

HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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Reform Momentum Must Continue Despite Global Challenges: PM Modi



New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), reviewing India's economic outlook and discussing measures to safeguard growth amid rising geopolitical uncertainty in West Asia. The high-level meeting focused on strengthening economic resilience, accelerating reforms, and ensuring that India remains on a strong growth trajectory despite external challenges affecting global trade, energy markets and supply chains. Sharing details on social media platform X, the Prime Minister said the discussions covered India's economic transformation, long-term

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WHERE TO INVEST DURING RUPEE WEAKNESS

MONEY MATTERS 09

SOCIETY STILL JUDGES WOMEN DIFFERENTLY...



BOX-OFFICE 12

New Fruit Market Poised to Drive Agricultural Transformation

Government's goal is to increase farmers' incomes and provide quality produce to consumers: CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6

On Saturday evening, the foundation stone was laid for the construction of the International Integrated Fruit Market and the Integrated Sub-Registrar Office Complex at Koheda by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by Members of Parliament Vem Narendar Reddy and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy; Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, and Duddilla Sridhar Babu; Legislative Council Chief Whip Patnam Mahender Reddy; MLAs, district officials, and other dignitaries.

Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated that the government's objective is to modernize Telangana's agriculture sector and provide better marketing facilities for farmers.

He recalled that in the past, fruits, vegetables, and milk produced by farmers met the needs of the people of Hyderabad. However,



due to rapid urbanization and real estate expansion, agricultural land has decreased significantly. With Hyderabad now growing into a global city with a population exceeding 13 million, modern agricultural infrastructure has become essential to meet food requirements.

The Chief Minister noted that accidents had occurred in the old market, which operated from temporary sheds. Fulfilling the government's promise to create a

safe, world-class market for farmers, a modern fruit market is being developed over 240 acres. He expressed confidence that the Koheda Fruit Market would become a landmark project for Telangana, next only to the international airport.

He emphasized the need to increase fruit and vegetable production in the state and announced plans to establish a tomato-processing and sauce

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Skills Key to Tackling AI Threat: CM

Bengaluru: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has urged young people to embrace high-skilled blue-collar careers as a safeguard against the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence on traditional employment.

Speaking at the The Hindu Huddle 2026 in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister outlined an ambitious roadmap for Telangana's future, linking skill development, industrial growth, agricultural reforms, and women's empowerment to the state's long-term vision of becoming a \$3 trillion economy under the Telangana Rising 2047 initiative.

Reddy said AI is expected to disrupt many white-collar jobs, making technical and vocational skills increasingly important. To prepare the workforce, Telangana has established the Young India Skills University and upgraded Industrial Training Institutes into advanced technology centers equipped with modern curricula.

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KCR Will Return to Power in 2028

BRS Alone Has Vision for Telangana: KTR Four-Foot Leaders' Spreading Poison Against Telangana's Development BRS Has a Clear 25-Year Roadmap for Telangana's Future

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, JUNE 6

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday exuded confidence that the BRS would return to power in Telangana in 2028 and that party president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) would once again become Chief Minister, asserting that BRS is the only political party with a long-term vision for the State's future. Addressing Telangana Formation Day celebrations organised jointly by the Malaysia Telugu Association (MAITA) and BRS NRI Malaysia Chapter in Kuala Lumpur, KTR launched a sharp attack on the ruling dispensation and political opponents, accusing them of attempting to undermine Telangana's development achievements through misinformation and propaganda.



"Some four-foot leaders who know little about Telangana's history, development, water resources and economic progress are spreading poison against the State. When times are not in our favour, even harmless creatures begin to hiss like cobras. People must remain cautious about such political cobras," KTR remarked. Asserting that public opinion

was steadily shifting in favour of BRS, he said the pink flag would once again fly high in Telangana and expressed confidence that KCR would lead the State once again after the next Assembly elections.

KTR said Telangana's remarkable growth story under KCR remains unmatched in the country.

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Lingamaneni vows to champion AP's interests



VIJAYAWADA, JUNE

Industrialist Lingamaneni Ramesh on Saturday filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha seat as the Jana Sena Party's candidate, pledging to work for Andhra Pradesh's development and address public issues through the Upper House.

Speaking to media after filing his nomination, Ramesh thanked Jana Sena Party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for reposing faith in him.

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Uttam Unveils Rice Sector Roadmap

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday unveiled a comprehensive roadmap for the rice milling sector while promising policy support for upgradation of mills.

Addressing the International Rice and Grains Tech Expo-2026 at HITECH, Hyderabad, he said Telangana had already become India's leading paddy-producing and paddy-processing State and should now aim to become a global leader in rice technology and value addition.



Describing rice millers as partners in Telangana's progress, the Minister said the government wanted farmers, millers and consumers to benefit together from the State's agricultural growth

Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that the government was examining a new incentive policy to encourage the establishment of export-oriented rice mills in Telangana.

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Ministers review arrangements for FISH PRASADAM DISTRIBUTION

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6

Transport Minister Ponnamparthi Prabhakar and Fisheries Minister Vakati Srihari on Saturday visited the Exhibition Grounds in Nampally, Hyderabad, to oversee preparations for the distribution of 'fish prasadam'. This distribution, intended for asthma patients, is scheduled



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NEET-2026 Examination Arrangements Must Be Conducted Meticulously: CS

HYDERABAD, JUNE 6

State Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao directed officials to ensure foolproof arrangements for the NEET-2026 examination across the state.

On Saturday, from the Secretariat, he held a video conference with Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, and other senior officials, along with district collectors, police commissioners, and officials from all districts. The meeting reviewed preparations for the NEET-2026 examination, paddy procurement operations, and arrangements for the Chief Minister's



public meeting scheduled on June 9 at Secunderabad Parade Grounds.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stated that 208 examination centers have been established in 24 towns across the state for the NEET-2026 examination scheduled

to be held on June 21, with 72,956 students expected to appear. He instructed officials to be fully prepared and ensure comprehensive security arrangements. State and district coordination committees were directed to function effectively.

He emphasized the need for

immediate response to rumors circulating on social media and directed officials to prevent the spread of misinformation. Examination centers should be established only in government institutions, and CCTV cameras must be installed at all centers. Considering the observance of International Yoga Day on the same date, he instructed authorities to ensure that exam conduct is not affected. Arrangements for question paper transportation, candidate registration, biometric verification, candidate screening, and security deployment should be carried out smoothly without any disruption.

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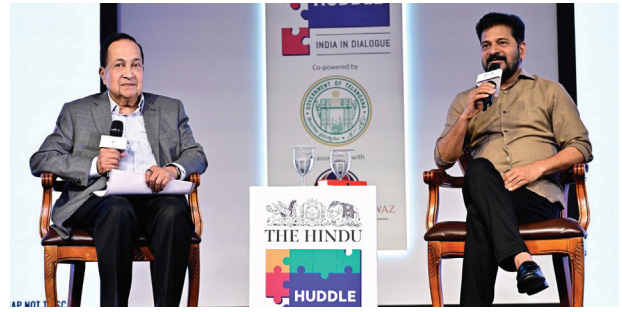
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Skills Key to Tackling AI Threat: CM



FROM PAGE 1
Highlighting governance reforms, he said the Telangana State Public Service Commission had been overhauled to ensure transparent recruitment. The state has filled 67,760 government vacancies in the past 15 months and plans to issue a notification soon for 5,000 additional police posts.

On agriculture, the Chief Minister described Telangana's achievement of recording zero farmer suicides during 2024-25 as a major milestone. He attributed the outcome to a ₹20,616-crore crop loan waiver programme and enhanced support measures, including a ₹500-per-quintal bonus for paddy farmers and financial assistance under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

Women's self-help groups have emerged as key drivers of economic activity in the state, he said. Around 67 lakh women have benefited from interest-free loans worth ₹60,000 crore. These groups now operate commercial buses, manage petrol bunks and solar projects, and undertake catering and maintenance services for government institutions.

Reddy also elaborated on

Telangana's three-tier development strategy comprising the CURE (Core Urban Region Economy), PURE (Peri-Urban Region Economy), and RARE (Rural Agricultural Region Economy) zones. While the urban core will focus on services and green initiatives, the peri-urban belt is being developed as a manufacturing hub, including the proposed 30,000-acre Bharat Future City. Rural regions will emphasize modern agriculture and agro-processing.

The Chief Minister said Telangana aims to compete with leading global economies rather than neighbouring states. "When investors look for a China+1 destination, Telangana should be their first choice," he said.

Reflecting on his political journey, Reddy credited his years in opposition and agricultural background for shaping his governance philosophy. Stressing that administration should be guided by practical wisdom, he said his government relies on the "common sense of the common man" and remains committed to public service rather than political power.

Sridhar Babu Pushes Semiconductor Investments



HYDERABAD, JUNE 6
Telangana is emerging as a key destination for semiconductor investments in India, Minister for Information Technology and Industries D. Sridhar Babu said on Saturday, inviting Malaysian companies to explore opportunities in the State's semiconductor and advanced manufacturing sectors.

The Minister made the remarks during a meeting with a delegation from Penang, Malaysia, led by Deputy Chief Minister YB Jagdeep Singh Deo, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat. The discussions focused



on potential cooperation in semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, artificial intelligence, innovation and human capital development. Mr. Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad was emerging as a major hub for chip design, electronics manufacturing and advanced technologies. He highlighted opportunities

in sectors such as semiconductors, life sciences, biotechnology, clean energy, aerospace, defence and precision engineering. He also briefed the delegation on the State government's initiatives to attract global investments. Emphasising the importance of international partnerships, he said Telangana

was committed to fostering collaborations that support innovation, economic growth and industrial development. He noted that Penang's expertise in semiconductor assembly, testing and packaging could complement Telangana's efforts to strengthen its semiconductor ecosystem and move up the global value chain.

Mr. Jagdeep Singh Deo said Penang was keen to deepen engagement with Telangana and explore avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation. Both sides agreed to work towards a roadmap for collaboration in the identified sectors, he added.

KCR Will Return to Power in 2028

FROM PAGE 1
Comparing Telangana's development trajectory with the success of Asian economies such as Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam, he said the State had emerged as a national model in agriculture, irrigation, industrialisation, per capita income and economic growth within a decade of its formation.

"KCR transformed a migration-hit and drought-prone Telangana into one of India's most prosperous States. Telangana's achievements in agriculture, infrastructure, welfare and industrial development stand as testimony to visionary leadership," he said.

Stating that BRS has already prepared a roadmap for Telangana's future, KTR said the party possesses a clear and comprehensive vision for the next 25 years. He maintained that KCR's decade-long governance experience and proven track record make him uniquely capable of implementing that vision.

"The future belongs to societies that possess knowledge, innovation and foresight. BRS has a long-term blueprint for Telangana's growth and transformation. No other political party has articulated a vision comparable to what KCR has envisaged for the State," he said.

Outlining the party's priorities, KTR said the next phase of Telangana's development would focus on ensuring uninterrupted access to safe drinking water, strengthening public transportation systems, build-

ing future-ready infrastructure and leveraging emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence to drive economic growth.

Calling upon the global Telangana diaspora to actively participate in the State's development journey, KTR said NRIs have a critical role to play in shaping Telangana's future through investments, expertise and knowledge-sharing. He urged overseas Telangana communities to remain connected to their roots while contributing to the State's next phase of growth and transformation.

Earlier, KTR congratulated Telangana people across the world on the occasion of Telangana Formation Day and praised NRIs for preserving the State's culture, identity and traditions despite living abroad. He said every Telangana child should proudly identify with the Telangana nation and take pride in its unique history, culture and legacy of struggle.

KTR also highlighted Telangana's successful palm oil expansion programme, stating that the initiative, inspired by Malaysia's model, had helped improve farmers' incomes and establish Telangana as one of India's leading palm oil-producing States.

A large number of Telangana NRIs, BRS leaders, activists and supporters attended the celebrations. KTR thanked the Malaysia Telugu Association, BRS NRI Malaysia Chapter and organisers for making the event a grand success.

Reform Momentum Must Continue..

FROM PAGE 1

development priorities, and strategies to enhance both "Ease of Living" and "Ease of Doing Business." The review comes as escalating tensions in West Asia raise concerns over crude oil supplies, international shipping routes and commodity prices. Given the region's importance to India's energy security and maritime trade, the council assessed potential risks and explored contingency measures to minimise disruptions.

Officials familiar with the discussions said policymakers examined the possible impact of higher energy prices, rising freight costs and supply-chain bottlenecks on inflation and overall economic stability. The Prime Minister is understood to have stressed the importance of preparedness and proactive policymaking in an increasingly volatile global environment.

A major focus of the meeting was

strengthening domestic capabilities through energy diversification, infrastructure development and self-reliance initiatives. Participants reviewed ongoing efforts to expand renewable energy capacity, boost nuclear power generation and promote clean-energy programmes such as the PM Surya Ghar rooftop solar scheme.

The council also discussed measures aimed at preserving investor confidence and enhancing India's attractiveness as a global investment destination. Efforts to deepen financial markets, improve the business climate and sustain capital inflows were highlighted as key components of the government's broader reform agenda.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of strong economic performance. According to official estimates released recently, India's real GDP is projected to grow by 7.7 per cent in 2025-26,

with fourth-quarter growth estimated at 7.8 per cent. Real GDP for the fourth quarter is estimated at ₹87,777 lakh crore, compared with ₹81.40 lakh crore during the same period a year earlier.

Economists have noted that while India remains one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, prolonged instability in West Asia could influence oil prices, trade flows and investor sentiment. Such developments may pose challenges for inflation management and fiscal planning.

The discussions underscored the government's strategy of combining short-term crisis management with long-term structural reforms. By strengthening energy security, improving infrastructure and maintaining reform momentum, policymakers aim to ensure that India remains resilient in the face of global uncertainties while advancing its long-term development goals.

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NEET-2026 Examination Arrangements Must Be Conducted Meticulously: CS

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Health Department Principal Secretary Christina Chongthru briefed the meeting on the preparations made for the examination. She stated that all necessary arrangements regarding infrastructure, transportation, security, electricity supply, drinking water, and other facilities were being put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the test.

Additional DGP Mahesh Bhagwat stressed the importance of coordination between the police department and district administration. He instructed police officials to ensure strong security measures at all examination centers and maintain constant vigilance. He also advised active monitoring of social media to quickly identify and address rumors or false information that could affect the conduct of the examination.

Director General of the National Testing Agency, Abhishek Singh, stated that strict-

er security protocols are being implemented this year. He noted that, for the first time, the services of the Indian Air Force are being used for transporting examination question papers, demonstrating the importance being given to the integrity and security of the examination process.

Paddy Procurement Review

Reviewing paddy procurement activities, the Chief Secretary advised collectors to remain alert over the coming days due to weather warnings indicating possible rainfall in several parts of the state. He instructed officials to take all precautionary measures to protect harvested paddy and accelerate procurement in areas where stocks remain. Collectors were also directed to continuously monitor procurement centers and ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties.

Civil Supplies Commission-

er Stephen Ravindra stated that 71 lakh metric tonnes of paddy have been procured across the state so far. A total of ₹13,577 crore in Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments has already been credited to the accounts of 10.58 lakh farmers. He instructed officials to complete the procurement of the remaining paddy swiftly and ensure that the procurement process concludes without interruptions.

Chief Minister's Tours and Women's Federation Buses

The Chief Secretary also reviewed arrangements for the Chief Minister's upcoming visits to various parts of the state. He directed collectors to coordinate with all departments and make extensive preparations to ensure the success of these tours. Arrangements related to public meetings, security, transportation, accommodation, and other logistical requirements should be com-

pleted in advance.

He further stated that 553 buses have been sanctioned—one for each Mandal Mahila Samakhya (Women's Federation) in the state. These buses will be formally handed over to women's federation members by the Chief Minister on June 9 at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds. District Rural Development officials and RTC Regional Managers were instructed to work in coordination to ensure smooth transportation of women's federation members and the successful conduct of the event.

The video conference was attended by DGP C. V. Anand, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, Special Chief Secretary for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Dana Kishore, GHMC Commissioner Karnan, SERP CEO Divya, Special Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Mukunda Reddy, and other senior officials.

Uttam Unveils Rice Sector Roadmap

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He said new rice mills set up for exports and existing mills converting their operations towards exports would be considered for special incentives to boost Telangana's presence in global rice markets.

Highlighting labour shortages faced by the rice industry, Uttam Kumar Reddy urged millers to adopt greater mechanisation and automation.

He said modern machinery could help reduce dependence on manual labour, improve productivity and address recurring worker shortages that affect milling operations during peak seasons.

The Minister called for large investments in modern grain storage infrastructure, including steel silos, automated storage systems, AI-based grain monitoring and digital inventory management.

He invited private investors to come forward with proposals for building large-capacity storage facilities through public-private partnership models.

Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the industry to adopt water-saving and energy-efficient technologies in parboiling plants. Future processing units, he said, should focus on reducing water consumption, recycling water and improving environmental sustainability.

The Minister asked millers to move beyond quality-based processing and focus on nutrition. He highlighted technologies such as controlled whitening, precision polishing, nutrient-retention systems and AI-based quality assessment that can help produce healthier rice.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana was producing nearly 300 lakh metric tonnes of paddy annually and currently

accounted for nearly 60 per cent of India's Rabi paddy procurement.

He said the State government had transferred nearly Rs 39,000 crore to farmers during the current Kharif and Rabi procurement seasons and over Rs 96,000 crore since the Congress government assumed office.

The Minister also highlighted the government's fine-rice distribution programme benefiting 3.2 crore people, with an annual expenditure of around Rs 14,000 crore.

Calling for a joint effort by farmers, millers, technology providers and policymakers, Uttam said Telangana had already become a leader in paddy production and procurement and should now strive to become a global centre for rice technology, innovation and exports.

Lingamaneni vows to champion AP's interests

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He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for supporting his candidature. "I will work tirelessly for the state's interests and strive to resolve public issues through the platform of Rajya Sabha", he added.

Jana Sena Party General Secretary and MLC Nagababu hailed the nomination, describing Ramesh as the right choice for the role. He said the entire party cadre was delighted with the selection and confident that Ramesh would effectively represent the party and the state's interests in Parliament.

Ministers review arrangements for FISH PRASADAM DISTRIBUTION

FROM PAGE 1

for June 8, coinciding with the start of the Mrigashira Karthi.

The Ministers emphasised the need for officials to implement all essential measures to guarantee a smooth experience for the public during the fish prasadam distribution, which is set to commence at 9 PM on June 8.

Officials were directed to maintain a high level of vigilance to prevent any potential stampedes within the queues and to ensure the preservation of public order. Furthermore, authorities were tasked with ensuring an uninterrupted power supply throughout the event.

