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THE BURDEN OF WAR

OPINION 06

KAJAL CHOOSES CINEMA



BOX-OFFICE 12

ANNAMALAI'S SOLO WAR

TAMIL NADU'S NEW POLITICAL CHALLENGER



FROM BJP'S POSTER BOY TO TAMIL NADU'S POLITICAL CHALLENGER

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

"It was a great conflict whether I am a BJP person or a Tamilian."

K. Annamalai's resignation from the BJP and the launch of 'We The Leaders' marks one of the boldest political gambles in recent Tamil Nadu politics. Backed by massive volunteer enthusiasm and a promise to end personality driven politics, Annamalai is seeking to create a new political force. The excitement is undeniable, but Tamil Nadu's political battlefield has buried many ambitious experiments before. The journey to 2031 has begun.

On his forty second birthday, K. Annamalai did not cut a cake. He cut political ties. His resignation from the BJP was followed within hours by the launch of We The Leaders, a movement he hopes will grow into a major political force before the 2031 Assembly elections. It was a dramatic exit and an even more dramatic beginning.

The most striking part of Annamalai's announcement was his explanation. "It was a great conflict whether I am a BJP person or a Tamilian," he said, revealing the internal struggle that ultimately pushed him towards the exit door. That single statement tells the story of his new political journey. Annamalai is no longer positioning himself as the face of a national party in Tamil Nadu. He is attempting to emerge as the face of a distinctly Tamil political alternative.

His attack on personality centred politics was equally direct. "We must come out of this cult politics. We must promote common man politics," he declared. He went even further by promising an end to "Permanent leaders, permanent MLAs, permanent ministers, permanent MPs." These are powerful words in a state where politics has traditionally revolved around towering personalities and powerful political brands.

THE BIG CONTRADICTION

A movement against personality worship is currently riding on the popularity of one man. Whether Annamalai can build institutions bigger than himself will decide its future.

The early response has been impressive. Volunteer registrations crossed into the lakhs within hours and rapidly moved beyond a million. The public curiosity is real. The energy is visible. But enthusiasm is not organisation. Social media support is not booth level strength. Tamil Nadu remains one of the toughest political landscapes for any newcomer.

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KTR slams Revanth over Hitler remark



HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his remarks at The Hindu Conclave in Bengaluru, alleging that the Chief Minister's comments have exposed his authoritarian and fascist mindset before the entire nation.

Referring to Revanth Reddy's remarks linking HYDRAA's functioning to the actions of German dictator Adolf Hitler, KT Rama Rao said the statement reveals the ideological foundation behind the Congress government's demolition-driven governance model.

"Hitler is clearly Revanth Reddy's inspiration. HYDRAA reflects a style of governance that glorifies force, intimidation and demolitions. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CM UNVEILS 1,511-CR GROWTH PLAN FOR MALKAJGIRI

Revanth Reddy sets 100-day deadline for Musi Phase-2; promises Metro link to Airport



HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

In a massive push toward transforming Hyderabad into a globally competitive metropolis, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday laid the foundation stones for mega infrastructure and developmental projects worth ₹1,511 crores within the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits.

Addressing a massive public gathering at Uppal Bhagayath, the Chief Minister underscored that the city's future expansion relies entirely on decentralized administration and aggressive infrastructure deployment, in-

cluding a 122-km Metro Rail expansion and setting a strict 100-day deadline for the commencement of the Musi River Rejuvenation Phase-2.

Mega Upgrades for Medchal-Malkajgiri

The high-ticket infrastructure layout includes the long-awaited construction of alternative roads around the AOC Centre to alleviate long-standing civilian-military transit issues, cleared at an estimated cost of ₹960 crores. This includes a blend of at-grade and elevated corridors.

The Chief Minister also per-

PROJECT COMPONENT	ALLOCATED BUDGET
AOC CENTRE ALTERNATIVE ROADS	₹960 Crores
TKR COLLEGE JUNCTION FLYOVER	₹416 Crores
MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORP. BUILDING	₹98 Crores
100-BED DISTRICT HOSPITAL	₹37.50 Crores
TOTAL DISTRICT SANCTION	₹1,511 Crores

formed the groundbreaking ceremony for a ₹416 crore, 6-lane bidirectional flyover stretching from TKR College Junction to Manda Mallamma Junction to ensure signal-free

connectivity. Healthcare in the region received a shot in the arm with the foundation laying of a ₹37.50 crore, 100-bed Malkajgiri District Hospital. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

CONG GOVT TOOK LAND FORCIBLY FROM FARMERS IN KOHEDA: BJP

HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Sunday alleged that Revanth Reddy government, which always talks about welfare of farmers, has forcibly taken land from the farmers for establishment of International Integrated Fruit Market.

Speaking to media at state party office here, Rao said despite farmers protests in Koheda area, CM Revanth Reddy has laid foundation for the Fruit Market without paying compensation to the farmers.

"It was unfortunate that farmers in Koheda area were taken into custody and kept in the police station. They were released after departure of the CM, he accused.



BJP state chief demanded the state government to first pay compensations to affected farmers and then only start any works for the Market in Koheda." Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government, Rao alleged that this government do not have sympathy towards the farmers and is behaving like Nizam rulers. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

HARISH RAO ACCUSES CONGRESS OF BETRAYING TELANGANA OVER WATER RIGHTSW



HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao accused the Congress government of compromising Telangana's water rights by linking the proposed Godavari-Nallamala Sagar project with the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation scheme. Addressing the

media at Telangana Bhavan here on Sunday, Harish Rao said any attempt to link the two projects amounts to surrendering Telangana's legally entitled water rights and betraying the interests of the state.

He alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was acting in the interests of his political mentor rather than safeguarding Telangana's interests.

Harish Rao said BRS has always prioritised the state's interests over political gains and would continue to lead the fight to protect Telangana's water rights.

He recalled that Telangana had suffered injustice in Krishna water allocations. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

INDIA BLOC HITS A WALL AS DMK STAYS AWAY



DMK BOYCOTTS: SAYS CONGRESS BETRAYED TAMIL NADU

15-23 PARTIES TO ATTEND MEETING ON JUNE 8 IN NEW DELHI

RIFT EXPOSES CRACKS, UNITY FACES BIGGEST TEST

BY C. SUBRAHMANYAM

The INDIA bloc's June 8 meeting in New Delhi was expected to showcase opposition unity after a politically charged election season. Instead, it begins under the shadow of a major boycott. The DMK, one of the alliance's most influential constituents and its second

largest parliamentary force after Congress, has chosen to stay away, citing what it describes as Congress's betrayal in Tamil Nadu. The development has exposed fault lines within the opposition camp and raised uncomfortable questions about trust, leadership and coalition management. As leaders gather to discuss the road ahead,

the biggest challenge before the alliance may not be confronting the BJP but repairing confidence among its own partners. Political meetings are often judged by who attends. Sometimes they are defined by who does not. As leaders of the INDIA bloc assemble in New Delhi on June 8, the

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Bullet Train project is missing in Zaheerabad DPR: Kavitha

HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The leader of the Telangana Rashtira Samithi (TRS) Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Sunday questioned as to why land acquisition for a bullet train had begun in Zaheerabad while the project was notably absent from the Detailed Project Report (DPR)? She demanded to know as to why Medak MP Raghunandan Rao and BRS leaders were remaining silent on this issue. Kavitha toured Sangareddy and participated in a 'Flag Festival' event. She led a rally from Pothireddypally Crossroads to the Telangana Talli statue and unveiled the party flag there. She addressed the gathering on this occasion.

Kavitha questioned as to why the BRS leader Harish Rao, who served as the state

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Bullet Train project is missing in Zaheerabad DPR: Kavitha



FROM PAGE 1

Irrigation Minister, failed to allocate even a single rupee for repairs, when the Singur project was showing signs of structural subsidence. She pointed out that while they had criticized people from Andhra over water issues in the past, the project remained un-repaired even after the formation of the separate state of Telangana. She asked as to why no repairs were undertaken when the Singur project dried up completely between 2016 and 2018. She demanded to know as to why the BRS and BJP leaders were not questioning the encroachment of 200 acres of land at the Singur project site by the brother-in-law of Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha?

Kavitha expressed confidence that the TRS party would return to power in Telangana in the upcoming elections. She stated that people should hold her accountable if free electricity and medical care were not provided? She remarked that politics in Sangareddy was quite interesting. Kavitha criticized leaders like Jagga Reddy, Raghunandan Rao, Damodara Rajanarsimha and Harish Rao, stating that while they belong to different parties, they were all engaging in "match-fixing" politics together.

INDIA BLOC HITS A WALL AS DMK STAYS AWAY

FROM PAGE 1

most consequential political statement is being made not from the conference hall but from Chennai. The DMK's decision to stay away from the meeting has transformed what was intended to be a routine strategy session into a moment of reckoning for the opposition alliance. The significance of the boycott extends beyond mere attendance. The DMK is not a peripheral ally seeking attention. It is one of the strongest pillars of the opposition coalition and commands considerable influence within Parliament. When such a party refuses to sit at the same table as Congress, it sends a signal that internal tensions have moved beyond private conversations and entered the public political arena. For an alliance built on the promise of collective resistance against the BJP led NDA, that signal is impossible to ignore.

THE WOUND THAT REFUSES TO HEAL

The DMK leadership maintains that its decision is driven by the sentiments of party workers who feel deeply aggrieved by Congress's post election political choices in Tamil Nadu. The issue is no longer being presented as a tactical disagreement. It is being framed as a question of trust.

TAMIL NADU HAS BROUGHT A NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO A CROSSROADS

The roots of the current confrontation lie in the dramatic political developments that followed the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. For

years, the DMK and Congress operated as allies with a shared political understanding. That arrangement came under severe strain when Congress chose to align itself with the TVK led government after the elections and accepted positions within the new administration.

From the DMK's perspective, the move represented a breach of political commitment. The anger was not confined to senior leaders. Party cadres viewed the development as an abandonment of an alliance that had been cultivated over several electoral cycles. This perception has now produced a direct political consequence. The DMK has made it clear that it is unwilling to participate in a meeting where Congress occupies a central seat at the table. That position may appear symbolic, but symbolism often carries enormous weight in coalition politics.

CONGRESS FINDS ITSELF UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

The current controversy places Congress in an uncomfortable position. As the largest party within the INDIA bloc, Congress seeks to function as the alliance's central coordinating force. Yet that role demands a delicate balancing act. The party must simultaneously protect its own political interests in various states while reassuring regional partners that their concerns will not be sacrificed for tactical gains.

The Tamil Nadu episode has intensified a long standing concern among regional parties. Many allies privately worry that Congress occasionally approaches coalition politics through dif-

ferent lenses at the national and state levels. Whether that perception is entirely fair is ultimately beside the point. In politics, perception often shapes reality. Once doubts begin circulating among allies, rebuilding confidence becomes an uphill task. The challenge before Congress is, therefore, not simply explaining its actions in Tamil Nadu. It is convincing partners across the country that similar situations will not emerge elsewhere.

"Coalitions are not held together by arithmetic alone. They survive on the belief that every partner's political interests will be respected."

REGIONAL ALLIES ARE WATCHING MORE CAREFULLY THAN EVER

The June 8 meeting will feature an impressive collection of opposition leaders representing diverse political traditions and regional interests. Yet beneath the formal agenda lies an undercurrent of unease. Every major regional player will be examining the DMK-Congress confrontation through the prism of its own political future. Parties that depend heavily on state specific political identities have little appetite for uncertainty within alliance structures.

The concern extends beyond Tamil Nadu. What regional leaders are assessing is whether the INDIA bloc possesses a mechanism capable of managing conflicts before they escalate into public

disputes. An alliance can accommodate ideological diversity. It can even survive occasional disagreements. What becomes far more difficult to manage is the erosion of trust among its principal stakeholders. That is why the DMK's absence carries implications far beyond a single meeting.

THE TVK FACTOR AND THE NEW POLITICAL EQUATION

The emergence of the TVK led government has introduced a fresh dynamic into Tamil Nadu politics. What was once a relatively stable alliance structure has become considerably more fluid. Congress's decision to participate in the new arrangement has altered relationships that many observers assumed were firmly established. The ripple effects are now being felt at the national level, demonstrating how state level political decisions can reshape broader opposition calculations.

UNITY CANNOT BE DECLARED IT MUST BE DEMONSTRATED

The opposition alliance will undoubtedly seek to project solidarity after the meeting. Joint photographs, common statements and coordinated messaging are all likely outcomes. Yet political credibility is not built through optics alone. The real measure of unity lies in whether alliance partners feel heard, respected and protected within the coalition framework. If major constituents begin questioning those fundamentals, even the most carefully crafted public messaging struggles to achieve its intended impact.

Cyberabad Traffic Police Nab 284 Drunk Drivers in Weekend Special Drive



HYDERABAD, JUNE 7

The Cyberabad Traffic Police conducted a special weekend enforcement drive against drunk driving and apprehended 284 motorists for driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to officials, the majority of the offenders were two-wheeler riders. Of the total cases booked, 247 involved two-wheelers, 34 involved four-wheelers, and three involved three-wheelers. No heavy vehicle drivers were found violating the law during the drive.

The offenders were categorized based on their Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels. A total of 223 motorists recorded BAC levels between 36 mg/100 ml and 200 mg/100 ml, while 33 offenders registered BAC levels between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml. Another 28 motorists were found with BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml.

All the offenders will be produced before the court for further legal proceedings.

The Cyberabad Police reiterated that drunk driving is a serious offence and warned motorists against getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol. Officials stated that if an intoxicated driver causes a fatal accident, he or she will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, dealing with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The offence carries a maximum punishment of 10 years' imprisonment along with a fine.

Meanwhile, during the period from June 1 to June 6, 2026, courts disposed of 164 drunk driving cases. Of these, two offenders were awarded jail terms along with fines, 16 were directed to perform social service in addition to paying fines, while 146 offenders were penalized with fines alone.

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CM UNVEILS 1,511-CR GROWTH PLAN FOR MALKAJGIRI

FROM PAGE 1

Furthermore, a state-of-the-art Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation office complex will be built across 10 acres in Uppal Bhagayath Phase-III with an outlay of ₹98 crores.

100-Day Deadline for Musi Phase-2

Shifting focus to environmental and economic restoration, Chief Minister Reddy directed top officials to fast-track action plans for the Musi Riverfront Rejuvenation Phase-2, covering the stretch from Nagole to Gourelli within 100 days. Highlighting the plight of downstream districts, particularly Nalgonda, which battles both fluoride and heavy river pollution, the CM called the cleanup an absolute necessity.

"If Gujarat can build the Sabarmati Riverfront and Delhi can clean the Yamuna, why can't we rejuvenate the Musi?" Reddy questioned, reassuring

locals that the project would stimulate the local economy and create immense employment opportunities. He firmly promised that no poor families would be left homeless, pledging proper double-bedroom housing and free education for children displaced by the riverfront alignment.

CURE and Administrative Decentralization

As part of the Praja Palana governance model, the Chief Minister officially rolled out the CURE-1 (Common Unified Billing and Collection System) mobile application, a unified digital gateway designed to streamline citizen service payments like property taxes, water charges, and electricity bills into a single portal.

Detailing the broader framework of the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision document, Reddy explained that the 2,100 sq

km area inside the Outer Ring Road (ORR)—housing over 1.34 crore citizens—has been designated as the Core Urban Regional Economy (CURE). To break free from administrative bottlenecks caused by overlapping jurisdictions, the government has trifurcated the urban zone into three major municipal corporations: Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri, alongside a parallel decentralization of the police commissionerates.

Call for Political Unity Over Growth

Taking a sharp swipe at central government representatives, the Chief Minister questioned why union ministers from the state were not aggressively pursuing clearances and central funding for the state's lifeline projects.

Expressing personal commitment to his former parliamentary constituency, Reddy

stated, "During my time as the Malkajgiri MP, I could not execute public works to the scale I envisioned. I take it as my personal responsibility now to deliver on every front, including the 122-km Metro Rail expansion linking Nagole to the international airport via LB Nagar." He urged local public representatives across all party lines to transcend political differences and join hands with the state government to deliver international-standard amenities to the populace.

You can review a comprehensive broadcast detailing the multi-crore foundation laying and urban policy statements by the Chief Minister through this Telangana Infrastructure Development Update. This video provides immediate local news coverage regarding the budget details and specific road corridors announced during the Uppal public meet.

HARISH RAO ACCUSES CONGRESS OF BETRAYING TELANGANA OVER WATER RIGHTS

FROM PAGE 1

during the undivided Andhra Pradesh era and alleged that a similar injustice was now being repeated in the case of Godavari waters.

Harish Rao said BRS strongly opposed the Banakachera project from the beginning and fought to protect Telangana's rightful share under the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award. He said BRS repeatedly warned that Telangana was entitled to 45 TMC of water if Godavari waters were diverted to the Krishna basin.

According to him, after facing strong opposition from BRS, the Andhra Pradesh government changed the project's name from Banakachera to Nallamala Sagar and attempted to divert Godavari waters without formally linking them to the Krishna basin.

He stated that BRS consistently argued that there were no surplus waters available in the Godavari and opposed the project itself.

Harish Rao said that after the Banakachera and Nallamala Sagar proposals failed to gain acceptance, a new attempt was being made under the Godavari-Cauvery River Linking Project.

He recalled that Telangana had participated in several meetings of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) and consistently maintained three conditions, including Telangana's pending projects based on its allocated 968 TMC of Godavari water must receive all statutory clearances first.

Similarly, Telangana must receive 50 percent of the water diverted through any river-linking project and any river-linking proposal should pass through Telangana territory, particularly through Ichampalli or Sammakka Sagar to Nagarjuna Sagar.

Harish Rao alleged that the present proposal bypasses Telangana entirely by seeking to transfer water from Polavaram towards Nallamala Sagar and further south, depriving Telangana of any benefit.

He said the original concept envisioned water flowing from Ichampalli or Sammakka Sagar to Nagarjuna Sagar and then onwards towards the Cauvery basin. Instead, Andhra Pradesh was now attempting to divert Godavari waters without involving Telangana.

He argued that under the present proposal Andhra Pradesh would receive the benefits of a National Project while Telangana would lose substantial future water allocations.

Demanding immediate action, Harish Rao called upon the Telangana government to oppose the Polavaram-Cauvery river linking proposal, convene an all-party meeting, organise protests in Delhi, and pass a resolution in the State Assembly to protect Telangana's water rights.

He warned that if the government failed to act, BRS would launch a statewide people's movement to safeguard Telangana's interests.

KTR slams Revanth over..

