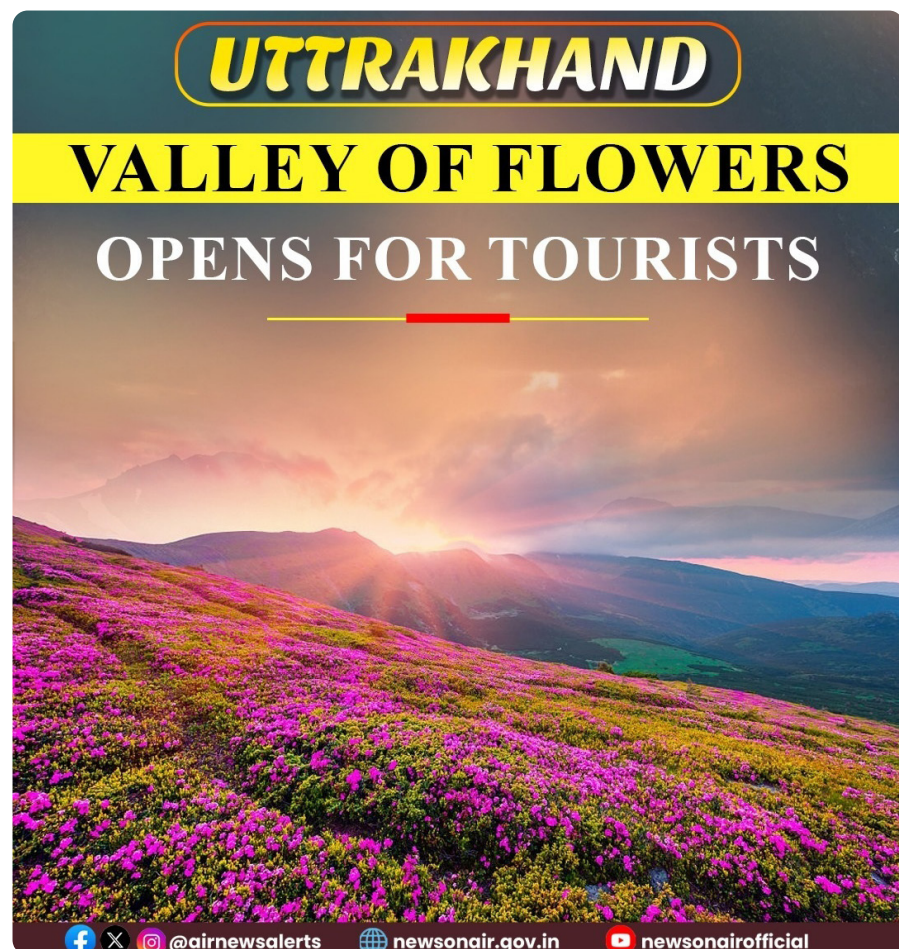
traffic to facilitate seamless freight movement and support economic activity across regions. These measures have helped sustain freight growth and maintain supply chain efficiency under challenging circumstances.

On the passenger front, Indian Railways carried over 61 crore passengers during May 2026, compared to around 59 crore passengers in the corresponding period last year. The growth was primarily driven by the Non-Suburban segment, which recorded a 7.4 per cent increase, with passenger numbers rising from 28 crore to 30 crore. This reflects the continued preference for rail travel for both short and long-distance journeys across the country.

To cater to the seasonal surge in travel demand, Indian Railways operated a large

number of Summer Special Trains across various routes. Passenger convenience has also been enhanced through the continued expansion of modern train services. The national transporter is currently operating 164 Vande Bharat services, including the recently introduced Sleeper Vande Bharat service between Howrah and Kamakhya, while the number of Amrit Bharat services has reached 68, with three new services inaugurated during May 2026.

With sustained growth in freight loading, strong performance across key commodity segments and rising passenger patronage, Indian Railways continues to strengthen its role as the backbone of the nation's transportation network, facilitating economic activity and connecting people across the country.



UNESCO World Heritage Site, Valley of Flowers, located in the Chamoli district, opened to tourists

DEHRADUN, JUNE 2:

The Forest Department has appealed to visitors to cooperate in the conservation of the valley's rich

biodiversity and rare plant species.

The Forest Department states that the Valley of Flowers is currently home to more than 300 species of

flowers and several rare varieties of flora. Forest Range Officer Chetna Kandpal said that the valley will remain open to visitors until October 31.

MHA Notifies Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Introduces Key Changes in Foreigner Registration Process

NEW DELHI:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the Immigration and Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2026, bringing important changes to the registration and immigration framework for foreign nationals in India.

The amended rules introduce significant revisions to the registration process for foreigners staying in the country and include new provisions concerning children born to or associated with Indian parents. The changes are aimed at streamlining immigration

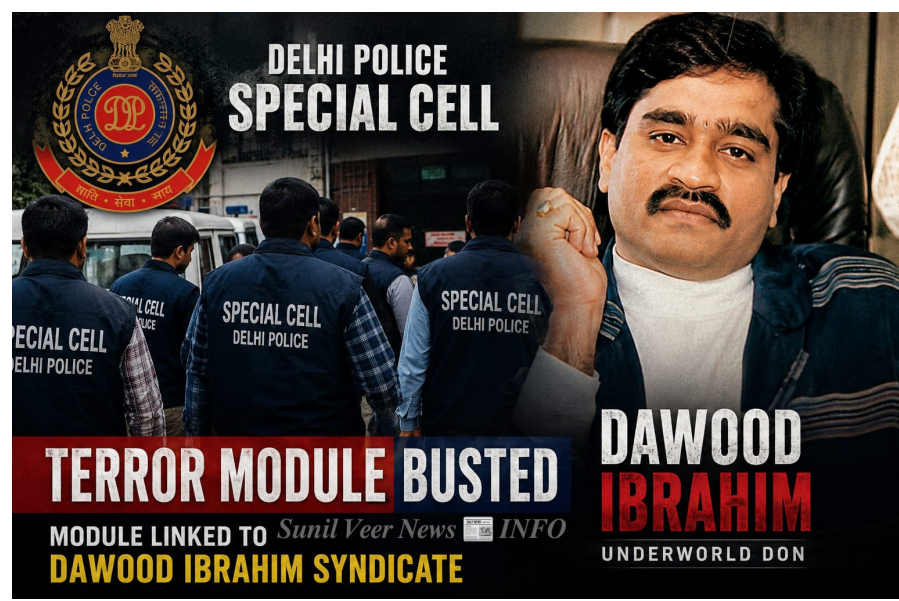


procedures, strengthening record-keeping, and improving the monitoring of foreign nationals residing in India.

According to the notification, the revised regulations seek to enhance administrative efficiency, ensure better compliance with immigration laws, and address evolu-

ing requirements related to foreign residents and individuals with parental links to India.

The new rules are expected to provide greater clarity on registration requirements and facilitate smoother implementation of immigration policies across the country.



Delhi Police Busts Major Terror Module Linked to Dawood Ibrahim Syndicate

NEW DELHI:

In a major counter-terrorism operation, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police has dismantled a suspected terror module allegedly being operated by the network of Dawood Ibrahim. The operation is being considered a significant breakthrough in efforts to curb terror-related activities and organized

crime in the country.

According to officials, the module was reportedly involved in planning and coordinating unlawful activities with links to the Dawood Ibrahim syndicate. Security agencies conducted extensive surveillance and intelligence-based operations before carrying out the crackdown. Several suspects have been detained, and in-

vestigations are underway to identify the module's wider network, funding channels, and possible connections to anti-national activities.

Police officials stated that further details will be revealed as the investigation progresses. The operation highlights the continued efforts of security agencies to prevent terror threats and safeguard national security.

PM expresses grief over loss of lives in accident in Surat; announces ex-gratia

NEW DELHI: (JUN 2)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in an accident in Gujarat's Surat and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for

those injured.

At least five persons were killed and more than 10 injured after two Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) buses collided near Bardoli town in Surat.

"Deeply pained to hear about a mishap in Surat

district, Gujarat. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest. Rescue operations are underway and authorities are providing all possible assistance at the accident site," Modi said in a post on X.

Rubio signals sanctions relief possible in Iran deal

WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday indicated that the Trump administration could consider sanctions relief and the release of frozen Iranian assets as part of a future nuclear agreement, if Tehran agrees to surrender highly enriched uranium and permanently curb its enrichment activities.

The comments offered one of the clearest public signals yet that the administration is prepared to use sanctions relief as leverage in negotiations aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rubio said any future agreement would be tied to verifiable Iranian actions rather than promises alone.

"Iran is being sanctioned because they enrich uranium. Iran is being sanctioned because they have highly enriched uranium. Iran is being sanctioned because of their nuclear activities," Rubio said.



"If they agree to give up those things, there will be sanctions relief associated with their commitment and compliance with those agreements."

The issue emerged during an extended discussion about the future of U.S.-Iran negotiations following recent military confrontations and the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Senator Rand Paul

welcomed reports that the administration was willing to consider sanctions relief in exchange for concrete steps by Tehran.

"Sanctions do have some leverage and ability to exact change if you remove them," Paul said. "The removal of sanctions might actually have some hope."