Considering the intense summer heat, instructions were issued to install fans and air coolers in the areas designated for patient queues.

Officials from all relevant departments have been instructed to use a dedicated WhatsApp group and a control room established at the exhibition grounds to monitor the entire operation until the completion of the fish



prasadam distribution.

Measures were also to be put in place to prevent traffic congestion in the vicinity of Nampally. The Ministers further requested officials to arrange for the availability of ambulances and to set up medical camps equipped with necessary medications. Additionally, it was mandated that CPR teams be stationed along the queue lines.

Minister Vakiti Srihari directed that 'She Teams' be deployed and that awareness be raised through announcements to keep people alert against pickpocketing. He also advised maintaining continuous surveillance via

CCTV cameras.

He stated that there should be no issues regarding drinking water and that voluntary organisations should provide food to visiting devotees, just as they do every year.

Ponnam Prabhakar, the in-charge Minister of Hyderabad district, stated that usually, the Mrugasira event takes place during the morning hours and however, this time, the programme will commence at 9:00 PM on June 8.

"Since the Mrugasira event is taking place at night, we are taking all necessary measures to ensure everything proceeds smoothly without any difficulties. The distribution of fish prasadam will continue uninterrupted until nightfall on June 9," he said.

Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Saikumar, Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) Chairman Shiva Sena Reddy, and officials from various departments participated in the programme.



FROM PAGE 1

manufacturing industry based on tomato production in the Kandukur region. By providing farmers with marketing, storage, and processing facilities, agriculture can be made more profitable.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure timely release of funds through a "green channel" mechanism so that market operations can begin by December this year. He also directed that the entire project be completed within two years.

As part of Telangana's development strategy, he said the government is developing Bharat Future City and preparing plans to attract globally renowned companies. Major infrastructure projects such as the Regional Ring Road, the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme, and the development of airports at Warangal and Adilabad are also being pursued.

To improve public services, the government is constructing integrated modern office complexes by reorganizing 39 Sub-Registrar Offices within the Outer

Ring Road region into 12 clusters. The Chief Minister stated that since the state earns substantial revenue from registrations every year, it is the government's responsibility to provide better facilities to citizens.

He reiterated that agriculture remains a priority sector and noted that the state is providing a bonus of ₹500 per quintal for paddy procurement. Telangana has also recorded a historic level of grain production.

Regarding welfare initiatives, he stated that:

- ✦ 1.5 million new ration cards have been issued.
- ✦ Fine rice is being distributed to 32.8 million beneficiaries.
- ✦ Free electricity is being provided up to 200 units.
- ✦ 450,000 Indiramma houses have been sanctioned.
- ✦ Farm loans worth 20,000 crore have been waived.
- ✦ Women are receiving bank-linked loans with interest subsidies.
- ✦ Free bus travel for women is being implemented successfully.

Concluding his address, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that despite financial challenges, the government is effectively continuing both development and welfare programs and remains committed to making Telangana a model state for the country.

Kavitha Congratulates N.S.N. Mohan on Being Elected President of Skai International

HYDERABAD

TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha stated that it is a great achievement for N. S. N. Mohan, who hails from Telangana, to be elected President of Skai International, one of the world's leading organizations in the tourism industry.

N.S.N. Mohan has been elected as Vice President for 2026 and President for 2027. This marks the first time in the 94-year history of the organization that a person from Asia has been elected President. Kavitha expressed her happiness that such an honor has been bestowed upon an individual from Telangana.

On Saturday, N.S.N. Mohan paid a courtesy visit to Kavitha at her residence in Banjara Hills. On this occasion, she congratulated him on his achievement and expressed hope that he would further enhance India's reputation and bring greater recognition to Telangana in the global tourism sector.



PDUPMA-2026 was Organised at the RVKA

HYDERABAD

Today Pandit Deendayal Upadhya Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan-2026 training camp for the Golconda Goshamahal District was organized at the Rashtriya Vidya Kendra Auditorium in Annajiguda.

The chief guest and keynote speaker was Mrs. Geetha Murthy, BJP National Council Member and former State President of the BJP Mahila Morcha (2020-2024). She provided awareness on the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, Booth Committees, and related organizational activities.

She emphasized the need to strengthen both committees and encouraged members to interact with people from all communities. She advised party workers to meet volunteers and members of social service organizations at polling booths and involve them in booth-level activities. She also stressed the importance of bringing youth, especially first-time voters, into these committees.

Mrs. Geetha Murthy stated that an active action plan should be developed by involving all sections of society. She urged party workers



to take the Central Government's welfare schemes to the people. She remarked that the Congress Party's six guarantees had failed and said that this should also be communicated to the public.

She further stated that six major party programs should be conducted at every polling booth, including:

- BJP Foundation Day - April 6
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti - April 14
- Syama Prasad Mukherjee Commemoration - June 23
- Telangana Liberation Day
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Birthday - September 17

Deendayal Upadhya Jayanti - September 25

Swami Vivekananda Jayanti - January 12

She expressed hope that the BJP would come to power in Telangana in the coming years.

Mrs. Geetha Murthy also noted that the Prime Minister, through the monthly Mann Ki Baat program, regularly shares many valuable messages and encouraged everyone to listen to it.

Referring to West Bengal, she said that through the Special Summary Revision (SSR) voter verification process, lakhs of duplicate voter entries had report-

edly been removed. Therefore, she emphasized that the Special Summary Revision is extremely important. She added that this year's revision process began in April and will conclude in July.

The awareness seminar was successfully conducted under the leadership of camp in-charge Mr. Vinay Singh, with the support of Golconda Goshamahal District President Mr. Uma Mahender and other leaders. The camp was also attended by Union Minister for Coal and Mines Mr. G. Kishan Reddy and BJP National Organizational General Secretary Mr. Chandrashekar Tiwari.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY	
(Project Organisation)	
1. Tender Notice No & Date	Proj1MS_PRS_2026_03 Dated: 05.06.2026
2. Name of the Tender	Provision of Routers and Switches with Perpetual License and 3 Years Comprehensive Warranty for PRS Modernisation at Tier-2 & Tier-3 Locations and Last Mile Connectivity of all PRS Locations over Southern Railway
3. Tender value in Rupees	Rs. 298037388.40
4. Bid Security (EMD) in Rupees	Rs. 5960800.00
5. Validity offer	90 days from the date of opening of tender
6. Closing Date & Time	30.06.2026 before 15.00 hrs
7. Period of completion	09 (Nine) Months.

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through (www.irebs.gov.in).

XSTE/PROJ/IMS
For Dy.CSTE/Proj/IMS

SOUTHERN RAILWAY				
Madurai Division - Works Branch				
Tender Notice No. MDU-W-08-2026 dated 05.06.2026				
For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager/works/Southern Railway/Madurai. Tender closing date for Item No. 1 and 9 on 29.06.2026 at 14.00 hrs.				
Sl. No.	Name of work	App. values (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1.	1). Tirunelveli-Tenkasi section: Standardization of formation/cess making at isolated locations between KM-87.600 to 99.300 in between stations MTE-TSI in SSE/PWAY/SC section. (2). Tenkasi-Kollam section:- Standardization of formation/cess making at isolated locations between KM-690.900 to 708.800 in between stations EDP-EDN in SSE/PWAY/PUU section.	194.97	390000	8 Months
2.	Virudunagar-Tenkasi-Kollam Section:- Through Weld renewal (TWR) by Mobile Flash Butt Welding (MBFW) at isolated locations from Km:-542.000 to 623.440 for a length of 50.440 km in between Virudunagar-Sankarankovil station in SSE/PWAY/Sivakasi section and from Km:-623.440 to 668.000 for a length of 44.560 km in between Sankarankovil-Sengottai stations in SSE/PWAY/Sengottai section.	1664.43	3328900	12 Months
3.	Sr.DEN/S Jurisdictions - Improvements to platform surfaces and divyangjan amenities works at various stations in ADEN/TEN jurisdiction	723.00	1446000	6 Months
4.	Sr.DEN/S Jurisdictions - Improvements to platform surfaces and divyangjan amenities works at various stations in ADEN/SCT jurisdiction	687.43	1374900	6 Months
5.	Sr.DEN/S Jurisdictions - Improvements to platform surfaces and divyangjan amenities works at various stations in ADEN/SOUTH jurisdiction	394.71	789400	5 Months
6.	MDU Division - Drainage Improvements to LUS No- 220A, 291A, 305A, 319A & 326A in MNM VPT section.	571.86	1143700	12 Months
7.	DEN/Central/MDU Jurisdiction - Improvements to Platform surface and Divyangjan amenities work at 12 stations.	669.85	1339700	6 Months
8.	Improvements to LUS No.34A, 45A, 48A, 54A & 132A in MDU-BDNK section.	535.48	1071000	12 Months
9.	Sr.DEN/SOUTH/MDU jurisdiction: Repairs and maintenance to the PF Shelter in SSE/W/SC section	25.42	50800	3 Months

(Items 9 only)

Further details are available in detail on website <https://www.irebs.gov.in>. The tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.irebs.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Madurai
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

75-Year-Old Hyderabad Resident Walks Independently

Again After Bilateral Knee Replacement at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar

HYDERABAD

Proving that age is no barrier to regaining mobility and independence, doctors at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar, successfully performed bilateral total knee replacement surgery on a 75-year-old Hyderabad resident, helping him return to an active and pain-free life.

Mr. Raghavendra, a resident of Hyderabad, had been suffering from severe osteoarthritis in both knees for several years. The condition had progressively worsened, making simple daily activities such as walking, climbing stairs,



and getting up from a chair extremely painful and challenging. Like many elderly patients, he was reluctant to undergo surgery due to concerns about his age and existing health conditions, including hypothyroidism and a previous stroke.

After a comprehensive evaluation

and careful medical optimization, the Orthopaedics team led by Dr. Sashivardhan, Orthopaedic Surgeon at Medicovert Hospitals, Chandanagar, recommended bilateral total knee replacement surgery. The procedure was performed successfully, and the results were remarkable. Mr. Raghavendra

was encouraged to stand and walk with full weight-bearing support on the very first day after surgery. With structured rehabilitation and physiotherapy, his recovery progressed smoothly. Within a month, he was able to walk independently without any external support, significantly improving his quality of life. In a touching gesture that reflected his gratitude and confidence, Mr. Raghavendra donated the walker he had used during his early recovery period back to the hospital so that it could benefit another patient beginning a similar journey.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sashivardhan said, "Many elderly patients continue to suffer from advanced knee arthritis because of misconceptions that they are too old for surgery or that recovery will

be prolonged and difficult. Modern joint replacement techniques, enhanced pain management protocols, early mobilization, and personalized rehabilitation have made it possible for even elderly patients with associated medical conditions to achieve excellent outcomes." Doctors emphasized that severe knee arthritis should not be accepted as an inevitable part of aging.

Patients experiencing persistent knee pain, stiffness, and mobility limitations should seek timely consultation with an orthopaedic specialist to understand the treatment options available. Mr. Raghavendra's journey serves as an inspiring reminder that freedom from pain, restored mobility, and renewed independence are achievable—even at 75 years of age.

Telangana govt is committed to Weavers' welfare, Says Uttam at HITEX



HYDERABAD

Minister for Irrigation and civil Supplies, Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday assured total support from the state government to the handloom sector, which provides livelihoods and empowers women.

He stressed that the Telangana government is committed to the welfare of weavers. No weaver

should have to leave this profession due to economic difficulties. Speaking at the "Thread... Pochampally" exhibition at HITEX, he praised the creativity and hard work of weavers and artisans. He said the event is a tribute to thousands of weaving families whose skills have given Pochampally international fame.

The Minister congratulated the organisers, weavers, design-

ers and all those who made the exhibition successful. He noted that over 100 stalls are showcasing authentic Pochampally sarees, fabrics and contemporary products.

Visitors can see live weaving demonstrations and understand the Ikat tie-and-dye process. This gives them a chance to connect directly with the weavers.

The government is improv-

ing market access through direct marketing, exhibitions and e-commerce so that benefits reach the artisans directly.

Minister Reddy stressed the need for innovation through collaborations with designers and educational institutions. This will help create products that appeal to young consumers and global markets.

He also highlighted the importance of digital connectivity. Branding and online platforms will help take Pochampally products to customers worldwide. To secure the future, the next generation must be empowered through training in design, entrepreneurship and digital commerce. The goal is to transform handlooms into a globally competitive creative economy with sustainable livelihoods for all weaving families.

The Minister urged people to support weavers by buying authentic handloom products. This will sustain families and preserve Telangana's Cultural identity.

Non-teaching staff told to uphold varsity's standards of service

DR SRINIVAS VOORADI

Nalgonda, June 6: Mahatma Gandhi University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Khaja Alhtaf Hussain, urged every employee to commit to their roles with dedication and uphold the university's standards of service, ethics, and commitment. Participating as the chief guest at an orientation program held for non-teaching staff on Saturday, the Vice Chancellor emphasized that achieving administrative efficiency relies on hard work, commitment, punctuality, and adherence to established rules, which are essential for maintaining the university's prestige.

Prof. Hussain highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability, advocating for clear procedures and feedback systems involving multiple stakeholders. The event also featured



Assistant Registrar of Maulana Azad Urdu University, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, and Dr. Qudus, who addressed the attendees, noting the need to enhance training, funding, and mentoring through partnerships with national organizations.

They pointed out that the university's growth could be fostered by bolstering institutional capacity through collaborative projects

with other educational and research institutions. Suggestions included implementing mutual exchanges, case-study training programs, and practical initiatives. They proposed that quality services could be improved through in-house training sessions focused on regulations, service standards, documentation management, and quality control procedures (SOPs). They asserted

the necessity for courses in front-line efficiency, office innovation, digital record-keeping, and public communication and stated that performance could be enhanced through case studies and group supervision, emphasizing the importance of clear monitoring mechanisms.

It was proposed that each department should adopt key performance indicators (KPIs) and conduct annual performance evaluation transparently. Additionally, they urged the allocation of a training budget and prioritization of ongoing workshops and capacity-building programs. Projects should be designed collaboratively with partners and in conjunction with external organizations. Varsity Registrar Prof. Koppula Anji Reddy, Director (Infrastructure) Akula Ravi, and the entire non-teaching staff were present.

Lost Money in a Financial Fraud?

Investments lost in fraudulent schemes?

A company offered me high returns and is now untraceable!

I lost money to a fraudster online!

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Robust Arrangements Required for Fish Prasadam Distribution

HYDERABAD

Minister for Fisheries Vakiti Srihari, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, and Fisheries Chairman Mettu Saikumar inspect arrangements alongside State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnambhakhar.

State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnambhakhar has directed officials to ensure seamless coordination among all departments for the government-led arrangements, anticipating a large turnout of people from across the country to receive the Fish Prasadam on the occasion of Mrugasira Karthi.

He inspected the arrangements at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds where the Fish Prasadam is distributed to asthama patients on Mrugasira Karthi falling on the 8th of this month alongside colleague Minister Vakiti Srihari, Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Saikumar, and SATS Chairman Shivasena Reddy. He comprehensively reviewed the site and issued necessary directives to the officials.

On this occasion, the Minister inspected the distribution counters and barricades. He ordered the installation of fans and coolers for devotees in the queue lines, considering the summer heat, and instructed officials to implement robust measures to prevent any inconvenience or hardship. As the distribution of fish prasadam is scheduled to begin at 9 PM on the 8th June, police officials have been ordered to maintain constant surveillance via the control room. They were instructed to remain vigilant to prevent stampedes



in the queue lines and to implement effective traffic control measures.

Instructions were given to ensure that fans and coolers in the queue lines remain operational at all times. Orders were also issued to ensure an uninterrupted power supply and the availability of drinking water, as well as to keep waterproof generators ready for use.

Officials from all departments were directed to work in coordination until the distribution concludes, utilizing WhatsApp groups and the control room at the exhibition grounds for monitoring purposes. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring there are no traffic disruptions in the Nampally area.

Instructions were given to arrange for ambulances and to set up medical camps stocked with necessary medicines. Medical officials were directed to deploy CPR teams to monitor the queue lines continuously. The Minister ordered officials to immediately

report any issues or inconveniences to the control room.

Given the summer season, instructions were issued to constantly monitor electrical wiring across the venue and to keep fire engines on standby.

It was also directed that She Teams be deployed and that public awareness campaigns including announcements warning against pickpocketing be conducted for the visiting crowds. Instructions were issued for the police department to maintain continuous surveillance via CCTV cameras.

It was informed that voluntary organizations would provide breakfast and meals to visiting devotees just as they do every year, to ensure there are no issues regarding drinking water and the public was urged to accept these offerings.

The Minister stated that everyone should come forward to receive the Fish Prasadam in Hyderabad, transcending caste, religion, and politics, noting that a healthy Telangana is

the shared goal. He stated that robust measures are being implemented to ensure a smooth process, given the event's timing on the night of Mrugasira Karthi.

The Minister clarified that the distribution would continue uninterrupted until late on the 9th, assuring that the government takes full responsibility for ensuring every single person receives the Prasadam.

He noted that, given the large number of people participating with faith and trust, the government has made appropriate arrangements. Furthermore, voluntary organizations are partnering to provide accommodation, food, and other facilities to visitors from other states, ensuring they face no inconvenience. Officials were directed not to delay any tasks related to the arrangements or their assigned duties. The Minister mentioned that the Fisheries Department has made approximately 140,000 high-quality Murrel (Korraminu) fishlings available for the event.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining law and order and instructed police officials to keep a constant watch. Speaking next, Fisheries Minister Vakiti Srihari noted that the Mrugasira Karthi period brings about a change in weather, marking the transition from heat to cooler conditions. He highlighted that the Bathini brothers have been distributing the fish prasadam to the public under government auspices for 176 years, driven by faith and trust.

He mentioned that the Minister-in-charge has already held several review meetings with all the concerned departments.

Government is handing over land worth Rs.1 lakh crore to wealthy interests

- CM's brothers, ministers, Congress MPs and MLAs are looting like bandits
- We will expose their land scams one after another with evidence
- This will be Congress' last term in power; Revanth Reddy is ensuring the party remains out of power for 20 years
- Telangana Protection Force Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha

HYDERABAD

Telangana Protection Force Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha alleged that the government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has initiated a massive land scam worth ₹1 lakh crore. She said the government is conspiring to hand over valuable lands to influential people while doing injustice to the poor and promised to expose the alleged land grab with documentary evidence.

Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Protection Force office in Banjara Hills on Saturday, Kavitha alleged that the Chief Minister's brothers, ministers, Congress MPs, and MLAs were plundering Telangana's resources. She said her organization would fight to protect Telangana's resources and identity.