FROM PAGE 1

The people of Telangana have experienced these authoritarian tendencies firsthand, and now the Chief Minister has openly acknowledged the inspiration behind them," KTR remarked.

In a statement here, the BRS leader alleged that the HYDRAA established by the Congress government functions like an "assassination agency" targeting the livelihoods and homes of ordinary citizens.

"You celebrate dictators and take pride in demolishing the homes of poor and middle-class families. Telangana already knows your authoritarian nature. By publicly expressing admiration for Hitler-inspired methods, you have exposed your fascist thinking before the entire country," KTR said.

The BRS working president asserted that unlike the Congress government, the previous BRS administration was guided by democratic values and constitutional principles.

"Our ideals are Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi

and Professor Jayashankar—not Hitler. During our ten years in government, we administered Telangana according to the spirit of the Constitution drafted by Dr. Ambedkar, the principles of non-violence advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and the vision of Telangana's chief ideologue Professor Jayashankar," KTR stated.

Taking a swipe at the Congress leadership, he questioned whether the Congress high command endorses a Chief Minister publicly identifying one of history's most brutal dictators as a source of inspiration.

"Does the Congress leadership approve of such statements? Is publicly invoking Hitler as an inspiration acceptable in a democratic country? The people of Telangana deserve answers," he said.

KT Rama Rao further alleged that the Congress government has become synonymous with coercion, demolitions and intimidation rather than governance and welfare. He warned that Telangana's people would reject any attempt to normalise authoritarian rule.

ANNAMALAI'S SOLO WAR

FROM PAGE 1

Elections are won through relentless grassroots work, not excitement alone. The announcement of the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Ethics and Politics may prove crucial. If it genuinely creates trained leaders rooted in ethics and governance, it could become the movement's strongest asset. Another challenge awaits Annamalai on the road to 2031. Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam is already competing for many of the same voters, especially youth, professionals and those seeking alternatives to traditional political formations.

The battle for this political space could become one of the defining contests of the next five years.

Annamalai has chosen the hardest path in politics. He has abandoned the safety of an established national party to build a movement from the ground up. Whether this becomes a historic political breakthrough or merely a moment of excitement will depend on one factor alone: execution. Tamil Nadu has heard many promises before. Now it will watch whether Annamalai can turn a slogan into a structure and a movement into a genuine political force.

CONG GOVT TOOK LAND FORCIBLY FROM..

FROM PAGE 1

Rao took umbrage on the comment of CM Revanth Reddy that union ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar would find it difficult to even cross Telangana borders on procurement issue. The BJP chief alleged that the Congress government has failed to procure grains from the farmers in time and it become a "Commission" and corrupt government.

He further accused the Congress government of working against the inter-

ests of the farmers and not even paying compensations for acquiring their lands forcibly.

Taking strong objections on the language used by CM Revanth Reddy at Mahabubnagar yesterday, BJP state chief warned that if BJP party workers decides they will not allow Congress MLAs, MPs, Ministers to enter any village for deceiving people of the state by not fulfilling its promises.

He said the central government has extended financial assistance and de-

velopment support worth about 13 lakh crore to Telangana during last 12 years and recently approved Rs 7,597 crores for the expansion of two major National Highways. This involves constructing 190 kilometers of 4-lane national highways, drastically strengthening Telangana's connectivity. The Center was actively working to provide superior road connectivity to Armoor, Jagtial, Mancherla, and Karimnagar, with an ultimate goal to connect all 32 districts of Telangana via National Highways.

Cycling should become a way of life: Governor

HYDERABAD, JUNE 7



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that cycling plays a vital role in achieving the objectives of Fit India, healthy living, and environmental conservation.

The Governor was the chief guest at the "Sundays on Cycle" programme organised at the Gachibowli Stadium on Sunday to mark World Bicycle Day. The event was conducted by the Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) with the support of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the spirit of the Fit India Movement. On the occasion, the Governor flagged off a cycle rally. A large number of cycling enthusiasts, youth, and sportspersons participated in the rally.

Addressing the gathering, Shukla said that cycling not only promotes physical fitness, but also contributes significantly to environmental protection. He urged citizens to incorporate cycling into their daily routines. Programmes such as "Sundays on Cycle", he said, help create awareness about healthy living and encourage people to adopt cycling as an integral part of their lifestyle.

The Governor observed that World Bicycle Day recognises cycling as an affordable mode of transport, an environmentally friendly means of travel, and an effective fitness activity. He noted that cycling can help reduce traffic congestion and serves as a sustainable solution for building healthier cities.

Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Vakti Srihari, Sports Advisor Jitender Reddy, Chairman of the Sports Authority of Telangana Shivasena Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, and SATG Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director Soni Bala Devi, among others, participated in the programme.

Governor inaugurates IRA universal school at Bowrampet

Hyderabad, June 7: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla inaugurated the IRA universal school at Bowrampet in Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Sunday. The event was attended by former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, MP Etela Rajender, MLC Anji Reddy, in-charge Vice-Chancellor of Hyderabad Central University Dr. J. Anuradha, and IRA Universal School Chairman Dr. M. Malla Reddy, among others. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said education should not be limited to marks but must focus on developing life skills and values among students. He underlined the need for a balanced approach combining modern knowledge, global skills, and strong ethical foundations.

He encouraged students to set ambitious goals and move forward with confidence, noting that failures are only stepping stones to success. Teachers must act as guiding lights, while parents should provide constant encouragement and support, he said. The Governor further stated that students equipped with skills and values will form the foundation of a strong future India. He also called for collective efforts towards building a drug-free society.

Massive traffic diversions in Nampally for fish prasadam

HYDERABAD

In connection with the "Fish Prasadam" event at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, traffic diversions will be implemented from Monday at 6 AM to Tuesday at 8 PM, as moderate traffic congestion is anticipated on the roads surrounding the venue.

To ensure the safety of commuters and facilitate smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow, certain traffic diversions will be enforced. The following diversions will be implemented in and around the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, and at adjoining junctions on a need basis to ensure hassle-free movement of motorists.

The following diversions/alighting and parking places will be made, if required as per the local situation:

People coming on 4-wheelers from Nampally side for Fish Prasadam will park their vehicles at Gruha Kalpa, Gagan Vihar & Chandra Vihar and proceed on foot towards Exhibition Ground Gate No. 2 for Fish Prasadam.

The People coming for Fish Prasadam in buses / vans from M.J. Market will



alight at Gandhi Bhavan Bus Stop. While the Buses / Vans coming from Nampally will alight at Gruha Kalpa Bus Stop and proceed to Exhibition Ground Gate No. 2 for Fish Prasadam.

All VIP car pass holders coming from M.J. Market will proceed towards Gandhi Bhavan and take left turn at Adab Hotel lane towards Gate No. 1 and CWC Gate towards VIP Entry Gate and the VIP car pass holders coming from the Nampally will take "U" turn at Gandhi Bhavan and take left turn towards Gate No. 1 and CWC Gate towards VIP Entry

Gate. Their vehicles will be parked at VIP Parking area.

People coming on 2-wheelers for fish Prasadam from M.J. Market, they will park their vehicles at Manoranjan Complex parking area. The two wheelers coming from Nampally will park their vehicles left in Bheem rao bada (which is beside of Shezan hotel).

Auto alighting are arranged for people coming for Fish Prasadam in front of Shezan Hotel.

Government vehicles, Buses / Vans will be parked at CWC parking. The Ve-

hicles coming from the M.J. Market side will be diverted towards Abids, GPO Nampally, Hyderabad.

Water tankers of HMWS and vehicles of the Fisheries department bringing fish to the Exhibition Ground will be allowed from Gate No. 3. The vehicles of voluntary organizations carrying food materials with valid passes will be allowed from Gate No. 3.

General traffic coming from the M.J. Bridge and Begum Bazar Chatri and proceeding towards Nampally will be diverted at Alaska towards Darusalam, Ek Minar etc.

Private travels and heavy vehicles will be diverted at MJ market towards GPO & at AR petrol pump towards GPO. Private travels and heavy vehicles will not be allowed MJ market towards Taj Island & Taj Island to MJ market.

All commuters are requested to make note of the above diversions and take alternative routes to reach your destinations and to follow traffic updates on social media platform@Hyderabad Traffic Police face book page (facebook.com/HYDTP) and @HYDTP (Twitter handle).

ENDANGERED TIGERS

DR. KANDEPI RANI PRASAD

A hundred years ago, there were about one lakh tigers on the planet. Now their number has come down to about 2,300. The area of the forest is decreasing due to man clearing forests for his residence, digging up soil for mines, and crushing mountains. Along with the forest, the number of animals like tigers living in the forest is also decreasing. As a result, there is a need to choose a day to protect them and promote the respective issues. In the year 2010, it was decided to celebrate World Tiger Day on July 29. Thirteen governments of countries participated in this tiger conference held in St. Petersburg. They all took a decision together. They aspired to double the number of tigers by the year 2022. The countries that wanted to double the number of tigers, which was less than 3200 in 2010, signed the conference.

The tiger and the cat belong to the same genus, the Felidae family. Its scientific name is "Panthera tigris". It has brown and yellow fur on its body. It has black vertical stripes on it. It has a strong, heavy body and a hunting instinct. It has bright, fierce eyes. It has a long striped tail and sharp claws. Its feet are soft and keep its movements unconscious. The tiger is confined to one area. It is usually a solitary hunting animal. After the birth of the tiger, the cubs stay with their mother until they are two years old. After that, the cubs go to another area and live independently.

In the forest, each tiger allocates some space for itself. It occupies 5 km, 10 km and does not allow anyone else to enter that area. This tiger does not enter the territory of others. It lives only in the forest.

The number of tigers has been decreasing since the twentieth century. 93% of tigers have now decreased. Tigers are endangered and have been included in the IUCN Red Data Book.

The king of beasts in the forest is the lion, followed by the tiger. The tiger also appears prominently in ancient histories, myths, and folk tales. Do you know how popular the sto-

sia, and South Korea.

Carl Linnaeus named the tiger 'Felis tigris' in 1758. Later, a British taxonomist changed the name of the tiger to "Panthera tigris". There are various types of tigers such as Bengal tiger, Caspian tiger, Siberian tiger, Sumatran tiger, and South China tiger. Tigers, like humans, work during the day and rest at night. They swim well in rivers and lakes. The



ry of the cow-tiger is in stories told to children? How many stories do children hear about the tiger, a predatory animal? Adults tell us about it. The tiger is mainly depicted in literature and films. Tiger figures are depicted on the forts of kings, on flags, and on weapons. The tiger is described in the myths as a vehicle for Goddess Durga. The way the tiger is carved in temple sculptures is amazing. In royal palaces of historical importance, animals like lions and tigers are shown as a symbol of their valor. When kings kill tigers in their hunts, they hang tiger skins in their houses as a symbol. It is said to be a symbol of their manhood. Boys wear tiger claw pendants around their necks. Sportsmen use the tiger symbol as a symbol for their teams. The tiger is the national animal of many countries. The tiger has been declared the national animal of India, Bangladesh, Malay-

tiger can swim 29 km in water in a single day.

Tigers mark their territory by spraying urine along the way. They eat mostly ungulates. They eat mammals well. They also eat small calves. Although they are carnivores, they occasionally eat fruits for fiber. When they are close to human-occupied villages, they eat domestic animals such as cattle, horses, and donkeys.

In 1973, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi established tiger conservation centers. The Indian government allocated 153 million dollars for tiger conservation. Before independence, the Maharajas used to hunt tigers. Hunters used to hunt tigers for their skin. Tiger skins are traded in many countries and are a black market industry. The government has banned tiger hunting to reduce tiger hunting. Everyone should work to protect the dwindling number of tigers.

Dr. Rahul Devraj appointed as NIMS Director

HYDERABAD

Senior Dr. Rahul Devraj has been appointed as the new Director of the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in the city. The Telangana Government's Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare has issued official orders to this effect.

Currently, Dr. Rahul Devraj serves as a Professor and Head of the Department (HoD) of Urology at the NIMS. The government has entrusted him with this key responsibility in recognition of his qualifications and experience. Dr. Christina Z. Chongthu, the Principal Secretary to the Government, issued the official orders stating that he will serve as the NIMS Director for a term of three years. Meanwhile, numerous doctors and colleagues have extended their congratulations to Dr. Rahul Devraj on his appointment as the new Director of NIMS.

Telangana school reopening postponed to June 15

HYDERABAD

The School Education department has revised the reopening date for the 2026-27 academic year to June 15, a shift from the initially planned June 12. This postponement was formalised through an order issued by Dr. E Naveen Nicolas, the Director of School Education, following numerous requests from various stakeholders to reconsider the original date.

Dr. Nicolas explained that since June 13 and 14 are the second Saturday and Sunday respectively, the decision was made to have all government and private schools commence the academic year on June 15. To mitigate any loss of instructional time resulting from this change and to ensure compliance with the required



number of academic days for the 2026-27 calendar, July 11, which falls on a Saturday, has been designated as a working day for all schools overseen by the department. Accordingly, Dr. Nicolas has instructed departmen-

tal heads, regional joint directors of school education, and district educational officers to implement the necessary measures and inform all schools within their purview about the updated reopening schedule.

Telangana youth shot dead during weekend delivery job in US

HYDERABAD

Tragically, a young man from Telangana, lost his life in the United States after being shot while on a pizza delivery. The victim, identified as 28-year-old Anshul Kuncha, sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His family in Gundlapochampally of Medchal Malkajgiri district in Telangana, was informed that the incident occurred on the night between Friday and Saturday.

Anshul, who was employed full-time by a multinational corporation, had taken up a part-time role as a pizza delivery driver on weekends to supplement his income. He was reportedly shot at close range while attempting to deliver a pizza, an order that his family believes was a fabrication. Information received by his relatives indicates that he was dispatched to a remote location late at night for a supposed delivery. Upon arrival, two unknown assailants opened fire, striking Anshul multiple times in the head before escaping. He succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

The absence of any stolen items from the victim has cast doubt on the motive behind the fatal attack. Relatives have also been told that two masked individuals,

carrying backpacks, were observed in the vicinity around the time of the shooting.

Anshul's family has come forward alleging that the pizza delivery was a deliberate ruse designed to lure and kill him. "He was instructed to deliver pizza to an abandoned area, but we later discovered it was a sham. No one was there; it was a setup, intended solely to end his life. We don't understand their gains or their intentions. They took my brother and murdered him," stated Anshul's sister, Tanvi.

It was also revealed that Anshul had previously been a victim of robbery in the US, during which his necklace, phone, and cash were taken.

Anshul had gone to the United States in 2023 to pursue a Master's degree in Business Administration. His family is now requesting the Central and State governments for assistance in repatriating his body. US authorities are expected to release the body on Monday, and the family has urged for an expedited process to bring him home without delay.

The Indian Consulate General in New York has confirmed that they are in communication with local officials and the grieving family, and are offering all available support.

Mega Job Mela for Minority Youth on June 9 in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

In a major initiative to enhance employment opportunities for minority youth, the Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC) will organize a Mega Job Mela on June 9, 2026, at Red Rose Palace in Nampally, Hyderabad.

The recruitment drive will be inaugurated by Minister for minorities and public enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin. About 40 to 50 reputed companies from sectors such as IT, banking, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and customer services are expected to participate.

The initiative aims to connect unemployed minority youth with leading employers and create meaningful career opportunities across Telangana. Eligible candidates have been encouraged to attend and take advantage of the recruitment drive.

TGMFC Chairman Mohd. Obedulla Kothwal said the Job Mela would serve as an important platform for bridging the gap between job seekers and industry recruiters. Senior officials of the Minority Welfare Department and representatives of participating companies were present during the announcement of the event.

BRS party should win in Gosha Mahal in upcoming assembly elections: Talasani

HYDERABAD

Former Minister and BRS party Deputy Floor Leader in the Assembly Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Sunday called upon party leaders and cadres to work like soldiers to ensure the 'Pink Flag' (BRS party flag) flies high in the Goshamahal assembly constituency in the upcoming elections.

He attended the Goshamahal constituency BRS party meeting held at Telangana Bhavan under the chairmanship of constituency in-charge Nagen Goud as the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, he clarified that there was no room for lobbying or favoritism within the party and added that only those, who work hard and enjoy public support would receive due recognition and respect. He highlighted the numerous development works undertaken in



the Goshamahal constituency under former KCR's leadership, citing initiatives such as the construction of double-bedroom houses, a fish market costing ₹10 crore, nala (stormwater drain) construction and the resolution of drainage issues.

He urged everyone to remain vigilant regarding the special voter revision program com-

mencing on the 24th of this month. He asked them to take precautions to prevent illegal voting and to create public awareness.

He emphasized the need to ensure that individuals, who have turned 18 register as voters. He mentioned that the party membership drive was being conducted digitally this time

and instructed the party leaders and cadres to work together to carry out door-to-door membership registration.

He advised them to inform the public during these door-to-door visits about the Congress government's betrayal to fulfill its pre-election promises even after two and a half years in power. He lashed out at the Congress party, accusing it of deceiving people from all walks of life after coming to power by making unfeasible promises. He criticized the Chief Minister for speaking recklessly about KCR, noting that he does so because his own government has no achievements to showcase. He highlighted that under KCR's ten-year tenure, the state government implemented numerous development and welfare programs, setting an example for the entire nation.

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BAI Calls for Massive Participation IN "CHALO HYDERABAD"

■ Rally on June 18 Seeking Release of Pending Contractors' Bills

KARIMNAGAR

The Builders Association of India (BAI) has called upon contractors across Telangana to participate in large numbers in the "Chalo Hyderabad" Maha Sabha scheduled to be held on June 18, demanding the immediate release of long-pending bills owed to contractors by the State Government.

The appeal was made during a preparatory meeting organized by the Karimnagar Centre of BAI. The meeting was attended by BAI National Vice President Mr. Vemula Satya Murthy, former State Chairmen Mr. B. Sugunakara Rao, Mr. Katukuri Devender Reddy, Mr. U. Surender, State Advisor Mr. K. Prabhakar Reddy, former Jangaon Centre Chairman Mr. Immadi Devender Reddy, Karimnagar Centre Chairman Mr. V. Jitender Rao, and other district leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders stated that the Builders Association of India, established in 1941, is one of the country's oldest and most respected organizations representing the construction industry and has been working for the welfare and protection of contractors for over eight decades. They expressed



serious concern over the prolonged delay in payment of contractors' bills across various government departments. Contractors engaged in works ranging from drainage systems to irrigation projects and public infrastructure development are facing severe financial distress due to delayed payments and uncertainty regarding bill clearances.