Paul argued that diplomacy often requires negotiating

with adversaries rather than allies and suggested the United States should be prepared to offer significant incentives if Iran agrees to give up its enriched uranium stockpile.

Rubio agreed that sanctions linked directly to Iran's nuclear programme could become part of a broader settlement.

"The more they give, theoretically, the more they should be willing to get," Rubio said.

At the same time, he stressed that sanctions relief would not be offered upfront.

"What they're not going to get is a down payment. They're not going to get it as a signing bonus," Rubio said. The secretary also distinguished between sanctions and frozen Iranian assets, suggesting that both could become subjects of negotiation if Tehran complies with U.S. demands.

"There are sanctions that block direct activities that generate revenue," Rubio said. "And then there's the frozen assets, which are related to sanctions." Rubio maintained that President Donald Trump's position remained unchanged: Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. He said any agreement would require zero enrichment, the removal of highly enriched uranium, and strict verification measures. "Simply putting something on a piece of paper is not satisfactory," Rubio said. "You have to actually commit to doing it. Then you have to actually do it."

Trump signs AI order to boost cyber defence

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a sweeping executive order aimed at accelerating artificial intelligence innovation while strengthening the federal government's and critical infrastructure's cyber defences.

The order directs federal agencies to prioritise protecting national security systems, military information networks, and civilian government systems against cyber threats, while expanding the use of AI-powered cybersecurity tools across government and critical infrastructure sectors.

According to the White House, the executive order seeks to "advance American artificial intelligence (AI) innovation to strengthen America's cybersecurity, protect critical infrastructure, and ensure the United States remains the global leader in AI innovation."

Under the order, the Department of Homeland Security, working with other federal agencies, will issue directives to accelerate cyber defence efforts and facilitate access to advanced AI-enabled cybersecurity tools for federal agencies, state and local governments, and operators of critical infrastructure, including rural hospitals, community banks, and



local utilities. The order also establishes an AI cybersecurity clearinghouse that will work voluntarily with AI companies and infrastructure operators to identify software vulnerabilities, coordinate responses, and accelerate the distribution of security patches.

In addition, federal agencies have been directed to identify funding opportunities for advanced AI cybersecurity technologies and expand cybersecurity hiring programmes through the federal workforce.

A central feature of the order is the creation of a classified benchmarking process to evaluate advanced AI models for cyber capabilities. The framework will help determine when a model qualifies as a "covered frontier model" and establish

voluntary cooperation between AI developers and the federal government.

The administration said the framework would allow trusted government partners to gain early access to advanced AI systems before broader deployment, thereby strengthening cybersecurity and supporting secure innovation. At the same time, the order explicitly states that it does not authorise "any mandatory governmental licensing, preclearance, or permitting requirement" for the development or release of AI models.

The order also directs the Attorney General to prioritise enforcement actions against individuals who use AI to illegally access computer systems, steal data, or facilitate other criminal activity.

India welcomes Germany's visa-free transit for Indian travellers

NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday welcomed Germany's decision to operationalise visa-free transit for Indian nationals passing through German airports, saying this new arrangement would further enhance people-to-people ties.

"We welcome the operationalisation by Germany of the announcement waiving requirement of transit visa for Indian nationals transiting through Germany, exclusively by air, with effect from June 3," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) wrote on X. "The announcement was made after



discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chancellor Friedrich Merz during the latter's visit to India in January 2026," the MEA added. According to MEA, this

new arrangement would further enhance people-to-people ties between India and Germany. Earlier on Tuesday, the German Embassy in New Delhi announced that Indian nationals

will no longer require a transit visa when travelling to another country with a layover at a German airport. "The lifting of the so-called airport transit visa requirement for Indian citizens was announced in the Federal Law Gazette (Bundesgesetzblatt) on June 2, and takes effect on June 3, 2026," the German Embassy in New Delhi said.

"This implements a result of Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz's trip to India in January of this year. It underlines the Federal government's commitment to deepening German Indian relations, facilitating the movement of people, and further strengthening economic

ties," it added.

During the visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Federal Chancellor Merz welcomed the sustained growth in bilateral trade and investment and noted that bilateral trade reached a record high in 2024, with the positive trend continuing through 2025. India and Germany had signed a slew of agreements across sectors such as trade, technology, health and renewable energy. According to the MEA, the two sides concluded 19 agreements and made several policy announcements aimed at deepening cooperation across strategic, economic and people-to-people domains.

Bangladesh foreign minister elected UNGA president; Jaishankar congratulates him, offers cooperation

UNITED NATIONS

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was elected the next president of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, narrowly defeating Cypriot diplomat Andreas Kakouris. Rahman will head the Assembly in September when its next session begins and succeed Annalena Baerbock. External Affairs Minister

(EAM) S Jaishankar congratulated Rahman and offered to work with him in promoting shared goals. "Congratulations to FM (Foreign Minister) Dr Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh on his election as President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly," he wrote on X. "Look forward to working closely with him to advance our shared priorities and strength-

en multilateral cooperation," he added.

Under the rotating system of the Assembly presidency, it was the turn of the Asia-Pacific group, and there were two candidates contesting it. Rahman received 99 votes of the 190 polled in the 193-member organisation, and Kakouris 91. Rahman, who became foreign minister in February, started as a career diplomat.

ANNAMALAI'S POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE

The man who walked away from BJP is now betting his entire future against Tamil Nadu's political history

K. Annamalai's reported resignation from the BJP is not merely a party development. It is a political tremor with the potential to reshape Tamil Nadu's opposition landscape. After years of emerging as the BJP's most visible face in the state, he appears ready to step out of a national party structure and test whether his personal credibility, administrative image, and political appeal can become a mass movement. The decision raises uncomfortable questions for the BJP, fresh challenges for the DMK, strategic calculations for AIADMK, and a new variable for Vijay's TVK. The coming months may reveal whether Annamalai is launching a genuine political alternative or embarking on one of the most difficult experiments in contemporary Tamil Nadu politics.

BY C SUBRAHMANYAM

Politics occasionally produces moments that expose the difference between organisational strategy and political instinct. The reported resignation of K. Annamalai from the BJP appears to be one such moment. It is not every day that a politician who spent years building a party's visibility in a difficult territory decides to step away from the very platform that gave him national reach. Yet that is precisely why this development has generated such intense discussion across Tamil Nadu and beyond. For years, Annamalai represented the BJP's most energetic political experiment in Tamil Nadu. He was not carrying the baggage of old political families. He was not emerging from traditional party structures. He arrived with the image of a former IPS officer, a reputation for direct communication, and a willingness to confront established political narratives without hesitation. In a state where the BJP historically struggled to gain significant electoral ground, he became the party's most recognisable face. The reported resignation, therefore, raises a question that BJP strategists may find uncomfortable. If a leader who expanded the party's visibility, energised cadres, dominated political headlines, and attracted young supporters ultimately concluded that his path lay outside the organisation, what does that reveal about the party's Tamil Nadu strategy?

WHEN ALLIANCE ARITHMETIC COLLIDES WITH POLITICAL AMBITION

The fault lines were visible long before this reported resignation. Annamalai consistently projected a vision of independent BJP growth in Tamil Nadu. His political messaging often suggested that the party should challenge both DMK and AIADMK directly rather than rely indefinitely on



ANNAMALAI WALKS OUT. THE GAME JUST CHANGED. A NEW CHAPTER IN TAMIL NADU POLITICS BEGINS NOW

alliance calculations. However, national political leadership often operates through a different lens. Electoral arithmetic frequently takes precedence over long term organisational expansion. Alliances provide immediate relevance. Independent growth demands patience and uncertainty. The reported revival of BJP's alliance with AIADMK appears to have become a major point of friction. For Annamalai, who had spent years attacking AIADMK's political failures and positioning BJP as an alternative force, such an arrangement risked diluting the very political identity he was attempting to build. This is where the clash became unavoidable. One side viewed alliances as a practical necessity.

The other viewed them as a strategic retreat. Politics rarely allows both approaches to coexist indefinitely. THE MAN WHO REFUSED THE SAFE OPTION Reports suggesting that Annamalai declined a Rajya Sabha opportunity, if accurate, reveal something important about his political thinking. Most politicians seek security when uncertainty arrives. Annamalai appears to be moving in the opposite direction. Walking away from a national party is not a decision driven by convenience. It is a decision driven by conviction, calculation, or a combination of both. Inside BJP, he possessed national visibility, organisational support, financial backing, and a recognisable political platform. Outside BJP,

he enters a landscape where every vote, every volunteer, every district committee, and every political alliance must be built from the ground up. This is not a safe political investment. It is an extraordinarily risky one. Yet risk often becomes attractive when leaders begin believing that organisational ceilings are limiting personal political potential.

WHY DMK CANNOT AFFORD COMPLACENCY

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam may publicly project confidence. After all, Tamil Nadu's political history has witnessed numerous attempts to challenge the Dravidian order. Many disappeared without leav-

ing a significant footprint. Yet dismissing Annamalai would be politically careless. His appeal is not rooted solely in ideology. It is rooted in a broader sentiment among sections of younger voters who increasingly evaluate politics through governance, accountability, employment opportunities, and administrative performance rather than traditional partisan loyalties. Tamil Nadu remains deeply influenced by Dravidian political culture. However, demographic change is creating new political conversations. Aspirational voters do not always respond to the same emotional triggers that influenced previous generations. Annamalai's potential movement appears designed to exploit precisely that space.