She also claimed that the 10 acres purchased by Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Pawan Kalyan in Kodikunta Lake area are Shikam land (waterbody land) and demanded that it be returned to the government immediately. She stated that Telangana was achieved through struggle and asserted that Telangana belongs to its people.

Alleged Rs.1 Lakh Crore Land Scam

Kavitha alleged that the Revanth Reddy government has launched a major conspiracy to transfer land worth ₹1 lakh crore to influential interests while harming poor citizens. She claimed that the Chief Minister's relatives, ministers, MPs, and MLAs are involved and said evidence would be presented to the public.

She questioned why no action had been taken against a company identified as Sri Aditya Builders, alleging that it had constructed a large building within the bed of the Musi River in violation of regulations. She further alleged that the company had encroached upon seven acres of river land and claimed that a Member of Parliament was involved.

Kavitha also alleged that approximately seven acres of lake land at Premavathi Pet had been encroached upon despite permissions granted in 2021 and that a 30-storey building was being constructed on land worth around ₹700 crore. She criticized authorities for al-



legedly ignoring irregularities.

She further claimed that a company named ICOM, associated with the Mega Group, had encroached upon five acres of land near lakes within the limits of Nagaram Municipality and questioned why the government had not acted despite local resolutions on the issue.

Kavitha challenged the government and the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to take action against large corporations just as it acts against ordinary citizens.

She warned that continuous sale of government lands could jeopardize future generations' access to land resources and said legal action, including approaching the Supreme Court, would be considered if necessary.

"This Will Be Congress' Last Term"

Kavitha stated that the current Congress government would serve only one term and accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of governing in a way that could keep the party out of power for the next 20 years.

She alleged that Telangana's resources and lands were being looted. According to her, while the previous BRS government had opened "windows" for corruption, the current Congress government had opened the "doors."

She also accused the government of double standards regarding land allotments to private companies and cited the example of the Phoenix Group, alleging that additional land was being allotted despite earlier criticism from Revanth Reddy when he was in opposition.

"Pawan Kalyan Must Return the Shikam Land"

Kavitha alleged that Pawan Kalyan had purchased 10 acres of Shikam land associated with Kodikunta Lake under Survey No. 706 and claimed that the Irrigation Department had identified it as waterbody land.

She alleged irregularities in the registration process, claiming that only three acres were shown as Shikam land while the rest was recorded differently. She said that Pawan Kalyan had previously stated that he would return the land if it was proven to be Shikam land and therefore should honor that commitment.

She demanded that the government acquire the land and provide compensation according to legal norms, emphasizing that no one should receive special treatment when it comes to protecting lakes and Telangana's natural resources.

Remarks on Telangana Identity

Kavitha criticized remarks allegedly made by Pawan Kalyan describing regional identity politics as "regional extremist ideology." She said Telangana was achieved after a long struggle and warned against insulting Telangana's intellectuals, artists, and culture.

She argued that a significant portion of the Telugu film industry's revenue comes from the Telangana region and questioned whether artists who benefited from Telangana had adequately supported local folk artists through royalties and other assistance.

She also criticized what she described as attempts by Andhra-based political forces to influence Telangana politics and accused the BJP of using Pawan Kalyan for electoral gains in the state.

Criticism of Water Policy

Kavitha criticized the Chief Minister for allegedly failing to adequately review the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme over the past 30 months.

She claimed that the government acted only after protests and accused the Chief Minister of lacking sufficient understanding of irrigation and water issues. She also alleged that Telangana's water interests were being compromised and urged the government to secure the state's rightful share of river water resources.

Demand for Land for Telangana Activists

Kavitha said Telangana movement activists must be recognized and provided land. She criticized the government for not inviting her organization to an all-party meeting on the issue. She announced plans for a large-scale land rights agitation in the Uppal Bhagayath area next month and demanded that 200 acres of land in Nadargul be allocated to Telangana movement activists.

From Burden to Solutions - Safe Food Everywhere

(On the occasion of "World Food Safety Day" on 07 June)

Science is the heart of food safety. It helps us understand what makes food unsafe and guide us on how to prevent food borne diseases. The theme of "World Food Safety Day-2026" celebrated on 07 June every year is "From Burden to Solutions - Safe Food Everywhere", to draw attention of the use of scientific knowledge as key to reducing illness, cutting and saving lives. Food safety saves life. It is not only a crucial component to food security, but it also plays a vital role in reducing food borne diseases. Every year, 600 million people fall sick as a result of around 200 different types of food borne illness due to bacteria, viruses, parasites, or harmful chemicals. The burden of such illness falls most heavily on the poor and the unfortunate young. In addition, food borne illness is responsible for 4,20,000 preventable deaths every year. Of them, children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food borne disease burden, with 1,25,000 deaths per year.

Aims of World Food Safety Day

The World Food Safety Day is an important way to making people aware of food safety issues, demonstrating how to prevent illness through food safety, discussing collaborative approaches to improved food safety across sectors, and promoting solutions and ways of being more food safe. The World Food Safety Day aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food safety, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development. This day is an opportunity to strengthen the efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe, mainstream food safety in the public agenda, and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases globally. Food safety has a crucial role in ensuring that food stays at every stage of the food chain - from production to harvest, processing, storage, and distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.



If it is not Safe, it is not Food

Unsafe food is a treat to human health and economic prosperity, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children, populations affected by conflict, and migrants. Governments, producers, traders, academia, educational institutions, and consumers are responsible for ensuring that the food consumed is safe and nutritious. Access to food that is safe, nutritious, affordable, and reliable is considered a right, underscored by the message, "if it is not safe, it is not food". There are five keys to safer food: are cleanliness, departing raw and cooked, cook thoroughly, use safe water and raw materials, and keep food at safe temperatures.

Many scientific disciplines, including microbiological and technological sciences, climate sciences, and social sciences, contribute to food safety. Education is also a key to build a robust food safety culture. Finally, everyone is a risk manager, making daily decisions about what to eat and how to handle food, and understanding food safety risks leads to more informed decisions.

- Prof Burra Madhusudan Reddy
9949700037.

Jalmudi BJP condemned CM Revanth Reddy's remarks

HYDERABAD

Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today took strong objection on the recent remarks of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy who had said that he felt ashamed in salutation to top personalities in central government in Delhi.

Rao expressed his displeasure while addressing party workers at the Pandit Deendayal Taining Camp in Yadagirigutta. The remarks of CM Revanth Reddy during a recent event organized by The Hindu newspaper were very surprising, he said adding that it was painful to see the manner in which he spoke who once worked with ABVP and RSS background.

He said CM Revanth Reddy remarked saying that "The Prime Minister belongs to North India, the President belongs to North India, the Home Minister belongs to North India, and the Defense Minister belongs to North India. Should I go and salute them, He stated that he felt ashamed, Rao said. Rao said the remarks were in a manner that promotes the divisive concept of South vs North and strongly condemned such remarks which go against the unity of India. Is it wrong to respect the Prime Minister of the country?, he asked.

BJP state chief asked him "you have gone to Delhi numerous times. Did not you go to meet Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi to work according to their dictates. Did not you feel ashamed then, Rao questioned. Today, India stands as a fast-growing economy in the world. India has emerged as the fast-



est-growing major economy globally. Unable to digest this success, the Congress party is continuously spreading negative propaganda. Unable to witness India's progress, it is trying to play divisive politics, Rao alleged.

Congratulating to every party worker who participated in the Training Camp, Rao said the BJP is a party that moves forward by constantly studying the changes taking place in politics, society, and across the globe, adapting itself to changing times. That is why the BJP has grown to become the largest political party in the world. It is a matter of pride for all of us to serve this party as district leaders and workers.

He said it is a proud privilege that we are all working as district-level leaders in the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is the world's largest political party with the highest membership.

In the history of this nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the leader who has been consecutively elected and has served as Prime Minister for the longest duration. Although Jawaharlal Nehru served as Prime Minister for a long time, he was appointed and took charge under the circumstances that prevailed post-independence.

However, Narendra Modi, who was directly elected by the people and is continuing as Prime Minister for three consecutive terms, has already completed 12 years of governance. While there are still three years left in the current tenure we believe that he will lead the nation for another five years after that as well, Rao said.

SCCL Clarifies Coal Stock Position, Site Visit Norms and Medical Board Probe

HYDERABAD

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has clarified its position on coal stocks, the mandatory Site Visit Certificate for contractors, and the ongoing Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) investigation into alleged irregularities in Medical Board assessments.

According to SCCL, coal stocks at its mines and Coal Handling Plants (CHPs) stood at 2.651 million tonnes (26.51 lakh tonnes) as of June 4, 2026, the lowest level recorded in the past decade. The company stated that maintaining coal stocks is a normal operational requirement to ensure uninterrupted supply to thermal power stations and other consumers through rail and road transport.

SCCL noted that coal stocks typically build up during the high-production period from November to May and are utilized during periods when production is affected by various factors, particularly the monsoon season. The company said that between 2014 and 2024, average coal stocks were around 5



million tonnes (50 lakh tonnes), while stocks reached 7 million tonnes in 2015-16 and 7.4 million tonnes in 2016-17.

The company emphasized that maintaining a minimum stock of around 3 million tonnes (30 lakh tonnes) is necessary to meet approximately 15 days of thermal power station requirements and ensure uninterrupted power generation during adverse weather conditions.

Site Visit Certificate Introduced to Improve Project Execution

Explaining the introduction of the Site Visit Certificate requirement for overburden (OB) removal tenders, SCCL said several contractors had previously participated in tenders without adequately assessing local con-

ditions, leading to delays, work abandonment, production losses, financial losses, and contractual disputes.

The company cited instances in Srirampur OC-II and IK OC projects where contractors discontinued OB removal work midway due to inadequate assessment of site conditions.

SCCL stated that the Site Visit Certificate aims to ensure bidders fully understand site conditions, safety requirements, work scope, and operational challenges before quoting rates. The measure, it said, is intended to promote informed bidding and efficient project execution rather than restrict competition.

The requirement was introduced for OB tenders in May 2025 and is already followed by organizations such as GMD, GIPCL, NMDC, several solar power projects, and EPC contracts. SCCL added that similar requirements had been implemented earlier for Coal Handling Plant projects based on recommendations from CMPDI, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited. According to the company, contracts awarded after the in-

roduction of the Site Visit Certificate have been progressing smoothly, and certificates are being issued to all contractors who visit project sites.

ACB Probe into Medical Board Irregularities Continues
SCCL also clarified that the ACB investigation into alleged irregularities in Medical Board assessments for dependent and compassionate appointments is ongoing. The company said complaints had surfaced alleging that middlemen were exploiting workers and collecting money by promising jobs. SCCL management subsequently lodged a written complaint with the ACB.

During the investigation, two employees have been arrested, and departmental action has been initiated against them. SCCL's Vigilance Department is also conducting a parallel departmental inquiry into the allegations. The company reiterated its commitment to maintaining transparency and strengthening systems governing appointments and administrative processes.

- Chief Public Relations Officer, SCCL



Mohammed Azharuddin sir Inaugurate Mega Job Mela on June 9

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) has announced a Mega Job Mela for unemployed minority youth on June 9, 2026, at Red Rose Palace, Nampally, Hyderabad. The Job Mela will be inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Minority Welfare, Public Enterprises and Government Relations, Janab Mohammed Azharuddin. Around 40-50 reputed companies from sectors including IT, Banking, Finance, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Logistics, Hospitality, and Customer Services will participate

in the recruitment drive. The initiative reflects the Hon'ble Minister's commitment to creating employment opportunities and empowering minority youth across Telangana. Eligible candidates are encouraged to participate and benefit from the opportunity. TGMFC Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal stated that the Job Mela will serve as an important platform connecting job seekers with leading employers. Present on the occasion were TGMFC Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal, senior officials of the Minority Welfare Department, and representatives of participating companies.



Amit Shah Hails Chess Star, Women's Hockey Team
NEW DELHI: (JUN 6)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa on becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title and the Women's U18 Hockey Team on winning the Bronze Medal at the Asia Cup. "Kudos to @rpraggnan on becoming the Norway Chess Champion 2026," Shah said in a post on X. "You have made the nation proud with the victory earned through wholehearted dedication, brilliant moves and strategic thinking. May you continue to inspire our youngsters by bringing home more honours," he said. Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian to win the prestigious Norway Chess title with a final-round victory over Germany's Vincent Keymer in Oslo.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav's Investment Efforts Yield Major Success

Bhoomi Poojan of Haleon's First Manufacturing Unit in India at Pithampur on June 8 Investment of Approximately Rs2,000 Crores

DR. BHUPENDRA "VIKAL"

Bhopal: Following sustained efforts of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav to position Madhya Pradesh as a preferred destination for global investment, Madhya Pradesh has achieved a major success. Investors confidence has increased manifold in national and international investment outreach initiatives, regional industry con-claves and global investment dialogues. As part of these efforts, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav will perform the Bhoomi Poojan of Haleon's first manufacturing facility in India at the Smart Industrial Park in Pithampur on June 8. The project is an outcome of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav's visit to the United Kingdom and the investment dialogues held there. Following extensive discussions with investors and a compelling presentation of Madhya Pradesh's industrial strengths, Haleon



decided to expand its investment footprint in the state. The investment proposal has now entered the implementation stage, reflecting the State Government's commitment to ensuring the swift execution of investment projects on the ground. With an investment of approximately ₹2,000 crore, the project is among the most significant foreign investment ventures currently taking shape in Madhya Pradesh. The state-of-the-art facility, to be developed across more than 40 acres in Pithampur's Smart

Industrial Park, will primarily manufacture oral health-care products. In addition to catering to domestic market demand, products manufactured at the facility will be exported to several countries across the Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions. Haleon is one of the world's leading consumer health-care companies. Through globally recognised brands such as Sensodyne, Crocin, Eno, Otrivin, Iodex, Centrum, and Ostocalcium, the company has established a strong presence worldwide.

Operating in more than 170 countries, Haleon has emerged as a global leader in the health and self-care sector. Haleon's global footprint and its proposed investment in Madhya Pradesh reflect the growing confidence of international companies in the state's industrial ecosystem and investor-friendly environment. The project is expected to generate around 500 direct and 500 indirect employment opportunities. It will also create new opportunities for local MSMEs, supplier networks, transportation, logistics, and allied industries. The company will place special emphasis on skill development of local talent and ensuring that at least 30 per cent of its workforce comprises women. With a strong focus on employing local talent, the project is expected to further boost economic activity in the region. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, Madhya

Pradesh has made remarkable progress in attracting investments in recent years. Robust industrial infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, streamlined approval mechanisms, availability of land and a conducive business environment have established the state as an attractive investment destination for global companies. Investments made by several international corporations in recent years stand as testimony to this growing confidence.

The Haleon project marks a significant milestone in Madhya Pradesh's journey towards becoming a global manufacturing and export hub. The investment will further strengthen the state's efforts in industrial development, employment generation, export promotion, and global investment attraction, while playing an important role in advancing the vision of a Viksit Madhya Pradesh.



Ashwini Vaishnaw travels by Kolkata Metro

Interacts with Passengers

KOLKATA, JUNE 6:

Union Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw travelled on the Kolkata Metro and interacted with passengers and railway staff.

During the visit, he announced that around 60 new-generation Metro trains will be inducted* into

the *Kolkata Metro network over the next 4-5 years*. He said the new trains will modernise Metro services and further strengthen urban mobility in the city. He said that ongoing Metro expansion projects will significantly improve connectivity and commuter convenience across Kolkata.

Annamalai Lacks PM, Shah Backing: TN BJP Chief

Tamil Nadu BJP on Saturday dismissed speculation surrounding former state BJP chief K Annamalai's new political move, asserting that his independent political outfit does not have the blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah. After Annamalai quit the BJP and floated a new party, several political observers argued that the outfit could function as a proxy for the BJP, which has struggled to make major electoral inroads in Tamil Nadu on its own. Many also

claimed that Annamalai continued to enjoy the support of the BJP brass and could align with the party in the future if his new outfit gains traction in the southern state. Rejecting such claims, Tamil Nadu BJP president Nainar Nagendran said, "Annamalai does not have the blessings of Modi or Amit Shah to start his own political movement, as claimed by many". He added, "Nobody who has left the BJP has succeeded on their own".

"My request to BJP cadre is not to believe such claims and

leave the party. There is no setback to the BJP. This is the world's biggest party," he said.

Following Annamalai's exit, two more senior leaders -- state vice-president Karu Nagarajan and state secretary Sumathi Venkatesh -- also quit the party, along with several reported defections at the lower levels. Reacting to Annamalai's resignation on Friday, Nagendran had said the move would not affect the BJP and that everyone was free to launch a political party in a democracy. "There will be no loss to the

BJP because of his resignation. There will be no setback to the BJP, which is the biggest party in the world. The party will remain steadfast in its ideology," Nagendran said. Annamalai, a former IPS officer who was associated with the BJP for around six years and significantly boosted the party's visibility in Tamil Nadu during his tenure as state president, said on Friday that he had "quit the BJP in a dignified manner to usher in a new kind of politics". "The goals are bigger and more people have to be taken along.

From today onwards, there will be a new path, a new movement, a new political force," he said, adding that his new party would contest the next Assembly elections in the state. Before announcing his exit from the saffron party and launching his new outfit, Annamalai had met senior BJP leaders, including Amit Shah, in Delhi. During his tenure as Tamil Nadu BJP chief, Annamalai gained prominence for his aggressive political style, relentlessly targeting the DMK and releasing what he called the "DMK Files",

alleging corruption in the ruling party. However, he also courted controversy. The AI-ADMK strongly objected after Annamalai allegedly made remarks against late former chief minister J Jayalitha over her conviction in a corruption case. He also triggered a row by alleging that Dravidian stalwart CN Annadurai had insulted Hinduism during an event in Madurai in 1956. The tensions eventually led the AIADMK to snap ties with the BJP in September 2023 ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Kharge, Priyanka Congratulate Chess Champion

NEW DELHI: (JUN 6)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday congratulated Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa for becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess title.

In a post on X, Kharge described him as our young star and said, "Your extraordinary talent, composure and relentless determination have brought immense pride to the nation." "Wishing you continued success and many more achievements in the years ahead," the Congress chief said.

BJP govt in Bengal to probe incidents of vandalism, arson during 2019 anti-CAA stir

KOLKATA, JUNE 6

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government on Saturday decided to take action in the wake of the violence during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests in West Bengal.

In 2019, there were allegations of vandalism and arson at various places in the state during the anti-CAA protests. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has directed the West Bengal Director General Siddh Nath Gupta to investi-

gate the allegations. In December 2019, the Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed by both Houses of the Parliament. Later, it became a law with the assent of the President Droupadi Murmu.