The leaders reiterated that pending bills should be released strictly based on seniority and chronological order, without any recommendations, influence, favoritism, or discrimination. They urged the government to adopt the principle of "First Bill Submitted, First Bill Paid," ensuring transparency and fairness in the payment process.

They further pointed out that the crisis is affecting not only contractors but also thousands of engineers, supervisors, accountants, machine operators, drivers, workers, and material suppliers whose livelihoods depend on the construction sector. Delayed payments have resulted in mounting debts, inability to pay wages, and serious economic hardship for numerous families.

The association also expressed concern over the growing mental stress among contractors due to financial uncertainty. According to the leaders, several contractors have suffered severe health issues, while some have reportedly resorted to extreme measures under financial pressure.

Clarifying that the contractors are not against the government, the leaders emphasized that they are active partners in Telangana's development. They noted that contractors play a crucial role in building roads, public buildings, irrigation projects, drinking water schemes, and other infrastructure essential for the State's progress.

The BAI leaders appealed to the government to support the construction sector by releasing pending bills in a transparent and systematic manner. They also urged all contractors across Telangana to participate in the "Chalo Hyderabad" Maha Sabha on June 18 and make the program a grand success.

CM Revanth Reddy is an ignorant: Sabitha Indra Reddy

HYDERABAD

Former Minister Sabitha Indra Reddy on Sunday lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stating that the comments he made against the BRS party on Saturday—during the foundation-laying ceremony for the Koheda Integrated Fruit Market—were born of sheer ignorance and were merely political criticisms intended to mask his government's failures. She remarked that the Chief Minister's attitude exemplifies the saying, "The thief scolding the policeman" (the guilty blaming the innocent).

Sabitha said that it was the former CM KCR-led BRS government that proposed the construction of an international-standard fruit market in Koheda, acquired nearly 300 acres of land and prepared a concrete roadmap for the project. "Were these not the same Congress leaders, who politicized the issue and obstructed the relocation of the market from Gaddiannaram to Koheda—a move intended to facilitate the construction of a super-specialty hospital (TIMS) at the old site without inconveniencing farmers," she asked.

She described it as laughable that Revanth Reddy was claiming



all the credit today—merely by breaking a coconut and cutting ribbons—while standing on the strong foundations laid by the BRS party and utilizing the land allocated by them. She accused the Congress party of simply giving a fresh coat of paint to an old scheme and trumpeting it as if they were doing something new.

Sabitha questioned as to why there was a need to shift the project to a different location instead of using the land previously allocated by the BRS government for the Koheda Integrated Market and asked as to whom they intended to hand over that land. "First, pay compensation to the farmers currently cultivating the land where you intend to build the market and only then commence the work. We have never opposed development. The concepts and

plans for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) originated during the KCR administration. While we sought to execute the projects with the farmers' consent, you are forcibly seizing thousands of acres of fertile land for corporate interests and the real estate mafia under the guise of 'development,' thereby depriving the poor and middle-class farmers of their livelihoods," she alleged.

Sabitha Indra Reddy criticized the Congress government for stalling the state's progress by cancelling prestigious projects like the Pharma City and driving away industries. She stated that as the opposition, it was their duty to stand by the farmers, who are currently being terrorized by police lathi-charges and coercive measures as they lose their lands.

Reimagine : Beyond the World We Know - A New Relationship with Our Ocean

(On the occasion of "World Ocean Day" on 08 June)



Our ocean's cover 70% of the planet Earth's surface and play a vital role in sustaining life. From providing oxygen to breath to feeding billions of people and hosting 80% of the world's biodiversity, the ocean is essential to our existence. However, our oceans are facing unprecedented challenges such as overfishing, bycatch, plastic pollution, climate change, rising ocean temperatures, acidification, and marine biodiversity.

Currently, only 17% of land and just 08% of the ocean are under protection. Protecting 30% of oceans can help mitigate climate change, safeguard biodiversity, and sustain ecosystems. There are five important oceans on our Earth namely, the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, the Arctic, and the Antarctic Oceans.

Wonder : Sustaining What Sustains Us

World Ocean Day is observed annually since 1992 by UN on 08 Juneto bring awareness about the role of oceans, an opportunity for individuals and communities worldwide to unite efforts to protect and preserve our ocean for future generations. We know that sustainable fishing is critical to ensuring that the ocean has healthy fish populations, that marine ecosystems are protected, and that people around the world have access to healthy seafood for generations to come. The theme of 2026 World Ocean Day is "Reimagine : Beyond the World We Know - A New Relationship with our Ocean". Ocean water wonder is the foundation of scientific knowledge, the allure behind exploration, the curiosity that drives innovation, priorities decision-making for collective

well-being, and the seed of traditional wisdom. In the face of increasingly daunting challenges, the act of wondering serves to remind us that we are part of something bigger. The purpose of this day is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilise and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. Over 3 billion people rely on seafood as their primary protein source, and nearly 10% of the global population depends on fishing for a livelihood. By working together globally - governments, organizations, and individuals - we can protect our oceans and build a sustainable future for all.

— Prof Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037

Two Pistols Seized in PMJ Robbery Case

Another Key Accused Arrested in Bihar

KARIMNAGAR

Police have achieved a significant breakthrough in the sensational PMJ Jewellery Shop robbery case. Three prime accused were interrogated during a four-day police custody, leading to the recovery of two pistols allegedly used in the crime and a mobile phone, Karimnagar Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam said.

Based on information provided by the accused, police recovered two pistols hidden in bushes near Velichala Bypass Road.

A Vivo mobile phone linked to the crime was also traced and seized from a forest area near Maddunoor



village along the route reportedly used by the accused while fleeing towards Dharmapuri. However, police said the accused have not been

fully cooperating in revealing the whereabouts of the stolen gold and diamond jewellery. Investigators alleged that the accused were giving

contradictory statements regarding the concealment, transportation and disposal of the stolen property in an attempt to mislead the investigation.

Police are likely to seek further custody of the accused for continued interrogation.

In another major development, a key absconding accused, Amar Singh alias Pahlwan alias Amarendra Kumar Singh (A-10), was arrested by a special police team at Salimpur in Patna district of Bihar. After obtaining a transit warrant from a local court, police are bringing him to Karimnagar for further legal proceedings. Commissioner Ghaus Alam stated that intensive search operations are continuing to apprehend the remaining absconding accused in the case.

Kishan Reddy dares CM Revanth for debate

HYDERABAD

Union Minister Kishan Reddy on Sunday challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a debate on any topic anywhere. He stated that no one was intimidated by Revanth's empty threats and remarked that no one in Telangana has the power to stop him from entering the state. "Unlike Revanth Reddy, I haven't switched parties ten times. My political journey—from start to finish—is rooted in the BJP. The people of Telangana know who I am. No amount of provocation will make me act rashly. The time will provide the answers to everything. First, fulfill the promises made to the people of Telangana. Otherwise, Dalits and BCs will come to your doorstep to stage protests," Kishan Reddy said. Reddy accused CM Revanth Reddy of grossly deceiving farmers, noting that the promised



bonus payments for paddy had not yet been disbursed. He pointed out that there had been no mention of financial aid for farm laborers or tenant farmers and criticized the partial implementation of the farm loan waiver scheme.

He alleged that the Revanth Reddy government was scraping by on loans from the Centre and other financial institutions instead of fulfilling its promises to the public. Asserting that the people of Telangana clearly understand his character, he dismissed the Congress

and BRS as the parties of mere rhetoric rather than action. He reacted angrily, stating that he did not need a certificate from Revanth Reddy regarding his contributions to Telangana. He warned that a reckoning awaits the Revanth Reddy government and told the CM not to be hasty clarifying that he is not the type of person to lose his cool no matter how much he is provoked. Kishan Reddy stated that whatever they do, they do it with restraint and that their goal was for all states to develop.

We will win all elections in Telangana : Govt Whip Adi Srinivas

HYDERABAD

State Government Whip Adi Srinivas on Sunday stated that although TRS party chief Kavitha claims the Congress government will not retain power, he said that his party was confident of winning any election held in the state.

Speaking at a press conference in Hyderabad, he said that if Kavitha possesses evidence regarding lands linked to actor Pawan Kalyan, she should bring it to the state government's attention and added that appropriate action would be taken against the actor. He noted that state government lands worth ₹50,000 crore had been protected through HYDRAA.

"The BRS government opened the doors to the land grabbing and corruption and Kavitha ought to speak about that. She is aware that BRS leaders KTR and Harish Rao engaged in the land grabbing and transferred the properties to benamis (proxies). Lacking public support, they are merely stalling for time by making false allegations. If there is evidence of the government land encroachment, it should be brought to the officials' notice," Adi Srinivas said.

He remarked that Harish Rao was speaking based on mere imagination—driven by frustration and a desire to divert political attention—and asserted that he has no right to speak on the issue of Krishna waters.

He questioned as to why Harish Rao remained silent when the Kaleshwaram project collapsed during the BRS regime? He challenged Harish Rao whether KCR did not previously promise to supply water to Rayalaseema? "Do you not remember what was said to YS Jagan by KCR at Pragathi Bhavan," he said. He stated that those, who effectively signed the death warrant for Telangana's share of the Krishna waters should feel at least a shred of shame before speaking now.

Water Board Election Results Confirm Workers' Support for Congress Government: TPCC President

HYDERABAD

TPCC President and the Party MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday stated that the results of the Hyderabad Water Board's recognized labour union election clearly demonstrate that the workers and employees support the Congress government. A felicitation meeting was held on Sunday at Gandhi Bhavan for Mogulla Raji Reddy, who achieved a resounding victory as the president in the Water Board's recognized labor union election.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud congratulated all the workers, who participated in the election and voted for the Telangana Water Board Employees Union, ensuring its victory. He extended special congratulations to Mogulla Raji Reddy and his team for their impressive win. He expressed confidence that, just as the Congress party's flag is hoisted through INTUC, the

party would also achieve victory in the upcoming GHMC elections. He criticized the previous BRS administration for failing to respond during the RTC strike, contrasting it with the current government's actions. He noted that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, negotiations were held with the RTC workers and the strike was called off within just three days.

He lashed out at the BRS leaders for keeping organizations like Singareni and the Water Board under their tight control and causing hardships to the workers, specifically highlighting Harish Rao's continued dominance over the Water Board. He stated that after the Congress government assumed power, the workers freely exercised their right to vote to elect their leaders. He advised Mogulla Raji Reddy's team to stand by the workers through their joys and hardships. He praised Sanjeeva Reddy for his significant efforts in securing the victory for the

T.J.E.U. (affiliated with INTUC). He assured that they would bring the workers' issues to the Chief Minister's attention and strive for their resolution. He remarked that the victory in the Water Board elections stands as a testament to the workers' self-respect and their faith in the Congress party. Mahesh Goud stated that the Congress government would work with even greater sincerity for the workers' welfare in the coming days.

Speaking on the occasion, Mogulla Raji Reddy thanked everyone, who contributed to his victory, acknowledging them individually. He expressed special gratitude for the massive majority secured by the candidates backed by the Congress party and the INTUC-affiliated union (Telangana Water Board Employees Union) in the Water Board—a victory achieved after twelve years. He noted that CM Revanth Reddy, Mahesh Kumar Goud and Ministers Vivek Venkataswamy

and Ponnam Prabhakar had extended their full support and cooperation. He pledged to bring the Water Board workers' issues to the government's notice and resolve them as quickly as possible.

The meeting was attended by INTUC in-charge and former Mayor Bonthu Rammohan as well as INTUC State General Secretaries R.D. Chandrashekar and Y. Naganna Goud, Adil Sharif, T.J.E.U. General Secretary K. Raghavendra Raj, Associate President Ali Shraavan Kumar, Water Works Employees Union Telangana President K. Raji Reddy and leaders E. Chandrasekhar, M. Raja, B. Shankar Prakash, B. Narsing Rao, K. Anand Reddy, Ajay Nath, Vinod Goud, Srinivas Yadav, Syed Hashim, Induri Tirupati, Ghouse Pasha, B. Ashok, A. Ashok, Mogulaiah, Ravinder, Lakshman Yadav, R. Venkatesh, Sher Bahadur, Sailu, Shyam, Abdul Rauf, Praveen Kumar, B. Mahesh, Venu, Rangayya, Rajesh Naik, and others.



Bhatti inspects progress of Lakshmipuram integrated school campus

KHAMMAM

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka described the Integrated Residential Schools being constructed across the state as not merely buildings, but as "temples of vision" that will shape a brighter future for coming generations. He emphasized that the Indiramma People's Government is giving the highest priority to education.

The Deputy Chief Minister personally inspected the construction works of the Integrated Residential School at Lakshmipuram in Bonakal mandal under

Madhira Assembly constituency in Khammam district on Sunday. During his visit, Bhatti Vikramarka walked through the school campus and closely reviewed the progress of various construction activities. He inspected the junior hostel, junior and senior academic blocks, and the Administrative Block, and sought updates from officials on the status of the works. He paid special attention to the mechanical, science, mathematics, and computer laboratory buildings, which are expected to serve as platforms for students' bright futures.

"Quite agonising"

Pawan Kalyan on death of 28-yr-old Telangana man in US; seeks MEA intervention

Vijaywada June 7: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan on Sunday expressed grief over the death of a 28-year-old man from Telangana in the United States and said both state governments would seek the intervention of the Ministry of External Affairs. Speaking to ANI, Kalyan said, "It was quite painful to hear about the death of a 28-year-old kid from our state. My heartfelt condolences to the family. A young boy who went with a lot of hopes and dreams had been lost. It's quite an agonising incident for all of us." Both the state governments will seek the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of India, to intervene and to convey our anguish," he stated. Kalyan also appealed to Indians living in the US to extend support during such incidents. "I



also appeal to all the Indians in America to support in such situations to make sure certain cautions are taken, and there should be some help in such kind of racial incidents. Some support system should be there to come to their rescue apart from depending on the police," he added. Additionally, the Consulate General of India in New York expressed grief over the death of an Indian national in Philadelphia and said it was in touch with the family to extend all possible assistance. Earlier in May, a 24-year-old Indian student pursuing her Master of Science (MS) degree in the United States was killed in a road accident, family members said. The deceased, identified as Navya, hailed from Chervugattu village in the Narketpalli Mandal of Telangana's Nalgonda district. According to her family, the incident occurred when a speeding car collided with the vehicle while she was on her way home from a part-time job. The family members further revealed that they learned about the tragic mishap through Navya's friends in the US. Navya, 24, went to America two years ago to pursue her MS. We learned about the incident from her friends. They said she died after a speeding car hit their vehicle while she was going to

a part-time job. We have informed Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and officials are coordinating with the US Embassy," said a family member of the deceased. Navya was killed in a two-vehicle crash near Chicago in the United States. The accident took place on Interstate 65 in Crown Point, Indiana, late Saturday night, as reported by a US media house, quoting Indiana State Police. According to the police, the crash occurred around 11:15 pm on the northbound I-65, about a mile south of the Crown Point exit. Responding troopers found a car blocking the centre and right lanes, while a red minivan had veered into a ditch on the right side of the roadway. The Indian Consulate General in Chicago confirmed the death of an Indian student, identified as Navya Gadusu, and expressed heartfelt condolences.

Dr .A Amarendra reddy out standing support NIBSM



HYDERABAD, JUNE 7:

Dr. A. Amarendra Reddy, Joint Director, School of Crop Health Policy Support Research, ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management (ICAR-NIBSM), Raipur, and a native of Chityala Mandal, Nalgonda District, Telangana, was conferred the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) Fellowship on 5th June 2026 during the 33rd Foundation Day celebrations and General Body Meeting of NAAS held at NASC Complex, New Delhi.

The fellowship was awarded by Dr. M. L. Jat, President of NAAS, who is also the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, in the presence of the Vice Presidents of NAAS, Dr. Pramod Kumar Joshi and Dr. B. S. Dhillon, Dr. B. S. Dwivedi (Secretary), Dr. R. K. Jain (Editor), Dr. R. K. Pal (Editor), Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Treasurer), Prof. Karimbhai M. Maredia (Foreign Secretary), and Dr. Seema Jaggi (Sectional Committee - Social Sciences).

Dr. Reddy has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to agricultural policy research, with significant contributions to agricultural development policy, impact assessment, and the design and evaluation of flagship programmes such as the Soil Health Card Scheme and the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). He has held senior positions across premier national institutions including ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), Kanpur; ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi; ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad; National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad; International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad; Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad; and Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD/NABARD), contributing extensively to research, policy formulation, and programme evaluation in Indian agriculture. He is a Fellow of the Telangana Academy of Sciences, the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE), Mumbai, and the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD), Kanpur.

Governor Visits Air Defence College

GOPALPUR, JUNE 7

Odisha Governor Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati on Sunday visited the prestigious Army Air Defence College at Gopalpur in Ganjam district and lauded its efforts in strengthening the nation's defence capabilities through innovation, technology and indigenous solutions.

During his visit, the Governor interacted with officers and personnel of the institution and was briefed on various initiatives related to capability development, technological advancements and military-academia collaboration. These efforts are aimed at fostering home-grown solutions to address emerging security challenges.

Dr. Kambhampati appreciated the professionalism, dedication and com-

mitment displayed by the officers and personnel. He commended their contribution to enhancing India's defence preparedness and maintaining operational excellence.

Sharing his experience on social media platform X, the Governor said he was inspired by the institution's excellence in defence innovation and capability building. He noted that the College's focus on developing indigenous solutions for future security challenges reflects the strength and preparedness of India's armed forces.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, the Governor inaugurated a 485-kWp rooftop solar power plant at Lok Bhavan, further boosting the campus's transition towards clean and renewable energy. With the new installation, the total

solar power generation capacity at Lok Bhavan has risen to 635 kW, making it a notable model of sustainable public infrastructure.

The solar project has been implemented across several buildings within the campus, including the Abhishek Banquet Hall, Administrative Building, Governor's House, Campus Garage, Energy Park and residential quarters. The project was executed by NBCC (India) Limited in the presence of senior officials, including Chairman-cum-Managing Director K.P. Mahadevaswamy.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor emphasized the need to accelerate the shift towards renewable energy in view of rising global energy challenges and fuel prices. He highlighted the importance of reducing

dependence on imported crude oil and promoting cleaner alternatives such as solar energy and electric vehicles.

Dr. Kambhampati also referred to government initiatives like PM Surya Ghar and Odisha Government subsidies that are encouraging wider adoption of rooftop solar systems. He underscored the role of ethanol blending and flex-fuel vehicles in reducing fossil fuel dependence and advancing sustainable transportation.