THE VIJAY FACTOR THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

No analysis of Tamil Nadu's political future can ignore the rise of Vijay. The actor's political entry fundamentally altered calculations across the opposition spectrum. Before TVK emerged as a major electoral force, Annamalai occupied a relatively unique political position as a high visibility anti DMK campaigner seeking to build a fresh alternative. Today, that terrain is crowded. Both Vijay and Annamalai appeal to politically restless voters searching for alternatives beyond the traditional DMK and AIADMK framework. Both seek support among youth, professionals, and urban constituencies. Both attempt to position themselves as symbols of political change. The difference lies in their strengths. Vijay brings celebrity influence that few politicians can match. Annamalai brings administrative experience and political combat tested over years of direct engagement. Whether these forces eventually compete or cooperate could become one of the defining questions of Tamil Nadu politics during the coming decade.

THE BIGGEST TEST STILL LIES AHEAD

Political resignations create headlines. Political movements create history. The real examination begins after the news channel cameras move elsewhere. Enthusiasm on social media must become district networks. Public admiration must become booth level organisation. Personal popularity must become electoral arithmetic. That transformation is where most political projects collapse. The pro-

posed people's movement reportedly being planned by Annamalai will require enormous resources, disciplined leadership, and sustained grassroots commitment. It must survive beyond excitement. It must survive beyond personality. It must survive beyond momentary political anger. Most importantly, it must convince voters that it represents something fundamentally different rather than merely becoming another vehicle for familiar ambitions.

THE REAL BATTLE BEGINS NOW

Tamil Nadu politics may have entered a new phase. The reported resignation of K. Annamalai is not merely the departure of a politician from a party. It is the opening chapter of a high stakes political gamble whose outcome remains uncertain. BJP now confronts questions about its southern strategy. DMK must evaluate emerging challenges to its long term dominance. AIADMK faces renewed pressure in a rapidly changing opposition landscape. Vijay's TVK encounters a potential competitor for the imagination of politically restless voters. As for Annamalai, the safety of established structures now lies behind him. The difficult road of political reinvention lies ahead. The next few months will reveal whether this moment becomes a footnote in Tamil Nadu's political history or the beginning of a new chapter that forces every established player to rethink its future. One thing is certain. The political ground beneath Tamil Nadu has started moving, and every party can feel the tremors.

THE GHOST OF TAMIL NADU POLITICS

Tamil Nadu has historically been a graveyard for national political assumptions. Congress once believed national dominance guaranteed state dominance. It did not. BJP repeatedly believed organisational persistence would eventually overcome structural barriers. It did not. Multiple smaller parties imagined electoral dissatisfaction would automatically translate into political support. It did not. The lesson remains unchanged. Tamil Nadu rewards political movements that understand Tamil aspirations on Tamil terms. Any leader seeking success must build emotional connection, organisational strength, and sustained credibility simultaneously. Annamalai now confronts precisely that challenge.

Oyo-parent Prism secures Sebi's nod to launch Rs 6,650-cr IPO

NEW DELHI: (JUN 2)

Prism, the parent firm of global travel tech unicorn Oyo, has secured clearance from markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 6,650 crore through its initial public offering (IPO), people familiar with the development said on Tuesday. The proposed public offering is expected to value the company at USD 7-8 billion, they added. Oyo's parent entity Prism filed the preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in December 2025 through the confidential route. The filing followed shareholders' approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) held on December 20, 2025, where the company received consent to raise up to Rs 6,650 crore through a fresh issue of equity shares.

HSBC Mutual Fund launches RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund (SIF)

MUMBAI, JUNE 02, 2026

HSBC Mutual Fund has launched RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund, a Specialised Investment Fund (SIF) strategy designed for investors seeking regular returns and capital appreciation. The strategy combines investments across asset classes - fixed income, equity arbitrage, REIT and IN-VIT units to pursue risk adjusted returns across market cycles. The New Fund Offer (NFO) will be open from 2 June 2026 to 16 June 2026.

SIFs were introduced to bridge the gap between traditional mutual funds and higher-ticket products like Portfolio Management Services (PMS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund offers an intermediate investment that combines the regulatory transparency of mutual funds with portfolio flexibility.

The product is suited for 'mid-ticket' investors, with a minimum application of ₹10,00,000 (₹1,00,000 for Accredited Investors).

Benchmark: NIFTY 50 Hybrid Composite Debt 50:50 Index

Kailash Kulkarni, CEO, HSBC Mutual Fund, said, "Investors today are more aware and require unique solutions that are professionally managed, and built to navigate complex market conditions. RedHex Hybrid Long-Short Fund is designed as a practical middle ground - offering the clarity investors expect from mutual funds, with added flexibility of a product which is designed to be less volatile while giving superior, tax efficient risk adjusted returns.

Shriram Ramanathan, CIO Fixed Income, HSBC Mutual Fund, said, "Our focus is on robust credit selection and risk controls, aiming to deliver high accrual potential with lower volatility across market cycles. In a measured way, the fund also aims to take exposure to REITs and INVITs, both of which are growing asset classes"

The fund strategy aims to deliver strong accrual potential with relatively low volatility through a diversified allocation across asset classes designed to generate regular income with limited sensitivity to market swings, while also enhancing tax efficiency and risk-adjusted returns. Structured as an interval investment fund, it allows subscriptions on any business day and offers weekly redemptions.

Sensex ends 382 points higher, Nifty nears 23,500 led by IT sector rally

Benchmark stock market indices staged a strong recovery on Tuesday, bouncing back from their lowest levels in nearly two months as investors returned to beaten-down large-cap stocks and continued buying technology shares.

The S&P BSE Sensex rose 382.50 points, or 0.52%, to close at 74,649.84, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 100.95 points, or 0.43%, to settle at 23,483.55.

The recovery was notable given the sharp weakness seen earlier in the session. The Sensex had plunged to an intraday low of 73,815.12, down 452.22 points from its previous close of 74,267.34. From that low, the index rebounded nearly 835 points to end the day in positive territory.

Similarly, the Nifty slipped to a low of 23,229.15 during the session, falling 153.45 points from its previous close of 23,382.60. The benchmark then recovered more than 254 points from the day's low before ending higher.

Markets had come under pressure over the past four



sessions due to concerns surrounding the Iran conflict and heavy foreign investor outflows, with the Nifty and Sensex losing nearly 3% during that period. Sentiment improved on Tuesday after US President Donald Trump said talks with Iran were still underway, easing fears that diplomatic negotiations had completely broken down.

Lower crude oil prices also supported sentiment. Brent crude fell 1.24% to \$93.80 a barrel, while WTI crude declined 1.28% to \$90.98. The fall in oil prices offered some relief to India, which remains heavily dependent on energy imports.

IT STOCKS LEAD MARKET RECOVERY

Technology stocks re-

mained the biggest drivers of the market rebound.

The Nifty IT index surged 4.23%, extending its two-day rally to about 7%. The gains came amid continued optimism around artificial intelligence spending globally and hopes that demand for software services will remain strong. Among Sensex constituents, Tata Consultancy Services emerged as the top gainer, rising 6.53%. Infosys jumped 5.66%, HCL Technologies gained 4.08%, and Tech Mahindra advanced 1.76%.

These four IT heavyweights were the biggest contributors to the recovery in benchmark indices. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone gained 1.84%, while Titan Company added 1.34%. On the losing

side, NTPC fell 2.89%, Axis Bank declined 1.74%, Power Grid Corporation dropped 1.38%, ICICI Bank lost 1.06%, and Bajaj Finance slipped 0.91%.

BROADER MARKETS, SECTORS

Broader markets also ended in positive territory. The Nifty Midcap 100 rose 0.19%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.40%. Investor anxiety eased significantly, with India VIX falling 7.17%. Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT was the clear outperformer with gains of 4.23%. Nifty Consumer Durables rose 1.30%, while Nifty FMCG gained 0.76% and Nifty Auto advanced 0.72%. However, some pockets of the market remained under pressure. Nifty Pharma fell 0.86%, Nifty Financial Services declined 0.63%, and Nifty Healthcare Index lost 0.52%.

RUPEE WEAKENS marginally

The rupee ended at 95.2650 against the US dollar, down 0.3% from the previous session. While a weaker rupee generally benefits export-oriented sectors such as information technology, it continues to reflect concerns

around capital outflows and external pressures. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Markets recovered from initial losses, led by gains in the IT sector, while continued accumulation in large-cap stocks reflected comfort with valuations, as the Nifty 50 trades closer to its long-term averages than the relatively richer valuations in broader markets."

He added, "Despite ongoing delays in a Middle East truce, global sentiment remained stable, highlighting resilience in risk appetite. With the earnings season largely concluded, investor focus has shifted to key macro factors including monsoon progress, inflation trends, RBI policy, and liquidity conditions."

Nair noted that the monsoon's advance into southern regions could provide near-term support to sentiment. "While rainfall is projected to be below the long-period average and emerging El Nino risks warrant monitoring, healthy reservoir levels, well above the 10-year average, offer a cushion against potential shortfalls," he said.