At that time, protests against the CAA were taking place across the country and in West Bengal. There were allegations of destruction of government properties in West Bengal under the guise of the anti-CAA movement. There were allegations of vandalism and arson at various places as well as burning buses and destruction of railway property.



After the change of government in West Bengal, the BJP government is trying to take action in the wake of those allegations. On Saturday, the

Chief Minister directed the state police DGP to investigate all the complaints filed against people for destruction of government property during the 2019 anti-CAA protests. He also directed the formation of a special cell of the state police to look into the complaints related to these protests. According to an administrative official, the office of this Special Cell of the police will be set up in Chief Minister Adhikari's Assembly constituency of Bhabanipur. A new file will be created after investigating the old complaints. The state government has also decided

that if the complaint against anyone is proven, compensation will be recovered from the person concerned. The cooperation of the Railway Police will also be taken to investigate the complaints related to arson or looting in all areas of the Railways. According to administrative sources, there were more allegations of property destruction in Murshidabad district and Uluberia area in Howrah. There were allegations of vandalism and arson at the Beldanga police station. There were also incidents of train arson and looting at the police station in Uluberia.

Kerala rain fury floods roads, uproots trees; red alert in 5 districts

Heavy rain continued across Kerala, causing waterlogging, damage and one death in Thrissur. Red alerts, travel curbs, school holidays and a fishermen warning followed the forecast of more severe weather.

Heavy rains lashed various parts of Kerala overnight continued on Saturday morning, causing widespread waterlogging, uprooting trees, damaging houses and disrupting normal life in several areas of the state. A 29-year-old man died in Thrissur district's Manaloor after a tree fell on a temporary shed where he was sleeping, according to a Fire and Rescue Services official. The fallen tree destroyed the shed completely. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for five districts, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod, on Saturday. The weather agency



also issued an orange alert for Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur and Palakkad districts, while the remaining three districts remained under a yellow alert. According to the IMD, a red alert indicates extremely heavy rainfall of more than 20 cm in 24 hours. An orange alert signifies very heavy rainfall between 11 cm and 20 cm, while a yellow alert denotes heavy rainfall ranging from 6 cm to 11 cm. Authorities imposed re-

strictions in view of the severe weather conditions. Officials prohibited entry to tourist trekking destinations, night travel on hilly roads and quarrying activities in Wayanad, Kozhikode and Kasaragod districts on Saturday. District administrations also declared a holiday for educational institutions in several districts. Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod announced holidays for schools and colleges, while district collectors in Kozhikode,

Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod declared a holiday for schools, professional colleges, anganwadis, tuition centres, Kendriya Vidyalayas, madrasas and other religious educational institutions due to the forecast of extremely heavy rainfall.

The Kannur District Collector declared a holiday for all educational institutions in the district following the red alert issued by the IMD and the continuing heavy rainfall. The order covers professional colleges, schools, anganwadis, tuition centres, ICSE and CBSE schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, madrasas and other religious educational institutions. Residential schools have been exempted from the holiday order. The Collector clarified that previously scheduled university examinations, public examinations and interviews will take place as planned. The IMD said the southwest monsoon has advanced into most

parts of the central-western and central-eastern Arabian Sea and parts of Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The weather department attributed the intense rainfall to a cyclonic circulation over north Kerala and said extremely heavy rainfall was likely in parts of Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram districts on June 6. The IMD further forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Kerala and Mahe from June 6 to June 9. It also predicted widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds reaching speeds of 40 to 50 kilometres per hour across Kerala from June 6 to June 10. The weather agency cautioned fishermen against venturing into the sea along the Kerala-Lakshadweep-Karnataka coasts from June 6 to June 9 as strong winds with speeds of 40 to 60 kmph are likely to prevail in the region.

Ramalinga Reddy Withdraws Resignation

BENGALURU, JUNE 6

Minister for Water Resources Ramalinga Reddy has withdrawn his resignation from the ministry and will continue as a loyal soldier of the party and as a minister, AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala announced on Saturday. It may be recalled that Ramalinga Reddy on Friday had announced his resignation from the state Cabinet, alleging that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had gone back on an assurance regarding the allocation of the Bengaluru Urban portfolio.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru after meeting Minister Reddy, Surjewala said: "Since yesterday, BJP and a section of the media broke the news of the announcement of resignation by our Minister Ramalinga Reddy. Reddy has worked with Congress State President B.K. Hariprasad for years, since their formative



years. They worked together in the Youth Congress." "I want to say Ramalinga Reddy is an asset of the Congress party. He has been working in the party since 1973, a year when many of us were not even born. He became an MLA in 1989. He has been elected as an MLA eight times and has served as a minister multiple times," he said. "He has handled several portfolios over the years. His experience and wisdom are extremely valuable to the party, especially given his long association with Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, B.K. Hariprasad, and party workers across the state. When the media

reported his so-called resignation, CM Shivakumar, state president B.K. Hariprasad, Siddaramaiah and I all spoke to him. There was apparently some misunderstanding. We met Reddy again, and he has already said that he has withdrawn his resignation and will continue as a minister," Surjewala added. He further said that Reddy would continue to work as a loyal soldier of the party and as a minister. "Those who were speculating and celebrating are in shock. The BJP thought they could fish in troubled waters and gain political advantage. They spoke of falling wickets and whatnot," Surjewala said. Addressing BJP leaders Vijayendra and R. Ashoka, he said they would "repeatedly get clean bowled in the court of the people", adding that winning public trust required sincerity, commitment and service, which, according to him, the Congress government has demonstrated through its guarantees.

EDITORIAL

The Growing Importance of Skill-Based Education

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for personal and national development. However, in today's rapidly evolving world, academic knowledge alone is often not enough. Employers increasingly seek individuals who possess practical skills alongside formal qualifications. This has made skill-based education an essential part of modern learning. Skill-based education focuses on developing abilities that can be applied directly in real-life situations and workplaces. These include technical skills, communication, problem-solving, teamwork, digital literacy, and critical thinking. Such skills help students become more confident, productive, and prepared for future careers.

One of the major advantages of skill-based learning is that it bridges the gap between education and employment. Many graduates possess strong theoretical knowledge but struggle to apply it in professional environments. Practical training, internships, workshops, and vocational courses provide hands-on experience, enabling learners to understand industry requirements and adapt more easily to workplace challenges.

The importance of skill-based education has grown further with technological advancements and changing job markets. New industries and professions are emerging, while traditional roles are evolving. To remain competitive, individuals must continuously upgrade their skills and embrace lifelong learning. Skill-based education encourages adaptability and helps people stay relevant in an increasingly dynamic economy.

For a country like India, where millions of young people enter the workforce each year, skill development can play a vital role in boosting employment and economic growth. A skilled workforce supports productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, while also helping industries meet their growing demand for trained professionals.

At the same time, skill-based education should complement, not replace, traditional academic learning. Strong academic foundations remain important for understanding concepts and developing knowledge. The ideal approach combines classroom education with practical skill development, creating well-rounded individuals capable of meeting the demands of the modern world. As economies become more knowledge-driven and technology-oriented, the value of practical skills will continue to rise. Educational institutions, policymakers, and industries must work together to ensure that learners are equipped with both knowledge and employable skills. Investing in skill-based education is not only an investment in individual success but also in the long-term progress and prosperity of society.

“Kandali”: A Cinematic Ode to Uttarakhand’s Soul and Garhwali

In the mist-covered hills of Uttarakhand, where tradition and storytelling remain deeply intertwined, a new Garhwali feature film, *Kandali*, is emerging as a powerful tribute to the region's culture, values, and identity. Directed by veteran theatre personality Shiv Narayan Singh Rawat and produced by VSM, former Air Vice Marshal Rajesh Bhandari, and Virendra Patwal, the film blends family relationships, social issues, and the spirit of mountain life into an emotionally resonant narrative. Featuring Prashant and Smriti Rawat in lead roles and backed by a large ensemble cast, *Kandali* was remarkably completed in just 14 days with an 80-member team. Beyond entertainment, the film represents the continuing evolution of Garhwali cinema—a regional industry that has long preserved Uttarakhand's language, traditions, and collective memory while adapting to modern audiences and challenges.

In the serene hills of Uttarakhand, where ancient traditions whisper through dense forests and rivers carve stories of resilience, a much-awaited Garhwali feature film is capturing hearts and headlines. Titled “Kan-

The narrative of “Kandali” unfolds through the lens of Garhwali life, weaving together family bonds, societal concerns, and the timeless spirit of the mountains. Co-directed by Neeraj Mishra and Pankaj Mishra, the film features Prashant and Smri-

ti Rawat in the lead roles. Their on-screen chemistry promises to drive the story with emotional intensity and cultural resonance. A stellar supporting cast includes Madhu Rawat, Kusum Chauhan, Dr. Kusum Bhatt, Harish Gairola, Parmendra Rawat, Shiv Narayan Singh Rawat himself, Meena, Yashoda Joshi, Shivdayal Mangai, Jaspal Singh Rana, ace journalist Sunil Negi, Padma Shri Kalyan Singh Rawat, advocate Jagmohan Singh Negi, advocate Shri

Niyal, Rakesh Bhandari, Kiran, and Rajpal. Young talent shines through child artist Jeeva Rawat, whose performance is already generating buzz. Behind the camera, the team demonstrated remarkable efficiency and dedication. Production Manager Rajpal Singh Rawat coordinated the efforts seamlessly. Makeup duties were handled by Simran Rawat, while the visual storytelling was led by Director of Photography Vijay Sover and his assistant Vicky. Technical equipment came courtesy of Bala Ji Production, and drone operator Rajnish Saini added breathtaking aerial shots that capture the majestic Himalayan landscapes. “In a striking feat of planning and teamwork, the entire shoot involving nearly 80 cast and crew members was completed in just 14 days. It is a testament to discipline, passion, and collective commitment under Director Rawat's leadership, says Sunil Negi, who is acting in this movie.

“Kandali” goes beyond entertainment. It immerses viewers in Uttarakhand's folk culture, portraying the fragrance of its soil and the soul of its people. Through relatable characters and poignant situations, the film explores family values, interpersonal relationships, and pressing social issues. It offers audiences not only joy but also an opportunity to reconnect with their roots, evoking nostalgia and pride in regional identity.

The Rise of Garhwali Cinema

Meanwhile, Garhwali cinema has a proud yet modest history, serving as a vital medium to preserve and promote the language, customs, and ethos of the Garhwal region. The journey began in 1983 with “Jagwal”, the first Garhwali feature film directed and produced by Parashar Gaur. Released in Delhi, it marked a historic milestone, showcasing family melodramas rooted in local traditions and winning over audiences despite limited resources.

Subsequent films like “Ghar

Jawain” (1986), “Basanti” (1993), and “Chakrachal” (1994) built on this foundation, addressing themes of marriage customs, rural struggles, migration, and the clash between tradition and modernity. In recent years, productions such as “Kaara Ek Pratha”, “Pitrakuda”, and others from banners like Hardik Films have gained traction, often drawing from real-life incidents and emphasizing social awareness, domestic issues, and cultural pride.

These films face challenges like limited budgets, distribution networks, and competition from mainstream cinema. Yet, they thrive on community support and a growing digital audience. Garhwali movies keep the language alive among younger generations, especially in urban diaspora communities like Delhi-NCR's Garhwali networks, and provide platforms for local talent. Web series like “Garhwali Mohalla” further expand this cultural footprint. “Kandali” stands out for its professional execution and broad appeal. By integrating authentic folk elements, traditional attire, and the rugged beauty of Uttarakhand's landscapes, it elevates regional cinema. The film's rapid 14-day shoot highlights innovative resource management, which could inspire future low-budget yet high-impact productions in the hills. As migration continues to impact Garhwali communities, such stories reinforce identity and belonging, resonating strongly with both mountain residents and those settled in cities like Delhi.



dali”, this film is not just another regional production but a heartfelt celebration of the state's rich cultural heritage, human emotions, and enduring social values. Produced by VSM and former Air Vice Marshal Rajesh Bhandari along with Virendra Patwal, the movie is directed by the veteran theatre personality and filmmaker Shiv Narayan Singh Rawat. His decades of experience in the arts bring authenticity and depth to this project.

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VIVEK SHUKLA

AN EMBER OF FIRE

Before dawn discovered its first hymn, I dwell where shadows gathered grim; The moon forgot my threshold's name, And every prayer returned as flame. My heart—once a meadow of singing streams— Became a furnace of fractured dreams; The winds brought neither balm nor grace, Only silence wearing sorrow's face. When deserts settled within my veins, And hope grew weary of its chains; When tears sought refuge, night and day, Yet found no hand to wipe away I did not kneel before despair, Nor crown my wounds with helpless prayer; I gathered every shattered part And forged a universe within my heart. The hammer of fate fell fierce and long, Turning lament into a song; Each scar became a line of light, Each loss a lantern in the night. Thus rose a sculpture, breathing still, Carved by suffering, shaped by will; Not born of comfort, praise, or ease, But tempered in adversity's seas. Now weary wings from distant skies Rest where my silent shelter lies; Travelers broken by unseen wars Find healing shade beneath my scars. I am the river released by pain, The tree reborn through storm and rain; The blossom blooming beyond the grave, The gentle strength that learns to save. Yet beheld the paradox of fire. The world that watched my lonely blaze Now gathers warmth within its rays; Many arrive with eager hands, Seeking light they scarcely understand. Some come burdened with honest need, Some with the quiet masks of greed; Yet still I shine, for sun and rain Do not discriminate terrain. For mercy is the highest art, A kingdom built within the heart. The cloud asks not who waits below, It simply yields the rain it knows. Though Spring may wrap me in her bloom, I still remember every gloom; For roots that touch the depths of night Teach every leaf the truth of light. Even when wisdom closes eyes, The soul continues to arise. For I am the raindrop's silver birth, The hidden heartbeat of the earth. I am the bud that cleaves the stone, The voice that silence could not own; The lighthouse standing through the gale, The steadfast sail beyond the pale. I am the ember storms could not claim, The keeper of an undying flame. A spark that journeyed through despair And learned that healing is to share. Come, wanderers of broken years, Come, guardians of unspoken tears; Beneath the moon's compassionate glow, Walk where resilient dreamers grow. Here no wound is left unseen, No fallen hope remains between; On this road of wisdom's light, Every darkness earns its right. For greatness is not born in power, Nor measured by a triumphant hour; It blossoms where the wounded rise And turn their ashes into skies. When history seeks its noblest fire, It shall not praise the thrones of desire; But the soul that stood through grief and strife And transformed its pain into life. For the highest flame a human can bear Is not to conquer, possess, or wear But to survive the longest night, And spend one's dawn becoming light.

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

World Food Safety Day-June 7

Food Security Is More Than Food Availability



Food security is often misunderstood as the simple availability of food. In reality, it is one of the most fundamental pillars of human development, public health, and sustainable economic growth. According to the United Nations, food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

In the twenty-first century, however, food security can no longer be measured merely by the availability of calories. A nation may produce enough grain to feed its population and yet struggle with widespread malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and diet-related diseases. This has expanded the concept of food security into what policymakers increasingly describe as nutritional security.

Food security rests on four interconnected pillars: availability, access, utilization, and stability. Food must be produced in adequate quantities, distributed efficiently, consumed in conditions that support proper nutrition and health, and remain accessible even during economic shocks, natural disasters, or climate-related disruptions. Weakness in any one of

these pillars can undermine the entire system.

India's Progress Story:

India's experience illustrates both the progress achieved and the challenges that remain. As one of the world's largest food producers, the country has significantly strengthened its food security architecture over the past two decades. Large-scale public distribution programmes, nutrition initiatives targeting mothers and children, and an expanding social protection network have helped reduce hunger and improve nutritional outcomes in many regions.

Recent national health surveys indicate gradual improvements in several child nutrition indicators. States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Goa have demonstrated how effective public health systems, diversified diets, and efficient welfare delivery mechanisms can translate into better nutritional outcomes. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have also recorded notable progress through targeted food and nutrition programmes.

The Double Burden of Malnutrition:

Yet India's food security chal-

lenge is no longer defined solely by scarcity. The country is increasingly confronting what nutrition experts call the “double burden of malnutrition.” While millions continue to suffer from undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, rising numbers of people are simultaneously experiencing obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and other lifestyle-related illnesses. In other words, some citizens still struggle to obtain enough food, while others consume food that is abundant but nutritionally inadequate.

Climate change further complicates this picture. Erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, extreme heat events, and unseasonal storms are affecting agricultural productivity across many regions. At the same time, inadequate storage infrastructure, insufficient cold-chain facilities, and post-harvest losses continue to undermine food availability and increase waste. A substantial share of fruits and vegetables never reaches consumers despite being successfully cultivated.

Moving Beyond Grain Security:

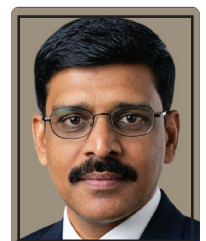
The policy response therefore must move beyond grain distribution alone. Ensuring food security in the coming decades will require

a stronger emphasis on dietary quality. Biofortified crops rich in iron, zinc, and essential vitamins need wider adoption. Nutri-cereals such as millets should become a regular component of household diets. Investments in climate-resilient agriculture, artificial intelligence-driven farm management, digital advisory systems, and precision farming technologies can help farmers adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Equally important is the expansion of rural storage, logistics, and cold-chain infrastructure to reduce food losses. Public distribution systems must continue evolving to become more transparent, efficient, and nutrition-sensitive rather than focusing exclusively on calorie delivery.

Food security is not merely a welfare objective. It is an investment in human capital, economic productivity, and national development. India has made remarkable strides in reducing hunger and expanding food access. The next phase of progress, however, must focus on ensuring that every citizen has access not just to enough food, but to the right food.

The future of food security lies in moving from quantity to quality, from grain security to nutrition security, and from conventional approaches to technology-enabled, climate-resilient solutions. Only then can food security truly fulfil its promise of creating a healthier and more productive society.



D. CHANDRABHANU
Senior Teaching Faculty

Cockroach party rally draws students, parents to Jantar Mantar; Wangchuk backs protest

What began as a satirical online campaign has now spilled onto the streets of the national capital. Students, parents and young professionals gathered at Jantar Mantar as the movement's demands grew louder.

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) supporters during a protest demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination-related lapses, at the Jantar Mantar.

Scores of students, parents and young professionals gathered at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on Saturday for the first major on-ground mobilisation of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), transforming a satirical online movement into a street protest demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests and the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Wearing cockroach masks, carrying books, flowers and the national flag, protesters assembled under tight security in the heart of the national capital, where the movement's founder, Abhijeet Dipke, accused the government of ignoring concerns raised by students while focusing on silencing dissent online. The demonstration, which drew supporters from multiple states, comes after weeks of growing social media mobilisation around alleged irregularities in examinations including NEET, CBSE, CUET and SSC recruitment tests.