The Governor noted that Lok Bhavan has significantly expanded its renewable energy initiatives over the past year, including the transition of his official motorcade to electric vehicles, reflecting the institution's commitment to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Special Policy to be Formulated to Promote Natural and Organic Farming on Panchayat Land: CM Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH, JUNE 7:

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the state government will formulate a policy next year to promote natural and organic farming on lands owned by Panchayats. Around 800 acres of land owned by the Agriculture Department will be leased only to those farmers who commit to practicing natural and organic farming on it for at least the next ten years.

The Chief Minister was addressing an "Agriculture Workshop" organised in Kurukshetra under the Natural Farming Promotion and Cluster Formation Programme of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. On this occasion, Governor of Gujarat Acharya Devvrat and Haryana Agriculture Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana were also present.

The Chief Minister announced that farmers certified by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for natural and organic farming will receive financial assistance of ₹10,000 per acre per year for five years. He further stated that the Haryana State Seed Certification Agency will be designated as a certification body for or-



ganic farming certification.

He informed that natural and organic farmers will be provided space in agricultural markets (mandis) at Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Karnal, Sonapat, Rohtak, Gurugram, Faridabad, Hisar, Charkhi Dadri and Narnaul to sell their produce. Testing laboratories and APEDA-recognised certification centres will also be established to ensure better market access for farmers selling natural and organic produce.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further said that, in collaboration with Haryana Agricultural University, natural farming will be introduced in a 2,000-acre cluster in Kurukshetra district under a new initiative called Smart Agriculture, using the latest technologies. If farmers suffer any losses under this scheme, the Haryana Government will fully compensate them. He also

announced that Morni Block will be developed as a Natural and Organic Farming Block.

Providing details of incentives being offered to encourage natural farming, the Chief Minister said Haryana is the first state in the country to protect horticulture farmers from risks arising from weather uncertainties. Under the Chief Minister Horticulture Insurance Scheme, 21 crops have been included.

Urging farmers to contribute towards making Haryana a model state for natural farming, he said the state government stands with farmers at every stage—from seed to market. He emphasized that it is the collective moral responsibility of society to pass on fertile land, clean water and a healthy environment to future generations, which can only be achieved through the adoption of natural farm-

ing.

The Chief Minister appreciated the exemplary work being carried out by Governor of Gujarat Acharya Devvrat in advancing the natural and organic farming movement and elaborated on the initiatives undertaken under his guidance.

He informed that the Haryana Government launched the Natural Farming Scheme in 2022 and also developed a dedicated portal for the initiative. So far, nearly 2 lakh farmers have registered approximately 3 lakh acres of land on the portal. Of these, 23,930 farmers covering 44,077 acres have been verified for adopting natural farming. During 2025-26, natural farming was practiced on 20,727 acres across the state.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini further stated that training centres have been established at Gurukul, Kurukshetra;

Hameti, Jind; Mangiana, Sirsa; and Gharanda, Karnal to provide training on natural farming. A State Advisor has also been appointed at the Gurukul training centre in Kurukshetra for training progressive farmers. So far, 12,188 participants, including young farmers, women and government employees, have been trained. Additionally, 6,234 sarpanches have received one-day online training through the Hameti training centre.

He added that from 2025 onwards, the subsidy for indigenous cows has been increased to ₹30,000. This subsidy is available to farmers possessing at least one acre of land. To support storage and processing of raw materials, each farmer will be provided ₹3,000 for the purchase of four drums. Under the Natural Farming Scheme, ₹75 lakh has been disbursed to 2,500 farmers for purchasing four drums each, while a total subsidy of ₹2.97 crore has been directly transferred into farmers' bank accounts for the purchase of 1,171 indigenous cows.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Department, Sh. Vijayendra Kumar, other senior departmental officers, and thousands of farmers were also present on the occasion.

Wanted criminal dies after taking injuries in encounter

LUCKNOW: (Jun 8) A wanted contract killer, with over 40 cases against him and carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh, died after sustaining injuries in a police encounter in Ayodhya, a senior police official said.

"BJP, JD(S) cannot create another DK": CM

KANAKAPURA JUNE 7

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said neither the BJP nor the JD(S) could produce "another DK Shivakumar" in Kanakapura, while urging party workers and local leaders to set aside rivalries and work together for the constituency's development. Speaking during his first visit to various parts of his home constituency after taking charge as Chief Minister, Shivakumar thanked voters and said political opponents who had earlier contested against him were now supporting him.

"Can the BJP and JD(S) create another D.K. Shivakumar in this district? Absolutely not. BJP and JD(S) workers must understand this," Shivakumar said. "You may not agree with anyone else, but your conscience must agree. P.G.R. Sindhya, Vishwanath, Narayana Gowda, and U.K. Swamy contested elections against me. Now they are standing with me, supporting me. Are they fools? They have joined hands with me because they know another Shivakumar will not come, and they want good for the people," he added. "If you have any rivalries, forget them. Let good happen for this place. I am telling leaders of other parties through this platform -- let us all work together in unity," the CM added.

Shivakumar also spoke about the Congress government's tenure and the 2028 Assembly elections. "Our

legacy we leave behind is permanent. Should I be Chief Minister for only two years? With your blessings, we must win again in 2028. For that, let us all work together in unity. Let us govern well and leave behind a lasting legacy," he said.

Additionally, Shivakumar said the people of Kanakapura constituency were the foundation of his 40-year political journey, as he toured several villages in his home segment to thank voters after taking charge as Chief Minister. He added that the "great people of Kanakapura constituency laid the main foundation" for his political career.

In a post on X, Shivakumar said, "The people of my constituency have climbed the steps of Vidhana Soudha. It is my duty to first express my gratitude to them for nurturing me for the past 40 years. A 40-year political journey. The great people of Kanakapura constituency laid the main foundation for this. Therefore, today, I visited Harohalli Circle, Tungani, T. Bekuppe Circle, Narayapur, Kodihalli, Herindyanahalli, Kolagandanahalli, Hunasanahalli, and Hosdur villages, and spoke to the people of my constituency who have climbed the steps of Vidhana Soudha, expressing my gratitude to them." Referring to his electoral record, the Congress leader said voters had elected him to the Legislative Assembly eight times. He concluded by calling the people of Kanakapura his strength.

MEIL Set for Historic Zojila Tunnel Breakthrough

HYDERABAD

The prestigious Zojila Tunnel Project, which will provide year-round connectivity between the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, has reached a historic milestone with its final breakthrough scheduled for June 9. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will attend the breakthrough ceremony of the tunnel, which is being executed by Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd. (MEIL) on behalf of the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).

At 13.153 km, the Zojila Tunnel is the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel being constructed at the highest altitude. Stretching from Baltal near Sonamarg to Meenamarg in the Drass-Kargil region, the tunnel is being built at an elevation of about 11,578 feet above sea level and is expected to provide

a permanent solution to the long-standing connectivity challenges posed by the Zojila Pass, which remains closed for several months every year due to heavy snowfall, avalanches and extreme weather conditions.

Constructed using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), the project is regarded as one of India's most significant engineering achievements in mountain infrastructure. Apart from the main tunnel, the project includes approach roads, bridges, cut-and-cover structures, snow protection galleries and the Nilgaur twin tunnels. Once operational, it will ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh, significantly improving access to Drass, Kargil and Leh while strengthening civilian mobility, logistics and strategic military movement in the border region. The tunnel is also expected to boost economic activity, tourism and regional development.



The project, which began on October 1, 2020, has been executed under some of the harshest conditions in the Himalayas. Temperatures at the site regularly fall between

minus 20°C and minus 30°C for nearly 100 days every year. More than 1,200 personnel have worked on the project, with nearly 80% of the workforce drawn from local

communities. Over the last five years, the site has witnessed five major avalanche incidents, including a severe event in January 2023 when 172 workers stranded in the area were rescued by the Indian Army. Despite these challenges, the project has achieved 10 million safe man-hours. Engineers also had to contend with highly unpredictable geology, with rock classifications changing 67 times along the 13-km tunnel alignment. These challenges were successfully addressed through continuous geotechnical monitoring and advanced tunnelling practices. MEIL established a fully equipped base camp capable of accommodating more than 1,100 personnel and deployed hundreds of trucks, loaders, excavators, batching plants, crushing units and modern drilling equipment to execute the project.

The project has also supported the annual Amarnath Yatra by providing parking facilities, mobile sanitation units and in-

rastructure support for pilgrims in coordination with NHIDCL.

The overall project spans 30.894 km, including roads and bridges. In addition to the 13.153-km main tunnel, it comprises the 457.35-metre Nilgaur Tunnel T1, the 1,953.63-metre Nilgaur Tunnel T2, three bridges with a combined length of 460 metres, seven cut-and-cover structures extending 2,350 metres, and a 450-metre snow gallery. The project also features India's longest vertical shaft, measuring 474.3 metres, along with two additional shafts of 367.38 metres and 213.5 metres, which will serve ventilation and emergency safety functions.

The final breakthrough of the Zojila Tunnel marks the completion of the most critical excavation phase of one of India's most complex transport infrastructure projects and brings the country closer to achieving seamless, year-round connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh.

EDITORIAL

World Oceans Day (June 8)

ALL OCEANS ARE UNDER THE GRIP OF SEVERE POLLUTION

OCEANS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF BIODIVERSITY ON EARTH



India's Journey Towards a Developed Nation by 2047

As India marks its path toward becoming a developed nation by 2047, the centenary year of its independence, the country stands at a defining moment in its history. With a young population, a rapidly expanding economy, and growing global influence, India possesses the resources and potential needed to achieve this ambitious vision.

Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in infrastructure, digital connectivity, financial inclusion, and industrial growth. Massive investments in highways, railways, airports, and urban development have strengthened the foundation for long-term economic expansion. At the same time, initiatives promoting digital governance and innovation have transformed the way citizens access services and participate in the economy.

However, becoming a developed nation requires more than economic growth alone. Human capital must remain at the centre of development efforts. Quality education, skill development, healthcare access, and employment opportunities are essential to ensuring that growth benefits all sections of society. Equipping young people with industry-relevant skills will be crucial in an era increasingly shaped by technology, automation, and artificial intelligence.

India's development journey must also be sustainable and inclusive. The transition toward renewable energy, efficient resource management, and environmentally responsible growth will play a vital role in securing a prosperous future. Balancing economic progress with ecological conservation is no longer an option but a necessity.

The country's aspirations are further strengthened by its expanding role on the global stage. As a trusted partner in trade, technology, and diplomacy, India is increasingly contributing to international solutions and shaping global conversations. This growing influence provides new opportunities for investment, innovation, and collaboration.

The vision of a developed India by 2047 is not solely the responsibility of governments. Businesses, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and citizens all have a role to play. Collective effort, innovation, and a commitment to excellence will determine the pace of progress.

India's journey toward development is both a challenge and an opportunity. With sustained reforms, strategic investments, and inclusive growth, the nation can transform its aspirations into reality. The dream of a prosperous, resilient, and developed India by 2047 is within reach if the country continues moving forward with determination and purpose.

at which pollution is increasing in the oceans, this day has been reduced to a mere symbolic event. The theme for 'World Oceans Day' in the year 2026 is 'REIMAGINE: Beyond the world we know, a new relationship with our ocean', which inspires us to think that oceans are not just bodies of water, but the baseline of Earth's life, climate, and biodiversity.

Oceans worldwide are being badly polluted due to increasing human activities. According to environmental scientists, an average of one truck-load of plastic waste is dumped into the oceans every minute. Apart from this, a massive amount of sewage, industrial chemicals, and toxic elements are also reaching the seas. Billions of tons of plastic waste end up in the oceans every year, which neither decomposes easily nor disappears completely. It remains in the sea for years, severely affecting marine life and the ecosystem. These plastic particles and chemical elements entering the seas have a devastating impact on marine flora and fauna. According to the widely acclaimed book 'Pradushan Mukh Saansen', published with the courtesy of the Hindi Academy Delhi, the temperature of the oceans is rising, the pH value of the water is decreasing, the supply of nutrients is getting affected, and a depletion of oxygen is also being clearly recorded. All these impacts directly affect the marine ecosystem. Every year, millions of tons of heavy metals and saline elements flow from the Indian subcontinent into the Indian Ocean as well.

The greatest threat in the oceans comes from plastic waste, which marine creatures ingest, mistaking it for food. Many times, creatures like whales, sea turtles, and dolphins swallow fishing nets or other plastic waste, leading to their death. Numerous studies have shown that toxic chemicals present in plastic enter the bodies of marine organisms. These fish and marine creatures are

consumed as food by nearly 3 billion people worldwide. Thus, this pollution is also directly affecting human health. Near Norway, scientists have found high levels of toxic chemicals like PCBs in the fatty tissues of 'killer whales', which were banned in several countries decades ago. Additionally, chemicals called 'PFAS' have also been found in these creatures, which adversely affect hormone balance, reproductive capacity, and their life cycle. Scientists have also discovered 'brominated flame retardants' in the bodies of whales, which transfer across generations, leaving toxic effects on the next generation.

In a study conducted by the Spanish National Research Council, high levels of plastic compounds were found in the stomachs and muscles of sea turtles. These facts came to light during the analysis of 44 loggerhead sea turtles found dead on the Catalan coast of eastern Spain and the Balearic Islands. The compounds present in their bodies affect the hormone system, neurological activities, and possess carcinogenic properties. Rivers are the largest medium for plastic to reach the oceans. Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste reach the oceans through rivers. According to the 'Plastic Waste Makers Index' report, 130 million metric tons of single-use plastic waste was generated worldwide in the year 2019. Out of this, only 35 percent was incinerated, 31 percent was buried in landfills, and 19 percent was dumped in the open or into the oceans.

According to the 'The Ocean Cleanup' organization, published in the journal Science Advances, the number of rivers spreading plastic pollution in the oceans runs into thousands, but just one thousand rivers are held responsible for 80 percent of the plastic waste. Most of these rivers are small and medium-sized, rather than just massive rivers as was previously believed. Rivers in countries like the Philippines, China, India,

and Malaysia are leaders in carrying plastic to the oceans. The 4,800 rivers of the Philippines alone carry 3.5 lakh (350,000) metric tons of plastic to the oceans every year. More than 1,100 rivers in India carry 1.25 lakh (125,000) tons of plastic into the sea every year.

Apart from plastic pollution, climate change has also become a threat to the oceans. The temperature of the oceans is rising rapidly. Due to this, the intensity and frequency of storms are increasing. The Arabian Sea, which was previously considered a relatively cooler region, has now become warm. Because of this, the number of cyclones has risen sharply during the pre-monsoon season for five consecutive years. According to IPCC climate scientist Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, this situation is a clear indicator of climate change, posing a threat to both marine ecosystems and human life. Nevertheless, in the opinion of scientists and environmental experts, more stringent measures must be adopted at the international level to monitor the oceans. It has become absolutely essential to run solid policies and public awareness campaigns to control plastic production, consumption, and disposal. Only then will we be able to make the oceans safe and clean for future generations.



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The Burden of War

IN A WORLD THAT CELEBRATES TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS AND GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY, WAR REMAINS ONE OF HUMANITY'S GREATEST CONTRADICTIONS. FAR FROM BEING CONFINED TO DISTANT BATTLEFIELDS, MODERN CONFLICTS DISRUPT LIVES, DESTROY COMMUNITIES, AND BURDEN ENTIRE GENERATIONS WITH DISPLACEMENT, POVERTY, AND TRAUMA. AS MILLIONS ARE FORCED FROM THEIR HOMES AND VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS REDUCED TO RUINS, THE TRUE COST OF WAR IS MEASURED NOT IN MILITARY VICTORIES BUT IN LOST HUMAN POTENTIAL, MAKING PEACE AND DIPLOMACY MORE URGENT THAN EVER.

In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, space exploration, and instant global connectivity, one would assume that humanity has outgrown the primitive instinct for territorial destruction. Yet, the reality of our current world stands in stark, chilling contradiction to this hope. The age-old concept of the "struggle for life"—the innate human drive to build, sustain, and thrive—is being systematically dismantled by the relentless machinery of war. Modern conflicts are no longer confined to battlefields; they have bled into every facet of civilian existence, turning the simple pursuit of a dignified life into a heavy, often impossible burden.

The humanitarian cost of these conflicts is not merely a collection of grim statistics; it is a profound rupture in the fabric of human history. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has surpassed 110 million, a historic and tragic milestone. This means that millions of families have been stripped of their homes, livelihoods, and sense of security, forced to navigate the precarious existence of a refugee. Whether in the rubble-strewn streets of Gaza, the embattled cities of Ukraine, or the fractured landscape of Sudan, the story remains the same: civilians bear the brunt. Estimates suggest that in contemporary conflicts, upwards of 90% of casualties are non-combatants—men, women, and the elderly who were simply caught in the crossfire of political agendas they did not write.

The infrastructure of progress—schools, hospitals, power grids, and water systems—is being obliterated at a rate that will set these regions back by decades. The World Bank estimates the reconstruction costs of the war in Ukraine alone run into hundreds of billions of dollars, a figure



that continues to climb with every passing day of hostilities. When an electrical grid is bombed or a hospital is turned to dust, the impact is not just immediate physical suffering; it is a long-term erosion of the local economy and social stability. This destruction creates a generational poverty trap, where the resources meant for education, health, and development are redirected toward basic survival or, worse, toward fueling the very conflict that caused the destruction in the first place.

However, the most agonizing aspect of this modern warfare is the silent, devastating toll it takes on children. For a generation growing up in conflict zones, childhood is not a time of exploration and learning, but a race for survival. UNICEF reports that millions of children are currently deprived of formal education due to war, effectively creating a "lost generation." These children are not just statistics; they are individuals living with constant, toxic stress—a psychological burden that leaves deep scars, known as complex PTSD. They are witness to sights no human should ever see, and their physical

development is stunted by malnutrition and lack of access to basic medicine. When a school is bombed, it is not just a building that is lost; it is the potential of a future doctor, engineer, or teacher that is extinguished.

Beyond the immediate theater of war, the global "burden" manifests in the form of economic instability. We live in an interconnected ecosystem where a conflict in one grain-producing nation can trigger a food security crisis thousands of miles away. Supply chain disruptions, exacerbated by geopolitical sanctions and maritime blockades, have driven global inflation, making the cost of living a daily struggle for the average person. The rise in food and fuel prices acts as a "silent war" on the impoverished, who are forced to compromise on their health and nutrition to make ends meet.

As we look at these figures—the millions displaced, the billions in economic loss, and the unquantifiable psychological trauma—it becomes clear that war is a self-defeating endeavor. It extracts a price that no victory can ever justify. Humanity prides itself on being rational, yet we

continue to permit a system where the pursuit of power often dictates that the most vulnerable among us pay the highest price. The "struggle for life" was meant to be about overcoming natural challenges, not about surviving the cruelty of one's own kind. True progress will not be measured by the sophistication of our weaponry, but by our collective ability to safeguard the future of the most vulnerable. Until we can replace the logic of destruction with the logic of diplomacy and shared prosperity, the burden of war will continue to weigh heavily on the conscience of the world, stifling the potential of millions and dimming the light of our shared future.