RECPDCL Hands Over Hampapura Power Transmission Limited

a SPV of Intra State Transmission Project of Karnataka, to M/s Resonia Limited

GURUGRAM, JUNE 2:

REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, handed over a project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) of InSTS Transmission Project of Karnataka under TBCB route viz, Hampapura Power Transmission Limited to the successful bidder i.e., M/s Resonia Limited on 30th May 2026. M/s Resonia Limited emerged as the successful bidder through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of the transmission project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis. The SPV was handed over

by Smt. Monisha Barua, GM & HoD, RECPDCL to Sh. Tushar Chhabra, Head (Business Acquisition), Resonia Limited in the presence of Managing Director, KPITCL, Senior Officials of RECPDCL and Officials of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited. The implementation period of the project is 24 months. The scheme broadly covers establishment of 400/220/33 kV GIS sub-station at Hampapura, 400 kV Double Circuit line of around 299 km from Jagalur to Kadakola, 220 kV Double Circuit line of around 125 km from Hampapura to Nagamangala, Maddur, Tubinakere & Huygonahalli and LILLO of 400kV DC Quad moose line from Jagalur-Kadakola to proposed 765/400kV CN'Halli Station, along with other associated works.

400,000+ Indians Are Building Yoga as a Daily Habit, Now Backed by MDNIY, Ministry of Ayush and Habuild

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush and Habuild partner to make consistent yoga practice simple and accessible for everyone.

HYDERABAD, JUNE 2025:

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Ministry of Ayush, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Habuild, India's first habit-building platform to launch a nationwide digital yoga initiative in the lead-up to the International Day of Yoga 2026. This collaboration aims to encourage citizens across the country to adopt yoga as a simple daily practice through structured and accessible online programmes.

As part of the yoga 365 initiative, Habuild and MDNIY, Ministry of Ayush rolled out a large-scale digital yoga movement (in March 2026) leading up to June 21, 2026, with the objective of encouraging people to practise yoga consistently every day for 100 days. The initiative has already seen participation from over 4 lakh active participants from 130+ coun-



tries and every Indian state and Union Territory and is expected to grow multifold until June 21.

The initiative introduces participants to simple yoga practices that can be integrated into everyday life via the Youtube channel of the Ministry of Ayush. The guided sessions are led by Saurabh Bothra, Co-Founder and Yoga Instructor of Habuild, whose approach to yoga focuses on habit formation, mindful movement, and building sustainable wellness routines rather than

short-term fitness goals. The format has been designed to ensure that everyone can comfortably participate and gradually build a consistent yoga practice.

The initiative reflects a shared vision between MDNIY, Ministry of Ayush and Habuild to expand the reach of yoga through digital platforms while strengthening the culture of preventive healthcare in India.

Commenting on the initiative, Saurabh Bothra, Co-Founder, Habuild, said, "Yoga becomes transforma-

tive when it moves from an occasional activity to a quiet daily discipline. India has always had a deep cultural relationship with yoga, yet modern lifestyles often make it difficult for people to stay consistent. Through this collaboration with MDNIY, Ministry of Ayush, we hope to create a simple pathway for people to begin and sustain that relationship again. When millions of people practise even a few minutes of yoga every day, the impact extends far beyond individual wellbeing and begins to shape a healthier society."

Over the years, global observance of International Yoga Day on June 21 has helped introduce yoga to millions of people across the world. The new digital initiative seeks to deepen that engagement within India by encouraging people to move beyond symbolic participation and experience yoga as a consistent part of everyday living.



Welspun One plans to lease over 10 million sq ft in next 3 years

MUMBAI: (JUN 2)

Betting big on domestic supply chain boom, warehousing and industrial real estate platform Welspun One on Tuesday announced plans to lease over 10 million sq ft over the next three years, nearly double its current operational footprint. The deals include a 5.9 lakh sq ft single-box facility for Amazon India, a 20-metre-high warehouse for AAJ Supply Chain, the company said. A controlled-environment facility of over 2 lakh sq ft built-to-the-precise specifications of a leading medical equipment manufacturer, a signal of how the sector is moving well beyond commodity storage, forms the part of the 10-million sq ft land deal, it said.

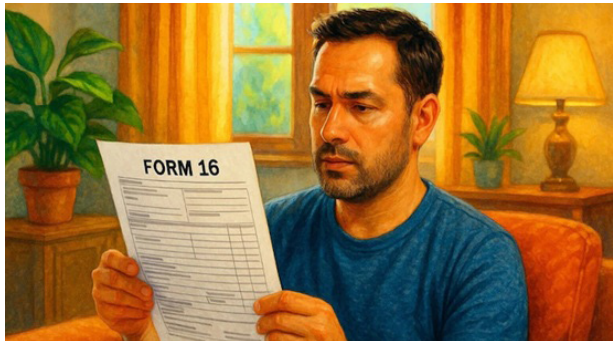
Waiting for Form 16? Here's when you'll receive it and why it matters for your ITR

The countdown to ITR filing has begun, and Form 16 remains one of the most important documents for salaried taxpayers. Knowing when your employer must issue it and what information it contains can help you prepare for a smoother tax filing experience.

As the income tax filing season begins, many salaried employees are checking their emails and payroll portals for one important document, i.e., Form 16. For most taxpayers, this certificate acts as the starting point for filing an Income Tax Return (ITR). While the filing deadline is still a few weeks away, understanding when Form 16 will be issued and what it contains can help taxpayers prepare well in advance.

WHAT IS FORM 16? Form 16 is a Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) certificate issued by an employer to an employee. It confirms that tax has been deducted from the employee's salary and deposited with the Income Tax Department on their behalf.

Issued under Section 192 of



the Income-tax Act, the document serves as an official record of salary income and tax deductions during a financial year. For salaried individuals, it is one of the most important documents used while preparing and filing an income tax return.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES FORM 16 INCLUDE?

Form 16 consists of two sections - Part A and Part B.

Part A contains basic details about the employer and employee, including their PAN and TAN numbers. It also provides information on the amount of tax deducted from salary and a quarterly summary of TDS deposited with the government.

Part B offers a more detailed picture of the employee's earnings and tax calculations. It includes salary income, allowances, perquisites, deductions claimed under various provisions such as Sections 80C and 80D, taxable income, tax liability and any applicable rebates or relief.

Before issuing the certificate, employers are required to verify the information contained in both sections. The document may be issued with either a digital signature or a physical signature.

WHEN WILL EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FORM 16?

Employers are required to issue Form 16 by June 15 following the end of the financial year in which the salary was paid and tax was deducted.

For Financial Year 2025-26,

corresponding to Assessment Year 2026-27, employers must provide Form 16 to employees on or before June 15, 2026.

Employees who switched jobs during the financial year may receive separate Form 16 certificates from each employer covering their respective periods of employment.

CAN YOU GET FORM 16 BEFORE JUNE 15?

In some cases, yes.

If an employer has already generated Form 16 through the TRACES portal, it can be shared with employees before the official deadline. Many organisations often distribute the document ahead of time once all required tax filings and reconciliations have been completed. However, employees cannot directly download Form 16 from the Income Tax Department. The authority to generate and download the certificate rests only with the employer or deductor through the TRACES portal.

WHY IS FORM 16 IMPORTANT FOR ITR FILING?

For salaried taxpayers, Form 16 brings together most of the information needed for filing an income tax return.

It provides a consolidated record of salary income, tax deductions and eligible exemptions and deductions claimed during the year. The document also helps taxpayers verify whether the correct amount of tax has been deducted and deposited. Since it contains details already reported by the employer, it reduces the chances of errors while filing returns.

Although filing an ITR without Form 16 is possible in certain situations, having the document makes the process significantly easier and more accurate.

WHAT IS THE ITR FILING DEADLINE FOR FY 2025-26?

For most salaried individuals and taxpayers whose accounts are not required to be audited, the due date for filing an Income Tax Return for Financial Year 2025-26 (Assessment Year 2026-27) is July 31, 2026. With employers expected to issue Form 16 by June 15, taxpayers generally have enough time to review their income details, cross-check tax deductions and complete the filing process before the deadline.

Uber invests in ONDC to strengthen India's digital infrastructure push

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

Ride-hailing platform Uber on Tuesday announced a strategic investment in the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which is one of the earliest investments by a global technology company in India's open digital commerce network. The company said the investment deepens its commitment to India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem and reflects its long-term strategy of building mobility and logistics services through open and interoperable networks. The investment builds on Uber's existing partnership with ONDC and follows the company's earlier integration with the network. As part of the expanded collaboration, Uber said it will work closely with ONDC to increase access to multimodal transportation solutions, including public transit integrations, while also strengthening logistics capabilities for businesses and independent earners operating on the network. Prabhjeet Singh, President, Uber India and South Asia, said India has emerged as a global leader in building digital public infrastructure that is inclusive and scalable. "Our ongoing partnership with ONDC and now this investment



puts us at the heart of that innovation journey. By investing in this network, we're helping more people move, more businesses grow, and more earners thrive by harnessing the power of the ONDC network," Singh added. Adil Zainulbhai, Independent Director at ONDC, said the investment reflects growing confidence in India's digital commerce infrastructure and its ability to create a level playing field for businesses. "Uber's investment is a strong endorsement of India's Digital Public Infrastructure and its potential to drive innovation, efficiency and inclusive growth," he said. The company said metro ticketing services through Uber are now live across five cities, with more than 10 million metro rides already booked via the ONDC network. According to Uber, the investment represents a long-term bet on open networks as the foundation for future mobility and logistics services in India.