Cockroach Janta Party founder Dipke arrives in Delhi, urges peaceful Jantar Mantar protest. Cockroach Janta Party founder Abhijeet Dipke arrived in Delhi on Saturday, urged peaceful Jantar Mantar protest.

FROM ONLINE MOVEMENT TO STREET PROTEST

The protest marked a significant moment for the CJP, which was born online and rapidly expanded into a nationwide youth-led campaign.

Originally launched as a satirical response to remarks made by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, the movement has since broadened its focus to issues surrounding examinations, recruitment processes, unemployment and accountability.

Saturday's gathering was its first major attempt to convert online support into a physical presence on the streets.

The protest was organised by the CJP, a youth-led online movement that has been demanding accountability for the alleged irregularities in examinations and recruitment tests, including NEET,

CBSE, CUET, and SSC examinations. Earlier in the day, Dipke arrived in Delhi and renewed his demand for the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan. "Education Minister must resign. Five students have committed suicide," he told reporters after landing in the capital.

'YOU CAN DELETE POSTS, NOT PEOPLE'

Addressing supporters at Jantar Mantar, Dipke accused authorities of targeting the movement's online presence instead of responding to its concerns.

"My friends, this is a long struggle. It has been a month since we started demanding Pradhan's resignation on social media, but these people are so shameless that instead of taking action, they have been focused on other distractions, like hacking our accounts and getting our posts deleted," he said.

"You may be able to delete our posts, but you cannot erase us from this space."

He also spoke about his arrival in Delhi and suggested he was prepared for possible action against him.



Dipke, who recently returned from the United States to participate in the mobilisation, described the campaign as a peaceful constitutional movement. "Just before the aircraft landed, I felt as if I was living my last moments of freedom. I was fully prepared to sacrifice my freedom for this cause," he told the crowd.

Dipke also claimed that while some people may have succumbed to pressure, young people had not. "Many people have sold out because of the fear of imprisonment. Lekin is desh ka chatra, yuva nahi bika hai," he said.

FLOWERS, BOOKS AND COCKROACH MASKS

The gathering was notable for its unusual symbolism.

Participants carried flowers, many of which were later offered to police personnel, following an appeal by Dipke for protesters to engage peacefully with law enforcement authorities.

Many people, mostly young individuals, turned out for the demonstration, many of whom were wearing cockroach masks and holding flowers. Several protesters

brought books and copies of the Constitution, while many wore cockroach masks — a symbol adopted by the movement after the remarks that inspired its formation. Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has also expressed support for the protest, said that he would undertake a six-week fast if Dipke is arrested. School students attended alongside their parents, while college students and young professionals formed a large section of the crowd. Slogans demanding accountability in examinations and recruitment processes echoed through the protest site as participants called for reforms and transparency.

SONAM WANGCHUK BACKS PROTEST

Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has publicly supported the movement, urged participants to maintain peace and cooperate with authorities.

Wangchuk had earlier said he would undertake a six-week fast if Dipke was arrested. Dipke thanked Wangchuk during his address and informed supporters that the activist would be joining the gathering. The majority of

the participants were a mix of school and college students, along with young professionals. Authorities mounted an extensive security operation ahead of the demonstration.

More than 1,000 police personnel were deployed across New Delhi and other sensitive locations, while additional security arrangements were put in place at Indira Gandhi International Airport, major transit points and border entry points into the city. More than 1,000 police personnel were allocated for deployment throughout New Delhi and other strategic locations as a precaution. Around 40 companies of paramilitary personnel were deployed to assist Delhi Police, according to sources. Multiple layers of barricading were erected around Jantar Mantar and nearby areas, while senior officers remained on the ground to monitor developments.

Police also strengthened security outside the residence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan as a precautionary measure. Officials said social media activity linked to the protest was being monitored and reserve forces were kept on standby.

Scores of students gathered at the venue, chanting slogans and demanding the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The movement has also begun attracting support from political figures.

NCP (SP) leader Rohit Pawar backed the protest and said the turnout reflected growing frustration among young people.

Manipur Documentary 'Battlefield' Nominated for MIFF 2026 International Competition

IMPHAL, JUNE 6:

Manipur's documentary film Battlefield, directed by Borun Thokchom, has been nominated for the International Competition section of the 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2026. The film will screen in the feature-length documentary category from June 15-21, 2026, competing with entries from 47 countries. Produced by Manjor Lourembam, Dr. Radhesyam Oinam, and Viswamithra Universals, the nomination comes after its world premiere at the 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). "This is a proud moment not only for the film but also for the state and the entire film fraternity of Manipur," said Borun Thokchom. MIFF, organized by NFDC under the Ministry of I&B, is South Asia's oldest non-feature film festival. The 2026 edition received a



record 1,459 entries and will feature the Golden and Silver Conch Awards with cash prizes of Rs 55 lakh, along with masterclasses, panel discussions, and the Waves Doc Bazaar.



NFR Sets New Milestone in Ticket Checking Revenue

MALIGAON, 6 JUNE, 2026

The Ticket Checking Section of New Jalpaiguri (NJP) under Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has achieved a historic milestone by recording an unprecedented earning of more than Rs. 2.08 crore during the month of May 2026. This marks the highest ever monthly ticket checking revenue achieved by any section across Northeast Frontier Railway. This remarkable accomplishment reflects the exceptional dedication, professionalism and relentless efforts of the ticket checking staff in ensuring ticket compliance, preventing ticketless travel and safeguarding railway revenue. The achievement stands as a shining example of operational excellence and effective revenue protection initiatives undertaken by NFR. The record-breaking performance was achieved through sustained ticket checking drives, meticulous enforcement activities and coordinated teamwork by the Ticket Checking Staff of NJP. During the month, the section maintained an impressive average daily earning of more than Rs. 6.54 lakh (approx.) while the

highest single-day earning of more than Rs. 9.65 lakh (approx.) was recorded on 09th May 2026. With a dedicated workforce in the NJP/TTE Lobby, the remarkable achievement reflects the unwavering commitment, exceptional efficiency and sincere efforts of the entire team towards their duties and responsibilities.

The success was further strengthened by several outstanding performances by ticket checking staff, which significantly contributed towards setting this new benchmark for ticket checking earnings in NFR. Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava General Manager and senior officials of Northeast Frontier Railway congratulated the entire Ticket Checking team of NJP, for this remarkable achievement, which reflects the continuous effort for NFR's revenue protection initiatives and commitment towards transparency, accountability and proper ticketing awareness. The achievement of the NJP Ticket Checking Section will serve as a source of inspiration for all railway sections and employees across the zone, encouraging them to strive for even greater excellence in service and performance.

NDA Applauds Modi's Record-Breaking Tenure

NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to surpass former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's record for the longest unbroken stint as the head of an elected government in India on June 10, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) hailed the former's tenure. The NDA leaders asserted that PM Modi has made India proud by "taking the nations' military, economy and foreign policy to greater heights". Speaking to reporters, Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said: "People gave a historic mandate in 2014 by choosing a non-Congress party as an alternative, and also gave a full majority to the BJP to form the government at the

Centre. In the last 12 years, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, several efforts have been made for the overall development of the country." "When the world is reeling under the effect of geo-political turbulence, India's GDP growth for fiscal 2026 has been measured at 7.7 per cent," he highlighted. Shekhawat remarked: "Twelve years ago, before PM Modi-led BJP government at the Centre, people had lost faith in democracy." Union Minister Piyush Goyal added: "PM Modi is loved by 140 crore citizens, he is the most popular leader in the world, and a highly influential international statesman recognised across the globe. The completion of his uninterrupted 25 years in public leadership will be a major milestone."

CM Khemchand Pushes Balanced Fertilizer Use

IMPHAL, 6 JUNE 2026:

Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Friday called for a gradual shift towards organic and balanced fertilization at the State Krishi Mela 2026 held at the City Convention Centre, Imphal. The event was organized under the theme "Balanced Use of Fertilizer" to promote healthy crops and healthy soils. On arrival, the Chief Minister inspected stalls showcasing agricultural and horticultural products displayed at the mela. Addressing the gathering, Khemchand Singh stressed the need to reduce dependence on chemical fertilizers and promote organic alternatives, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. While acknowledging that chemical fertilizers cannot be eliminated overnight, he emphasized the importance of steadily minimizing their use due to their adverse effects on human health and the environment. Citing Sikkim as India's first fully organic farming state, he said its success was made possible through close cooperation between the government and farmers. He informed that the Agriculture Department is working to earmark around 400 hectares of agricultural land exclusively for organic farming. He also urged farmers to adopt double and triple-cropping practices to enhance productivity, increase output, and boost incomes, noting that agriculture remains a key pillar of the state's economy. The Chief Minister said the government would closely monitor urea distribution to ensure it reaches genuine farmers, and assured that any lapses in the system would be

personally addressed. During the programme, Dr. Asem Sundari Devi, Co-founder and Director of Green Biotech Eco Solutions Pvt. Ltd., shared her experience on replacing chemical fertilizers with bio-fertilizers and highlighted the benefits of sustainable farming. Vice-Chancellor of the Central Agricultural University, Dr. Anupam Mishra, lauded the department for selecting the



theme of balanced fertilizer use. He said balanced fertilization is crucial for maintaining soil fertility, reducing cultivation costs, and ensuring higher productivity, adding that healthy soil is the foundation of farmers' prosperity. The Chief Minister launched a magazine titled 'Farmers' Success Stories', featuring the achievements of 53 farmers from across the state. He also distributed Natural Farming (NF)

Scope Certificates and launched a range of natural farming products. A major highlight was the launch of the Manipur Seed and Organic Certification Agency (MASOCA), which will oversee the production and certification of quality seeds and organic products. The Department of Agriculture and the Central Agricultural University also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for Natural Farming Certification to strengthen certification mechanisms in the state. As part of the programme, agricultural machinery worth Rs 432.13 lakh was distributed to 189 beneficiaries under the first phase of the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). The machinery included tractors, mini rice mills, power tillers, power weeders, rice transplanters, rotavators, solar dryers, seeders, trailers,

and water pumps. Recipients of the State-Level Best Farmers Awards were felicitated for their contributions to the sector. In the Best Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) District Awards, Imphal East secured first prize, Imphal West second, while Chandel and Churachandpur jointly received third prize. The event was organized by the State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute (SAMETI) under the Department of Agriculture. It was attended by MLAs Sorokhaibam Rajen Singh, Dr. Sapam Ranjan Singh, Lourembam Rameshwar Meetei, Tongbram Robindro Singh, and Dr. Yumnam Radheshyam Singh, along with Commissioner Thaituilung Pamei, Director of Agriculture Peter Salam, officials, scientists, farmers, and entrepreneurs.

NEET-UG 2026: NTA dismisses claims of re-exam paper 'leak', warns of action

NEW DELHI: JUNE 6

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday dismissed as "false" and "fraudulent" claims circulating on social media about alleged leak or sale of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination question paper and warned of strict action against those spreading such content.

In a statement on X, the agency said messages claiming a "leak", advance access or "sale" of the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination paper were aimed at misleading students and parents.

"The National Testing Agency (NTA) has noted certain messages circulating on social media and messaging platforms claiming a 'leak', advance access or 'sale' of the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination question paper," the NTA said in a post on X.

UP govt begins demolition of mosque in Sambhal amid land ownership row

The Uttar Pradesh administration began demolishing the Mustafa Qadri Mosque in Sambhal, saying it was built on government land, after legal challenges by the mosque committee were rejected.



Officials alleged that documents reflecting the government's ownership of the land were not disclosed when the property was registered with the Waqf Board. Officials alleged that documents reflecting the government's ownership of the land were not disclosed when the property was registered with the Waqf Board. The Uttar Pradesh administration on Saturday launched a demolition drive against the Mustafa Qadri Mosque in Sambhal district, a structure at the centre of a land ownership dispute, after authorities claimed it had been built on government land, while members of the mosque committee challenged the move through legal channels. Four bulldozers were pressed

into service as officials moved to demolish the mosque, located on a 120-square-metre plot. A large contingent of police and revenue officials was stationed at the site during the operation. The dispute dates back to a revenue survey conducted in January, during which officials claimed the land on which the mosque stands is recorded as government property. According to the administration, subsequent scrutiny revealed that the mosque had been registered as Waqf property despite revenue records showing the land belonged to the state. Officials alleged that documents reflecting the government's ownership of the land were not

disclosed when the property was registered with the Waqf Board. Following the enquiry, an FIR was lodged against seven members of the mosque committee on charges linked to the alleged irregularities.

The Tehsildar's court had issued an eviction order on April 21, directing the removal of what authorities described as an illegal encroachment.

The mosque committee challenged the order before the District Magistrate's court, but the appeal was later rejected, clearing the way for demolition proceedings under Section 67 of the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code. The bulldozer action was carried out by a

team led by Tehsildar Dharendra Kumar and Naib Tehsildar Deepak Jurail, along with revenue officials and police personnel. District Magistrate Ankit Khandelwal and Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar Bishnoi were present to oversee the proceedings. The mosque demolition is the latest in a series of anti-encroachment actions undertaken by the district administration. On June 5, authorities demolished the 'Khere Wale Baba Chaman Shah Baba Dargah Sharif' in Gunnour tehsil after revenue courts ruled that the shrine too had been constructed on government land. District Magistrate Ankit Khandelwal said a case had been registered against local resident Aziz in connection with the shrine, which authorities alleged was constructed on government land. "The case was related to encroachment on public land. The tehsildar's court found the construction illegal. The matter was later appealed before the district magistrate's court, where the party was asked to present evidence, but no ev-

idence could be produced," Khandelwal told reporters.

Revenue officials said Aziz was found in possession of nearly 24 square metres of government land where the shrine stood. Gunnour Sub-Divisional Magistrate Vikas Chandra said the structure had been built around five years ago. Following the tehsildar's eviction order, an appeal was filed before the district magistrate's court, which upheld the original ruling. Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar Bishnoi described the structure as a religious site and said the action was part of an ongoing drive to reclaim government land under the state's land bank initiative. "The government had issued directions to free government land under the land bank concept. So far, around 100 hectares of land has been freed from encroachment in the district," he said. However, Aziz, the caretaker of the shrine, disputed the administration's claims, asserting that the site was 500-600 years old and dedicated to a revered saint.

India deepens global influence through Nordic ties and Arctic engagement push: Report

NEW DELHI

The India-Nordic Summits have served as the institutional cornerstone of engagement, facilitating structured dialogue between New Delhi and the five Nordic countries and deepening cooperation in maritime security, the blue economy, and sustainable infrastructure.

These are not ceremonial exchanges but a reflection of India's calculated effort to embed itself in the ongoing reconfiguration of global supply chains across democratic economies, a report has stated.

"For centuries, the dream of a navigable Arctic passage was the preserve of explorers willing to risk frostbite and oblivion. Today, that dream has become a geopolitical strategy.

As climate change unlocks the Northern Sea Route (NSR), stretching across Russia's Arctic coastline from the Barents Sea



to the Bering Strait, a new commercial and strategic highway is emerging, one that could cut shipping distances between East Asia and Europe by nearly 40 per cent, compared to the traditional Suez Canal route," a report in 'India Narrative' detailed.

"For India, a nation at the crossroads of the Indo-Pacific and increasingly integrated into Northern European strategic thinking, this is not merely a logistical opportunity. It is a civilisational pivot," it added.

According to the report, India

is entering this space with growing strategic maturity, closely watching how the Nordic-Baltic Eight—Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden—have reshaped their security architectures after Finland and Sweden

joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"These nations now view the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific not as separate theatres but as a single, interconnected strategic space. India, occupying a unique position as both a frontline Indo-Pacific power and a historic interlocutor with Russia, is threading a needle that few other nations can manage, engaging the Nordic-Baltic world substantively while preserving strategic autonomy," it noted.

The report highlighted the compelling strategic and economic case for India's Arctic engagement, noting that a functional Northern Sea Route would significantly cut transit times for global goods, thereby reducing fuel costs and carbon emissions.

"Nordic expertise in green shipping, offshore wind, and Arctic-grade infrastructure aligns naturally with India's own green transition ambitions. Esto-

nia's e-governance frameworks and the Baltic states' advanced cybersecurity ecosystems complement India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) revolution, from UPI to digital identity, and can create fertile ground for technology partnerships that bypass high-risk vendors," it mentioned.

Advocating a "Queen's Gambit" approach for India, the report noted that with the Northern Route opening, New Delhi must move swiftly to seize the initiative, arguing that greater decisiveness would enhance its capacity to influence regional governance.

"By acting now, India ensures it helps define the rules of engagement rather than merely accepting terms as a latecomer. For a nation that has spent decades learning to play the long game, the Arctic offers both the invitation and the urgency to act. The ice is melting. The opportunity is not," it stated.



'Let them resolve it': Trump on Russia-Ukraine conflict

WASHINGTON

Speaking with reporters at the White House, US President Donald Trump commented on recent developments, including the Ukrainian President's 'open letter' to the Russian President and the latter's negative response to the proposal for a meeting.

Ukrainian media, such as the United 24 Media platform this morning, reported that Trump emphasised he was "not opposed" to direct dialogue between the leaders of the two countries involved in the war, without the presence of American mediators. "I mean, let them resolve it. I'm the person who brought them to this possibility. I think everything will be resolved," Adnkronos news agency reported.

"It's a war that should never have started. With me as President, it would never have started. But everything will be resolved," he added, repeating that the responsibility for the conflict falls on his predecessor in the White House, Joe Biden, the US President in 2022, when Moscow's forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

On Thursday, Trump had stated he was "happy" about this possible development.

Meanwhile, the massive drone offensive between Russia and Ukraine continues. A raid hit the St. Petersburg region, the city where the International Economic Forum, which saw Vladimir Putin's plenary address on Friday, is being held. Russian local authorities announced that 86 Ukrainian drones were intercepted and shot down in the area of the city on the Baltic Sea.

"Combat operations continue," wrote the region's Governor, Aleksandr Drozdenko, on Telegram. The city's Governor, Aleksandr Beglov, also confirmed that St. Petersburg was "the target of a large-scale drone attack," urging residents to "stay indoors and not go out."

The offensive is part of a broader wave of attacks reported by Russian authorities: overnight alone, over 376 drones were reportedly intercepted across the entire territory of the Federation, including eight directed towards Moscow, according to the capital's Mayor Sergei Sobyenin. According to Moscow, drones from Kyiv have reportedly hit the St. Petersburg oil terminal and the Kronstadt military base, located about 1,100 kilometres from the Ukrainian border, in the recent days. As in previous offensives.