DR. CHITYALA RAVINDER

ALL IS WELL



No jeweled chain, no cushioned floor,
Yet guards the pup by the silent door.
No crown of gold upon its head,
But still it watches where angels dread.

The fields lie bare, the farmers gone,
The winds now hum a lonesome song.
Yet when the breeze begins to stir,
It barks a tiny protector's purr.

No lullaby, no peaceful night,
It stands alone in fading light.
No call to arms, no battle bell,
Yet holds its post and guards it well.

Upon the earth, its bed of clay,
It dreams not once of running away.
Not driven by command or chain,
But bound by love, both pure and plain.

It seeks no gain, it bears no pride,
It walks with faith at its master's side.
Like soldiers brave on distant land,
It stands for more than we understand.

A whisper heard, a rustle near
It meets the dark with eyes sincere.
Its bark may shake the starry dome,
But in its heart, it's guarding home.

O human kind, so wise, so grand,
Why slip so far from love's own hand?
Why build tall walls, yet fail to see,
That truth still lives in loyalty?

If but we learned from this small soul,
To serve with heart, to guard the whole
To give, not take; to love, not sell
Oh, what a world... where all is well.

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

Akhilesh Alleges Missing Ram Temple Funds, Seeks Court Action

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday alleged that crores of rupees have been found missing from the offerings made at the Ram Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. He urged for judicial intervention in the matter. In a post on social media platform X, Yadav said: "This is an extremely sensitive piece of news for devotees of Lord Ram across the entire world: crores of rupees in offerings to the 'Ram Mandir' have been found missing." He called the incident "utterly shameful" for the temple trust. "No one is coming forward to offer any explanation," he added. Yadav urged the court to take suo motu cognisance, "as this is directly linked to the deep faith in Lord Ram held by the entire Sanatan society at a global level." "The government's silence is suspicious," he said.

PM wants youth to make reels and not ask questions

Rahul Gandhi praised teen whistleblowers Sarthak Sidhant and Nisarga Adhikary for exposing what he described as collusion between the CBSE and Coempt and called their efforts a "victory" for youth and a "defeat" for the government.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday praised whistleblower student Sarthak Sidhant and his associate Nisarga Adhikary for exposing what he described as a "collusion" between the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Coempt, saying that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants young people to keep "making reels and frying pakodas", the two students chose to ask questions and uncovered answers as well. Sharing a video of his meeting with Sarthak last week on X, the Congress leader highlighted the efforts of the 18-year-old student, who was affected by the CB-

Rahul Gandhi on CBSE OSM row



SE's On-Screen Marking System (OSM) and has alleged irregularities in the tendering process for selecting a vendor to conduct the Class 12 board exam evaluation exercise.

In his Hindi post accompanying the video, Rahul Gandhi said, "Sarthak is 18 years old, yet, in terms of mindset, courage, and principles, he is second to none."

He added that Sarthak and his associate Nisarg had achieved what "the country's

major media houses and investigative journalists could not" by exposing what he alleged was a "collusion between CBSE and Coempt."

Calling it a victory for young people, the Congress leader said, "An 18-year-old from the country proved faster and sharper than the CBI; this victory for the youth is, in the true sense, a defeat for the government."

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also took

a swipe at PM Modi, saying, "Modi ji wants our youth to keep making reels and frying pakodas, without asking questions or opening their eyes. But these young men did ask questions, and they found the answers, too."

Praising the students' efforts, he added, "This is India's true youth power -- inquisitive, aware and informed. And remember, the country's future will not be led astray."

Although the government has removed two senior CBSE officials amid the controversy over the OSM, the Congress has termed the action an eye-wash and an attempt to cover up the issue.

Rahul Gandhi has demanded the immediate removal of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and called for an independent judicial probe.

In the video, Gandhi is seen asking Sarthak Sidhant how he uncovered the alleged irregularities in the OSM tendering process. He also praised the student, saying

his work was akin to that of an investigative journalist.

After meeting Sarthak Sidhant and his family last Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi shared photographs from the interaction and wrote, "Sarthak, stay firm on your principles."

On the same day, Sidhant appeared before a parliamentary panel and made a presentation on the alleged irregularities in the tendering process for the On-Screen Marking System (OSM).

The controversy centres on the CBSE's decision to replace the traditional method of evaluating Class 12 answer sheets with the digital On-Screen Marking System.

However, controversy erupted after several Class 12 students claimed that the scanned answer sheets uploaded by the CBSE did not match their handwriting, raising concerns about possible answer-sheet mismatches in the On-Screen Marking System (OSM).



NFR Records a Consistent Freight Performance

MALIGAON, 7 JUNE, 2026:

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continued its strong freight performance in May 2026, recording a notable mark in unloading activity. During the month, 1034 freight rakes were unloaded across the zone, marking a steady inception for the zone during the FY 2026-27. Throughout the month, NFR ensured smooth transportation of essential and industrial commodities including food grains, food grade items, fertilizers, sugar, SNTP-coal, salt, tannin and other goods. These consignments were efficiently handled at various goods sheds across its jurisdiction, ensuring timely supply and operational reliability. A significant share of the freight traffic was dedicated to meeting the requirements of the Northeastern states. Assam accounted for the highest unloading with 557 rakes, comprising 271 rakes of essential commodities and 286 rakes of non-essential commodities,

underscoring the vital role of Railways in supporting public distribution systems, industrial activities and daily consumer needs. During the same period, 74 rakes were unloaded in Tripura, 34 rakes in Nagaland, 20 rakes in Manipur, 10 rakes in Arunachal Pradesh, 8 rakes in Mizoram and 1 rake in Meghalaya. In addition, West Bengal recorded the unloading of 196 rakes, while Bihar accounted for 134 rakes comprising both essential and non-essential commodities, further strengthening regional supply chains, trade connectivity and economic activities across the region. The movement of essential commodities and industrial goods remains crucial for meeting public needs and supporting economic activities across the region. Through close monitoring and coordinated efforts by field units, NFR has improved turnaround time and unloading efficiency, reaffirming its commitment to reliable freight operations and the socio-economic development of the Northeast.

13 shops gutted in Poonch fire; locals allege delayed firefighting response

A major fire that broke out in the central market of Buzfiya village in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district gutted 13 shops on Sunday morning, causing losses worth crores of rupees.



A major fire gutted 13 shops in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district early Sunday, causing property damage worth crores of rupees, officials told news agency PTI. No casualties were reported in the incident.

The fire broke out around 5 am in the central market of Buzfiya village along the Mughal Road. Most of the affected shops were constructed with wood and tin, making them vulnerable to the rapidly spreading flames.

Locals, assisted by Army and CRPF personnel, launched firefighting efforts immediately after the blaze erupted. A team from the Fire and Emergency Services Department later joined the operation. An official from the Fire and Emergency Services Department said firefighters brought the blaze under control within 30 minutes, helping restrict further damage. Preliminary investigations

suggested that a short circuit in one of the shops triggered the fire, which quickly spread to nearby establishments.

Locals expressed strong resentment over what they described as the civil administration's inadequate response to the incident. A fire survivor said the absence of a fire station in the area worsened the situation, alleging that a fire tender from Surankote arrived more than an hour after the blaze began.

The survivor thanked Army and CRPF personnel for their prompt response, saying their efforts helped save at least four shops from being engulfed by the flames. The survivor also alleged

that no representative of the civil administration visited the site to assess the losses or offer assistance. Affected traders and residents claimed that delays in firefighting efforts allowed the blaze to spread rapidly, causing extensive damage to shops and property. They demanded the establishment of a permanent fire station in the area, arguing that the lack of emergency infrastructure has repeatedly put lives and property at risk.

The residents also urged the administration to conduct a proper assessment of the losses and provide financial assistance to help affected families and shopkeepers rebuild their livelihoods.

Monsoon Reaches Northeast, Full Coverage Soon

GUWAHATI/AGARTALA, JUNE 7

The Southwest monsoon advanced into substantial parts of the Northeastern region on Sunday, arriving two days later than its normal onset date, bringing widespread rainfall and raising hopes for a normal to above-normal monsoon season across the region. Officials of the Meteorological Centres under the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Guwahati and Agartala said that the Southwest monsoon entered Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday. "Within the next two to three days, the Southwest monsoon is expected to cover all the Northeastern states," an IMD official in Agartala told IANS. He said that last year (2025), the Southwest monsoon had advanced into most parts of the Northeastern region on May 26, making this year's onset relatively delayed. According to IMD officials, favourable meteorological conditions currently prevail over the region, facilitating the further advancement of the monsoon during the next two to three days. "Parts of the Northeast region, the Andaman and



Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Konkani and Goa, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are also likely to receive rainfall during the next few days," the IMD said. In a statement, the weather agency said that conditions remain favourable for the further advance of the Southwest monsoon into the remaining parts of the Northeastern states as well as some areas of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next three to four days. According to the IMD official, although strong El Nino conditions have been forecast in certain parts of India this year, the phenomenon is unlikely

to have a significant adverse impact on the mountainous Northeastern region because of its extensive forest cover, varied topography and favourable climatic conditions. He said that rainfall across the Northeastern states during the Southwest monsoon season is expected to remain normal to above normal. A weather expert noted that one of the strongest El Nino events on record is widely expected to develop during the second half of 2026, potentially triggering hot and dry conditions across large parts of Asia while causing excessive rainfall in parts of the Americas, with the effects likely to be intensified by ongoing global climate change.



Home Minister Amit Shah to launch Land Port Management System on June 9

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

In a move to improve border and internal security, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will launch a Land Port Management System (LPMS) on June 9, an official said on Sunday.

"The LPMS is a state-of-the-art digital platform designed to integrate operations across land ports into a unified system. It enables secure, real-time exchange of logistics and regulatory information, bringing land ports at par with digital systems operational at airports and seaports," the official said in a statement.

This initiative underscores the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union government's commitment to smart border management, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and security in cross-border trade and passenger movement through technology-driven solutions, an official statement said.

On this occasion, the Union Home Minister will also inaugurate the newly developed stakeholder accommodation facilities at the Dawki (Meghalaya) and Srimantapur (Tripura) Land Ports, further reinforcing infrastructure support for border security personnel and other valuable stakeholders.

The launch of LPMS will be a landmark step in India's journey towards modern, technology-enabled smart border management system, reflecting the nation's strategic focus on strengthening trade facilitation, connectivity, and national security and 'Viksit Bharat by 2047'.

"As a neutral and open platform, LPMS will facili-

tate seamless coordination among various stakeholders, including government agencies and private operators, thereby reducing delays and enhancing operational efficiency," it added.

"The system introduces end-to-end digital workflows for cargo and passenger processing, including slot booking, payments, tracking, and single-window clearances," it said.

Fully integrated with key national platforms such as Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE), Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP), and the motor vehicle ecosystem, LPMS will enable interoperable, efficient, and transparent border management.

"The Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Home Affairs' Department of Border Management, is responsible for developing and managing land ports to facilitate trade, connectivity, and regional cooperation," the statement said.

At present, the LPAI operates 15 land ports across India's international borders: Attari (Punjab) and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab) along the India-Pakistan border; Rupaidiha (Uttar Pradesh), Raxaul (Bihar) and Joghani (Bihar) along the India-Nepal border; Darranga (Assam) along the India-Bhutan border; Petrapole (West Bengal), Dawki (Meghalaya), Sutar-kandi, Golakganj and Manakachar (Assam), Agartala, Srimantapur and Sabroom (Tripura) along the India-Bangladesh border; and Moreh (Manipur) along the India-Myanmar border.

Jantar Mantar just a trailer

A day after the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) first major street protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, founder Abhijeet Dipke thanked supporters for participating in the demonstration and signalled that the movement was 'only a trailer.'



pm, but later announced a 7-day deadline for action by the minister or the government. "This doesn't end here. Dharmendra Pradhan has wronged an entire generation. If he is not removed or does not step down within the next 7 days, we will be forced to continue our protest on the ground," he concluded mentioning that he will address on an Instagram live later on Sunday.

'DHARMENDRA PRADHAN MUST GO'
The demonstration at Delhi's Jantar Mantar was organised to demand the

resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination irregularities and recruitment-related issues. Students, competitive exam aspirants, parents, young professionals and activists joined the protest, with some travelling from other states to participate. One protester said he had come from Nagpur in Maharashtra to raise his voice against what he described as systemic failures in the education and recruitment system.

Amid chants of "Dharmendra Pradhan must go",

protesters wearing cockroach masks gathered under heavy security, carrying books, flowers and the national flag. Addressing the crowd, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke accused the government of ignoring student concerns while focusing on suppressing dissent online.

PROTEST AMID HEIGHTENED SECURITY

The demonstration triggered a massive security deployment across Delhi, with more than 1,000 police personnel stationed at Jantar Mantar and other strategic locations across the city. Security was tightened

at airports, railway stations, interstate bus terminals and border entry points, while around 40 companies of paramilitary forces were deployed to assist Delhi Police in maintaining law and order, according to a PTI report.

Additional security arrangements were also made around the residence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

'STRUGGLE BUT CHANGE YOUR NAME'
Haryana's Minister, Anil Vij, referring to his recent comment on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), said that in a democracy every individual has the right to struggle and express his or her views. In this context, he advised the office-bearers of the Cockroach Janata Party, saying, "This is a democracy—everyone has the right to struggle, but you should change your name."

Vij had written in his post that even a small child crushes a cockroach with a slipper on seeing it, so he felt it is better to change the name.

TMC leader hides under pile of sarees to dodge arrest, police find him

Police arrested TMC leader Brahmanand Chakraborty after finding him hidden under sarees in a Howrah shop. The arrest came amid cut money allegations, as another party functionary returned extorted funds. In a bizarre turn of events, a local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader attempted to evade the police by hiding beneath a massive pile of sarees in a clothing shop's storeroom, only to be ferreted out and taken into custody. The unusual incident took place in Howrah's Udaynarayanpur, and a video of the episode has since gone viral across social media platforms. The arrested individual has been identified as Brahmanand Chakraborty, a local TMC functionary.

CORNERED OVER CUT MONEY ALLEGATIONS
The drama unfolded after residents accused Chakraborty of demanding and receiving 'cut money' (illegal commissions) from government housing scheme funds meant for beneficiaries.

US regulators defend bank reforms, stablecoins

WASHINGTON

Senior US banking regulators defended efforts to ease some post-crisis regulations and implement new rules for stablecoins during a contentious congressional hearing, while Democratic lawmakers warned that the changes could weaken safeguards designed to prevent future financial crises.

The debate unfolded before the House Financial Services Committee this week as senior officials from the Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) outlined their priorities for the banking sector.

Federal Reserve Vice Chair for Supervision Michelle Bowman told lawmakers that the US banking system remained "sound and resilient", adding that "Bank lending to households and businesses also continues to grow."

GPS attack could disrupt economy, US lawmakers warn

WASHINGTON

US lawmakers this week warned that a successful attack on the Global Positioning System (GPS) could severely disrupt the American economy, as a House panel examined growing threats from China and Russia and debated competing technologies to provide backup positioning, navigation and timing services. At a hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, members of both parties agreed that GPS has become deeply embedded in modern life and that growing incidents of jamming and spoofing pose risks to national security, transportation networks, communications systems and critical infrastructure. During the hearing, Subcommittee Chairman Richard Hudson said GPS today supports far more than navigation apps.

AI cyber risks, China concerns dominate US hearing

WASHINGTON

Artificial intelligence is dramatically changing the cybersecurity landscape, creating powerful new tools for defence while also giving criminals and hostile states new ways to attack critical infrastructure, technology experts and lawmakers warned during a US Congressional hearing.

The hearing came days after President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to develop a framework for evaluating advanced AI cyber capabilities and expanding access to frontier AI models for government and critical infrastructure operators.

Experts told members of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection that AI is accelerating the discovery of software vulnerabilities, increasing the speed of cyber attacks and intensifying competition between the United States and China.

"These models are already reshaping the threat landscape, and the federal government cannot be the last to



understand what they can do," Subcommittee Chairman Andy Ogles said.

Sandra Joyce, Vice President of Google Threat Intelligence Group, said AI is already being used by cyber criminals.

"Those concerns were validated recently when we discovered evidence for the first time that AI was used to develop a zero-day exploit by cyber criminals," Joyce testified. She said attackers are increasingly using AI to identify vulnerabilities and move through networks faster than traditional security teams can respond.

"Threat actors are able to move rapidly before and after gaining access to a network using AI. They can take advantage of vulnerabilities

faster than we can patch, and they can move rapidly through networks using autonomous agents," she said.

Chris Meserole, Executive Director of the Frontier Model Forum, said advanced AI systems present both opportunities and dangers.

"An agent that finds zero-day vulnerabilities can protect us in the hands of a defender but expose us in the hands of an attacker," he said. Meserole warned that foreign competitors could use a technique known as "adversarial distillation" to replicate the capabilities of advanced AI systems while stripping away safety protections.

"Foreign actors can use distillation to accelerate their

own AI development and leverage the capabilities they gain against US critical infrastructure," he said.

Jack Cable, Chief Executive Officer of Corridor Security and a former adviser at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said AI is increasing both the scale and speed of cyber risks.

"The central challenge is not that AI creates new categories of vulnerabilities. It's that AI dramatically increases the speed and scale at which vulnerabilities can be introduced, found, and exploited," he said.

Cable argued that governments and companies should focus on preventing vulnerabilities before software is deployed rather than relying sole-

ly on fixing problems after they are discovered. China emerged repeatedly during the hearing as lawmakers questioned witnesses about the growing global influence of Chinese AI models. Witnesses warned that low-cost Chinese AI systems could become widely adopted across software development, cloud computing and critical infrastructure if the United States fails to remain competitive.

"I don't think there's prize for second place in the AI race, nor is there one in the quantum race," Joyce said.

She said Chinese cyber groups have already demonstrated their ability to infiltrate critical infrastructure networks, making AI leadership a matter of national security. Democratic lawmakers raised concerns about privacy, surveillance and civil liberties.

Matthew Guariglia, a senior policy analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, cautioned that AI could significantly expand government surveillance capabilities unless accompanied by stronger safeguards and transparency requirements.