AI/ML, Insurance Roles Keep White-Collar Hiring Stable in May

NEW DELHI, JUNE 2

White-collar hiring remained stable in May 2026 in India, as the insurance sector continued to lead with an over 19 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth followed by BPO/ITES at over 9 per cent, a report said on Tuesday, the report from jobs portal Naukri said that healthcare at over 6 per cent and hospitality at over 5 per cent were other top growing sectors. Its Naukri JobSpeak Index touched 2836 in May 2026, marginally higher than the 2807 mark recorded in the same month last year. Among major metros, Hyderabad continued to post positive hiring growth at over 6 per cent YoY, while emerging cities such as Coimbatore grew at over 8 per cent and Surat

at over 9 per cent. Fresher hiring and AI or machine learning (ML) roles grew 7 per cent and 22 per cent respectively on an annual basis. "While the job market remained stable in May, demand for high-value talent continued to stand out across industries, led by AI or ML roles. Hiring for these roles offering salaries above Rs 30 LPA grew 27 per cent," said Hitesh Oberoi, MD & CEO, Info Edge (India) Limited. Hitesh also noted strong fresher hiring momentum in emerging cities like Jaipur & Coimbatore. Senior professionals remained the most sought-after talent for AI-ML roles, with hiring for professionals in the 13-16 years' experience band growing by 32 per cent, followed by a 28 per cent increase for those with over 16 years of experience.



5 Chilly Getaways Near Delhi

Delhi's heat is not going anywhere. But the mountains are closer than you think, they are cooler than you remember. Delhi in May is not for the faint-hearted. The moment you step outside, the heat hits you like you've opened a preheated oven, and the idea of doing anything outdoors feels genuinely absurd. But here's the thing: some of the most beautiful places in the country are sitting less than

a day's drive away, quietly enjoying temperatures that you can actually be comfortable in. Cool breezes, pine forests, misty mornings, and roads that reward the drive, all within striking distance of the capital. If your body is screaming for a break from the 44°C misery, here are five places near Delhi that are staying under 25°C right now, and every single one of them is worth the trip.



1. Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

Distance from Delhi: ~290 km | Temperature: 15–22°C

Mussoorie, known as the Queen of the Hills, was chosen by the British for its cool summer climate. Perched at 2,000 metres in the Garhwal Himalayas, it offers cool air, lush views, and the comfort of a light jacket in June. The Mall Road is the town's social hub, perfect for an evening stroll and chai, but the true gems lie beyond. Kempty Falls, 15 km away, is stunning and peaceful on weekdays. Lal Tibba, the highest point,

provides breathtaking Himalayan views after a short hike. George Everest's Point, quieter than main tourist spots, offers a unique atmosphere. Ruskin Bond, captivated by Mussoorie's beauty and mystery, still resides there, adding a literary charm to the town, distinct from other hill stations.

How to get there: Drive or take a Shatabdi to Dehradun, then a taxi or bus for the final 33 km. The new Delhi-Dehradun Expressway has brought the drive down significantly.



2. Nainital, Uttarakhand

Distance from Delhi: ~300 km | Temperature: 14–20°C

Nainital is built around its lake, literally curving around the emerald waters of Naini Lake. The view from the ridge road above is arresting, with the lake at the heart of everything. You can boat on it in the misty mornings, walk its perimeter at dusk, or sit on Mall Road to watch the light change. The lake, encircled by lush hills, offers a picturesque setting and opportunities for boating and leisurely walks. With its colonial-era charm, vibrant markets, and sightseeing op-

tions, Nainital is an ideal summer getaway for relaxation and adventure. The ropeway to Snow View Point provides a full Himalayan panorama, while the Tibetan market near the lake is excellent for woollens and jewellery. For a quieter experience, a drive to Mukteshwar, about 50 km away, is spectacular, with apple orchards worth the trip.

How to get there: Drive via the NH9 to Moradabad and then up through Kathgodam. The Ranikhet Express from Delhi to Kathgodam is a comfortable overnight option, with cabs available from the station.



3. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Distance from Delhi: ~340 km | Temperature: 12–20°C

Shimla, the former summer capital of British India, surprises visitors with its unique charm. Perched over 2,200 metres above sea level, it boasts a faded grandeur with Victorian architecture along The Ridge and Mall Road, and the historic Christ Church dating back to 1857. The town's atmosphere, shaped by nearly two centuries of visitors, is genuinely distinctive. Misty hills and Pinterest-inspired cafes add to its picturesque appeal, making it an ideal summer retreat.

The famous toy train from Kalka, a UNESCO World Heritage Railway, offers a memorable journey, albeit slower than driving. Just a 16 km drive from Shimla lies Kufri, offering views of snow-capped peaks on clear days. Visitors can enjoy scenic strolls, go-karting, mountain biking, and exploring the slopes. Combining Shimla and Kufri in a single trip is feasible over a long weekend, providing a perfect blend of peace, seclusion, and nature.

How to get there: Drive via Chandigarh, or take the Kalka Shatabdi from New Delhi and then the toy train for the full experience.

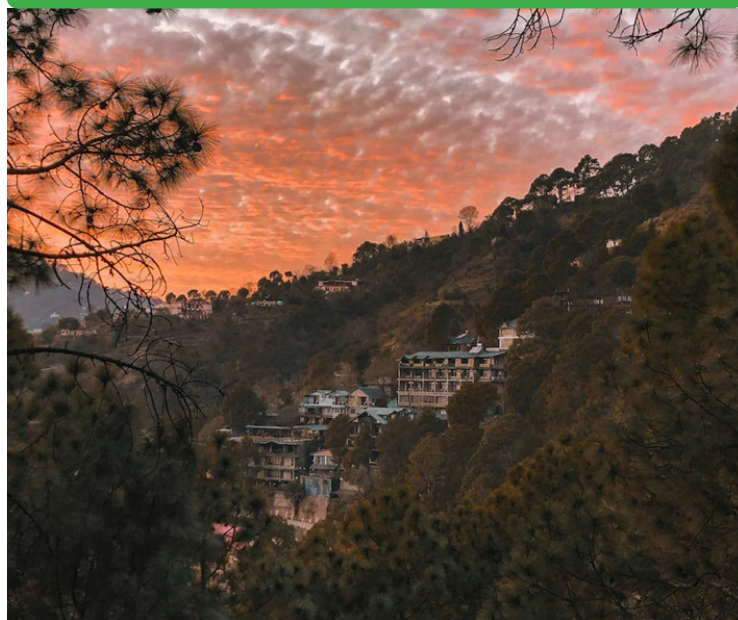
4. Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh

Distance from Delhi: ~290 km | Temperature: 14–22°C

If you're seeking the opposite of busy, Kasauli is your destination. This small cantonment town in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, at 1,900 metres, offers a pace that makes Shimla seem hectic. There are no malls, cable cars, or organised tourist attractions. Instead, you'll find colonial bungalows hidden among pine and oak trees, a monkey point with views to Chandigarh on clear days, and a quiet that lets you truly exhale. Kasauli's colonial charm and misty mountain backdrop provide an idyllic escape from Delhi's summer heat. The small market area and the beautiful Christ Church, a Gothic architectural gem, are highlights. The real attraction is the walks: Lower Mall and Upper Mall roads, lined with deodar trees and old buildings, offer clean air that makes a long walk restorative.

Ideal for pairs or small groups, Kasauli encourages conversation over sightseeing, with very little organised activity—and that's the point.

How to get there: Drive via NH44 to Chandigarh and then take the road up to Kasauli. The drive is smooth and takes around five to six hours from Delhi.



5. Chopta, Uttarakhand

Distance from Delhi: ~450 km | Temperature: 10–18°C

Chopta, often called the Mini Switzerland of India, is a hidden gem for travellers seeking an escape from the usual hill stations. Nestled at 2,680 metres in the Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, it offers thick rhododendron and oak forests, stunning views of Tungnath and Chandrashila peaks, and a serene atmosphere that feels disconnected from the world. May and June are ideal months to visit, as the meadows and flowers begin to bloom. The trek to Tungnath, the highest Shiva temple at 3,680 metres, starts from Chopta and is a manageable 3.5 km each way for fit walkers. Infrastructure is basic, with small guesthouses and simple food, but this simplicity enhances its charm. For those willing to sacrifice some comfort for breathtaking scenery and cool summer temperatures, Chopta is an exceptionally rewarding destination.

How to get there: Drive via Haridwar and Rishikesh to Ukhimath, and then up to Chopta. The road is well-marked and takes around ten to eleven hours. An early morning departure from Delhi is the standard approach.