Mongolia: Indian Embassy hosts visiting Buddhist monks, senior delegates

ULAANBAATAR

The Ambassador of India to Mongolia on Saturday hosted a lunch at the Embassy Residence for the Buddhist monks and senior delegates who are on a visit to Mongolia as part of the delegation which brought the Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha's two Chief Disciples for an exposition in the country.

"On 06 June 2026, HE Mr Atul Malhari Gotsurve, Ambassador of India to Mongolia hosted a lunch at the Embassy Residence for the respected Buddhist monks and senior delegates who are on a visit to Mongolia as part of the delegation which brought the Holy Relics of the Lord Buddha's two Chief Disciples Arahant Sariputra and Arahant Maudgalyayana to



Mongolia for the exposition at Gandan Monastery from 31 May - 09 June 2026," the Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar of Mongolia wrote on X.

The relics arrived in the Mongolian capital on May 30 for a 10-day public exposition at the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery on the occasion of Mongolian Buddha Purnima.

The relics, which enjoy the status of the Head of State in terms of protocol and security, arrived in Ulaanbaatar by a special Indian Air Force (IAF) flight from New Delhi, accompanied by a high-level delegation led by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya.

The nearly 45-member delegation also includes senior

officers and reputed monks from India and Sri Lanka. According to the Indian Embassy in Mongolia, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is also actively involved in the organisation of the important exposition.

Together, the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka, the National Museum of India under the Ministry of Culture, in association with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, brought the holy relics to Mongolia at the request of the Gandan Tegchenling Monastery.

"India and Mongolia are strategic partners and spiritual siblings with deep civilisational linkages due to Buddhism. In this context, the exposition is a good opportunity for the followers of Buddhism in Mongolia.

India and Nepal agree to further deepen and broaden bilateral relationship

NEW DELHI

The Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi on Saturday stated in a press release that India and Nepal agreed to further deepen and broaden their bilateral relationship during talks between Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shisir Khanal, and the Minister of External Affairs, S. Jaishankar.

"Both sides agreed to further deepen and broaden the bilateral relationship through development partnerships, enhanced connectivity, and strong partnership on priority areas of mutual benefit," read the press release.

The press release noted that the two Ministers made joint announcements regarding the operationalisation of P2P cross-border payment transactions under the MoU between

NCHL and NPCI, signed in June 2023, and the handover of 72 health sector and 12 cultural sector post-earthquake reconstruction projects in Nepal, built with India's development assistance.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between Kathmandu University School of Engineering's Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence and Digital India Bhashini Division for co-creating the National Digital Infrastructure for "Voice First" Language Translation Platform.

The two Ministers held wide-ranging and productive discussions on the full spectrum of Nepal-India bilateral relations during the meeting. "The discussions encompassed areas of trade and economic cooperation, cross-border connectivity,

Indian NDC delegation visits Royal Thai Marine Corps HQ, discusses bilateral naval engagements



BANGKOK

A delegation from India's National Defence College (NDC) visited the Royal Thai Marine Corps Headquarters and held discussions with the Royal Thai Navy on bilateral naval engagements, the Embassy of India in Bangkok said on Saturday. "The NDC delegation from India visited Sattahip Naval Port, HTMS Chang, and the Royal Thai Marine Corps Headquarters and Museum as part of their Foreign Countries Study Tour," the Embassy wrote on X.

"The delegation toured the ship HTMS Chang and were briefed about the roles and responsibilities of these institutions. They also held productive discussions on bilateral naval engagements between the Indian and Royal Thai Navies," it added.

According to the Embassy, a solemn wreath-laying ceremony was conducted at the Royal Thai Marine Corps Monument to honour the Thai Marines who laid down their lives in duty. Earlier in the week, the delegation visited the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) Headquarters in Bangkok. The Embassy of India in Bangkok wrote on X that the delegation visited the RTAF Headquarters for a courtesy call on Air Marshal

Wichain Vijradharma, Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Intelligence) and held discussions with RTAF Museum as part of their Foreign Countries Study Tour.

The delegation also paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Puneet Agarwal at the Embassy of India in Bangkok.

The Embassy noted that a delegation led by Maj Gen APS Bal from the NDC India is on a study visit to Thailand and held discussions with Ambassador Puneet Agarwal.

It added that wide-ranging discussions took place on ways to further strengthen the India-Thailand Strategic Partnership through enhanced defence-sector engagement.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India-Thailand defence cooperation comprises regular joint exercises and joint maritime patrols near the international maritime boundary to counter terrorism, piracy, and smuggling. It also includes training of officers at each other's Armed Forces Training institutions, service staff talks, and exchange of visits at various levels.

Pakistan river contamination crisis grows amid systemic governance failure: Report

COLOMBO

The river contamination crisis in Pakistan unfolding across the Ravi, Sutlej, Kabul, Swat, and lower Indus water systems reflects not only environmental neglect but also exposes a broader breakdown of enforcement mechanisms, urban planning, and institutional responsibility.

The pollution continues to spread unabated with a lack of restraint, despite repeated warnings from experts, environmental agencies, and Pakistan's regulatory bodies, such as the Indus River System Authority (IRSA), a report has highlighted.

According to a report Sri Lankan newspaper Daily Mirror, millions of Pakistanis are already experiencing the consequences in the form of contaminated drinking water, damaged farmland, shrinking



fisheries, and increasing public health risks. With climate pressures mounting and freshwater becoming scarcer, the continued poisoning of rivers threatens to worsen a crisis that goes far beyond environmental concerns.

"In parts of Lahore, dark water foams beneath bridges where the Ravi once flowed as a lifeline for agriculture and communities. In Sindh, the vast waters of Manchar Lake have become increasingly unfit

for drinking, fishing, or irrigation. Further north, pollution spreading through the Kabul and Swat rivers now threatens public health in densely populated areas. Across Pakistan, rivers and lakes that once sustained millions are steadily turning into channels of industrial waste, untreated sewage, and chemical contamination," the report detailed.

"Pakistan's water crisis is no longer defined solely by scarcity. It has become a crisis of poi-

soned water systems, collapsing environmental oversight and institutional negligence on a national scale. While policymakers continue to discuss dams, storage projects, and water distribution disputes, another emergency has intensified with far less scrutiny: the contamination of the country's remaining freshwater resources," it added.

The report noted that recent warnings issued by the IRSA have once again highlighted the worsening condition of the Indus Basin Irrigation System, laying bare the governance failure that poses growing risks to public health, agriculture, and food security.

"The pollution crisis unfolding across Pakistan's rivers reflects years of weak regulation, inconsistent enforcement, and unchecked industrial discharge that authorities have repeatedly failed to control," it added.

Trump's 'Central Casting' remark that sparked headlines has a Hollywood connection

WASHINGTON

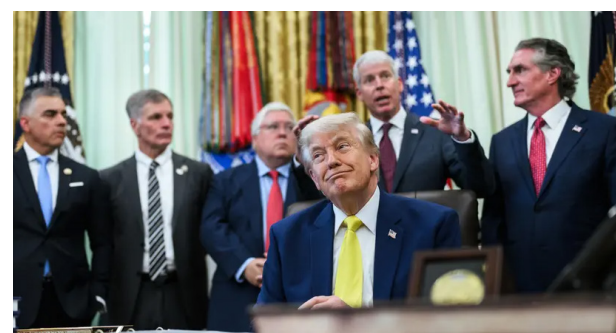
After nearly two decades of covering the White House, I have learned that no two Oval Office events are ever the same. Every US President has a different style. Every appearance has its own rhythm. And every question carries the possibility of producing an unexpected moment.

This week, one such moment unfolded in a way I could not have anticipated. Having had the privilege of covering President Donald Trump during both of his terms in office, I have had the opportunity to ask him questions on numerous occasions. As a member of the White House press corps, I have witnessed his willingness to engage with reporters on a wide range of subjects. Whether the topic is trade, foreign policy, immigration, national security, energy or international relations, he often

takes questions from journalists representing diverse outlets, including members of the foreign press corps. That experience was very much on my mind as I prepared to enter the Oval Office this week.

Steps away from the Oval Office, standing in the West Wing colonnade overlooking the Rose Garden, I was thinking about the question I would ask if called upon. My first choice was to ask about India-US cooperation in clean coal technology and energy security. But news often moves quickly inside the White House. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had recently concluded his visit to India, and a US trade delegation had just returned from negotiations there. Thus, trade and the future of India-US economic relations deserved priority.

A few moments later, we walked into the Oval Office. Like every



reporter in the room, I raised my hand and waited.

The Oval Office is one of the most recognisable rooms in the world, but for reporters, it can also be one of the most competitive. Journalists from major American television networks, international news organisations, wire services, newspapers and foreign media outlets often find themselves vying for a limited number of questions.

There are no guarantees. The President decides whom to call on, and often there are far more hands in the air than time available. When my turn came, I began asking about India-US relations, the recent trade discussions and his engagement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Before getting into the substance of my question, President Trump paused and looked at me. "Are you from India, by any chance?" he asked.

I replied that I was. Then came another remark. "I thought you were from Germany?" he said before quickly adding that he was joking. The room laughed.

Then he looked at me and said: "You're Central Casting." Almost immediately, he added: "That's a good thing."

The room laughed again, and the conversation quickly moved to the substance of my question. But within minutes, the phrase 'Central Casting' was generating attention. Friends, colleagues and readers began reaching out. Many wanted to know what exactly the President meant. The expression comes from Hollywood's Central Casting agency, which for generations supplied actors and extras to film and television productions. Over time, 'Central Casting' has become part of American political vocabulary, referring to someone

who perfectly fits a particular image or role. The phrase has long been part of American political and cultural language. Politicians, journalists and commentators often use it to describe someone who appears perfectly suited for a particular role — the military officer who looks exactly like a military officer, the police chief who looks as though he stepped out of a television drama, or the politician who seems tailor-made for public office. President Trump has employed the expression on numerous occasions over the years. He has used it to describe military leaders, public officials, business executives and foreign leaders whose appearance, bearing or personality fit a particular image. He recently used this for Chinese President Xi Jinping. Like many of his unscripted observations, the comments often attract attention because they are spontaneous and memorable.

Where to Invest During Rupee Weakness?

When the rupee comes under pressure, many investors start looking for a safe haven. But which asset actually delivers—gold, FDs or real estate? I spoke to experts to find out.

A few days ago, I was chatting with a friend about investments when the conversation drifted, almost inevitably, to the rupee. The Indian currency had weakened against the US dollar once again, and the usual questions followed.

"Should I buy gold?"
"Are fixed deposits still worth it?"
"Maybe property is the safest bet?"

These are the same questions many Indians ask every time the rupee comes under pressure. A weaker currency often brings with it concerns about rising prices, higher import costs and the impact on household savings. Naturally, people begin looking for assets that can protect their hard-earned money.

But where should one really invest when the rupee is weakening?

To find out, I spoke to investment and real estate experts. Their answers suggest that there is no single winner. While gold has historically emerged as one of the strongest defences against rupee depreciation, fixed deposits continue to offer stability and real estate remains a favoured long-term asset. The trick is understanding what each as-

set can and cannot do when the currency starts losing ground.

WHY GOLD USUALLY GETS THE FIRST VOTE

Whenever the rupee weakens, gold is usually the first asset that grabs investors' attention. The reason is fairly straightforward. Gold is priced globally in US dollars. So when the rupee falls against the dollar, domestic gold prices often get a boost, even if international gold prices remain unchanged. "Historically, gold has been the most reliable hedge against rupee depreciation for Indian investors. Since gold is priced globally in USD, a weaker rupee increases the gold price and improves from a return perspective," says Mohit Bagdi, Head of Investment Research and Founding Member of MIRA Money. According to Bagdi, gold significantly outperformed both real estate and fixed deposits during major periods of rupee weakness between 2011 and 2024. Siddharth Maurya, Founder and Managing Director of Vibhavgal Anukulakara Pvt. Ltd., also points to gold's long-term record. He says, "Historically, gold has been the better shelter for Indian investors when the rupee gets weak. Real estate delivered around 9.3% nominal returns while FDs averaged about 7.7%, but gold stood higher at roughly 10.2% annually over the long term."

At first glance, the verdict seems straightforward: gold wins. But there is a catch.

THE GOLD STORY COMES WITH A DIS-



CLAIMER

One of the biggest misconceptions among investors is that a falling rupee automatically guarantees higher gold returns. The reality is more complicated.

"A falling rupee does support gold prices domestically, but it's not automatic. Global gold prices in USD may simultaneously correct due to rising US interest rates or a stronger dollar," Bagdi explains.

Maurya points to an example many investors overlook.

"During India's 2013 rupee crisis, the rupee weakened sharply, but gold still fell significantly while the S&P 500 delivered strong gains. Gold has shown real losses in over a

third of five-year periods."

The lesson? Buying gold simply because the rupee is making headlines may not always be a winning strategy.

Experts suggest systematic investments through Gold ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) or periodic purchases rather than chasing prices after a rally.

THE COMFORT OF FDs AND THEIR HIDDEN PROBLEM

For generations of Indians, fixed deposits (FDs) have been synonymous with safety.

They offer certainty, predictable returns and peace of mind. In uncertain times, many investors instinctively move more money into FDs.

GOLD ETFs, SGBs, OR REITs?

For those looking to diversify, experts increasingly favour modern investment vehicles over traditional approaches.

Bagdi recommends Gold ETFs for their liquidity and

ease of investing. Sovereign Gold Bonds, where available through the secondary market, continue to attract investors because of the additional interest income they offer.

For real estate exposure, he believes REITs (Real Estate Investment Funds) offer an attractive middle path.

REAL ESTATE: SHIELD OR MYTH?

No asset class enjoys the emotional appeal that real estate does in India. For generations, property has been viewed as the ultimate wealth creator. Many investors instinctively turn to real estate whenever economic uncertainty rises.

But does that reputation hold up during periods of rupee weakness?

Bagdi believes the relationship is not as straightforward as many assume.

"The perception that real estate is a hedge against rupee weakness is increasingly outdated. A weaker rupee can increase construction costs, fuel inflation and eventually push interest rates higher. Costlier home loans can hurt demand." Yet the real

estate industry sees things somewhat differently. According to Vijay Raundal, Director of Teerth Realities, quality real estate continues to offer protection over the long term. "Real estate continues to be a solid hedge, especially in markets driven by infrastructure growth, urban expansion and strong end-user demand," he says. However, Raundal also cautions against blanket assumptions. "The idea that buying any property automatically generates high returns is old thinking. Today, success depends on location, connectivity, developer credibility and long-term fundamentals." In other words, real estate can still create wealth, but investors need to be selective rather than assuming all property investments are safe bets.

But safety and wealth preservation are not always the same thing.

"In a weak rupee environment, fixed deposits can lead to negative real returns," says Bagdi. "After taxes, many in-

vestors struggle to beat inflation." Maurya shares a similar view. "If FD yields are around 7% and inflation averages around 5%, post-tax returns can fall below inflation. That means purchasing power ac-

tually declines over time."

This is perhaps the biggest challenge with FDs. Your money may remain safe in nominal terms, but inflation quietly eats away at its real value. The problem becomes even more pronounced if rupee weakness pushes up prices of imported goods, fuel and everyday essentials.

SO, WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS DO?

Interestingly, none of the experts I spoke to recommended making drastic changes simply because the rupee is under pressure. Instead, they emphasised diversification. "When the rupee is under pressure, investors should gradually tilt towards inflation-linked and globally linked assets," says Bagdi. He suggests reducing excessive exposure to fixed deposits and allocating part of fresh savings to gold and international investments. Raundal agrees that balance matters more than bold bets. "A healthy mix of equity exposure, fixed-income instruments, gold and real estate can provide stability across different market cycles. The focus should remain on long-term goals rather

than short-term reactions."

For conservative investors, Bagdi recommends keeping 50-60% of the portfolio in FDs and debt funds while allocating smaller portions to equities, international assets and gold. The message from experts is clear: don't overhaul your portfolio overnight. Make thoughtful adjustments instead.

THE BIGGEST MISTAKE TAKES PEOPLE MAKE

A common thread emerged in almost every conversation I had with experts: panic often does more damage than the weakening rupee itself.

When the currency falls sharply, investors tend to chase whichever asset has recently delivered strong returns. "They buy gold after it has already surged, move everything into FDs for safety, or invest in property assuming it can never lose value," says Bagdi. Maurya highlights another mistake, i.e., ignoring currency risk altogether and keeping the bulk of one's wealth concentrated in traditional rupee-based assets.

Such reactions may feel comforting in the moment, but they often undermine long-term wealth creation.

against currency depreciation. Fixed deposits provide stability but often struggle to beat inflation after taxes. Real estate can still create wealth, but success depends heavily on location and market fundamentals. The real lesson is that protecting wealth during peri-

ods of rupee weakness is less about finding a magic asset and more about building a diversified portfolio. Because when the rupee weakens, the smartest response may not be to ask, "Where should I move all my money?" It may be to ask, "Have I spread my money wisely enough?"

Why file your ITR before July 31? These 3 benefits could help

With the July 31 ITR deadline approaching, taxpayers have another reason to avoid delays. Filing your return on time can unlock several benefits that could prove useful throughout the year.



Many taxpayers see income tax return (ITR) filing as just another annual task. But filing your return on time can do much more than help you meet a tax requirement. From getting refunds faster to making future financial transactions smoother, an ITR can be one of the most useful documents in your financial life.

With the July 31 deadline approaching, here are three important reasons why filing your ITR on time can be beneficial.

HELPS WITH LOANS, INSURANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

An ITR serves as proof of income and financial stability. Banks and financial institutions often ask for ITR documents when processing applications for home loans, personal loans or vehicle loans. The document may also be required while applying for high-value term insurance plans, as insurers use it to assess an applicant's income and eligibility. In addition, ITRs are commonly requested for visa applications, tender participation and other regulatory requirements.

ALLOWS YOU TO CLAIM REFUNDS AND MAINTAIN FINANCIAL RECORDS

If excess tax has been deducted through Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on salary, fixed deposits, rent or professional income, filing an ITR is necessary to claim the refund. Apart from helping taxpayers get their money back, an ITR also acts as an official income and address proof. It can support various financial and legal processes and helps maintain a proper record of

income and taxes over the years.

HELPS CARRY FORWARD LOSSES AND AVOID FUTURE ISSUES

Taxpayers who incur losses from stock market investments or business activities can carry forward those losses and adjust them against future income. However, this benefit is generally available only if the ITR is filed within the prescribed due date.

Experts say that timely and accurate ITR filing can also reduce the chances of receiving notices or scrutiny from tax authorities.