'Inspiration to countless young Indians', PM Modi hails Major Abhilasha Barak's UN recognition

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, hailing her "exemplary service" and calling this achievement an inspiration for Indian youth aspiring to serve society.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Congratulations to Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award. Major Barak is serving as an Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)." "This honour is a recognition of her exemplary service and also



of India's longstanding contribution to United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Her achievement is also an inspiration to countless young Indians, especially our daughters, who aspire to serve the nation and humanity," he added.

Major Barak, India's first woman combat helicopter pilot, has received the UN 2005

Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for her efforts to promote the role and perspectives of women in peacekeeping.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who presented the award, said she was "a role model to those you serve, and those you serve with".

"Dreams do not have a gen-

der, and neither does leadership, courage, or the will to serve humanity," said Major Barak, who is deployed in Lebanon, currently the most dangerous UN peacekeeping site.

She added that the award is a reminder that lasting peace can only be built when every voice is heard and every individual is empowered.

Assistant Secretary-General Lisa Buttenheim said Major Barak's "leadership and innovation have advanced the women, peace, and security agenda across military operations".

About Major Barak's work, Guterres said that by building trust with local communities, she helped develop early-warning networks that strengthen the mission's ability to protect civilians. "As a frontline

commander, she has engaged thousands of women and girls through vocational training and programmes for education and health," he said, adding that she is transforming lives even under the most challenging circumstances.

Barak is the third woman officer from India to be awarded the Military Gender Advocate Award after Major Suman Gawni and Major Radhika Sen.

She is the Engagement Team Commander and Gender Focal Point in the Indian Battalion deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). UNIFIL, which is deployed along the border between Israel and Lebanon, is now the riskiest peacekeeping operation as fighting rages between Israel and Hezbollah.

Thousands rally for 3rd day demanding new election over ballot shortages



SEOUL

Thousands of protesters continued to stage a rally near a vote-counting facility in eastern Seoul in South Korea for the third day Sunday, claiming last week's local elections were fraudulent and demanding a new election.

According to an unofficial police estimate, approximately 3,000 people surrounded SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in Songpa Ward as of noon. Police estimated a crowd of 30,000 had gathered the previous day.

Protesters are currently gathered at each of the eight entrances, keeping an eye on ballot boxes that remain inside the facility while chanting slogans calling for a do-over of the elections.

An estimated 20 to 30 officials who were said to have been trapped inside reportedly managed to leave early Saturday, though the National Election Commission (NEC) has refused to officially confirm the reports.

Protests have continued after ballot paper shortages were reported at more than a dozen polling stations across

Seoul on Wednesday, including in Songpa and Gangnam, prompting temporary voting suspensions. Some voters were believed to have left without casting their ballots, reports Yonhap news agency.

NEC Chairman Roh Tae-ak and NEC Secretary General Heo Cheol-hoon offered their resignations Friday.

The main opposition People Power Party (PPP) also stepped up its call for a new election, proposing talks with President Lee Jae Myung to discuss the issue.

"At a time when the public is demanding a new election, it would be impossible to quell the mounting public anger that has spread like wildfire simply through a parliamentary probe, a special counsel probe recommended by the ruling party or replacing a few officials at the National Election Commission," PPP leader Jang Dong-hyeok said during a press conference at the National Assembly.

Describing the protests as an "orderly civil resistance movement," Rep. Jang argued the situation has reached a point where it could no longer be ignored.

12 people wounded in shooting near US Ohio festival

WASHINGTON

At least 12 people were shot near a community festival in Toledo, US state of Ohio, with two in critical condition. The incident occurred on Saturday afternoon (local time).

It appeared there were at least two people who were "probably shooting at each other," Toledo Deputy Police Chief Joe Heffernan said, adding that police are still searching for the suspects and advise the public to avoid the surrounding areas.

Toledo Police Department officers responded to a report of a person shot in an area near the Old West End Festival at approximately 5:37 p.m. local time (21:37 GMT) and discovered multiple shooting victims. The injured were taken to hospitals for treatment, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Old West End Festival

is a two-day event featuring live music, food markets, house tours and shopping.

Earlier on Wednesday, a teenager was killed and three people wounded in a shooting after a US California high school graduation ceremony, according to local media.

The shooting occurred in the parking lot of a high school in Northern California, CBS reported, citing a local police spokesman.

On May 18, at least five people were killed in a shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego (ICSD) in southern California, including three victims and two suspected shooters, according to police.

The San Diego Police Department said on X that officers were on scene at ICSD, located in the 7050 block of Eckstrom Avenue, following reports of an active shooter situation.

China reshaping Tibetan identity through education system: Report

NEW DELHI

China's education policies in Tibet are increasingly becoming a battleground over identity, history and cultural preservation, according to a report.

The Eurasia review, said in a report that educational reforms implemented under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) are re-

shaping how Tibetan children understand their own heritage.

In its report titled "Tibet Is Not Han China: Reject The Rewriting Of A Living Civilisation", it contends that the struggle for Tibet extends beyond politics and territory and has become "a battle over memory, identity, and the right of a people to tell their own story". According to

the report, Tibetan students are increasingly being taught narratives that portray Tibet as an inseparable part of China while minimising or omitting Tibet's distinct political, religious and cultural history.

It said that school curricula often emphasise the role of successive Chinese dynasties in Tibet while downplaying periods

of Tibetan self-rule and the wider historical influence of Tibetan civilisation across Central Asia and the Himalayan region.

The report also added that educational content increasingly presents the Chinese Communist Party as the primary force behind Tibet's development, reducing Tibetan history to a prelude to what Beijing describes as the

region's "liberation" in the 1950s.

It also expresses concern over the declining presence of Tibetan Buddhism, literature, folklore, oral traditions and indigenous knowledge systems in educational materials. Particular attention is drawn to language policies. Citing research by human rights organisations, the report claims that nearly one million Tibet-

an children have been placed in state-run boarding schools that primarily operate in Mandarin. It also notes that revisions to China's National Common Language Law in December 2025 made Mandarin the principal language of instruction across schools, replacing earlier provisions that allowed minority languages to serve as teaching mediums.

EU Delegation to Visit Assam, Launch Blue Valleys Initiative

GUWAHATI

A high-level Team Europe delegation of the European Union (EU) will arrive in Assam's Guwahati on June 8 for a two-day visit to advance collaboration opportunities with India's North-Eastern States, in line with the priorities set out in the joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda agreed between the EU and India at their Summit last January.

Europe and India are working together to strengthen cooperation, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

According to a statement released by the EU, the visit will focus on value chains across sectors where Europe and the North-Eastern states of India share strong synergies, including renewable and green energy, sustainable urban infrastructure, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and electronics manufacturing, tea and agri-food processing, flavours and fragrances, and AYUSH.

The EU delegation will comprise Ambassadors and senior representatives from EU Member States, including Herve Delphin, Ambassador of the



European Union to India and Bhutan, alongside European business representatives.

During the visit, the European delegation will hold bilateral talks with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. A business delegation led by the Federation of European Businesses in India (FEBI) will also hold discussions with State officials to identify trade and investment opportunities.

On June 9, the delegation will participate in the 'Blue Valleys: Building ecosystems and value chains between India and Europe' workshop, organised by the Assam government. This event will bring together European and Indian businesses to explore partnerships in sustainable value chains, industries and innovation.

"The visit will also see the launch of Assam's first Blue Valley Cluster, a new industrial hub focused on fragrances, flavours, AYUSH, and food processing. This 4P (public-private-people-partnership) cluster will seek to connect Europe, North-East India, and Bhutan, promoting innovation, research, sustainable manufacturing, and business collaborations. This pilot project, led by the Assam government, is aligned with the Blue Valleys initiative, which was introduced at the 2026 EU-India Summit," the statement read.

According to the statement, the Blue Valley aims to promote industrial clusters, MSME linkages, and sector-specific value-chain integration between the EU and India, while

ensuring economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Clean energy, natural ingredients, bamboo-based industries, eco-friendly textiles, biotech, wellness, and smart manufacturing are the key sectors under this initiative. "By combining funding, skills development, and sustainability standards, the initiative seeks to create scalable business models that benefit local communities and connect them to European markets, the EU statement read.

Quoting Ambassador Herve Delphin, reflecting on the significance of the visit, the statement read, "North-East India and Assam at its core, has enormous potential - its resources, its skilled workforce and is already one of the fastest growing regions of India

by GDP. Through initiatives like Blue Valleys, we're not just discussing cooperation; we're building real, long-term business-to-business partnerships that will drive growth for both the EU and India."

"While the general contours to strengthen the EU-India ties have been finalised at the EU-India summit, it will have to take root at the state level. The EU has a long-standing engagement with Assam, and we are encouraged by the advancements we're seeing through initiatives like the Blue Valleys," he added.

In addition to meetings and the Blue Valleys event, the delegation will visit Tata Electronics' new semiconductor plant.

This visit will also highlight the significance of the digital partnership under the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and will give European investors a closer look at Assam's business environment, infrastructure, and industry potential. "The delegation's programme in Assam signals a new chapter in EU-India collaboration, with a shared vision to unlock the North-East's economic potential through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth," the EU added.

EAM Jaishankar meets Indonesian counterpart Sugiono, discusses comprehensive strategic ties

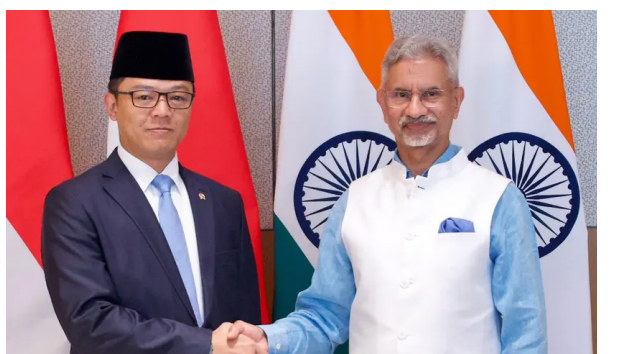
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his Indonesian counterpart, Sugiono, co-chaired the 8th Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting in New Delhi on Sunday, discussing key priorities under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Sugiono stated that he looked forward to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Indonesia.

"Delighted to co-chair the 8th Indonesia-India Joint Commission Meeting with Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India in New Delhi (7/6). We discussed key priorities under the Indonesia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, from trade and maritime security to digital connectivity, infrastructure, health and people-to-people ties," Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

"Looking forward to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Jakarta. The visit will be an important opportunity to further deepen our cooperation and deliver tangible benefits for our peo-



ple," he added. EAM Jaishankar also took to X and said, "A pleasure to co-chair the 8th India - Indonesia Joint Commission meeting alongside FM Sugiono. Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has witnessed a strong growth in recent years."

"Held substantive discussions on our political, defence & security, maritime & shipping, trade, fintech, health, pharmaceuticals, fertiliser, critical mineral as well as tourism, education and cultural cooperation," he said.

The EAM said that they also discussed the regional developments, advancing multilateral coordination between the two nations and

deepening India-ASEAN ties. Earlier in the day, Sugiono arrived in New Delhi for the 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting.

A Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) was established at the level of the Foreign Ministers following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2001. Earlier on May 14, EAM Jaishankar held a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Delhi. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed progress on the India-Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and ASEAN cooperation.

RBI Likely to Keep Rates Unchanged Until October Despite Inflation Risks: Centrum

MUMBAI, JUNE 7

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to maintain its current interest rate stance at its August monetary policy review and may refrain from raising rates until October, according to a report by Centrum Institutional Research.

The brokerage firm said that despite the RBI's recent upward revision of inflation forecasts and a downward adjustment of growth projections for FY27, an immediate policy tightening remains unlikely.

"Following the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, we do not expect a rate hike in August," Centrum said in its review. The report added that the MPC is likely to remain on hold as inflation continues to stay within the target range while concerns over economic growth persist.



According to the report, the current inflationary pressures are largely being driven by external and supply-side factors, particularly rising energy prices, rather than excessive domestic demand. This

reduces the need for aggressive monetary tightening.

The assessment aligns with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra's remarks that the present inflationary impulse is "predominantly supply-driven and

imported in nature," stemming from higher energy costs rather than overheating demand in the domestic economy.

Centrum noted that raising interest rates aggressively in such a scenario could hamper economic growth without effectively addressing the root causes of inflation.

In its June 5 policy review, the RBI revised its FY27 inflation forecast upward to 5.1 per cent from 4.6 per cent, while lowering its GDP growth estimate to 6.6 per cent from 6.9 per cent.

Despite elevated inflation risks, the brokerage expects the central bank to continue prioritising growth and closely monitor evolving global and geopolitical developments before considering any policy action.

"With domestic demand still recovering and global un-

certainties remaining high, policy normalisation through a rate hike appears unlikely before October," the report stated.

However, Centrum cautioned that a rate increase later in the year cannot be ruled out if inflationary pressures become more broad-based. It expects the interest rate cycle to turn in the second half of FY27, with October emerging as a possible window for policy action should inflation risks persist.

The report identified crude oil prices, monsoon performance, and core inflation trends as the key factors that will shape the RBI's future policy decisions. It also highlighted the duration and intensity of ongoing geopolitical conflicts as critical variables influencing inflation and economic stability.

India Can Create Global Value Through AI Deployment Despite Lag in Advanced Chips: Neelkanth



NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

India may not yet be a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI) model development or advanced semiconductor manufacturing, but the country has a significant opportunity to generate economic value through the large-scale deployment of AI across key sectors, according to newly appointed World Bank Executive Director Neelkanth Mishra.

Speaking to ANI, Mishra said that while global attention remains focused on cutting-edge AI technologies, semiconductor fabrication, and large language models, India's strengths lie in applying these technologies to address real-world challenges.

"The world today is focused on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, DRAM, and large language models. So far, we do not have a major presence in these areas," Mishra noted.

He attributed part of the gap to limited access to risk capital in India compared with countries such as the United States. According to him, Indian AI startups often struggle to raise a few hundred million dollars, while leading global AI companies attract funding worth tens of billions of dollars.

Despite this disadvantage, Mishra expressed confidence in India's future role in the AI ecosystem. He argued that the next phase of technological progress will be driven not by the creation of intelligence alone, but by its practical deployment.

"I think India will do extremely well when the narrative shifts from the generation of intelligence to the deployment of intelligence," he said.

He emphasized that AI applications in healthcare, education, and banking could unlock substantial economic benefits and improve access to essential services for millions of people.

On the semiconductor front, Mishra praised the progress made under the India

Semiconductor Mission over the past four years. He said India has moved from having virtually no semiconductor manufacturing infrastructure to establishing several semiconductor packaging facilities.

"From having nothing on the ground, we now have multiple plants engaged in semiconductor packaging," he said.

Mishra added that India is expected to operationalize its first wafer fabrication plant within the next two years, marking a significant milestone for the country's semiconductor ambitions.

However, he acknowledged that India remains considerably behind global leaders in advanced chip manufacturing. While the country's first fabrication facilities are expected to produce chips in the 28-40 nanometre range, leading global manufacturers are already producing chips at 1.8 nanometres.

"We are perhaps eight or nine generations behind the global frontier," he said.

Looking ahead, Mishra expressed optimism about the proposed Semicon 2.0 programme, which he believes could help attract manufacturers capable of producing chips in the 7-12 nanometre range by 2032.

He also called for greater investment in research and deep-tech innovation. While acknowledging the growing number of Indian engineers and entrepreneurs tackling complex technological challenges, he stressed that the innovation ecosystem must expand significantly. "In the last few years, there has been an explosion of engineers with a high-risk appetite who are pursuing difficult technological problems. But that ecosystem needs to be 100 times larger," Mishra said.

Mishra's remarks underscore India's evolving technology strategy—one that focuses on leveraging AI and semiconductor capabilities to solve practical challenges and drive inclusive economic growth, even as the country continues to build its capacity in advanced technology development.

Global Peptide Demand Seen Reaching 99,000 kg by 2030: Goldman Sachs

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The pace of generic competition and pricing in the global GLP-1 obesity drug market after 2031-32 will depend more on peptide manufacturing capacity than on demand, according to a Goldman Sachs report.



The report said China, already a dominant supplier of synthetic peptide active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), is likely to play a key role in supporting generic manufacturers seeking to launch semaglutide products as patent protections begin to expire from 2027.

Goldman Sachs estimates that the global obesity drug market could require nearly 99,000 kilograms of peptide API by 2030. In the United States alone, GLP-1 drug sales are projected to reach USD 66 billion by 2030, split equally between oral and injectable treatments. Meeting this demand would require about 35,000 kilograms of peptide API by 2030, rising to 57,000 kilograms by 2035.

Outside the US and China, anti-obesity medication sales are expected to reach USD 43 billion by 2030, requiring around 32,000 kilograms of API. In China, where generic injectable semaglutide is expected to dominate, obesity drug sales could reach USD 4.5 billion by 2030, translating into demand for approximately 12,000 kilograms of API.

The report highlighted two major manufacturing technologies used in peptide drug production: fermentation and Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (SPPS). Fermentation, used by Novo Nordisk for semaglutide and liraglutide, offers significant cost advantages but requires substantial investment. SPPS, used for drugs such as tirzepatide and retatrutide, is expected to be the preferred route for generic manufacturers because of its lower capital requirements, although it is more difficult to scale. Goldman Sachs noted that a key uncertainty is whether manufacturing capacity currently dedicated to branded drugs through Contract Development and Manufacturing Organisations (CDMOs) will shift toward generic production. While China already possesses substantial SPPS capacity, limited visibility into production yields and utilisation rates makes future supply projections challenging.

The report added that factors such as brand loyalty, pricing strategies and consumer behaviour in obesity treatment markets will influence the speed of semaglutide genericisation. Upcoming launches in India, China, Brazil, Canada and Mexico are expected to provide important signals on future market trends.

From Smartphones to Stock Markets: NSE Crosses 26 Crore Investor Accounts

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has achieved a significant milestone, with the number of unique trading accounts, or client codes, surpassing 26 crore in June 2026, underscoring the growing participation of retail investors in India's capital markets.

According to a statement issued by

development Officer of NSE, described the milestone as a reflection of the deepening reach of India's capital markets.

"Crossing the 26-crore investor accounts mark is a significant achievement and reflects the continued expansion of investor participation in Indian capital markets. The addition of one crore accounts in under four months demonstrates sustained in-



the NSE, the latest one crore investor accounts were added in less than four months, highlighting the accelerating pace of investor onboarding. More than 4.3 crore accounts, nearly 17 per cent of the total, were added over the past year despite periods of geopolitical uncertainty and market volatility.

The exchange attributed the growth to increasing financial awareness, rapid digitisation and easier access to investment platforms.

"NSE has significantly expanded its investor education initiatives in recent years," the exchange said. The number of Investor Awareness Programmes increased five-fold from 3,504 in FY20 to 17,902 in FY26, reaching more than 9.4 lakh participants during the fiscal year.