Before You Go: A Few Practical Notes

Visit these destinations between May and June before the monsoon. After July, landslides and heavy rain make driving risky, especially for Chopta and Mussoorie. Book Shimla and Kasauli accommodations early due to busy summer weekends and rising prices. Nainital is ideal for families with diverse children's activities, while Kasauli and Chopta suit couples or small groups seeking peace. Bring a jacket; temperatures drop significantly after sunset and mornings are cold.

Delhi's heat is not going anywhere. But the mountains are closer than you think, they are cooler than you remember, and every one of these five places is waiting to remind you why living near the Himalayas is one of the great privileges of calling North India home. Pick one, pack light, and get on the road before the weekend crowd does.





Sachin hails Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's impact, reflects on defining moments of IPL 2026

NEW DELHI

Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar was impressed with the impact teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi had on the recently-concluded Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, saying the Rajasthan Royals opener affected the outcome of games in more ways than through the runs he scored.

The batting legend also added that whenever Sooryavanshi walked out to bat, Rajasthan Royals seemed to have a renewed sense of belief.

In his post looking back at the season, Tendulkar was particular about naming some of the standout performances and trends that caught his attention during the tournament. Amongst them was the phenomenal season of Sooryavanshi. "Vaibhav Sooryavanshi had an influence on games that went beyond the runs he scored. Oppositions were thinking about him, teams were planning for him, and fans were waiting for him long before he arrived at the crease," Tendulkar said in a post on Reddit.

The 15-year-old went on to be the top run-scorer in the tournament and one of the biggest success stories.

The former India skipper was more amazed by the young boy's temperament during the playoffs: "His ability to score quickly in the Eliminator and Qualifier proved his intent was always the same, even as the stakes were high. Even more importantly, his batting seemed to give Rajasthan Royals an added sense of belief every time he walked out to the middle."

Tendulkar also cited the dismissal of Jos Buttler by Josh Hazlewood in the 1st qualifier between RCB and RR, to highlight an instance of brilliant game awareness by a bowler: "Josh Hazlewood's dismissal of Jos Buttler in the 5th over of the 1st Qualifier showed the value of deception.



Buttler had hit deliveries for a 4, 6, and a 4, and once a batter settles into a rhythm like that, he often tends to commit early." He elaborated on this: "What made the wicket special was how he subtly slowed down the next delivery by 10 km/hr, and Buttler had already gone through his shot by the time the ball reached him," the batting maestro said.

Looking at the eventual champions, RCB, Tendulkar noted how their win was an all-round effort. "Every successful team develops an identity over the course of a campaign. RCB's identity seemed to be built around shared responsibility." He reserved high praise for captain Rajat Patidar.

"Rajat Patidar led from the front right through, but more importantly, he helped create an environment where others could do the same. The balance between leadership and con-

tribution was an important part of them going all the way to yet another final," he

The legendary batsman, however, suggested a change to the rules, keeping in mind the course of most of the games in the season. "One trend that I observed through this season was how many games were decided between overs 7 and 15. Teams are now much better prepared for Power-plays and death overs than before." Tendulkar suggested the splitting of the powerplay:

"I feel the Power-play needs to be split into two parts. First 4 overs as the batting Power-play and two overs of bowling Power-play, which could be utilised at any point in the innings. If implemented, this could become the most strategic phase of T20 cricket," he said.

Tendulkar was also full of praise

for Punjab Kings for their attitude, despite failing to win the trophy: "Punjab Kings brought wonderful energy to the tournament. Their cricket was positive, brave, and at times game-changing." According to him, the lesson learned from Punjab's season was to strike a balance between process and results: "Momentum plays a big part in lengthy tournaments, and eventually in such a quick tournament it comes down to process and not attaching yourself to the results. Punjab seemed to focus on the process in the first half, and on results in the second."

The former India skipper acknowledged the consistency of the Gujarat Titans. "What stood out about the Gujarat Titans is the ability to operate in a very limited performance band, across the length of an entire season." "In the inherently volatile nature of the IPL, they very rarely fall too far from their plan, even when the results are not in their favour. That means minimising both the extremes; ensuring they don't fly too close to the sun, and neither do they crash land when things go wrong. In a long tournament, such control of edge proves more valuable than single bursts of brilliance or match-winning efforts."

Reflecting on IPL 2026, Tendulkar emphasised the importance of adaptation. "When I reflect on IPL 2026, I was once again reminded that tournaments rarely follow a predictable course from the start. More than one instance this season, the table told a very different story at the mid-point compared to what we see at the end of the competition." He added, "The teams responded, adjusted, and new strategies were developed as the competition grew. The game is all about continuous development, and that's what makes watching it so compelling."



Indonesia Open 2026: PV Sindhu, Arjun-Hariharan advance with opening round wins

JAKARTA

Back in the top 10 of BWF world rankings, PV Sindhu kicked off her Indonesia Open 2026 with a 25-23, 21-16 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan at the Istora Senayan stadium in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The former world champion had to push herself, finally winning with scores of 25-23 and 21-16 in 51 minutes. She won the closely contested first game with her aggressive playing style and carried that energy into the second game to secure a straight-sets victory. Sindhu now faces a tough challenge in the second round, where she is likely to meet reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se-young. Sindhu trails 0-9 in their head-to-head record and lost to the Korean in the Singapore Open quarterfinals last week.

Also advancing to the next round was the men's doubles combination of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, who registered a straight games victory over Malaysia's 2016 Olympic medalist Tan Wee Kiong and his current

partner Nur Mohd Azriyn. India's ace shuttler Sindhu, who entered the world top-10 for the first time since 2023, opened her campaign with an 11th successive win against the Thailand shuttler. Sindhu now leads the head-to-head record against Busanan 21-1. She will now face the winner of the match between top seed An Se Young of Korea and Neslihan Arin of Turkey.

Later, Hariharan and Arjun outplayed the experienced Malaysian duo 21-18, 21-10 in just 33 minutes. Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen lost to home favourite Alwi Farhan 21-19, 21-16. Alwi had defeated World No 1 Shi Yu Qi at the Singapore Open last week.

On the other hand, it was a tough day for India's doubles teams. The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, playing together for the first time in over two months, lost 14-21, 12-21 to the Indonesian team of Febriana Dwiwijaya Kusuma and Meilysa Trias Puspitasari. In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 11-21, 10-21 by the sixth-seeded Chinese pair of Guo Xin Wa and Chen Fang Hui.

FIFA WC 2026

England arrives in Florida for pre-World Cup camp



FLORIDA: England football team has started its preparation for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026, which will commence on June 11. The Harry Kane-led side has arrived in the city for the pre-World Cup camp. Head coach Thomas Tuchel and a number of his squad flew from Birmingham Airport to Florida on Tuesday for their crucial training base in West Palm Beach. Arsenal's Declan Rice, Noni Madueke, Eberechi Eze and Bukayo Saka plus Crystal Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson - who were all involved in European finals last week - will join the rest of the squad at a later date.

MPL 2026

Gwalior Cheetahs challenge Ujjain Falcons in opener



GWALIOR: Having successfully guided the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to back-to-back IPL crowns, Rajat Patidar is set to begin a new chapter closer to home as he returns to lead Gwalior Cheetahs in the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026. Patidar will captain a side eager to make a breakthrough after reaching the semifinal in 2025 but narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Gwalior Cheetahs will feature in the opening match of the 2026 season when they face Ujjain Falcons on Wednesday at the Holkar Stadium in Indore.

China appoints Wang Chuqin as captain of men's table tennis

BEIJING

World No. 1 Wang Chuqin has been appointed captain of China's men's table tennis team, with Liang Jingkun named vice captain. "We hope that Wang Chuqin can carry forward the responsibilities and mission of the team captain and take over the baton from former captain Ma Long," said Wang Hao, head coach of the Chi-

nese men's team. "This is not only an honour, but also a heavy responsibility and a true testament to commitment," he added.

The duo helped China win their 12th straight men's title at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals in London last month. Wang had a perfect record in all 10 of his matches at the tournament, while Liang pulled off consecutive come-

back victories in the semifinals and the final, against Alexis Lebrun of France and Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto, respectively. Wang leads the men's singles world rankings released on Monday, while Liang sits 26th. The 26-year-old Wang Chuqin is the reigning Olympic gold medalist in mixed doubles with Sun Yingsha, and in the team event with Ma Long and Fan Zhendong.

SAFF Women's C'ship: India look to continue winning run in semis against Bhutan

MARGAO (GOA)

India will look to take another step towards reclaiming the SAFF Women's Football Championship crown when they face Bhutan in the second semifinal at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Wednesday.

Five-time champions India enter the knockout clash in a confident mood after finishing top of Group B with maximum points. India began their campaign with an emphatic 11-0 victory over Maldives before convincingly blanking defending champions Bangladesh 3-0.

The hosts also receive a timely boost ahead of the semi-final with the arrival of forward Manisha Kalyan. The 24-year-old joined the squad on Tuesday afternoon after being released by her Peruvian club Alianza Lima for the June FIFA International Match Window that started on June 1.

Defender Shilky Devi Hemam welcomed the arrival of the experienced forward. "It will be really helpful for us. She is very experienced, and that will come to our aid for the rest of the matches. She also plays for a very good side, and that will also help," said Shilky.