In other words, filing your return before the deadline not only helps avoid last-minute stress but also ensures that you can access important financial benefits without delay. Whether it is claiming a refund, applying for a loan or carrying forward losses, timely ITR filing can make many aspects of financial planning easier.

Share of Russian oil in Indian imports rises to 38%, premium paid jumps 425% in April 2026

Russia's share stood at about 34% in terms of the volume of India's oil imports in April 2026. File photo for representational purposes only.

Russia's share in the value of India's oil imports jumped back up to an 11-month high of nearly 38% in April 2026 as India continued to increase its dependence on it against the backdrop of the ongoing West Asia crisis.

This increasing dependence was accompanied by a 425% jump in the premium being charged by Russia for its oil, in contrast to the discount it had been offering until recently.

Russia's share stood at about 34% in terms of the volume of India's crude imports in April 2026. At the same time, India's dependence on oil from the U.S. fell to multi-month lows in terms of both value and volume. An analysis of data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India's total oil imports bounced back to 195.3 lakh tonnes in April 2026 after having dipped in March to 158.5 lakh tonnes following the start of the West Asian crisis. However, while this worked out to a 23% increase over March 2026 in terms of volume, the surging price of oil meant that India's total oil import bill jumped 61.3% to \$15.4 billion in April 2026, as compared to its level in the previous month. In this, the volume of India's oil imports from Russia stood at nearly 67 lakh tonnes in April, up 27% from March and making up 34.3% of the total amount of oil India imported during the month.

Expensive Russian oil

The rise in prices had a significant impact on the amount India paid for this oil. The Hindu had reported last month that the discount Russia used to offer India for its oil had turned into a premium in March 2026. The data now shows that India paid an even higher premium for Russian oil in April 2026 than it did in March. The total value of India's Russian oil imports stood at \$5.8 billion in April 2026, which was 377% of India's total oil import bill that month.



Want to use EPFO's UPI feature? Fix these 5 things first

Imagine accessing your PF savings as easily as making a UPI payment. That's the experience EPFO is aiming to offer soon. However, the new feature will work smoothly only if your account details are accurate. Experts recommend checking five key areas now to avoid problems later.

Maurya, Founder and Managing Director of Vibhavgal Anukulakara Pvt. Ltd., employees should not assume that the new system will automatically resolve existing issues.

"With EPFO getting ready to switch on PF withdrawals via UPI, employees should make sure everything on their side is fully updated, so there are no delays or transaction issues. Honestly, it's worth double-checking because even small gaps can mess up the flow," he said.

For years, withdrawing money from your Provident Fund has often meant paperwork, waiting periods and multiple verification checks. That could soon change.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is preparing to introduce UPI-based withdrawals, a move that could make accessing PF savings almost as easy as sending money through a payment app. The government has already completed testing of the UPI payment gateway, and the facility is expected to be rolled out soon.

For millions of salaried employees, this is more than just a technology upgrade. It could fundamentally change how quickly they can access their hard-earned retirement savings during emergencies or major life events.

But before celebrating the convenience of instant withdrawals, experts have a word of caution: make sure your records are in order.

A Faster PF System Is on the Horizon

The upcoming facility is part of EPFO's broader push towards digitisation and quicker claim settlements. The organisation has already introduced auto-settlement for eligible claims of up to Rs 5 lakh, significantly reducing processing times.

According to Siddharth

Maurya, Founder and Managing Director of Vibhavgal Anukulakara Pvt. Ltd., employees should not assume that the new system will automatically resolve existing issues.

"If there's any mismatch between what EPFO has on file and what your KYC documents show, it may create processing problems once the new platform goes live," he said.

THINK OF YOUR UAN AS THE FRONT DOOR TO YOUR PF MONEY

The first thing employees should verify is whether they can access their Universal Account Number (UAN). Many people realise they have forgotten their password or changed their mobile number only when they urgently need funds. Experts say now is the ideal time to log in, check account access and update contact details if required.

When UPI withdrawals become available, a smoothly functioning UAN account could make all the difference.

CHECK AADHAAR, PAN AND NAME DETAILS CAREFULLY

It may sound surprising, but something as simple as a spelling mismatch can hold up a PF claim.

Indians have no will for a WILL

A house. A few bank accounts. Some investments. Perhaps a family business. For many Indians, these assets represent decades of hard work. Yet surprisingly few leave behind clear instructions on who gets what, creating uncertainty for the very people they wanted to protect.

A few years ago, a friend told me about two brothers who had stopped speaking to each other. The reason was not a business dispute or a long-standing family feud. It was their late father's house.

The father had spent decades building that home. He worked hard, saved diligently and ensured his children had a comfortable life. Yet he left one important task unfinished, i.e., he never wrote a Will. Within months of his passing, the children who had grown up together found themselves on opposite sides

of an inheritance dispute. Lawyers stepped in. Court visits became routine. Family gatherings stopped. The property remained locked while relationships slowly fell apart. Sadly, this is not an isolated story.

Most of us have witnessed similar situations, either within our own families or among relatives, neighbours and friends. A parent dies, leaving behind a lifetime of wealth but no clear instructions on who should inherit it. Children who once stood by each other can then find themselves locked in disputes over a house, land, jewellery, bank deposits or a family business. What should have been a legacy of security becomes a source of conflict. And yet, despite seeing these stories play out time and again, most Indians continue to avoid making a Will. It is almost as if India has no will for a Will.

A NATION BUILDING



WEALTH BUT IGNORING SUCCESSION

Indians today are wealthier than ever before. We are buying homes, investing in mutual funds, building stock portfolios, acquiring businesses and creating assets that previous generations could only dream of. Yet while we have become increasingly sophisticated about creating wealth, we remain surprisingly reluctant to plan what happens to it after we are gone. A recent study by 1 Finance Magazine highlights this uncomfortable

reality. The findings are striking. Nearly 84.8% of respondents do not have a Will. Even more concerning, 62.5% have no plans to make one. Only 15.2% currently have a Will in place. These figures suggest that estate planning is not merely being postponed. In many households, it is barely entering the conversation at all. The study also found that nearly half of respondents have never discussed Wills or succession planning with their families. The silence surrounding inheritance appears

to be almost as significant as the absence of Wills themselves.

THE FAMILY CONVERSATION WE KEEP POSTPONING

Death remains one of India's biggest conversational taboos. Many people believe discussing a Will is somehow inviting bad luck. Others assume there is plenty of time. Some think their children will "sort things out" when the time comes. That assumption is often dangerously misplaced. As Ashish Nasa, MD and CEO of Universal Trustees (a firm specialising in estate and succession planning), points out, many Indians still believe estate planning is only for retirees, the elderly or families with complicated relationships. "People believe building wealth is more important than planning how that wealth will be passed on," he says. But modern families are far more complex than before. Assets now include

investments, insurance policies, businesses, digital assets and sometimes even overseas holdings. Without proper documentation, transferring these assets can become a legal and emotional nightmare for those left behind, he says.

"A WILL IS NOT JUST FOR THE ELDERLY OR RICH"

Another widespread misconception is that Wills are only necessary for the rich. Nasa disagrees. "A Will is not a document just for the elderly or wealthy," he says. "The best time to write a Will isn't when you feel old. The best time is when you have something to protect and people to provide for." That message is particularly relevant for younger Indians who may already own a home, have investments, run businesses or support ageing parents and young children.

A Will is not about the size of your wealth. It is about providing clarity for the people who may one day depend on it.



Why Oats Deserve a Place in Your Daily Diet

Choosing the Right Type of Oats Matters

Not all oats are processed the same way:

Steel-cut oats are the least processed and digest more slowly. Rolled oats are slightly processed but still highly nutritious.

Instant oats cook quickly but often have a higher glycemic impact.

Flavored instant oats frequently contain added sugars and artificial ingredients.

Interestingly, the nutritional differences between steel-cut and rolled oats are relatively small, but steel-cut oats may provide slightly better blood sugar control due to slower digestion.

Don't Forget Healthy Fats
Healthy fats help make oatmeal more satisfying and nutritionally complete.

- Adding:
- Almonds
 - Walnuts
 - Chia seeds
 - Flaxseeds

- Peanut butter
 - Almond butter
- can improve satiety and provide heart-healthy fats, omega-3 fatty acids, and additional micronutrients.

Oats and Gut Health
Another reason oats continue to attract attention from researchers is their impact on the gut microbiome. Beta-glucan acts as a prebiotic fiber, helping beneficial gut bacteria thrive. A healthier gut microbiome has been linked to improved digestion, immunity, metabolic health, and even mood regulation.

Can You Eat Oats Every Day?
For most people, yes. Daily oat consumption is generally considered safe and beneficial. Regular intake has been associated with:

- Lower cholesterol levels
 - Better blood sugar control
 - Improved digestive health
 - Increased fullness
 - Better heart health
 - Easier weight management
- The key is balance. Instead of eating

Oats have earned their reputation as one of the healthiest breakfast foods available. Rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals, and plant compounds, they offer a range of health benefits that

The Biggest Mistake: Treating Oats as a Complete Meal

Many people assume that a bowl of plain oatmeal is a perfectly balanced breakfast. While oats are nutritious, they are primarily a source of carbohydrates and fiber. A serving of oats contains some protein, but often not enough to keep you satisfied for several hours. When eaten alone, especially

in large portions, oats may leave you hungry sooner than expected. Nutrition experts increasingly recommend combining oats with protein-rich foods such as yogurt, milk, soy milk, cottage cheese, eggs, nuts, seeds, or protein powder. This combination can help maintain energy levels, improve satiety, and support muscle maintenance throughout the day.

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support heart health, digestion, blood sugar control, and weight management. The star nutrient in oats is beta-glucan, a soluble fiber that forms a gel-like substance in the digestive tract, helping

lower LDL ("bad") cholesterol, slow glucose absorption, and increase feelings of fullness. Research has consistently shown that regular oat consumption can improve cardiovascular health. Some recent studies have even found meaningful reductions in LDL cholesterol after short periods of increased oat intake, highlighting the powerful effect of beta-glucan on cholesterol metabolism.

A healthier approach is to add

sweetness naturally through:

- Fresh berries
- Sliced apples
- Bananas
- Dates
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg
- Vanilla extract

These options provide flavor while also contributing fiber, antioxidants, and micronutrients.

plain oats with sugar, build a complete meal by combining oats with protein, healthy fats, and fruit.

A Perfect Balanced Oat Bowl

A nutritious breakfast could include:

- ½ cup rolled oats
- 200 g Greek yogurt or high-protein curd
- 1 tablespoon chia or flax seeds
- A handful of berries or chopped fruit
- A few almonds or walnuts
- Cinnamon for flavor

This combination provides fiber, protein, healthy fats, vitamins, and minerals while keeping you full and energized for much longer than plain oatmeal alone.

In short, oats remain one of the best breakfast foods available—but the way you prepare them can determine whether they become a powerful health food or simply another high-carbohydrate meal. By avoiding excess sugar, adding protein and healthy fats, and choosing minimally processed oats, you can get the maximum nutritional benefit from every bowl.



Why Packaged Fruit Juice May Harm Your Liver

For many people, a glass of fruit juice feels like one of the healthiest choices they can make. Whether it's orange juice at breakfast, mixed fruit juice during the day, or packaged juice marketed as "100% natural," these drinks are often associated with vitamins, freshness, and overall wellness. However, health experts are increasingly warning that fruit juice may not be as healthy as many consumers believe, particularly when it comes to liver health.

According to Harvard- and Stanford-trained gastroenterologist Dr. Saurabh Sethi, packaged fruit juices can contribute to the development and progression of fatty liver disease, a condition that is becoming increasingly common worldwide.

In a recent Instagram video, Dr. Sethi explained that the problem lies not with fruit itself but with what happens when fruit is processed into juice. While whole fruits contain valuable nutrients, fiber, antioxidants, and water, the juicing process strips away much of the fibre, leaving behind a concentrated source of sugar that the body processes very differently.

Why Whole Fruit And Fruit Juice Are Not The Same

Many people assume that

drinking fruit juice is nutritionally equivalent to eating fruit. However, experts say this is one of the biggest misconceptions in nutrition.

When you eat an apple, orange, or pear, the fibre present in the fruit slows down digestion and sugar absorption. This helps prevent rapid spikes in blood sugar and allows the body to process the natural sugars more gradually. Fruit juice, on the other hand, removes most of that fibre. As a result, the sugar becomes concentrated and enters the bloodstream much more quickly. In some cases, a single glass of juice may contain the sugar equivalent of several pieces of fruit, making it easy to consume far more sugar than you would normally eat in one sitting. This is particularly concerning because many commercially packaged fruit juices contain additional sweeteners, flavour enhancers, or fruit concentrates that further increase the sugar load.

The Fructose Problem

Dr. Sethi highlights fructose as the primary reason packaged fruit juices can be problematic for liver health.

Unlike glucose, which can be used by muscles and other tissues throughout the body, fructose is metabolised mainly in the liver. When

large amounts of fructose are consumed regularly, the liver converts much of it into fat through a process known as de novo lipogenesis. Over time, this fat can accumulate inside liver cells, contributing to the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), now more commonly referred to as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD).

Health experts note that fatty liver disease is no longer limited to people who drink alcohol excessively. Increasingly, it is being diagnosed in individuals whose diets are high in added sugars, refined carbohydrates, and ultra-processed foods.

Why Fatty Liver Disease Is A Growing Concern

Fatty liver disease occurs when excess fat builds up in the liver. In its early stages, it may cause few or no symptoms, making it difficult to detect without medical testing. However, if left unmanaged, the condition can progress to inflammation, liver scarring, and potentially serious complications.

Common risk factors include:

- Obesity
- Type 2 diabetes
- Insulin resistance
- High triglyceride levels
- Sedentary lifestyle

Diets high in sugar and processed foods because sugary beverages are absorbed quickly and provide little satiety, they are considered one of the major dietary contributors to excess calorie intake and metabolic dysfunction.

packaged Juice Vs Whole Fruit

Nutrition experts generally agree that whole fruits are the healthier choice.

Whole fruits provide:

- Dietary fibre
- Vitamins and minerals
- Antioxidants
- Better satiety
- Slower sugar absorption

In contrast, packaged fruit juices often provide:

- Concentrated sugar
- Minimal fibre
- Rapid blood sugar spikes
- Higher calorie intake with less fullness

This doesn't mean fruit itself is unhealthy. Rather, the body responds differently when fruit is consumed in its natural form compared to its liquid, processed version.

What About Smoothies?

Smoothies are often marketed as healthy alternatives, but experts caution that not all smoothies are created equal. A smoothie made entirely from multiple fruits can contain a large amount of sugar, even if it is naturally occurring sugar.



KL Rahul, Gill hit tons as India end Day One at 368/3 against Afghanistan



NEW CHANDIGARH

Opener KL Rahul and captain Shubman Gill struck commanding centuries after B. Sai Sudharsan impressed with a fluent 81 as India ended the opening day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan in a dominant position at 368/3 in 85 overs on Friday.

After opting to bat, India were tested early by Afghanistan's disciplined pace attack. Yashasvi Jaiswal looked positive in his 24 off 32 balls, hitting five boundaries, but fell to Mohammad Saleem Safi after edging a leg-side delivery to wicketkeeper Afsar Zazai, leaving India at 41/1.

Rahul, meanwhile, endured a difficult start and survived a major scare on 16 when Afghanistan declined to review a caught-behind appeal despite an edge. The experienced opener gradually settled alongside Sai Sudharsan, who looked assured from the outset, though he offered a chance that was spilt by Rahmanullah Gurbaz before lunch. India reached 96/1 at the inter-

val, with Rahul and Sai beginning to wrest control from the visitors.

The second session belonged entirely to the pair. Rahul emerged with greater intent after lunch and brought up his 21st Test fifty, while Sai continued to impress with his composure against both pace and spin. The left-hander used the sweep effectively against the spinners and rotated the strike smartly as the partnership crossed three figures. Afghanistan's bowlers worked hard without much reward, though Saleem Safi generated reverse swing and created opportunities. Sai survived another chance on 59 when an outside edge evaded the diving wicketkeeper, while Rahul escaped an lbw review thanks to a faint inside edge.

The breakthrough finally arrived when Saleem Safi dismissed Sai for a well-crafted 81 off 104 balls, ending a superb 139-run second-wicket stand that had transformed India's position.

Gill settled quickly at No. 4 and provided immediate momentum with a series of crisp boundaries. By Tea, India

had advanced to 209/2, with Rahul unbeaten on 81 and Gill looking increasingly comfortable.

The final session further tilted the contest in India's favour. Rahul completed his 12th Test century, reaching the landmark with a flick for two runs before eventually falling for exactly 100, caught behind by Gurbaz off Ziaur Rahman Sharifi. It was the third successive occasion he had been dismissed on the century mark.

Gill then assumed control, batting with authority and patience to bring up a century of his own. Alongside him, Rishabh Pant curbed his natural aggression to compile an unbeaten 50 as the pair added an unbroken century partnership. Home boy Gill remained unbeaten on 103, while Pant was not out on 50, leaving India firmly in command heading into Day 2.

Brief scores: India 368/3 in 85 overs (Shubman Gill 103*, KL Rahul 100, Sai Sudharsan 81; Mohammad Sa

Always wanted to win a tournament when Magnus is playing, says Praggnanandhaa

NEW DELHI

For years, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa watched Magnus Carlsen dominate world chess. This week, the Indian Grandmaster achieved something he had long aspired to do - win a major tournament with the Norwegian legend in the field. Praggnanandhaa scripted history by becoming the first Indian to claim the prestigious Norway Chess title, completing a remarkable turnaround after finding himself at the bottom of the standings after six rounds. In an exclusive interaction with IANS, the 20-year-old reflected on his comeback, victories over elite opponents, handling pressure, and the lessons he took away from the biggest title of his career.

While his wins over Carlsen grabbed headlines, Praggnanandhaa said the losses against the World No. 1 have been equally valuable in shaping him as a player.

"I have lost so many times that I think only the wins get a lot of attention. But I think, you know, he is, I mean, such a great player that every time I play with him, I always learn a lot. And he is someone that I have, you know, grown up watching his game, and the way he has dominated the chess world for the last 15 years is just amazing. I mean, even now, whenever he plays a tournament, he is the favourite to win, and he ends up winning most of the tournaments. He's probably still the best. And it's something I've always wanted: to win a tournament when he is playing, because he usually wins most of them," Praggnanandhaa told IANS.

Looking back at the moment when his title aspirations began to feel real, Praggnanandhaa pointed to his victory over Carlsen as a major turning point. "Once, I mean, I bet earlier that I felt a lot more in control in that game. And then I felt there was an outside chance I could get to the top, but I still had to cross the big hurdle of Magnus in the next round. So I was focused on that. And then, you know, the opponents are also fighting, so I knew I could get my chances if I played well. So once I beat Magnus, it gave me a lot of confidence, and I felt that I could actually do it. And then, you know, I also needed things to go my way. Some moments went my way. But I think when you play well, sometimes you do get this luck at the right moment," he said.