As of April 30, 2026, the NSE's Investor Protection Fund stood at Rs 2,890 crore, providing an added layer of security for market participants.

Commenting on the achievement, Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business De-

velopment Officer of NSE, described the milestone as a reflection of the deepening reach of the market ecosystem," he said.

The expansion of investor participation is increasingly being driven by smaller cities and towns. NSE noted that mobile-based trading platforms now account for more than one-fifth of cash market turnover, while a simplified Know Your Customer (KYC) framework has made investing more accessible.

Among states, Maharashtra leads with 4.4 crore investor accounts, accounting for 17 per cent of the total. Uttar Pradesh follows with nearly 3 crore accounts, while Gujarat has 2.2 crore. West Bengal and Rajasthan each account for approximately 1.5 crore investor accounts.

Together, the top five states contribute nearly half of all investor accounts. However, participation is rising rapidly in northeastern states as well. Mizoram, Sikkim and Meghalaya recorded particularly strong

growth, with 32.3 per cent, 30 per cent and 29.2 per cent, respectively, of their five-year account additions occurring in 2025 alone.

The report also highlighted the growing popularity of indirect equity participation through mutual funds. Between April 2025 and March 2026, around 7.2 crore new Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) accounts were opened.

Average monthly SIP inflows surged from Rs 3,660 crore in FY17 to Rs 29,132 crore in FY26, representing an eight-fold increase over the period.

As of March 31, 2026, individual investors held 18.7 per cent ownership in NSE-listed companies, either directly or through mutual fund investments.

India's equity markets have also delivered steady long-term returns. Over the five years ended June 4, 2026, the Nifty 50 generated annualised returns of 7.1 per cent, while the Nifty 500 delivered 9.8 per cent. During the same period, the total market capitalisation of NSE-listed companies expanded at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.6 per cent, reaching Rs 462.2 lakh crore.

Krishnan said that greater adoption of mobile trading platforms, simplified KYC processes and continuous investor education efforts have been key drivers of growth.

He added that participation is no longer confined to major metropolitan centres, with increasing investor activity emerging from Tier-2, Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities. Investors are also diversifying across a broader range of exchange-traded products, including equities, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), government securities and corporate bonds.

The recent introduction of Electronic Good Receipts has further expanded investment opportunities, reflecting the continued evolution and widening accessibility of India's financial markets.

LPG Supply Cost Crosses Rs 1,600 Amid Rise in Saudi Contract Prices

NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

The cost of supplying a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder has risen to over Rs 1,600, leading to an under-recovery of around Rs 700 per cylinder, which is being borne by the government and public sector oil marketing companies, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said.

The rise is linked to a sharp increase in global LPG prices after disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. The Saudi Aramco Contract Price (CP) for LPG has surged nearly 46 per cent since February. The blended CP for a 50:50 propane-butane mix rose from USD 542.50 per tonne in February to USD 775 in April and further to USD 790 in June.

Propane prices have increased 39 per cent and butane 52 per cent in the same period,

pushing up India's import-linked supply cost.

Despite this, domestic consumers continue to pay subsidised rates. In Delhi, a cylinder costs Rs 942, nearly Rs 700 below market cost, while PMUY beneficiaries effectively pay Rs 642 per cylinder after a Rs 300 subsidy. The government recently raised LPG prices by Rs 29 per cylinder. However, India still offers among the lowest cooking gas prices globally.

The cumulative under-recovery reached Rs 60,000 crore by FY26, up from Rs 41,338 crore a year earlier. The Union Cabinet has approved Rs 30,000 crore compensation to oil marketing companies. The Ministry said supply was maintained through the crisis by increasing domestic production and diversifying imports from the US, Canada and Algeria.



Private Investment Surges to Rs 56 Lakh Crore in FY26: SBI

MUMBAI, JUNE 7



Private sector investment announcements rose sharply to Rs 56 lakh crore in FY26 from Rs 37 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year, indicating a significant revival in capital expenditure (capex) activity and strengthening investment momentum across the economy, according to a report by SBI Research. In its latest Ecowrap report, SBI Research highlighted that the sharp increase in private investment proposals reflects growing business confidence and a broader recovery in economic activity.

"Private investment announcements in FY26 stood at Rs 56 lakh crore compared to Rs 37 lakh crore in the previous

year," the report stated.

The report noted that total investment announcements in India have shown a consistent upward trajectory over the years, rising from Rs 17 lakh crore in FY19 to an estimated Rs 80 lakh crore in FY26.

According to SBI Research, the manufacturing sector emerged as the largest contributor to fresh investment proposals during FY26, accounting for 28.9 per cent of total announcements. The power sector followed closely with a 28.7 per cent share, while building infrastructure projects contributed 23.1 per cent.

"The manufacturing sector contributes around 28.9 per cent, followed by the power sector at 28.7 per cent and building infrastructure at 23.1 per cent in

total new investment announcements of FY26," the report said.

The report further observed that recent GDP data support the view that investment activity is gaining traction. It pointed to a notable acceleration in investment growth during the fourth quarter of FY26.

"It is now an opportune time to assess private investment trends, as official GDP data show that investment momentum strengthened significantly in FY26, with a particularly sharp uptick in the fourth quarter," SBI Research noted.

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a key indicator of investment activity in the economy, expanded by 10.8 per cent in the January-March quarter, reflecting robust growth in capital spending.

Beyond fresh project announcements, the report highlighted the continued expansion of productive assets by corporate India. SBI Research said that the gross block of more than 5,000 listed companies increased substantially over the past four years, demonstrating sustained investment by businesses.

According to the report, the gross block of India Inc. rose from Rs 87 lakh crore in March 2022 to an estimated Rs 145 lakh crore by March 2026.

"What is pertinent to mention is that, on average, Indian companies have added more than Rs 13 lakh crore to their gross block annually over the last five years," the report stated.

The findings come at a time when economists and policymakers have closely mon-

itored private sector capital expenditure as a crucial driver of long-term economic growth. Concerns over subdued private investment had persisted despite strong public spending and improving macroeconomic indicators.

However, SBI Research believes the latest trends in investment announcements, asset creation and corporate expansion suggest that private sector investment is steadily regaining momentum and is poised to play a more prominent role in supporting India's growth trajectory. The report concluded that the strengthening investment cycle, led by manufacturing, power and infrastructure sectors, could provide a significant boost to economic growth in the coming years.



Want A UK Degree In India?

University Of Liverpool Set To Open Bengaluru Campus

In a significant boost to India's higher education landscape, the UK-based University of Liverpool has received formal approval from the Ministry of Education to establish its first branch campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The move is expected to provide Indian students with access to globally recognised UK degrees without the need to travel abroad, marking another milestone in the internationalisation of higher education in India. The Ministry of Education recently handed over a Letter of Approval (LoA) to the University of Liverpool, allowing the institution to begin operations in India. The approval follows the university's successful compliance with the University Grants Commission's (UGC) regulations governing the establishment and operation of foreign higher educational institutions in the country.

The upcoming Bengaluru campus will offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across several high-demand disciplines. Students will be able to pursue courses in business management, computer science, game design, finance and biomedical sciences, with plans to introduce additional academic fields in the years ahead. The university aims to create a learning environment that combines its globally recognised academic standards with opportunities tailored to India's rapidly evolving economy and workforce needs. The approval comes nearly a year after the university was granted a Letter of Intent by the UGC in May 2025. During this period, the institution undertook extensive preparations, including academic planning, infrastructure development and regulatory compliance measures. Following a detailed assessment of its readiness, the UGC issued the final approval, paving the way for the uni-

versity's official entry into India's higher education sector. Education experts view the development as a reflection of India's growing appeal as a global education destination. The establishment of foreign university campuses in the country aligns with the vision outlined in the National Education Policy 2020, which encourages international collaboration, student mobility and the presence of leading global institutions in India. The Ministry of Education highlighted that educational cooperation remains a key pillar of bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom. Officials believe the opening of the University of Liverpool campus will further strengthen academic ties between the two nations, fostering research partnerships, faculty exchanges and collaborative innovation. Founded in 1881, the University of Liverpool has built a strong international

reputation for excellence in teaching, research and innovation. It is consistently ranked among the world's leading universities and is known for producing impactful research across multiple disciplines. Its decision to establish a campus in India underscores the country's emergence as an attractive destination for global higher education providers. For Indian students, the new campus could offer a valuable opportunity to earn an internationally recognised UK degree while studying closer to home. Every year, thousands of Indian students travel overseas to pursue higher education in countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Canada. While studying abroad offers international exposure and access to world-class institutions, it also comes with significant financial costs, including tuition fees, accommodation expenses, travel costs and living expenditures. The establishment of a

Liverpool campus in Bengaluru could help address some of these challenges. Students will have the opportunity to access a British-style education within India, potentially at a lower overall cost than studying overseas. Families that may find international education financially demanding could now have an alternative option that combines global academic standards with the convenience of remaining in India. The development is also expected to benefit students seeking careers in emerging and technology-driven sectors. Bengaluru, often referred to as India's Silicon Valley, is home to some of the country's largest technology companies, start-ups, research institutions and multinational corporations. By setting up operations in the city, the University of Liverpool will be positioned to create industry partnerships, internship opportunities and research collaborations that could enhance students' employability and practical learning experiences. Industry experts believe that programmes such as computer science, finance, business management and biomedical sciences are particularly relevant in today's job market. Demand for skilled professionals in these fields continues to rise globally, and universities are increasingly focusing on interdisciplinary learning, innovation and industry engagement. The addition of game design as a specialised programme also reflects the growing popularity of the digital

entertainment and gaming sectors, which have witnessed rapid expansion in recent years. The arrival of foreign universities in India is part of a broader transformation taking place within the country's higher education ecosystem. For decades, Indian students interested in international qualifications often had no choice but to relocate abroad. However, regulatory reforms introduced in recent years have created opportunities for globally reputed institutions to establish physical campuses within India. The UGC's regulations on foreign higher educational institutions represent a major step in this direction. These rules provide a framework through which internationally recognised universities can operate in India while maintaining academic quality and adhering to regulatory standards. Policymakers hope that such initiatives will increase educational choices for students, promote healthy competition among institutions and encourage innovation in teaching and research. The University of Liverpool's entry into India may also encourage other prestigious international institutions to explore similar opportunities. Education analysts suggest that the presence of foreign campuses can contribute to knowledge exchange, curriculum development and research cooperation between Indian and global universities. Such collaborations could benefit students, faculty members and researchers alike. Another important aspect of

the Liverpool campus is its potential contribution to research and innovation. Modern universities are no longer limited to classroom teaching; they play a critical role in scientific discovery, entrepreneurship and technological advancement. Through partnerships with Indian institutions, industries and government agencies, the university may contribute to research initiatives addressing local and global challenges. The Bengaluru campus is also expected to attract faculty members from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. International faculty participation can expose students to global perspectives, cross-cultural learning experiences and new teaching methodologies. At the same time, Indian academics could gain opportunities to collaborate with international colleagues on research projects and academic initiatives. Experts note that the internationalisation of higher education is becoming increasingly important in a globalised economy. Employers today often seek graduates who possess not only technical expertise but also intercultural understanding, communication skills and global awareness. Foreign university campuses can help bridge this gap by offering internationally benchmarked curricula and exposure to diverse academic environments. Beyond academics, the opening of the campus reflects the strengthening relationship between India and the United Kingdom in the education sector. Ed-

ucational cooperation has emerged as a key area of engagement between the two countries, complementing partnerships in trade, technology, healthcare and innovation. The presence of a leading UK university in India could further deepen these ties and create new opportunities for collaboration. Students, parents and education stakeholders will now be closely watching the rollout of the Bengaluru campus, including details regarding admissions, fee structures, infrastructure and academic offerings. As preparations move forward, the institution is expected to release more information about programme timelines, faculty recruitment and student enrolment processes. As India continues to position itself as a global knowledge hub, the arrival of the University of Liverpool represents more than just the opening of a new campus. It signals the growing integration of Indian higher education with international academic networks and highlights the country's ambition to provide world-class educational opportunities within its borders. With globally recognised degrees, industry-focused programmes and the promise of international academic standards, the University of Liverpool's Bengaluru campus could become a landmark development in India's higher education journey. For thousands of aspiring students seeking a UK qualification without leaving home, the new campus may soon turn that aspiration into reality.



Jobs, Post-Study Work Rights

ROI: What's Driving Study Abroad Choices In 2026?

Study Abroad: International students today are doing the math before they even apply. They are assessing visa pathways, employment prospects and long-term career opportunities with the same rigour they bring to choosing a university. Jobs, Post-Study Work Rights, ROI: What's Driving Study Abroad Choices In 2026? Study Abroad: Students are evaluating international education differently. **New Delhi:** In recent years, there has been a clear shift in how students and families evaluate study abroad opportunities, with post-study work rights, graduate employability, career outcomes and return on investment emerging as key deciding factors

alongside academic reputation. Industry experts note that while academic standing of institutions continues to matter, students are increasingly taking a more outcome-driven approach to international education, focusing on long-term career prospects and global mobility. Joint Managing Director at Career Mosaic, said there has been a significant change in the way international education is assessed by students and families. "Over the past few years, we have seen a significant shift in how students and families evaluate international education opportunities. While academic reputation remains important, factors such as post-study work rights, graduate employability, career outcomes



and return on investment are now playing a much larger role in destination selection," she said. She added that findings from the International Student Barometer 2026 highlight that future career impact remains one of the most important considerations for students choosing where to study abroad. "Students today are increasingly focused on what happens after graduation-whether they can access meaningful work opportunities, gain international experience and build long-term career pathways in their

chosen destination," she noted. Zaveri further said countries that combine quality education with strong industry engagement and clear post-study work options are witnessing higher interest from international students. "International education is no longer viewed solely as an academic pursuit; it is increasingly being seen as a strategic career investment that supports employability, professional growth and global mobility," she added. Echoing similar views, Tripti Maheshwari, Co-founder of Student Circus, said the focus has shifted from the prestige of a degree to the opportunities it unlocks after graduation. "International students today are doing the math before they even apply.

They are assessing visa pathways, employment prospects and long-term career opportunities with the same rigour they bring to choosing a university. The conversation has shifted from where a degree is earned to what opportunities it can unlock," she said. Maheshwari added that universities are also responding to this change. "Around 70 per cent of the institutions we work with are actively strengthening their employability offering, with many investing in career readiness support before students even arrive. They recognise that students are increasingly focused on the life they can build after graduation and are competing on outcomes, not just reputation," she said.





Batters, Suthar shine as Afghanistan trail India by 451 runs at stumps

NEW CHANDIGARH

India continued their dominance in the one-off Test against Afghanistan - declaring at 564/8 in 126 overs and then reduced the visitors to 113/5 at stumps on day two's play. For India, debutant left-arm spinner Manav Suthar emerged as the standout performer to pick 3-21 in 15.5 overs, as Afghanistan still trail by 451 runs.

On a scorching Sunday, India's innings was built on skipper and local lad Shubman Gill's authoritative 126, KL Rahul's century, Sai Sudharsan's 81 and Rishabh Pant's 81 earlier in the day. But the lower-order contributions ensured the hosts had a healthy run-rate of 4.44 and also placed the innings among India's fourth fastest 500-plus totals in Test history.

The hosts declared after Washington Sundar hit a composed 52 not out, his sixth Test fifty, while Suthar hit two sixes and as many fours to get India past 500 and Mohammed Siraj produced an entertaining cameo of 22 off 12 balls. Captain Shubman Gill declared soon after Sundar reached his fifty, giving his bowlers two full sessions to put Afghanistan under the pump.

Afghanistan's reply faltered almost immediately. Abdul Malik attempted to counterattack but was undone by Suthar's sharp turn - on a sweep, he gave a top-edge to backward square leg. After the tea break was over, Prasidh Krishna produced a lovely nip-backer to uproot Sediquallah Atal's stumps.

Suthar, operating with remarkable control and brisk pace, bowled maiden after maiden to keep the batters on a lid. His accuracy was rewarded again when Rahmanullah Gurbaz nicked to slip, where sharp catch was taken.

Rahmat Shah provided the only semblance of stability for Afghanistan, reaching 43 not out by stumps



and becoming the first Afghanistan player to cross 1000 Test runs. Washington Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav also kept the pressure on, ensuring Afghanistan never found rhythm.

His 36-run partnership with Hashmatullah Shahidi briefly steadied the innings. But Prasidh struck again to trap Shahidi lbw, leaving the visitors in deeper trouble. Afsar Zazai's resistance ended in dramatic fashion as he closed the bat face too early and offered a simple return catch to Suthar, who ended his first day of bowling in Test cricket on a high. Afghanistan, meanwhile, now face a daunting task to avoid follow-on.

In the morning, Gill, resuming from overnight score of 103 not out with authority, extended his innings to a commanding 126 off 177 balls before falling to Mohammad Saleem Safi, who bowled a fiery and disciplined spell with pace and movement with the second new ball.

Pant, who looked equally assured,

mixed caution with aggression to reach 81 off 121 balls, apart from sharing a 169-run stand with Gill. But his dismissal to skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, who also got his first Test wicket, mirrored Sai Sudharsan's fate from the previous day - both left-handers falling short of centuries after hitting promising fifties.

India added 107 runs in the morning session, but Afghanistan could have had more success had they been sharper with their decision making in taking reviews. Gill survived a close lbw shout and Pant edged one behind - both decisions went unchallenged despite clear evidence of them being out later.

Keeper Afsar Zazai endured a difficult time, unable to convince Shahidi to take the crucial DRS calls that might have changed the complexion of the innings. Safi was the standout bowler, claiming Gill and Dhruv Jurel in quick succession.

Jurel, who looked positive with four boundaries in his 19 off 20 balls,

misjudged a nip-backer and was castled. Shahidi then joined the wicket-taking act when he lured Pant into a mistimed lofted stroke and mid-off easily took the catch.

Despite going off the steam in the later half, India remain firmly ahead as Sundar and Suthar held firm till lunch by hitting two boundaries each and ensuring no further damage was caused. After lunch, Sundar, Suthar and Siraj hit boundaries well, despite Safi picking 6-140, to ensure India had a healthy total on board before the declaration arrived at 1:33pm. Gill's decision to declare was vindicated almost immediately. Malik and Atal began positively, finding boundaries against Siraj and Prasidh Krishna.

Malik, in particular, struck three fours in his 16-ball stay. Gill then turned to Suthar just before tea, and the debutant delivered on his fourth ball in Tests. After that, Suthar and Prasidh dealt more blows in the final session to ensure India got another day in their favour.