India head into the contest as favourites. Ranked 69th in the FIFA rankings, they are nearly 100 places above Bhutan, which occupies the 164th position. History is also firmly on India's side. The two nations have met only twice before, with India winning both encounters by an aggregate score of 29-0.

But the most recent meeting came way back in the 2012 SAFF Women's Championship when India registered an 11-0 victory in Colombo. Two years earlier, the Blue Tigresses had recorded an astonishing 18-0 win over Bhutan in Cox's Bazar, which remains India's biggest victory in an official international.



However, Crispin Chettri's side is taking nothing for granted. Bhutan have shown significant progress in recent years and booked their place in the semi-finals after finishing second in Group A. After suffering a narrow 1-0 defeat to Nepal in their opening match, Bhutan bounced back impressively with a 4-0 win over Sri Lanka.

Much of that success was built around the form of forward Pema Tshering, who struck a hat-trick against Sri Lanka and will be the player India must keep under close watch.

India head coach Crispin Chettri has acknowledged Bhutan's growth and believes his side must remain fully focused. "We have to approach the match with a winning mentality and give our best. Bhutan have improved with every match. They play as a unit, they attack and defend as a team, so for us to do well,

we need to have quick transitions," said Chettri. The coach also feels his team is gradually developing stronger chemistry. "I think slowly we are playing as a team, as one unit, which was visible against Bangladesh, but only in patches. So we can improve more in that area. Our finishing has been good, and the number of chances we created speaks well about our attacking intensity."

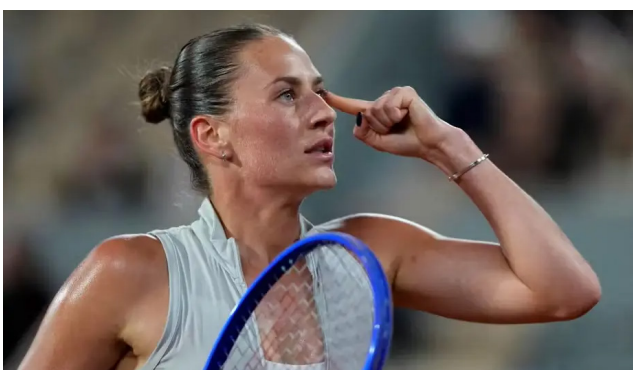
Shilky echoed her coach's views on the team's progress. "We are playing as a unit and as a team. That's the reason behind our good performances. We have adjusted to the ground conditions and handled them well. Bhutan are a good side and improving year by year. They have been together for a while, and that's why they know each other and play as a unit." Nepal and Bangladesh will meet in the other semifinal that will kick off earlier on the same day.

French Open: Kostyuk creates history with win over Svitolina, reaches first Grand Slam semis

PARIS

Marta Kostyuk made history in Ukrainian tennis on Tuesday by defeating her fellow countrywoman Elina Svitolina 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 in the first all-Ukrainian Grand Slam quarterfinal of the Open Era. This win secured her place in her first major semifinal at Roland Garros.

The 23-year-old, seeded 15th in Paris, triumphed over the seventh-seeded Svitolina in one hour and 49 minutes. She finished strong, winning 13 of the last 14 points to clinch her spot in the semifinals. With this victory, Kostyuk extended her impressive clay-court winning streak to 17 matches, having already won titles in Rouen and Madrid this season. The event held meaning beyond tennis. It came less than 24 hours after a tragic Russian attack across Ukraine that re-



portedly killed at least 18 people. During an emotional on-court interview, Kostyuk dedicated her historic win to her country. "I want to start with this historic match that we played today with Elina," Kostyuk said. "We had a very difficult night again in Ukraine, especially in Kyiv. So many people are dead. I want to give this match to the Ukrainian people and to their resilience."

With this win, Kostyuk became the first Ukrainian woman in the Open Era to reach the Roland Garros semifinals and only the third Ukrainian player to advance to a Grand Slam semifinal, following Elina Svitolina and Dayana Yastremska.

For Svitolina, who is considered the most accomplished Ukrainian player in WTA history, the loss marked a disappointing

sixth defeat in Paris quarterfinals, bringing her record to 0-6. Despite a strong 10-2 record against fellow Ukrainians on tour before this match, she could not stop Kostyuk's momentum.

The match was thrilling. Kostyuk took the first set 6-3, but Svitolina responded by winning the second set 6-2 to level the match. However, the younger player elevated her game in the final set, dominating the closing stages and securing a memorable victory. This result also improved Kostyuk's head-to-head record against Svitolina to 2-1.

Their rivalry began at the 2018 Australian Open, where a 15-year-old Kostyuk lost to Svitolina in her Grand Slam debut. Since then, Kostyuk has steadily closed the gap, with Tuesday's win mirroring her earlier 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 victory over Svitolina in Toronto in 2024.

link up with the rest of the squad for the World Cup. They added: "We are currently in contact with the relevant authorities and expect that Brel Embolo will either join the team later today or travel tomorrow and join the squad then." Born in Cameroon but spending most of his childhood in Switzerland, Embolo has represented the country since the Under-16 level. The former Basel and Monaco man went to the 2018 and 2022 World Cups, scoring twice at the latter - including the winning goal against



FIFA World Cup: Switzerland star Embolo blocked from entering the United States

ZURICH

Switzerland have been dealt a big blow ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after striker Brel Embolo was refused entry to the United States for the event being co-hosted by the USA along with Canada and Mexico. Switzerland will be playing their first two group games in the United States.

According to reports in the local media, the Swiss squad left for Los Angeles on Tuesday without Embolo, who was not

allowed to board the flight as his ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation) system, the system that determines someone's eligibility to enter the US) status was placed under review.

The decision to change his ESTA status was related to his 2023 conviction in a case about making multiple threats and was given a suspended fine following an altercation back in 2018, reports said. Embolo, who has scored 23 goals in 85 caps for Switzerland, ultimately appealed the conviction to no avail.

The Swiss Football Association explained the situation in a statement and said it was in touch with the US authorities concerned to get his status changed.

"Unfortunately, Brel Embolo is currently unable to travel to the United States with the team," it read. "His ESTA authorisation had been approved until this morning. However, at 10:30 a.m., we were informed that his ESTA application had been placed under further review."

Switzerland, though, are hopeful that Embolo will be able to

Cameroon - making him only the second player in World Cup history to find the net against their country of birth.

Embolo has also appeared at Euro 2016, Euro 2020, and Euro 2024, having made his senior debut for Switzerland in 2015. The 29-year-old opened the scoring from the penalty spot in Switzerland's latest friendly, a 4-1 victory over World Cup newcomers Jordan in St. Gallen on Sunday.

Switzerland will hope to have Embolo involved for their World Cup Group B opener against Qa-

tar in San Francisco on June 13. Murat Yakin's side then face Bosnia and Herzegovina in LA before taking on co-hosts Canada in Vancouver.

The Swiss have reached the first knockout round at each of the last three World Cups, but were thrashed 6-1 by Portugal in the last 16 four years ago.

They have reached the quarterfinals three times, although the most recent of those occasions came way back in 1954 when they hosted the tournament.



ALIA'S ALPHA CHANGES COURSE AFTER DHURANDHAR?

Alia Bhatt's upcoming action thriller Alpha is set to introduce a fresh direction for the YRF Spy Universe by moving away from the familiar India-Pakistan cooperation storyline often seen in spy films. Recent reports suggesting that the film revolves around an Indian and Pakistani agent teaming up for a mission have been dismissed by sources associated with the project. Unlike previous entries in the franchise, Alpha

will reportedly focus on the origin story of Alia Bhatt's character, who is not a spy but an assassin. The film follows a young woman raised from childhood to become a highly skilled killing machine. Shaped by a difficult upbringing and trained to trust no one, she becomes a dangerous lone operative whose journey forms the narrative's emotional and action-packed core. Sources claim that the movie deliberately avoids themes of India-Pakistan friendship, diplomatic reconciliation, or joint intelligence operations. Many opined that they opted this strategy post Dhurandhar success. Instead, the story is expected to highlight India's determination and strength in confronting its enemies independently. This

creative shift is being viewed as a bold move by producer Aditya Chopra, who appears keen to expand the spy universe with more unconventional and morally complex characters. Directed by Shiv Rawail, Alpha also stars Sharvati, Bobby Deol, and Anil Kapoor. The film is scheduled to release on July 3, 2026. One needs to see how all this pans out in the days to come.