The Norway Chess champion believes some of his finest chess came at the business end of the tournament, when the pressure was at its highest, as he said, "I'll say the last two games were quite good quality. I felt a lot more in control. I



don't think I made any mistakes as such. And also, winning those games in the final games is always high-pressure. So, I think playing a controlled game in such a situation is something I always want to do. But, you know, to have it happen is a special thing."

Despite facing some of the strongest players in the world, Praggnanandhaa said his focus throughout the event remained on producing high-quality chess rather than getting consumed by the stature of his opponents.

"In every game, you sort of try different opening strategies and so on. But I think overall, I wanted to play my best. I wanted to play good-quality chess. I think I managed to do that. I mean, in general, I think that at some point in every game, I started to feel like I was pushing. So that shows that I, like, none of the games, I was completely in a defensive mode. So that's a good thing. And, you know, playing good-quality chess is what I wanted to do. And I'm happy that I managed to do it," the Indian grandmaster stated. Praggnanandhaa also shed light on the mental challenge of dealing with mistakes during a game, explaining why dwelling on errors can often lead to further problems.

"It depends on the type of mistake and which game you're in. I mean, all these things do matter. But in general, I think regretting a mistake is the last thing you want to do in chess. And this is something that always happens to players. You can see mistakes come in pairs because once a mistake is made, players realise they shouldn't have made it.

"These thoughts keep coming, and this affects players. And then, you know, you see another mistake. So I think we are all experienced enough not to do this, but it also happens to everyone. So it's not something that you can avoid all the time. But in general, most of the time.

WR Women's Chess Tour

Sister Vaishali follows in Pragg's footsteps, wins in Tokyo



MUMBAI: A few hours after Grandmaster (GM) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Norway Chess title, his sister R Vaishali finished on the podium by claiming the title in the first event of the WR Women's Chess Tour in Tokyo, Japan. Vaishali, the World Championship Challenger, shone bright in the eight-player rapid event with a time control of 15 minutes with a 10-second increment after every move. Vaishali finished ahead of Russians Alexandra Kosteniuk and Kateryna Lagno and Antoaneta Stefanova of Bulgaria, Women's World Champion from 2004 to 2006. The other players in the fray were Anna Sargysan, Irine Sukandar, Alua Nurman, and Azumi Sakai. Vaishali, the 24-year-old from Chennai, showed her class in the event by defeating IM Alua Nurman of Kazakhstan in the final, winning 1.5-0.5 in the two-game match-up. Vaishali had reached the final by beating former Women's World Champion Kosteniuk by the same 1.5-0.5 margin. In the quarterfinal, Vaishali had defeated IM Irene Sukanar.

Shreyas Iyer replaces Suryakumar Yadav as India's new T20I captain



NEW DELHI

The chatter over the last few days on the future of India men's T20I captaincy has been finally made clear at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai on Saturday. In a decisive shift at the top, Shreyas Iyer has replaced Suryakumar Yadav as India's T20I captain, with his first assignment being the tours of Ireland and England.

India will play two T20Is in Dublin on June 26 and 28, followed by a five-match series in England from July 1 to 11. With Shreyas, the ODI vice-captain, at the helm of the T20I side, it marks the start of a new chapter for India in the shortest format, especially with the Los Angeles Olympics and the next Men's T20 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand happening in 2028.

The spotlight ahead of Saturday's selection meeting and announcement was firmly on the Men's T20I captaincy question, with Suryakumar Yadav's prolonged lean patch forcing the se-

lectors and team management's hand to look towards the future and finalise Shreyas as the new leader of the side in the shortest format.

It is understood that possibilities of keeping Suryakumar as captain till England tour were explored, while Hardik Pandya was also believed to be in the fray for the leadership role. But Shreyas demonstrating astute leadership skills, and him earning the unanimous respect of all people in the dressing room in either IPL or domestic cricket, combined with Suryakumar's extended woeful run and him turning 36 in September helped him get the nod of forward looking decision makers as India's next leader in T20Is.

Suryakumar, who led India to a historic defence of the Men's T20 World Cup title on home soil in March, managed only 270 runs in 13 innings for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2026 at an average of 20.76. His T20 World Cup returns - 242 runs at a strike rate of 136.72.

'Very happy for Shreyas': Suryakumar reacts to Iyer becoming India T20I captain

MUMBAI

Former India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has welcomed Shreyas Iyer's appointment as the new skipper of the men's T20I side, saying he was "very, very, very happy" for his long-time Mumbai teammate and describing the development as a proud moment for Mumbai cricket.

Hours after being replaced as captain by Shreyas, Suryakumar came face-to-face with the newly-appointed India skipper during a T20 Mumbai League fixture on Saturday. Suryakumar led Triumph Knights MNE, while

Shreyas was part of the SoBo Mumbai Falcons setup as an Impact Substitute.

The two Mumbai stalwarts shared a warm hug before the start of the match, reflecting the bond they have built over years of playing together for Mumbai and India. Speaking at the toss, Suryakumar put aside any personal disappointment and congratulated Shreyas on taking charge of the national T20 side.

"As you said, so many things are happening, but obviously very, very, very happy for Shreyas as he's getting to lead the T20 Indian team. We played a lot of cricket together in Bombay. The most important thing, what I felt, is that



three back-to-back Mumbai captains are going to lead T20s for India. I think it's a very proud moment, and everyone needs to celebrate that," Suryakumar said. The comments marked Suryaku-

mar's first public reaction to Shreyas' appointment after the BCCI announced sweeping changes to India's T20I setup earlier in the day.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar had acknowledged that removing Suryakumar from the captaincy was a difficult decision, especially after he guided India to the T20 World Cup title earlier this year. However, the selectors opted for a fresh leadership direction with an eye on the next World Cup cycle, citing Shreyas' strong leadership credentials and consistent performances across formats. Earlier in the day, Suryakumar had also taken to social media to

wish the Indian team success, posting a picture of the squad on his Instagram story with the message: "Wishing this highly skilled group all the best for challenges ahead." The 35-year-old also congratulated teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi on receiving his maiden India call-up, writing: "You have earned it and how."

Super excited to follow your journey." While his tenure as India's T20I captain has come to an end, Suryakumar's public messages throughout the day reflected support for his successor and encouragement for the next generation of Indian cricketers.

Sooryavanshi earns maiden call-up for T20I tours

MUMBAI

Teenaged batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has earned a maiden call-up to the Indian T20I team for the tours of Ireland, England and the Asian Games. With Shreyas Iyer appointed as India's new T20I captain, he replaces Suryakumar Yadav, who has been left out of all three squads.

"Shreyas was quite close to getting into that T20 World Cup squad. It was a tough call on Suryakumar Yadav, but you need to reassess your plan moving forward. Shreyas is a well-deserving captain. He is a standout candidate with enough experience."

"I talked to most people, particularly when it comes to a captain who has won the



World Cup. We had that. We debated it a lot, not the easiest discussion especially if you've won the WC. At some stage, we would've discussed. Shreyas playing as well as he has made the decision easier," said chief selector Ajit Agarkar in the press conference.

India will play two T20Is in Belfast on June 26 and 28, followed by five matches in England from July 1 to 11.

Yonex-Sunrise Sub-Junior Ranking Tournament Concludes at Gachibowli

HYDERABAD

The Yonex-Sunrise All India Sub-Junior (Under-15 and Under-17) Ranking Badminton Tournament, held at the Pallela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Gachibowli from May 29, concluded on Saturday with great enthusiasm. More than 3,600 young shuttlers from 28 states across the country participated in the prestigious event, showcasing their talent and competitive spirit. The week-long tournament featured thrilling contests, with several emerging badminton stars displaying exceptional skills and entertaining spectators.

In the Under-15 Boys' Singles category, Aditya Singh Negi of Uttarakhand emerged as the champion, while Anvi Rathore of Rajasthan clinched the Under-15 Girls' Singles title. Telangana's Hamsini finished as the runner-up and earned widespread appreciation for her performance. In the Under-17 Girls' Singles category, Avani secured the championship title.

In the Boys' Doubles event, the pair of Tabin Anuf Ahmed M.F. from Tamil Nadu and Srichaitan Shaurya Shyamala from Telangana delivered an outstanding performance to emerge victorious. The Girls' Doubles title was won by Alexia Elsa Alexander of Kerala and Jaya Sathashree M. of Tamil Nadu. In the Mixed Doubles category, the duo of Liangsangpu from Mizoram and Kimkim Khongsai from Nagaland



claimed the championship.

The closing ceremony was attended by Telangana IT Minister and President of the Telangana Badminton Association, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, who presented prizes to the winners and runners-up. Speaking on the occasion, he lauded the invaluable contribution of national chief coach Pallela Gopichand to the growth of Indian badminton. He noted that Gopichand's efforts in nurturing talented players from the grassroots level to the global

stage have been instrumental in elevating India's standing in international badminton. His role in producing world-class shuttlers and bringing glory to the nation, he said, will remain unforgettable.

Vice President of the Telangana Badminton Association, Upala Srinivas Gupta, congratulated the young participants for their impressive performances. He praised the high standard of competition displayed by players from across the country and expressed confidence that, with

discipline, dedication, and consistent training, many of them would go on to represent India successfully on the international stage.

V. Chamundeswari Nath also congratulated the winners and runners-up, emphasizing the crucial role played by coaches and parents in the success of young athletes. She expressed hope that the budding shuttlers would continue their hard work and achieve greater success at national and international levels, bringing laurels to the country.

The event was attended by Organizing Secretary U.V.N. Babu, Boys' Convener Umar Rasheed, TBA Vice President V. Chamundeswari Nath, TBA Advisor Kosaraju Laxman, Treasurer K. Vamsidhar, TBA members Srinivasa Rao, Media Coordinator Ramana Reddy, sponsor Raji Reddy, Sravanthi, representative of Global Solutions, and several other distinguished guests.

Indian women's 4x100m relay team clinches gold

NEW TAIPEI CITY

India's women's 4x100m relay team produced a commanding performance to clinch the gold medal and set a new meet record at the New Taipei City Athletics Open, a World Athletics Continental Tour Silver event, on Saturday.

The quartet of Srabani Nanda, S.S. Sneha, Sudeshna Shivankar, and Tamanna clocked an impressive 44.07 seconds at the Banqiao Stadium in Taiwan to finish atop the podium. In the process, the Indian team shattered the previous meet record and secured



victory by a comfortable margin of 0.31 seconds over Vietnam, which finished second. Apart from the relay triumph, India also enjoyed success in the field events through prom-

ising long jumper Shailli Singh, who secured the gold medal in the women's long jump competition. Shailli registered a best effort of 6.24 metres to finish ahead of her rivals and add an-

other medal to India's tally at the meet.

India's Tejas Shirse also impressed on the track, claiming the silver medal in the men's 110m hurdles. Shirse delivered a strong performance against a competitive field to finish among the top two and continue his encouraging progress in the sprint hurdles discipline. Tejas previously also won gold in the national championships. His gold-winning time was 13.50 seconds. He improved his own meet record of 13.61 secs but missed out on winning a CWG berth. The qualification time was 13.39 secs.

Ashika Supports Janhvi's Choice

The ongoing controversy of Janhvi Kapoor doing the role of glamorous village belle, wearing no pallu over the blouse in the recently released "Peddi" is refusing to die down. While many critics and feminists have blamed director Buchi Babu Sana for crafting the role in a vulgar fashion, there are those enthusiasts who stated that Janhvi Kapoor chose to do the role in the first place, if not for the ₹6 crores remuneration she's paid.

As some journalists are supporting Janhvi Kapoor in this regard, saying that actresses have got nothing to do except doing such sizzling roles in movies of big stars like Ram Charan and Jr NTR, Ashika Ranganath took to her social media, giving her support to Janhvi's choice. She wrote, "Don't blame the actress. Blame the system and the makers who still think this is what sells. Actors often work within the opportunities available to them, hoping to be part of bigger films and reach wider audiences. If female characters feel underwritten, the responsibility lies more with the writing and filmmaking choices than with the women playing those roles".

"THE DEBATE AROUND PEDDI IS NOT JUST ABOUT ONE ACTRESS OR ONE COSTUME CHOICE; IT REFLECTS A LARGER CONVERSATION ABOUT HOW WOMEN ARE WRITTEN, PRESENTED AND PERCEIVED IN MAINSTREAM CINEMA. AS AUDIENCES EVOLVE, FILMMAKERS MAY NEED TO BALANCE COMMERCIAL APPEAL WITH STRONGER, MORE MEANINGFUL FEMALE CHARACTERS."

wondering why actresses should pick up such roles in the first place, if they think that there is nothing to offer in the role except the glamour part, like how Ashika Ranganath did in Raviteja's Bhartha Mahaseyulaku Wignayathi. At the same time, filmmakers should also focus on carving out better roles for actresses as they are already doing similar glam treatment on Instagram as well, and continuing the same to the silver screen makes no difference.

The debate has also reignited a long-standing discussion within the Telugu film industry about the portrayal of female characters in commercial cinema. While filmmakers often argue that glamorous presentation is a part of mass-market entertainment, critics point out that several recent blockbuster films have succeeded with women characters who contribute meaningfully to the narrative rather than merely serving as visual attractions.

Industry observers note that the issue extends beyond a single film or actress. Over the years, many leading heroines have accepted roles with limited screen space or character development in order to be associated with big-budget projects and star-driven films. Such opportunities often provide greater visibility and career advancement, even when the scope of performance is restricted.

Social media has further complicated the conversation, with audiences increasingly scrutinising costume choices, character design and the overall treatment of women in mainstream cinema. While some viewers see Janhvi Kapoor's appearance in Peddi as a creative decision made by the filmmakers, others believe that criticism should be directed at broader industry practices rather than at an individual actor.

Meanwhile, supporters of the film argue that judging a character solely based on promotional material or a few glimpses from the movie may be premature. They contend that the complete context of the role will become clear only after audiences watch the film in its entirety. As the discussion continues online, the controversy has once again highlighted the delicate balance filmmakers must strike between commercial appeal and meaningful characterisation.

RAPO23: Tirru to handle camera for Ram Pothineni's next

Ram Pothineni is turning to direction. His ambitious project #RAPO23 marks his directorial debut. Besides playing the role of Veera in the film, he handles the megaphone. Now, National Award-winning cinematographer Thirunavukarasu, popularly known as Tirru, has come on board as the Director of Photography for the film. He earlier handled camera for super hit Telugu films such as "Janatha Garage" and "Bharat Ane Nenu." With Tirru joining the project, the makers appear to be strengthening the film's technical team to bring that vision to life.

Produced by Krishna Pothineni under the newly launched banner Rapo Cinematics, the film is being mounted on a grand scale as a psychological action thriller set in a neo-noir world. The film carries the intriguing tagline, "The Story of a Lone Wolf." The team has not announced the details about the film's lead heroine and music director.

From July, Kalki 2 will move at a rapid pace: Nag Ashwin



Director Nag Ashwin is currently busy promoting "Sing Geetham," a unique musical film produced by him and directed by veteran filmmaker Singeetam Srinivasa Rao. The film, in which the actors sing their dialogues instead of speaking them, is set to hit theaters on June 11. While he has been actively involved in "Sing Geetham" as a producer and creative collaborator, Nag Ashwin has also quietly begun work on "Kalki 2," the much-awaited sequel to the blockbuster "Kalki 2898 AD."

Speaking to the media, Nag Ashwin revealed that the sequel is already on floors. "The shooting of Kalki 2 has already begun. We are making arrangements to shoot continuously starting next month and complete it at a rapid pace," he said.

The film stars Prabhas in the lead role, with Kamal Haasan and Amitabh Bachchan playing pivotal characters. Nag Ashwin is currently filming sequences involving Kamal Haasan and other cast members, while Prabhas is expected to join the upcoming schedules. There has also been speculation regarding the female lead. While Deepika Padukone played a key role in the first installment, reports suggest that Sai Pallavi has come on board for the sequel. However, the makers have not made any official announcement regarding the casting.

With production gathering momentum, fans can expect more updates on "Kalki 2" in the coming months.



Sai Pallavi Is The First Choice, Not Me

As the film "Maa Inti Bangaram" is gearing for a release on June 19th, former star heroine Samantha Ruth Prabhu got super active on the promotional front. She's recording various interviews and putting up lots of content on social media to get superior attention for the film. However, as the producer of the film who bankrolled his Nandini Reddy directorial on her "Tralala Moving Pictures" banner, the actress revealed something sensational.

While many questioned why Samantha wants to make films with herself rather than producing movies with other heroines, the actress shared an interesting snippet.

"Actually, I didn't choose this movie; it came to me. Initially, Sai Pallavi garu was the first choice of the makers for the movie, but she's too busy to accommodate dates for us, and hence I've taken up the film making certain tweaks for the script. Hope the film succeeds at the box office, such that more other actresses will sign the films offered by Tralala,"

says Samantha, revealing the reality behind the film's initial choice.

However, movie lovers say that Samantha has done action sequences earlier in the web series Citadel Honey Bunny; surely she would pull the role with ease. But for Sai Pallavi, she never looked like someone who could do action films so easily, and that choice would have either clicked terrifically or would have bombed too. Samantha is the safe choice for now, and June 19th will prove how that actually works.

Madhuri says society still judges women differently than men

Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit, whose latest release is "Maa Behen", has spoken out against the double standards women face in matters of love and relationships, pointing to the deep-rooted patriarchal mindset in the society.

Talking about how men are often celebrated for their romantic choices while women are judged for the same, the actress said such biases have long been normalized.

"It's a patriarchal society. I mean, from the beginning, it's like, that's the way it is. Men can have girlfriends... If he has girlfriends, he's a Casanova. If a woman does the same, she's called names. You know, she's like a very negative thing," Madhuri told IANS.

The 59-year-old actress shared that 'Maa Behen' challenges these conventions, presenting flawed, chaotic and relatable characters who break the rules society has traditionally imposed.



It stars Madhuri Dixit, Triptii Dimri, Dharna Durga, and Ravi Kishan. They are joined by Geetanjali Kulkarni, Arunoday Singh, and Shardul Bhardwaj.

At the heart of "Maa Behen" is Rekha, a mother who's already juggling enough until life throws her the ultimate curveball, a dead body in her kitchen. With her two daughters, Jaya, the responsible one, and Sushma, the wild card, this trio must think fast, lie faster, and somehow keep their nosy neighbors from sniffing out the truth. The film is streaming on Netflix.