Zverev outlasts Cobolli in five-set thriller to win maiden French Open title

PARIS

Alexander Zverev finally broke his Grand Slam duck after overcoming a spirited challenge from Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-1 in a gripping French Open final on Sunday to lift the first major title of his career. In an enthralling four-hour 20-minute contest on Court Philippe-Chatrier, the German fought back from the disappointment of letting a two-sets-to-one lead slip away and sealed the French Open 2026 crown in the decisive fifth set.

It brought an end to Zverev's long wait for a Grand Slam title, having suffered losses in three previous finals - at the US Open in 2020, Roland Garros in 2024, and the Australian Open in 2025, but the nerve No 3 managed to hold his nerve when it mattered, collapsing onto the clay in disbelief when he converted the championship point. Zverev flew out of the blocks in the final, breaking Cobolli in the opening game, immediately asserting control at the baseline as his serve and groundstrokes were too potent for the Italian, who could not find a rhythm as the first set was over in just 34 minutes.

But Cobolli, in his first ever Grand Slam final, produced a fine

response in the second set as the 24-year-old attacked with freedom, mixing in clever drop shots, and he found a breakthrough at 4-4 when Zverev sent a forehand wide. The Italian held serve with authority, levelling the match to fire up the Paris crowd.

The third set turned out to be crucial. Holding serve all the way until the tenth game, it was a flurry of errors by Cobolli that handed Zverev a vital break which he then sealed when moving within one set of a long-awaited major title.

The nerves, however, began to show in the fourth set with Zverev gifting Cobolli a break in the third game, and then again when serving at 4-3 down. The German clawed his way back to 5-5, but could not deny the Italian a sensational comeback in the tie-break as he battled back from 1-3 down, sealing it with a stunning forehand winner at set point to send the match into a decider.

With the momentum now firmly with Cobolli, and Zverev faltering yet again, the final appeared to be slipping away. But the German stepped up to produce the finest tennis of the contest. Despite his struggles in the fourth-set tie-break, Zverev immediately responded with an improved level in the fifth.

CRICKET

Srishti Kiran finishes runner-up at ITF J100 in Guatemala



GUATEMALA CITY: Thirteen-year-old Bengaluru tennis prodigy Srishti Kiran continued her remarkable rise on the international junior circuit, finishing runner-up at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J100 tournament. Srishti's impressive run came to an end in the final, where she went down fighting to top seed Ellery Mendell of the USA 4-6, 3-6. Battling cramps and physical discomfort during the latter stages of the match, the young Indian displayed tremendous grit against her higher-ranked opponent. The final was closely contested in its early stages. Srishti raced to a 2-0 lead and later held a 3-1 advantage in the opening set before Mendell fought back to claim it 6-4. In the second set, the Indian was locked at 3-3 and held two game points that could have given her a crucial 4-3 lead. However, the nagging pain and cramps affected her movement, allowing the American to seize control and close out the match.



Mason's daughter Bengal's Ritu Mondal boots Olympic dreams with double gold at Yogasana Worlds

AHMEDABAD

Twenty-year-old Ritu Mondal, the daughter of a mason from a small village in West Bengal's Hooghly district, has made the country proud by winning two gold medals at the inaugural World Yogasana Championships in Ahmedabad. More importantly, the achievement has brought her a step closer to a dream she shares with her family, representing India on the biggest sporting stages and one day winning an Olympic medal.

For Ritu, these medals are the result of years of hard work, sacrifice and determination. Her parents and elder brother, who travelled to Ahmedabad to watch her compete, were overcome with emotion as they saw her celebrate her victories with the Indian flag wrapped around her shoulders.

"My father works as a mason, and despite our financial difficulties, my family always supported my dreams," Ritu told SAI Media. "I spent years training and practising Yogasana while many others my age were doing different things. There were challenges, but I never gave up because I believed in my goal."

Her elder brother Gautam has played a particularly important role in her journey. A former Yogasana athlete, he competed at the state level before financial difficulties forced him to leave the sport. Having recently completed a physiotherapy course, he now devotes much of his time to helping and

guiding Ritu as she pursues the dream that he could not fully realise himself.

Ritu says her brother's passion for Yogasana remains as strong as ever, and his biggest ambition today is to see her reach the highest level in the sport. "My brother is extremely passionate about Yogasana and wants to see me touch the greatest heights in this sport," she said. "Maybe that is because he was a Yogasana athlete himself but could not continue due to circumstances. He sees potential in me and constantly pushes me to improve."

Unlike many family members who celebrate every success without question, Ritu says her brother has always challenged her to get better. "He has never told me,

"You are the best athlete" or "You are perfect." Even after a good performance, he tells me, "Well done, but there is still room for improvement. Keep improving. You have a long way to go," she said with a smile. "That is something I really appreciate about him. He wants the best for me and never lets me become complacent. His dream is to see me represent India and win medals at the highest level." Before making her mark on the world stage, Ritu had already achieved success in national competitions. She won bronze medals at both the Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai and the Khelo India University Games in Assam, performances that gave her the confidence to compete internationally.

Tilak Varma, Mohammed Siraj, CV Milind headline inaugural TG20 Player Auction's major signings

HYDERABAD

Telangana cricket entered a new era on Sunday as the inaugural TG20 Player Auction got underway at Princess Convention Centre, Ramoji Film City, marking a significant milestone in the journey of Telangana's premier franchise-based T20 league.

With a player pool comprising over 1,300 HCA-registered cricketers, franchises began assembling their squads by securing some of the state's finest cricketing talent across the Icon, A+ and A categories. The auction brought together international stars, accomplished domestic performers and promising district cricketers, reflecting TG20's vision of creating a world-class platform for Telangana talent.

Icon Category Highlights



Tilak Varma

Tilak Varma emerged as the highest-valued player of the auction, joining Medak Falcons for ₹33 Lakhs. Mohammed Siraj was picked by Warangal Warriors for ₹14 Lakhs. CV Milind became the most expensive uncapped player, with Anvita Khammam Aces securing him for ₹17 Lakhs.



CV Milind

Other notable Icon category signings included Ravi Kiran (Palamuru Strikers), T. Raviteja (Medak Falcons), Tanay Thyagarajan (Pranava Ranga Reddy Risers), Rahul Buddhi (Anurag Nalgonda Knights), Tanmay Agarwal (Karimnagar Diamonds) and Rohit Rayudu (Palamuru Strikers).



Mohammed Siraj

A+ Category Highlights
Aman Rao (Warangal Warriors), Pragnay Reddy (Palamuru Strikers), Ajay Dev Goud (Hyderabad e-Champions), Nitin Sai Yadav, Aaron George and Rakshann Readdi were among the marquee acquisitions as franchises strengthened their core squads. A Category

Highlights Emerging talents also attracted strong bidding, with Arfaz Ahmed and Abhirath Reddy becoming the joint-highest buys in the category at ₹11 Lakhs each.

Chandan Sahani (Karimnagar Diamonds), Pranav Varma (Hyderabad e-Champions) and Hima Teja (Anvita Khammam Aces) were among the other prominent signings.

The auction proceedings were conducted by renowned sports presenter and auctioneer Charu Sharma, in the presence of franchise owners, team representatives and league officials.

The inaugural edition of TG20 will commence on June 21, 2026, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, featuring 8 franchises competing in 32 matches over 21 action-packed days.

TG20 Auction: Tilak, Siraj Lead Icon Picks; Arfaz, Abhirath, Chandan Top A-Category Buys

HYDERABAD

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The auction brought together international stars, accomplished domestic performers and promising district cricketers, reflecting TG20's vision of creating a world-class platform for Telangana talent.

India batter Tilak Varma emerged as the highest-valued player of the auction, joining Medak Falcons for Rs 33 Lakhs in the Icon Category. Meanwhile, Mohammed Siraj was picked by Warangal Warriors for Rs 14 Lakhs and CV Milind became the most expensive uncapped player, with Anvita Khammam Aces securing him for Rs 17 Lakhs.

Other notable Icon category signings included Ravi Kiran (Palamuru Strikers), T. Raviteja (Medak Falcons), Tanay Thyagarajan (Pranava Ranga Reddy Risers), Rahul Buddhi (Anurag Nalgonda Knights), Tanmay Agarwal (Karimnagar Di-



amonds) and Rohit Rayudu (Palamuru Strikers).

In an A+ Category, Aman Rao (Warangal Warriors), Pragnay Reddy (Palamuru Strikers), Ajay Dev Goud (Hyderabad e-Champions), Nitin Sai Yadav, Aaron George and Rakshann Readdi were among the marquee acquisitions as franchises strengthened their core squads.

In an A Category, emerging talents also attracted strong bidding, with Arfaz Ahmed and Abhirath Reddy becoming the joint-highest buys in the category at Rs 11 Lakhs each. Chandan Sahani (Karimnagar Di-

monds), Pranav Varma (Hyderabad e-Champions) and Hima Teja (Anvita Khammam Aces) were among the other prominent signings.

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My sister told me, 'It's official': Manav Suthar reveals how he learned about his Test selection

NEW DELHI

Promising left-arm spin-bowling all-rounder Manav Suthar recalled the emotional moment of his India call-up, revealing that his sister told him that his name had come up for the Indian team for the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

India added Suthar to the XI for the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Mullanpur. Before the game began on Saturday, Suthar, who played for the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 under India's red-ball skipper Shubman Gill's leadership, earned his first cap from senior spinner Kuldeep, becoming India's first specialist spin-bowling Test debutant since Axar Patel made his debut in 2021.

"I was in my room when my sister called me. Maybe she was watching the squad announcement event. She told me that my name had come up in the Indian team. I asked her if it was official. She said yes, it's official. She was the first one to call me.

"Everyone was emotion-



al when I got the call. Dad, mom, everyone called me. They couldn't believe it. I can't describe it in words. It's the biggest feeling. You work hard for years, and then you finally get selected for India. It's the best feeling. The best feeling of my life," Suthar told JioStar.

The 23-year-old all-rounder opened about how his love for cricket first developed as a child. "Cricket has always been a big part of my family. My father loves the game, and everyone at home watches matches regularly. As a young boy, I used to sit with them and watch. That is where my love for cricket first started. I began playing in the streets with my friends. Those street games taught me the basics, how to hold the bat and how to bowl.

Irumudi: August 21 locked for theatrical release

The confusion surrounding the release plans of Ravi Teja's upcoming film "Irumudi" has finally come to an end. While the makers had earlier hinted at an August release, uncertainty remained after Suriya's "Vishwanath And Sons" secured the Independence Day weekend slot. Putting all speculation to rest, the makers have officially announced August 21, 2026, as the theatrical release date for "Irumudi."

Ravi Teja has teamed up with director Shiva Nirvana for the film, which is being produced by leading pan-India banner Mythri Movie Makers. The project has already generated considerable buzz, thanks to the positive response received by its first glimpse, titled "The Heart of Irumudi."

The film is scheduled for a grand worldwide release on August 21, coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Varalakshmi Vratam. With nearly two months remaining before release, the team has also promised a steady stream of promotional content in the coming weeks.

Priya Bhavani Shankar plays the female lead opposite Ravi Teja, while Baby Nakshatra will be seen as his daughter. The music is being composed by GV Prakash Kumar.

With the release date now locked, all eyes are on the film's promotional campaign as Ravi Teja gears up for one of his most anticipated releases of the year.

Nani's 'The Paradise' misses August date

With the announcement of the release date for Ravi Teja's "Irumudi," one thing has become clear: Nani's "The Paradise" has once again been postponed. The film will not arrive in theaters in August as previously planned.

Directed by Srikanth Odela, "The Paradise" stars Nani as Jedalu, a rugged character sporting two braids. The film was originally scheduled to release on March 26, 2026. However, due to delays in production, producer Sudhakar Cherukuri postponed it to August and officially announced August 21, 2026, as the new release date.

The makers recently stated that 100 days of shooting had been completed and indicated that the film was on track to meet the deadline. However, with the makers of "Irumudi" officially locking August 21, 2026, for Ravi Teja's film, it is evident that "The Paradise" has vacated the date and stands postponed indefinitely. Industry buzz suggests that director Srikanth Odela is taking additional time to perfect the film. Apart from the remaining shoot, the project reportedly requires extensive post-production work, making an August release impractical. As things stand, the film is most likely to arrive in December 2026, although no new date has been announced.

BLAME THE MAKERS, NOT THE ACTRESSES

The debate surrounding the portrayal of female characters in films continues to gain momentum. After director Buchi Babu apologized following criticism over the depiction of Janhvi Kapoor's character in "Peddi," discussions about the sexualization of actresses have intensified. Actress Dimple Hayathi has now joined the conversation. Recently, Anasuya Bharadwaj shared a lengthy note, seemingly referring to the issue without naming "Peddi." Dimple has now openly expressed her views, saying the ongoing public debate is a welcome change.

According to her, audiences often blame actresses for such portrayals, while the real responsibility lies elsewhere. "I am so glad that today we are

all speaking about how actresses' roles are being written. Don't blame the actress for doing what she was offered. Blame the system and the makers who think that's what sells," Dimple wrote on social media.

She further stated that actors often work within the opportunities available to them hoping to build bigger careers and reach wider audiences.

Dimple also emphasized that when female characters are poorly written the accountability should rest with the writing and filmmaking choices rather than with the women portraying those roles.

"If the characters are underwritten, the responsibility lies more with writing and filmmaking choices than

the woman playing the role. Unfortunately, actresses are often stereotyped based on the characters they play and are rarely given the opportunity to showcase their full potential," she added.

The actress concluded by saying that the industry collectively deserves better filmmaking and more meaningful experiences for female performers.

Dimple Hayathi was recently seen opposite Ravi Teja in "Bhartha Mahasahyulaku Wignyapathi" and is currently working on director Sampath Nandi's "Bhogi," starring Sharwanand.



Taapsee reveals why she cut down social media activity

Taapsee Pannu has opened up about why she significantly reduced her activity on social media platforms. According to the actress, constantly keeping up with online trends felt like running a marathon, and she eventually decided to focus more on her personal life rather than seeking validation from social media users.

Speaking about her decision, Taapsee said that social media had become exhausting and that she preferred spending time on things that mattered to her personally.

The actress, who divides her time between India and Denmark, where she lives with her husband, also spoke about the challenges faced by women in the film industry as they grow older. Taapsee lamented that many filmmakers become reluctant to cast actresses in romantic roles once they cross their thirties. She pointed out the double standards that exist in the industry, noting that male actors continue to play romantic leads regardless of age, while women often face limitations. "Male actors don't face the problem of age when it comes to romantic roles, but women do," she said.



Massive Climax For Akhil: What's Up?

Akkineni Akhil is coming up with his next film Lenin, which is releasing in theatres on June 26, and this happens to be the next big film from Telugu Cinema in the upcoming days. The latest updates are suggesting that this Akhil film is going to be a rural action drama, and it will have a massive climax action episode that is going to leave the audience on the edge of the seat. It is being established in principal that this film will have one of the most breathtaking climax sequences for any films in recent times. There is going to be this interesting twist in the climax portion that will change the entire narrative of the film in one flip, and the audience will be exhilarated about the same. Apparently, this is going to be about one physical attribute of Akhil that will change the course of the narrative and drive the audience interestingly towards the climax portion. This is reportedly one of the shocking climax positions that were conceived by Telugu directors in the recent past. The most important aspect for any film is to have a strong climax portion so that the audience will come out of the theatres on a high, and it appears that Akhil is going to deliver the same with Lenin now. The film is preparing for its release in less than three weeks from now, and we have to see what kind of promotional material would be coming up in the near future.

Nag Ashwin Is Everything For This Film: Singeetham

The pre-release event of Sing Geetham turned into much more than a promotional gathering. It became a heartfelt celebration of creativity, and cinema as legendary filmmaker Singeetham Srinivasa Rao shared the stage with Kamal Haasan.

For producer Ashwini Dutt, the occasion was deeply personal. He recalled launching a film with Singeetham nearly 25 years ago, only for the project to be shelved due to unforeseen circumstances. The unfinished dream stayed with him for decades until Nag Ashwin, Swapna Dutt, and Priyanka Dutt revived it through Sing Geetham.

Kamal Haasan revealed that the origins of the film date back almost 45 years. During his early creative discussions with Singeetham, two story ideas emerged. One eventually evolved into the iconic Pushpaka Vimanam, while the other remained dormant, waiting for the right time to be realized.

Speaking about his longtime collaborator, Kamal said Singeetham's imagination and curiosity remain as vibrant as ever. He described him as a filmmaker who is always ahead of his time, constantly exploring new ideas and inspiring everyone around him with his passion for storytelling.

Recalling the making of Pushpaka Vimanam, Kamal highlighted the team's uncompromising commitment to quality. He emphasized that great cinema begins with a powerful idea, adding that Sing Geetham is rooted in one such extraordinary concept.

When Singeetham Srinivasa Rao took the microphone, the atmosphere turned emotional. Remaining true to his nature, the veteran filmmaker spoke with remarkable honesty and humility. He credited Nag Ashwin and the Vyjayanthi Movies team for believing in the project and making it a reality. "Nag Ashwin is everything for the film. He treated me like his own father, and took best care of me." He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the younger generation for carrying the dream forward with such dedication. Singeetham reserved special praise for Devi Sri Prasad for understanding the essence of the film and acknowledged Kamal Haasan as one of his most treasured creative companions.

The defining moment of the evening came through Singeetham's speech itself. His sincerity, gratitude, and humility touched everyone present, making it the most memorable and emotional highlight of the event.

Kajal Chooses Cinema Over Politics

Kajal Aggarwal, one of the most celebrated stars in South Indian cinema, has once again expressed her admiration for the industry that played a major role in her successful career.

Speaking about the strengths of South cinema, Kajal said, "When it comes to professionalism, the South is far superior. We've got great technicians, we've got phenomenal directors and storylines and creativity. Look at South cinema's reach now. It's doing far, far better than most Hindi films." Her comments come at a time when discussions around the Janhvi Kapoor-Peddi controversy have created tension among sections of the Bollywood ecosystem and Tollywood supporters.

While some voices have been critical of

Tollywood over a single issue, Kajal chose a different path. Instead of remaining silent or aligning with the criticism, she openly acknowledged the achievements and strengths of South cinema especially Telugu Cinema. Kajal's remarks highlight the factors that have helped South Indian films achieve nationwide and global recognition in recent years. From innovative storytelling and technical excellence to strong performances and visionary filmmaking, South cinema has consistently raised the bar for the Indian film industry. Many Telugu fans have warmly welcomed Kajal's words, viewing them as an honest and courageous acknowledgment of Tollywood's growth and influence. Having earned the status of a former Tollywood queen, Kajal's appreciation has resonated strongly with audiences.