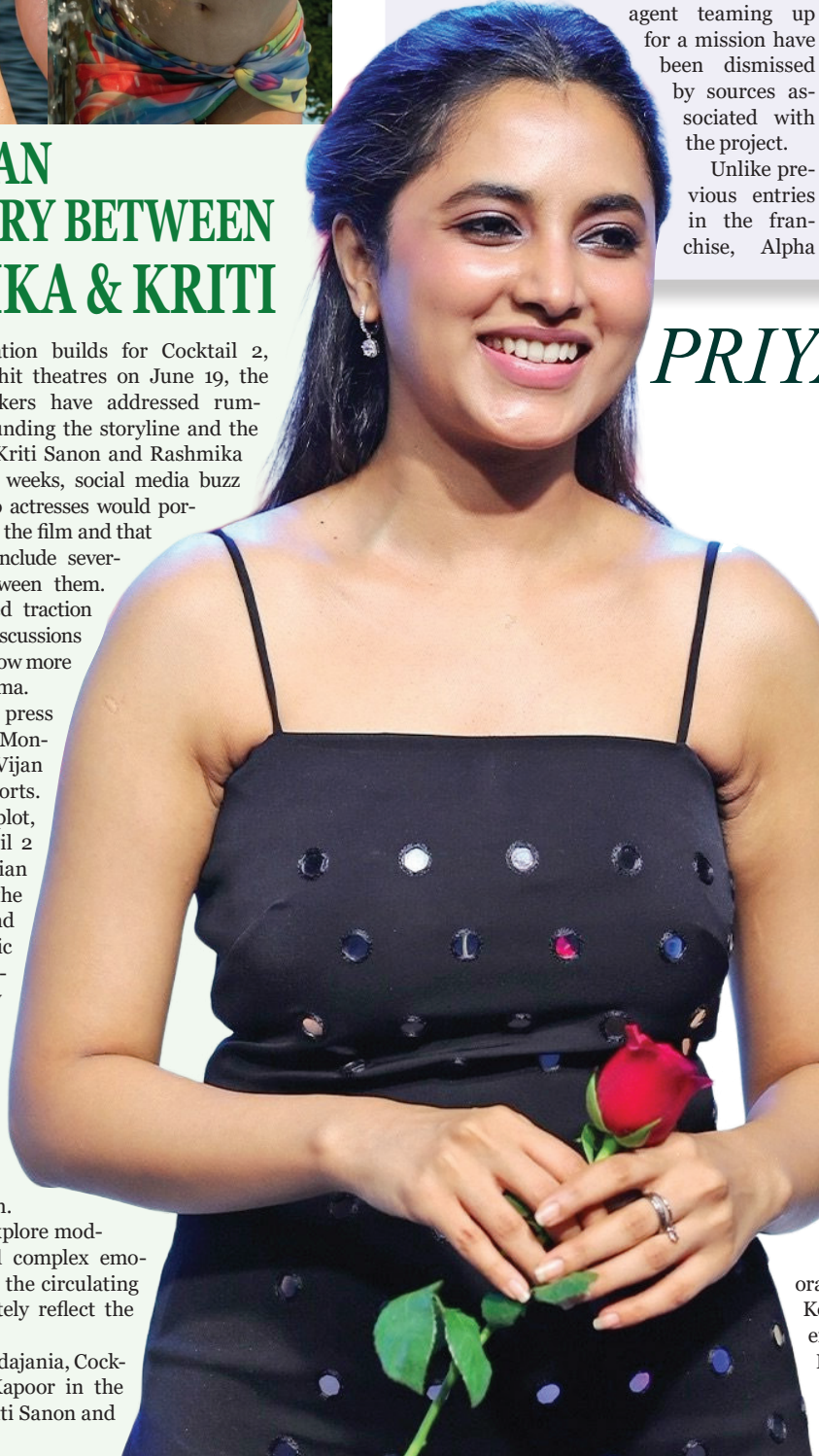
NO LESBIAN LOVE STORY BETWEEN RASHMIKA & KRITI

As anticipation builds for Cocktail 2, slated to hit theatres on June 19, the film's makers have addressed rumors surrounding the storyline and the characters played by Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna. In recent weeks, social media buzz suggested that the two actresses would portray a lesbian couple in the film and that the narrative would include several steamy scenes between them. The speculation gained traction online, prompting discussions among fans eager to know more about the romantic drama.

However, during a press interaction held on Monday, producer Dinesh Vijan firmly denied the reports. Clarifying the film's plot, he stated that Cocktail 2 does not feature a lesbian love story. Instead, the film revolves around two separate romantic tracks that are contemporary, emotionally charged, and bold in their treatment.

Vijan emphasized that the rumors were baseless and that audiences should wait to experience the story on the big screen. While the film does explore modern relationships and complex emotions, he stressed that the circulating claims do not accurately reflect the narrative.

Directed by Homi Adajania, Cocktail 2 stars Shahid Kapoor in the lead role alongside Kriti Sanon and Rashmika Mandanna.



PRIYANKA MOHAN Gets Big Job In Korean Govt

Priyanka Mohan is happy to receive this special recognition from the Korean government, and she also feels honored to be associated with the country. She described the opportunity as very special and said she is excited about the journey ahead. "Being appointed as the Honorary Ambassador for Korea Tourism is truly very special to me. I'm sincerely thankful to the Korean government and the Korea Tourism Organization for recognizing me as someone who can help bring Korean culture closer to Indian audiences," she said. Made in Korea was entirely shot in South Korea, with prominent South Korean actors. In the film, Priyanka played a small-town Tamil woman who pursues her dream life in South Korea but finds herself struggling with cultural differences and loneliness, leading her to embark on a journey of self-discovery. On the work front, Priyanka will next be seen in Maari Selvaraj's Manjanathi.

TRISHA 'NO NOSING' REMARK AMID MARRIAGE SPECULATION

The only nose I allow in my business," Trisha captioned a video featuring her pet dog's nose. The post appeared to be a clear message that she does not welcome interference in her personal life and that others have no business prying into her private matters.

The Instagram Story comes amid growing speculation that she may marry Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay after he reportedly secures a legal divorce from his wife, Sangeetha.

Rumors about Vijay and Trisha's relationship have been circulating for several months. They recently visited actor Ajith Kumar's residence together to offer condolences following the passing of his mother. Their joint appearance further intensified speculation about their relationship and possible marriage plans.

According to reports, Vijay's wife filed a divorce petition in a Chennai family court in December 2025. The next hearing in the case has reportedly been scheduled for June 15. Neither Vijay nor Trisha has publicly commented on the rumors.



NBK111 Birthday Blast: No More Vintage

One of Telugu cinema's most exciting combinations is back in action. Following the massive success of Veera Simha Reddy, Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Gopichand Malineni have reunited for NBK111, a high-budget action drama being produced by Venkata Satish Kilaru under the Vridhhi Cinemas banner. The project is progressing

rapidly in Mumbai, with the team currently filming important portions involving the lead cast. The makers recently strengthened the film's ensemble by bringing Manoj Manchu on board for a powerful role.

Interim, fans have another reason to celebrate. The production house has announced a special update on June 10th, coinciding with Balakrishna's birthday. The newly released

poster carries a raw and intense vibe, highlighted by towering chained initials and the bold statement, No More Vintage, Only New Age.

The design hints at a fresh creative direction and a never-before-seen presentation of Balakrishna. With Gopichand Malineni at the helm and NBK in a never-seen-before avatar, NBK111 is steadily building momentum.

'Drishyam 3' shoot wrapped

The filming of 'Drishyam 3' has officially been completed, with the highly anticipated thriller now moving into post-production ahead of its theatrical release on October 2, 2026. Director Abhishek Pathak announced the wrap-up on social media, marking the end of what he described as a long and intensive production journey. The filmmaker shared a heartfelt note thanking the cast, crew and everyone involved in bringing the next chapter of the franchise to life. "And that's a wrap on the shoot of #Drishyam3," Pathak wrote. Reflecting on the filmmaking process, he added, "For the past many months, this film has been our world. We've spent countless days and nights together, chasing scenes, solving problems, sharing laughs, overcoming challenges, and slowly bringing this story to life." Pathak expressed gratitude to the team for their dedication throughout the production schedule. "To everyone I've tagged here, and the many other incredible people behind the scenes, thank you. Thank you for your trust, your hard work, your patience, and for believing in this film every step of the way. There were good days, dif-



icult days, and crazy days, but you showed up every single time and gave it everything you had," he wrote. The director further highlighted the collective effort behind the project, saying, "This film carries a piece of all of you. Your effort, your passion, and your heart can be found in every frame." "I'm incredibly grateful to have shared this journey with such amazing people. Thank you for helping me tell this story," he added.

WHY PREITY MUKUNDAN FANS TROLLING TOLLYWOOD

Whenever a film succeeds, these days, fans from various tinsel towns are trolling the fans of other tinsel towns with their absurd analyses and logicless arguments. Right now one such thing is happening in the case of Tamil beauty Preity Mukundan, who was seen in the impressive role of a Karate fighter as she plays senior heroine Arjun Sarja's daughter in the recently released movie, "Blast Zone".

Comparing the visuals of Preity Mukundan from "Blast Zone" to that of the role she played in Manchu Vishnu's Kannappa movie, some are saying that while Tollywood gave her only a glamorous role, exploiting her bodily looks, Kollywood gave a beautiful character-driven, author-backed role. And these so-called cinema lovers and fans of Preity Mukundan are actually trolling Tollywood now with their useless comments. But when would they get a reality check of reality?

In fact, it's Preity Mukundan who made her glamorous debut with the Tamil song Aasa Kudai. Thereafter she appeared in a couple of video songs, albeit in similar roles. At the same time, she's the one who chose to do a glam-centric role in Kannappa, not vice versa. She could have rejected the role, but it's a well-known fact that only those heroines who do glam roles become that sought-after commercial siren, and that's what pays them back in crores per film. The likes of Trisha, Samantha and many other Tamil sirens are an example of this. Wonder Preity Mukundan fans are missing out on this logic.

